

Project 2025 Author William Perry Pendley Recommends Extreme Policies For The Department Of The Interior, While Allowing Big Oil To Write The Energy Agenda

SUMMARY: William Perry Pendley authored [Chapter 16](#) of Project 2025's [Mandate for Leadership Playbook](#) on the Department of the Interior and his egregious recommendations for a future Republican administration include:

- Changes to policies protecting the Sage-Grouse, specifically ceding jurisdiction to western states. This policy [echoes the agenda](#) of Kathleen Sgamma and the Western Energy Alliance.
- The repeal of the Antiquities Act, a long standing [agenda item for Pendley](#).
- Downgrading the size of National Monument designations and reviewing all current monument decrees, which Pendley has [supported](#) for years.
- Immediately relocating the Bureau of Land Management's headquarters—an effort Pendley has been [working on for decades](#).

While Pendley was the primary author of the chapter on the Department of the Interior, he ceded writing of the energy section to oil lobbyist Kathleen Sgamma and others. Sgamma is the [President of the Western Energy Alliance](#), whose board is made up of executives and lobbyists for the largest oil and gas companies, including [Chevron](#), [Occidental](#), and [Exxon](#).

Pendley has repeatedly made [extreme comments](#) about the agency for which he was chosen to develop Project 2025's plan and other federal employees. He has a long history of radical rhetoric supporting [land transfer extremists](#), attacking conservationists, and [repeatedly going after conservation laws](#).

William Perry Pendley Authored Project 2025's Playbook Chapter On The Department Of The Interior, But Ceded Writing Of The Energy Section To Oil Lobbyist Kathleen Sgamma, Whose Organization Drove "The Agenda Of The Interior Department" During The Trump Administration.

William Perry Pendley Authored The Project 2025's Playbook Chapter On The Department Of The Interior, But Ceded Writing Of The Energy Section To Kathleen Sgamma.

William Perry Pendley Authored Chapter 16 Of The Project 2025 Mandate For Leadership Playbook, Which Focuses On The Department Of The Interior.

**DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR**
William Perry Pendley

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) oversees, manages, and protects the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors the nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

[Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

In The Authors Note, The Section On Energy Is Attributed To Kathleen Sgamma And Others.

“AUTHOR’S NOTE: The preparation of this chapter was a collective enterprise of individuals involved in the 2025 Presidential Transition Project. All contributors to this chapter are listed at the front of this volume, but some deserve special mention. Kathleen Sgamma, Dan Kish, and Katie Tubb wrote the section on energy in its entirety. I received thoughtful, knowledgeable, and swift assistance from Aubrey Bettencourt, Mark Cruz, Lanny Erdos, Aurelia S. Giacometto, Casey Hammond, Jim Magagna, Chad Padgett, Jim Pond, Rob Roy Ramey II, Kyle E. Scherer, Tara Sweeney, John Tahsuda, Rob Wallace, and Gregory Zerzan. The author alone assumes responsibility for the content of this chapter; no views expressed herein should be attributed to any other individual.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Kathleen Sgamma Is The President Of The Western Energy Alliance, An Oil And Gas Trade Association That Was “Driving The Agenda Of The Interior Department” During The Trump Administration.

Western Energy Alliance is a Trade Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies in the West.

“Western Energy Alliance is a nonprofit trade association representing more than 300 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production (E&P) of oil and natural gas in the West. We are an advocacy organization promoting the beneficial use and development of oil and natural gas, and the important economic, environmental and energy security solutions provided by the industry in the West. Since 1974, the Alliance has been the voice of the Western oil and natural gas industry, representing the ‘upstream’ segment of the industry. Alliance members include independents, the majority of which are small businesses with an average of fourteen employees, and associated companies.” [Western Energy Alliance, accessed [11/25/19](#)]

Kathleen Sgamma Is The President Of The Western Energy Alliance (WEA). “Kathleen joined Western Energy Alliance in March 2006.” [Western Energy Alliance, About, accessed [02/03/23](#)]

Western Energy Alliance Is “Driving The Agenda Of The Interior Department” By “Rewriting Policies That Hollow Out Protections For Endangered Species.” “But critics charge that Western Energy Alliance does more than take a few bullets and beat back critics of Trump’s environmental strategy. Behind the scenes, it is driving the agenda of the Interior Department, rewriting policies that hollow out protections for endangered

species, while helping oil and gas companies gain easier access to federal lands and unravel rules that take a cautious approach to drilling.” [Yahoo News [02/18/19](#)]

When Western Energy Alliance Asked The Trump Department To Reform Sage Grouse Plans, Interior “Accepted 13 of 15 Of Sgamma’s Recommendations.” “The summer after Trump entered office, Alliance president Sgamma wrote to the Interior Department to complain about the sage grouse. In her letter, Sgamma claimed that sage grouse management would cost more than 9,000 oil and gas jobs and impede \$2.4 billion in economic growth. After examining correspondence between the Interior Department and industry lobbyists, the Western Values Project found that Trump officials accepted 13 of Sgamma’s 15 recommendations to alter sage grouse protection. When the administration released a revised sage grouse plan a year ago, Zinke sent an internal memo that reversed the Obama administration’s focus on developing oil and gas outside of grouse habitat.” [Yahoo News [02/18/19](#)]

- **Western Energy Alliance Directly Recommended Sage-Grouse Policies to Interior Officials.** Western Values Project “obtained a leaked document showing that the Western Energy Alliance...was behind most of the recommendations that made it into the Secretary’s report.” [Western Values Project, accessed [11/25/19](#)]

In An Email To Members, Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma Bragged About Her Access To Interior.

- **Sgamma Bragged That WEA Was “The Only Stakeholder Group” That Zinke Met With On A Trip To Colorado.** [WEA President’s Message via Yahoo News, accessed [11/25/19](#)]
- **Sgamma Said That Zinke “Expressed Appreciation” For WEA “Taking A Few Bullets That Come His Way On Controversial Policy Issues.”** [WEA President’s Message via Yahoo News, accessed [11/25/19](#)]

Executives And Lobbyists For The Largest Oil And Gas Companies Make Up The Board Of Directors At Western Energy Alliance

Bret Sumner, The Vice Chair Of The Western Energy Alliance Board, Is A Big Oil Attorney Whose Clients Include Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. And EOG Resources

Bret Sumner Serves As The Vice Chair Of The Board On Government And Public Affairs For Western Energy Alliance. “Western Energy Alliance, Board of Directors; Vice Chair of the Board for Gov’t and Public Affairs” [Beatty & Wozniak, P.C., accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Bret Sumner Works As An Attorney At Beatty & Wozniak P.C. “Bret Sumner focuses his practice on energy and environmental matters, and represents companies in litigation, permitting, government affairs, compliance, and enforcement matters.” [Beatty & Wozniak, P.C., accessed [06/13/23](#)]

- **Bret Sumner Represented EOG Resources Inc. And Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. In A District Court Case Involving The Bureau Of Land Management.** “Eog Resources Inc | Intervenor Defendant | Bret A Sumner | LEAD ATTORNEY [...] “Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc | Intervenor Defendant | Bret A Sumner | LEAD ATTORNEY” [LexisNexis, No. 2:07cv165 2:07cv165, Environmental Preservation Foundation Et Al V. Bureau Of Land Management Et Al, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Western Energy Alliance Board Member Chad Calvert Is Chevron’s Rockies Government Affairs Manager

Chad Calvert Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

2020 - Present: Chad Calvert Is The Manager Of Rockies Government Affairs At Chevron USA. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Eric Dille, A Member Of Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors, Is The VP Of Government Relations For EOG Resources

Eric Dille Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Eric Dille Is The Vice President Of Government Relations For EOG Resources. "Eric Dille, vice president of government relations for EOG Resources, said it's going to be difficult to get approval to drill new wells." [PineDale Roundup, [04/05/21](#)]

Coterra Energy's VP Of Government Affairs, Stephen Flaherty, Is A Director At Western Energy Alliance

Stephen Flaherty Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Stephen Flaherty Is The Vice President Of Government Affairs At Coterra Energy. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/12/23](#)]

Robert Harber, A Director At Western Energy Alliance, Is The Rockies Area VP At Halliburton

Robert Harber Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Robert Harber Is The Rockies Area VP At Halliburton. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Western Energy Alliance Director Greg Hardin Is The VP Of Regulator Affairs At Occidental Petroleum

Greg Hardin Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Greg Hardin Is The VP Of Regulator Affairs At Occidental Petroleum. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Spencer Kimball, EOG Resources' Manager Of Government Relations, Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors

Spencer Kimball Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Spencer Kimball Is A Manager Of Government Relations At EOG Resources. [Legistorm, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Poe Leggette, Who Represented Shell Oil Company In A Case Against The Department Of Interior, Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors

Poe Leggette Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Poe Leggette Is The Co-Head Of The Energy Team At Baker & Hostetler LLP. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

- **Poe Leggette Represented Shell Oil Company In A Case Against The Department Of Interior.** "Shell Oil Company | Plaintiff | L. Poe Leggette" [LexisNexis, Case No. 1:01cv222, Shell Offshore Inc., Et Al V. Doi, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Shea Loper, A Registered Lobbyist And Government Relations Director For Ovantiv/Encana Oil & Gas, Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors

Shea Loper Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Shea Loper Is The Director Of U.S. Government Relations At Encana Corporation. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

- **Shea Loper Lobbied Congress On Behalf Of Ovantiv Inc (Formerly Encana Oil & Gas USA Inc) In The First Quarter Of 2023.** [Senate Lobbying Report, [04/20/23](#)]

Greg Pulliam, XTO Energy Inc./ Exxon Mobil Corporation's Public And Government Affairs Manager, Is A Director At Western Energy Alliance

Greg Pulliam Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Greg Pulliam Is The Public And Government Affairs Manager, Western Division At XTO Energy Inc./ Exxon Mobil Corporation. [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Western Energy Alliance Director Christopher Wright Is The CEO Of Liberty Energy Inc, A Publicly Traded Oil And Gas Company

Christopher Wright Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Christopher Wright Is The CEO Of Liberty Energy Inc. "Chief Executive Officer Chris Wright" [Liberty Energy, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

- **Liberty Energy Inc. Is A Publicly Traded Oil And Gas Company.** "Liberty Energy Inc LBRT:NYSE [...] Liberty Energy Inc. is an integrated energy services and technology company. The Company is focused on providing hydraulic services and related technologies to onshore oil and natural gas exploration and production (E&P) companies in North America." [CNBC, accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Western Energy Alliance Director Brian Woodard Serves As The Director Of Government & Regulatory Affairs For Mewbourne Oil Co, The Largest Private Oil Producer In The United States

Brian Woodard Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

- **Brian Woodard Is The Director Of Government & Regulatory Affairs For Mewbourne Oil Co.** [LinkedIn, accessed [06/13/23](#)]
- **Mewbourne Oil Co. Is The Largest Private Oil Producer In The U.S.** “Mewbourne Oil Co., the largest private oil producer in the US, said it will remain in the hands of its controlling family after the recent death of its eponymous founder.” [MRT, [07/13/22](#)]

Terra Energy Partners CEO Michael Land Is A Director At Western Energy Alliance

Michael Land Serves On Western Energy Alliance's Board Of Directors. [ProPublica, Western Energy Alliance, Form 990 (2021), accessed [06/13/23](#)]

Michael Land Is The CEO Of Terra Energy Partners. “Terra Energy Partners recently notified the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission “that we do not plan on pursuing these pads at this time, instead focusing on developing projects that are more economically favorable,” Terra CEO Michael Land said in a statement provided to The Daily Sentinel early this week.” [The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, [01/22/21](#)]

William Perry Pendley's Interior Playbook For Project 2025 Calls For Changes To Policies Protecting The Sage-Grouse, Echoing The Agenda Of Kathleen Sgamma And The Western Energy Alliance.

Project 2025's Interior Playbook Calls For Jurisdiction Over Sage-Grouse To Be Ceded To Western States, Echoing The Policy Agenda Of The Western Energy Alliance.

Project 2025's Interior Playbook Calls For “Meaningful Reform Of The Endangered Species Act” To “End Its Use To Seize Private Property, Prevent Economic Development, And Interfere With The Rights Of States Over Their Wildlife Populations.” “Meaningful reform of the Endangered Species Act requires that Congress take action to restore its original purpose and end its use to seize private property, prevent economic development, and interfere with the rights of states over their wildlife populations. In the meantime, a new Administration should take the following immediate action” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

- **Project 2025's Interior Playbook Calls For Jurisdiction Over Sage-Grouse To Be Ceded To Western States To Prevent The “Use Of The Sage-Grouse To Interfere With Public Access To Public Land And Economic Activity.”** “Cede to western states jurisdiction over the greater sage-grouse, recognizing the on-the-ground expertise of states and preventing use of the sage-grouse to interfere with public access to public land and economic activity.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

In 2015, Pendley Called The Effort To Protect The Sage Grouse An “Imposition Of A Draconian And Illegal Rule.” In a December 2015 column for the Washington Times, Pendley outlined the history leading up to the Obama Administration not to list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Pendley

called the closing of mining on acres of land for sage grouse protection the “imposition of a Draconian and illegal rule that kills current and future economic activity.” [Washington Times, [12/01/15](#)]

When Western Energy Alliance Asked The Trump Department To Reform Sage Grouse Plans, Interior “Accepted 13 of 15 Of Sgamma’s Recommendations.” “The summer after Trump entered office, Alliance president Sgamma wrote to the Interior Department to complain about the sage grouse. In her letter, Sgamma claimed that sage grouse management would cost more than 9,000 oil and gas jobs and impede \$2.4 billion in economic growth. After examining correspondence between the Interior Department and industry lobbyists, the Western Values Project found that Trump officials accepted 13 of Sgamma’s 15 recommendations to alter sage grouse protection. When the administration released a revised sage grouse plan a year ago, Zinke sent an internal memo that reversed the Obama administration’s focus on developing oil and gas outside of grouse habitat.” [Yahoo News [02/18/19](#)]

- **Western Energy Alliance Directly Recommended Sage-Grouse Policies to Interior Officials.** Western Values Project “obtained a leaked document showing that the Western Energy Alliance...was behind most of the recommendations that made it into the Secretary’s report.” [Western Values Project, accessed [11/25/19](#)]

Western Energy Alliance Has Tried To Discredit Federal Government Scientists, Including In Analyses Of The Sage Grouse.

Kathleen Sgamma Discredited Federal Government Scientists, Including In Analyses Of The Sage Grouse. Kathleen Sgamma wrote that peer review is “normally a rigorous scientific process,” but, “when used by federal agencies for endangered species listing decisions,” “is spin for asking somebody in a close circle of friends to approve your work.” Sgamma said that the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) “can count on its ‘friends’ in a tight circle of scientist-activists who won’t point out something that’s inconvenient to it.” She also claimed that a Department of the Interior analysis was “probably done by the Sierra Club” and believes that federal agencies used “faulty information that ignores a large body of scientific literature on the sage grouse.” [Western Energy Alliance, [05/15/15](#); Twitter, [01/15/16](#)]

William Perry Pendley’s Interior Playbook For Project 2025 Calls For The Repeal Of The Antiquities Act And For Downsizing National Monuments, A Position Pendley Has Long Supported.

Project 2025’s Interior Playbook Calls For The Repeal Of The Antiquities Act And For Downward Adjustments In The Size Of National Monuments; The Chapter Recommends A Review Of National Monument Decrees.

Project 2025’s Interior Playbook Calls For The Repeal Of The Antiquities Act Under A New Administration. “Finally, the new Administration must seek repeal of the Antiquities Act of 1906, which permitted emergency action by a President long before the statutory authority existed for the protection of special federal lands, such as those with wild and scenic rivers, endangered specials, or other unique places. Moreover, in recent years, Congress has designated as national monuments those areas deserving of such congressional action.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Project 2025’s Interior Playbook Calls For Downward Adjustments To The Size Of National Monuments And Recommends A Review The Size Of Monuments In A New Administration. “Although President Trump courageously ordered a review of national monument designations, the result of that review was insufficient in that only two national monuments in one state (Utah) were adjusted. Monuments in Maine and Oregon, for example, should have been adjusted downward given the finding of Secretary Ryan Zinke’s review that they were improperly designated. The new Administration’s review will permit a fresh look at past

monument decrees and new ones by President Biden.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

- **Project 2025’s Interior Playbook Calls For Downsizing Of Monuments And Seeking A Ruling To Permit Reductions By The Supreme Court.** “Furthermore, the new Administration must vigorously defend the downward adjustments it makes to permit a ruling on a President’s authority to reduce the size of national monuments by the U.S. Supreme Court.” [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

William Perry Pendley Called For Revoking Monument Designations.

Pendley Called On President Trump To Revoke Monuments Designations. On February 1st, 2017, Pendley wrote a column in the *Washington Examiner* that said Trump could “rob President Obama of his sole surviving legacy” by “vacating two national monuments designated by Obama in 2016 and an especially egregious one designated by President Clinton in 1996.” Pendley then describes the history of the Antiquities Act, and claimed “Obama thumbed his nose at all Utahns with his 1.35 million acre Bear Ears National Monument.” Pendley claimed that Trump had the ability without question to “vacate the actions of his predecessors” and that both “Clinton and Obama far exceeded their authority under the Antiquities Act.” The opinion piece concluded: “Meanwhile, Congress should repeal the Antiquities Act to prevent lawlessness by any future president who views rural Americans with disdain.” [Washington Examiner, [02/01/17](#)]

Pendley Repeatedly Criticized Former Interior Secretary Zinke For Not Going Far Enough With Monument Reductions.

- In September 2017, Pendley criticized former Interior Secretary over the monument reduction report. After the *Associated Press* found that Zinke’s report for reductions to national monuments excluded his home state of Montana, Pendley called Zinke’s recommendations an “optics problem.” He also said “what the secretary ought to be sending to the president is a recommendation to repeal the Antiquities Act, to put an end to this issue.” [Associated Press, [09/27/17](#)]
- Pendley would go on to write a *National Review* article later that month continuing his criticism of Zinke, saying the then-Interior Secretary was “a rookie agent” that had gone “rogue.” According to the piece, Zinke did not do as he was asked as he only reduced the size of monuments and “worse, he asked that the president do as Clinton and Obama did before him: that is, designate as national monuments federal lands that do not qualify under the Antiquities Act.” The article expands on the criticisms of Zinke, including that the former Secretary “failed to recognize that the Antiquities Act long ago outlived its usefulness even while it remains capable of massive and malevolent misapplication.” Pendley ends his column by calling on Trump to reject Zinke’s recommendations and to “ask Congress to repeal the Antiquities Act.” If Trump doesn’t, then Congress will have to take up its duty to make rules and regulations regarding United States property. [National Review, [09/25/17](#)]
- The following month, Pendley penned an opinion column in the *Washington Examiner* titled, “Ryan Zinke’s monumental disappointment in Montana.” Pendley called Zinke’s monument reduction recommendations “trebly disappointing” by repeating some of his previous Zinke criticisms. [Washington Examiner, [10/02/17](#)]
- In a November 2017 article for *Townhall*, Pendley “laments that the Department of Interior seems to be botching a major overhaul of the land-grabbing policies of Obama and his predecessors.” According to him, “Secretary Ryan Zinke failed President Trump three ways...He failed to revoke any federal-monument designations, even after admitting that several were illegal. He recommended that only four be reduced in size and the rest amended to permit economic use, which environmental groups will sue to stop. And he urged that Trump use the Antiquities Act of 1906 as Clinton and Obama did, that is, by illegally closing federal lands, including a Reagan-era oil and gas lease in Montana that poses a political problem for Zinke.” [Townhall, [11/13/17](#)]

William Perry Pendley Repeatedly Called For Repealing The Antiquities Act On His Twitter Account (@Sagebrush_Rebel).

On March 11th, 2019, Pendley Quote Tweeted Another User Discussing Updating The Antiquities Act And Wrote: “Repeal It. It Made Sense In 1906, But Did Not Make Sense After 1977.”



["How faith, medical progress, a dedicated surgeon, and a western hospital saved my life," Washington Examiner, [05/01/19](#), Tweet by William Perry Pendley, accessed [03/11/19](#)]

On March 28th, 2019, Pendley Quote Tweeted Another User Discussing Revising The Antiquities Act And Wrote: “Don’t Revise. Repeal!”



["How faith, medical progress, a dedicated surgeon, and a western hospital saved my life," Washington Examiner, [05/01/19](#), Tweet by William Perry Pendley, accessed [03/29/19](#)]

On May 3rd 2019, Pendley Quote Tweeted Another User Sharing A Daily Caller Article Written By Rob Bishop Stating “It’s Time For Congress To Reform The Antiquities Act” And Wrote: “Not Reform. Repeal!”



[“How faith, medical progress, a dedicated surgeon, and a western hospital saved my life,” Washington Examiner, [05/01/19](#), “REP. BISHOP: It’s Time For Congress To Reform The Antiquities Act, *Daily Caller*, 05/02/19, Tweet by William Perry Pendley, accessed [05/03/19](#)]

William Perry Pendley Is Still An Attorney For Three Utah Counties Who Are Engaged In Ongoing Monument Reduction Lawsuits.

William Perry Pendley Is Still Listed As An Attorney In Three Ongoing Lawsuits Regarding The Bears Ears/Grand Staircase Escalante Monument Reductions. According to the PACER database, William Perry Pendley is still listed as the attorney representing Movants Garfield and Kane Counties, Utah, in GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE PARTNERS et al v. TRUMP et al, as well as Movants San Juan County, Utah in two separate suits (UTAH DINE BIKEYAH et al v. TRUMP et al and NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INC. et al v. DONALD J. TRUMP et al). All three cases are currently ongoing and were filed to oppose to the Bears Ears/Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument reductions made by Donald Trump. [Search for William Perry Pendley in PACER Case Locator, accessed 08/15/19]

- **Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners et al. v. Trump et al. Claims Monument Reduction Would Threatens Plants, Animals And Insects.** The plaintiffs are the Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Conservation Lands Foundation. They argue the Antiquities Act does not authorize Trump to reduce the size of a monument and doing so threatens “plants, animals, insects, artifacts, and geological formations in danger.” The suit seeks to halt the government from “recognizing, enforcing, or otherwise carrying out” the monument reduction.” [Outside Magazine, [12/13/17](#)]
- **Utah Dine Bikeyah et al. v. Trump et al. Claims The Monument Reduction Would “Threaten Hundreds of Historical Rock Art Panels, Artifacts, Pueblos and Kivas.”** The suit was brought by “a broad coalition representing American Indian tribes, recreation interests and paleontologists” and argues that reducing the Bears Ears Monument would “threaten hundreds of historical rock art panels, artifacts, pueblos and kivas.” It seeks an order to require Trump to restore the original monument and “bar his administration from acting on the reconfigured designations.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [12/10/17](#)]
- **Natural Resources Defense Council Inc. et al. v. Donald J. Trump et al. Claims The Monument Reduction Threatens Artifacts And Cultural Sites.** The suit was brought by multiple groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and The Wilderness Society. This suit argues that the monument reduction threatens artifacts and cultural sites. It seeks to block extractive activities such as drilling and mining in the area that had previously received protection under President Barack Obama’s monument declaration. [Outside Magazine, [12/13/17](#)]

Project 2025's Interior Playbook Recommends Immediately Relocating The Bureau Of Land Management's Headquarters To The American West, An Action Pendley Has Been Working On For Decades.

Project 2025's Interior Playbook Recommends Immediately Relocating The Bureau Of Land Management's Headquarters To The American West, Echoing Similar Efforts From The Trump Administration.

Project 2025's Interior Playbook Lists Relocating The BLM Headquarters As An Immediate Action Because The "Blm Headquarters Belongs In The American West." "IMMEDIATE ACTIONS, BLM Headquarters. BLM headquarters belongs in the American West. After all, the overwhelming majority of the 245 million surface acres (10 percent of the nation's landmass) managed by the agency lies in the 11 western states and Alaska: A mere 50,000 surface acres lie elsewhere. Moreover, 97 percent of BLM employees are located in the American West." [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Project 2025: " The Trump Administration's Decision To Relocate BLM Headquarters From Washington, D.C., To The West Was The Epitome Of Good Governance." "Thus, the Trump Administration's decision to relocate BLM headquarters from Washington, D.C., to the West was the epitome of good governance: That is, it was not only well-informed, but it was also implemented efficiently, effectively, and with an eye toward affected career civil servants. Plus, despite overblown chatter from the inside-the-Beltway media, Congress, with bipartisan support, approved funding the move." [Project 2025, Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 16, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Pendley Says He Has Been Working For BLM Move For Decades.

Pendley "Enthusiastically Supports" BLM Headquarters Move. "Mr. Pendley arrives at a pivotal moment. The BLM is in the process of moving its headquarters and senior leadership from Washington to the Western states. At the same time, the administration is intent on expanding the oil and gas revolution as well as recreational opportunities on federal lands. Mr. Pendley enthusiastically supports all of the above, citing the economic and social benefits for Westerners, especially those in rural areas who are often overlooked by policymakers." [Washington Times, [08/09/19](#)]

- **Pendley Has "Spent 30 Years As An Attorney Working With Rural Westerners Trying To Achieve This."** "I've spent 30 years as an attorney working with rural Westerners trying to achieve this, which is essentially, 'Hey, these people live here because they love being in the West, but at the same time, they need to pay for their schools, they need to pay for their hospitals, they need to have jobs, and they need to be able to get their kids to come back,'" he said." [Washington Times, [08/09/19](#)]
- **Pendley Claimed BLM Reorganization Would Make Agency "More Powerful And Responsive."** "The foundation insisted that the reorganization, which includes moving the headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado, is 'designed to fail,' creating a "weak and ineffective BLM management structure,' but Mr. Pendley said the plan would strengthen the agency. 'It's going to make the Bureau of Land Management even more powerful and responsive,'" said Mr. Pendley. 'We'll be better informed, more responsive, more accountable and more in touch with the people that matter.'" [Washington Times, [08/09/19](#)]
- **Pendley Claimed Frustration In The West Was Due To Lack Of Understanding Without "Boots On The Ground."** "Our frustration in the West is simply we're dealing with a landlord who's 2,000 miles away," he said. "You just don't understand situations without being on the ground. You just have such a better perspective. You can read all you want. You can listen to all the PowerPoints you want. You can

have as many conference calls as you can plug into a day, but you don't understand until you've got boots on the ground." [Washington Times, [08/09/19](#)]

Pendley Argued the Relocation Would Reduce Costs For Rent, Salaries, and Travel.

Pendley Claimed BLM Would Save Money On Renting Office Space, Employee Pay And Travel. Pendley said the move would save the agency money on renting office space, employee pay, and even travel. But many Democratic lawmakers found his responses lacking and his predictions unlikely. And at the heart of the issue is whether it makes sense to establish a new headquarters in a small city far away from D.C." [The Hill, [09/10/19](#)]

William Perry Pendley Has Repeatedly Made Extremist Comments About The Agency He Now Runs And Other Federal Employees.

William Perry Pendley Said The Agency He Runs Is "The Worst Neighbor You Can Imagine" And That USFWS Lack "Scientific Background" And "Adult Supervision."

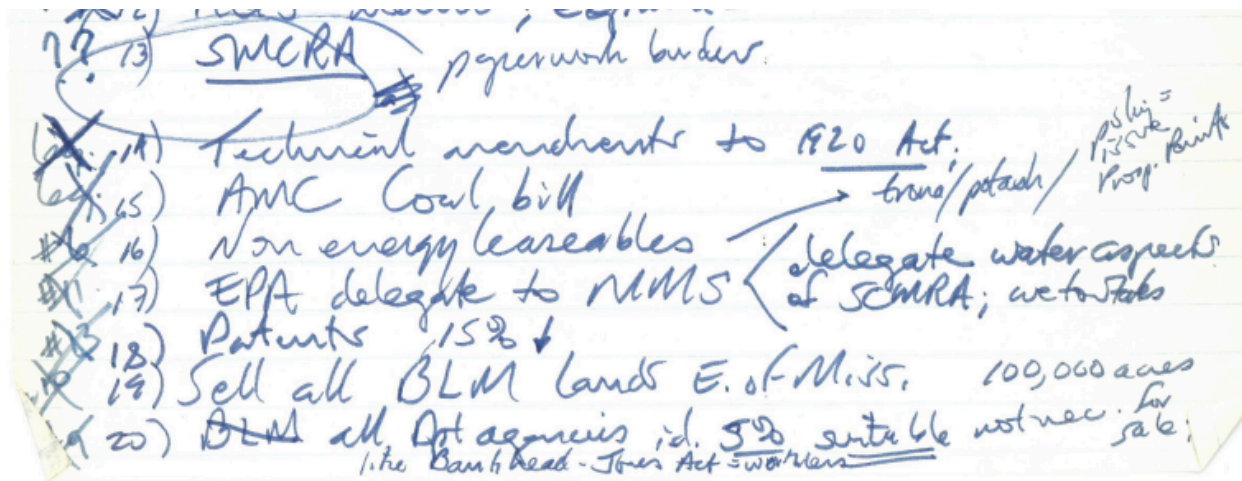
William Perry Pendley, On A Radio Show, Said The BLM Is "A Very Bad Neighbor." Pendley said, "a very bad neighbor. The worst neighbor you can imagine: The United States Government. We represent a man named Michael Whitehead. He came here from Alabama in 1985. Bought a little old mining cabin built in 1890 on Four Mile Canyon Drive, about 10 miles west of the Boulder Library. Unfortunately for him, it turned out for him his next-door neighbor was the Bureau of Land Management. [Mandy Connell Radio Show, [02/21/18](#), 72:29]

- **William Perry Pendley Sarcastically Called BLM "A Fine Agency."** In remarks to the Texas Public Policy Foundation, William Perry Pendley said, "Usually when I talk to a Texas audience, I have to explain about the BLM. But you have the Red River controversy, in which Rob has involved the foundation, and so you know what a fine agency is the BLM." [YouTube, [01/18/16](#), 35:30]

William Perry Pendley Said That USFWS Staff Were "Without Adult Supervision" And "Lacked The Scientific Background" To Work On Endangered Species Act Matters. Pendley claimed those behind the scenes at the Fish and Wildlife Service were without adult supervision and lacked the scientific background to work on the issue resulting in action that did not make sense. As an example, he pointed out a species could go on the list because it was endangered in the US, but have plentiful numbers across the southern and northern borders -- depending on the species." [Mining Quarterly, [Spring 2014](#)]

William Perry Pendley Believed The Bureau Of Land Management Should "Sell All BLM Lands" East Of Mississippi.

Acting Bureau Of Land Management (BLM) Director William Perry Pendley's Own Notes Say "Sell All BLM Lands E. Of Miss." "Ever since Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's decision last month to name self-proclaimed sagebrush rebel William Perry Pendley as the temporary leader of the Bureau of Land Management, the Trump administration has been fighting allegations that it is open to selling off the nation's public lands. But nearly four decades ago — during his first year as a top official under Reagan administration Interior Secretary James Watt — Pendley's own notes show he would propose doing just that. 'Sell all BLM lands E. of Miss.," Pendley wrote in a 1981 note archived at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center."



[E&E News, [08/30/19](#)]

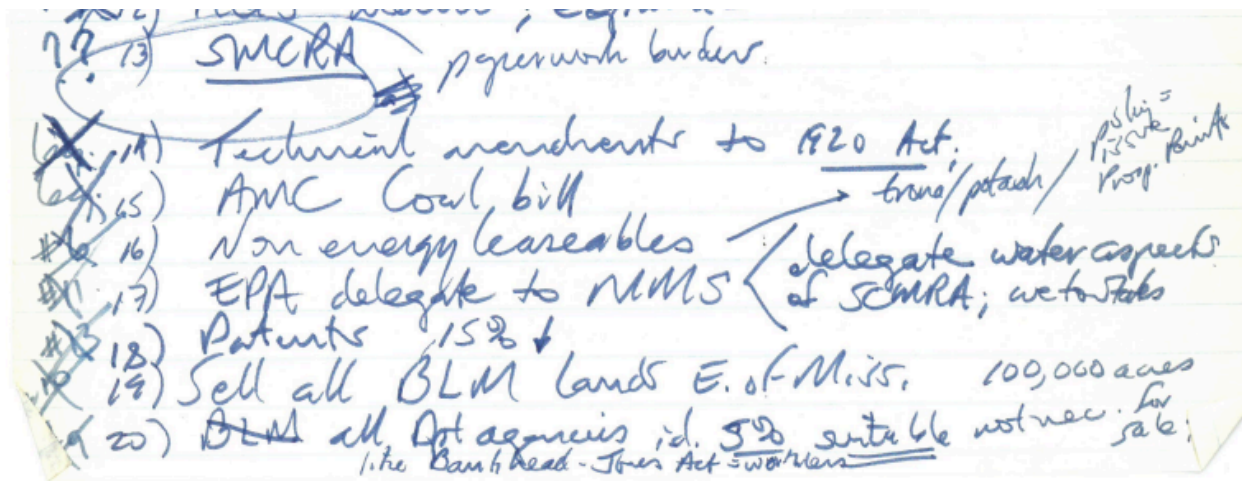
- **Notes Are Part Of Pendley's Archive From His Time Working Under The Reagan Administration.** "The note is part of a trove of documents Pendley donated to his alma mater after working under the Reagan administration from 1981 to 1984, 30 boxes of correspondence, speeches and notes that paint a picture of a man eager to make an impact for his own Western priorities." [E&E News, [08/30/19](#)]

Pendley Urged Reagan Administration To Reconsider Withdrawal Of Public Lands. "In another memo to Watt in June 1981, Pendley urged the Reagan administration to reconsider withdrawals of public lands, pointing in particular to the wilderness reviews conducted under the then still relatively new Federal Land Policy and Management Act." [E&E News, [08/30/19](#)]

Pendley Wrote That All Interior Agencies Should Identify 5% of Lands That Would Be Suitable For Sale.

Pendley Notes Include A Proposal That Reagan Administration Would Eventually Implement. "In addition to the potential sell-off of lands managed by BLM across the 31 states east of the Mississippi River, Perry's notes include a proposal that the Reagan administration would eventually adopt." [E&E News, [08/30/19](#)]

Pendley Notes Say Agencies Should Identify 5% Of Land Not Necessary For Sale. "The next line in Pendley's notes reads: 'all Dpt agencies id. 5% suitable not nec. for sale.'"



[E&E News, [08/30/19](#)]

Reagan Interior Secretary James Watt Announced Sale Of 5% Or 35 Million Acres Of Public Lands. In June 1982, Watt announced the federal government planned to sell off 5%, or 35 million acres, of public lands over several years. [E&E News, [08/30/19](#)]

William Perry Pendley Says “Deep State” Unions Are “Running... Federal Agencies.”

William Perry Pendley Blames The “Deep State” And Unions For Promoting Diversity At Federal Agencies. While describing a lawsuit he was engaged in with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), William Perry Pendley said, “They knew that the original program was incredibly diverse. The FAA’s own studies revealed that at that very time, 11.5 percent of the people in the academic pipeline were African American, which was higher than the civilian workforce. So they knew that the university program that the FAA had in place since 1991 achieved racial diversity, ethnic diversity. They knew it was working, but not enough to suit them, and not enough, frankly, to suit the union. The union was in pursuit of the kinds of people, high school graduates, who would sign up, become a member of the union, and pay the dues. And today, as we’ve seen with the deep state, it’s the union that is running these federal agencies.” [SoundCloud, [06/28/18](#), 07:10]

In Describing The Same Lawsuit, William Perry Pendley Echoed His Former Boss James Watt, Who Had To Resign As Secretary Of The Interior After Fallout From An Insensitive Comment He Made Bragging About The Department’s Diversity. While describing the clients in his FAA lawsuit, William Perry Pendley said, “We have the most diverse background of people: Asians, Latinos, we have an American Indian, women, who applied, were deemed ‘super qualified’ and ready to be hired, and then told, ‘no, we’re going to hire people off the street. We’re going to hire people who graduated from high school, who speak English, and are US citizens.’ As a friend of mine, our co-attorney in the case, Michael Pearson from Arizona said, ‘It’s like the VA telling people they will hire doctors out of high school and train them on the job.’ It’s insane and it places all people who fly in this country at great risk.” [SoundCloud, [06/28/18](#), 03:08]

William Perry Pendley Has A Long History Of Radical Rhetoric Supporting Land Transfer Extremists And Attacking Conservationists.

William Perry Pendley Is Sympathetic To The Bundys And Their Armed Standoffs With Federal Agencies.

William Perry Pendley Is An “Outspoken Supporter Of Cliven Bundy.” “Pendley is, as The Washington Post recently noted, an ‘anti-government zealot.’ Don’t take our word for that, or the Post’s. Read Mr. Pendley’s

own writings. He has written books such as 'War on the West: Government Tyranny on America's Great Frontier.' He is an outspoken supporter of Cliven Bundy and his clan. If Interior Secretary David Bernhardt had named grazing-fee scofflaw Bundy himself to head the BLM, it would hardly be more outrageous than naming Pendley to the post. This is a man who says he believes that the founding fathers intended that all federal land should be sold. 'Westerners know that only getting title to much of the land in the West will bring real change,' he has written." [*Montana Standard*, [08/18/19](#)]

William Perry Pendley Was Sympathetic To Cliven Bundy's 2014 Armed Standoff In Clark County, Nevada.

William Perry Pendley Wrote An Op-Ed Sympathizing With Cliven Bundy's 2014 Armed Standoff.

William Perry Pendley, in 2014, wrote an opinion piece for the National Review titled "Bundy Ranch Standoff Could Spark New Sagebrush Rebellion." In the article, Pendley expressed sympathy for Cliven Bundy's 2014 stand-off in Clark County, Nevada, blaming the debacle on a "war on the West" waged by Presidents Carter, Clinton, and Obama. [*National Review*, [04/16/14](#)]

William Perry Pendley Was Sympathetic To Ammon Bundy's 2016 Armed Standoff At The Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

In 2014, The Bundy Family And Other Armed Militia Seized The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Threatening Violence And Saying They Would Not Leave Until Dwight And Steven Hammond Be Released From Jail. "The Bundy family of Nevada joined with hard-core militiamen Saturday to take over the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, vowing to occupy the remote federal outpost 30 miles southeast of Burns for years. The occupation came shortly after an estimated 300 marchers -- militia and local citizens both -- paraded through Burns to protest the prosecution of two Harney County ranchers, Dwight Hammond Jr. and Steven Hammond, who are to report to prison on Monday. Among the occupiers is Ammon Bundy, son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, and two of his brothers [...] Ryan Bundy said there were no hostages, but the group is demanding that the Hammonds be released and the federal government relinquish control of the Malheur National Forest. He said many would be willing to fight -- and die, if necessary -- to defend what they see as constitutionally protected rights for states, counties and individuals to manage local lands [*The Oregonian*, [01/02/16](#)]

William Perry Pendley Wrote An Op-Ed Demanding Donald Trump Pardon The Hammonds. William Perry Pendley, in May 2018, wrote an op-ed for Fox News titled "Trump Should Pardon Oregon Ranchers." In it, Pendley wrote, "The Hammonds are the victims of one of the most egregious, indefensible and intolerable instances of prosecutorial misconduct in history. Their situation cries out for justice that can come only from President Trump." [Fox News, [05/19/18](#)]

- **William Perry Pendley Believes That The Hammonds Were "Wronged In A Case Of Theft."** For a July 31, 2018 column for the Washington Examiner, Pendley wrote about Dwight and Steven Hammond, father and son ranchers from Oregon who had been sentenced to five years in prison in 2015 for setting a fire that spread from their ranch that spread onto public lands. The Hammonds would be pardoned by Donald Trump on July 10th, 2018. Pendley quoted The Wall Street Journal's commentary on the matter, that said the efforts to drive away the Hammonds and other ranchers was because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) had "mismanaged water to let ranchlands flood." He went on to claim the Hammonds were not the only ones "wronged in a case of 'theft by flooding.'" [Washington Examiner, [07/31/18](#)]

William Perry Pendley Said Conservationists Were "No Different From Hitler's Brownshirts."

William Perry Pendley Said That Animal Rights Activists Are No "Different From Hitler's Brownshirts." "Last week, as animal rights activists prepared for today's march in the nation's capital, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan called some of them 'nothing more than animal rights terrorists.' Critics of the

eco-radicals are beginning to fight back. The Denver-based MSLF, formerly headed by one-time Interior Secretary James Watt, has set up a hotline for vandalism reports. 'I don't think these people are any different from Hitler's brownshirts, who dragged people out of their stores and beat them so they wouldn't open the next day,' said William Perry Pendley, president of the foundation." Pendley was referring specifically to the group "Earth First." [*The Pittsburgh Press*, [06/10/90](#)]

In November 2018, William Perry Pendley Called Peaceful Louisiana Protesters Attempting To Block A Pipeline "Domestic Terrorists." Pendley linked to a *Daily Caller* article about protesters attempting to block a pipeline in his November 12th, 2018 tweet that said: "A return to the bad days in the 1990s when radical environmentalists sabotaged logging equipment and endangered the lives of working men and women in the Mountain West and Pacific Northwest. Shame on these domestic terrorists."



[Tweet by William Perry Pendley, [11/12/18](#)]

William Perry Pendley Said Environmentalists Are "No Longer Concerned About Human Beings."

Pendley asserted in an interview that environmentalists are "No Longer Concerned About Human Beings." "And in a 2013 interview with the Federalist Society, Pendley asserted that "the environmental community is no longer concerned about human beings." [*Huffington Post*, [10/28/19](#)]

William Perry Pendley Repeated Attacked Conservation Laws.

William Perry Pendley Says The Endangered Species Act Is "Unconstitutional" And Advocates For Property Owners To Shoot And Bury Endangered Animals They Encounter.

William Perry Pendley Says The Endangered Species Act Is “Unconstitutional.” “I want to talk briefly about the Endangered Species Act. I cover the Endangered Species Act and all the problems with that statute in my book. I urge you to take a look at it. It is a very flawed statute it has no scientific basis, it's not being applied scientifically. Originally, it was supposed to cover a hundred species. We got a thousand on it now, headed for two or three thousand. It was supposed to only be on federal lands. Now it's public lands to coast to coast, border to border, and if it ever affected private property, well we were supposed to be paid just compensation. Nobody has been paid. There's lots of problems with it, but let me just tell you one: It's unconstitutional. (applause) Yeah, thanks so much. It's unconstitutional.” [YouTube, [08/31/13](#), 47:01]

William Perry Pendley’s Advice To Landowners When They Find An Endangered Animal Is To “Shoot, Shovel, And Shut Up.” “Let me speak briefly about the Endangered Species Act. It was written back in the 1970s. it was supposed to protect a hundred species. Today, we've got about 2,000 on it and we're going north. We've gone from protecting the warm and fuzzies to protecting the cold and slimies. Second, it was supposed to apply only to only to a federal land. Today, it applies to private property coast to coast, border to border. Which leads us here in the west to say what? Shoot, shovel, and shut up if you encounter one of those critters on your property. And that, by the way, is not legal advice.” [YouTube, [11/07/14](#), 17:43]

William Perry Pendley Opposes The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), America’s Landmark Environmental Planning Law.

William Perry Pendley Says NEPA Is Responsible For Letting A “Whack-O Lady” Influence Federal Policy. “Let me give you a NEPA example. Several years ago, we wanted to drill for oil and gas in Montana in an area where everybody knew there was oil and gas. All we had to do was drill. We weren't going to drill in the national forest. We were going to drill offsite, and because of technology, drill underneath and capture that gas. Well, all the environmental crazies in the country went nuts. And they wrote in all these letters. One of my favorites came from a whack-o lady from Ohio who had never been to Montana. And she wrote this: ‘I’ve never been to Montana, and I’ve never been to this area. However, I’ve read the book The Horse Whisperer, and it sounds like a beautiful piece of country, and certainly not the kind of place to drill for oil and gas. And based on these and other whacky writings, the forest supervisor, honest-to-gosh, her name was Laura, said ‘No, we can’t drill for oil up there in the national forest.’ And based on NEPA, she made that decision. We see these kinds of decisions being made all across the country.” [YouTube, [07/12/09](#), 01:10]