

From: American Lands Council [mailto:info@americanlandscouncil.org]
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To: John Venrick
Subject: Public Lands Rally a farce orchestrated by democrats

[American Lands Council needs your help to restore forest and range health!](#)



Why the Protest? Who Doesn't Want to #KeepItPublic?

By Jennifer Fielder, CEO - American Lands Council

January 14, 2019

Helena, MT -- Last Friday protesters descended upon the Montana State Capitol to express their disdain against the idea that Montanans can responsibly govern our own lands and resources. Many of them have been fed a lie that somebody would sell off all our public lands if Montana took control. The fatal flaw of their thinking is a failure to recognize that nobody cares more for our State than the people who live right here in it. In fact, we have never seen a state-imposed shutdown of all our public lands due to a political stalemate or anything else for that matter. That's Washington DC's way of dealing with things, not ours.

Montanans want abundant recreation, safe, vibrant communities, and healthy air, water, and wildlife -- and we have proven ourselves pretty darn capable of producing it on the 6 million acres of public lands already owned and managed by our State.

On the other hand, federal mismanagement of millions of acres of federally controlled lands throughout the west has been increasingly marked year-after-year by catastrophic wildfires, smoke filled summers, polluted water, decimated wildlife, and poverty-stricken communities. Slow or poor decision making by out of state administrators has repeatedly resulted in disasters that cost hundreds of millions of dollars and way too many lives.

As more and more people realize that we can and must do better, more and more people are realizing that it is time to bring land management decisions closer to home -- where they belong. By working, speaking, and acting together, Montanans can achieve what we all want -- abundant recreation, safe, vibrant communities, and healthy air, water, and wildlife.

But to get there, we have to be honest enough to examine this issue objectively, and brave enough to speak against the false narrative created by the federal bureaucrats, left leaning organizations, and democrat party operatives who are working in league to convince us that Montana would sell off all our majestic mountains and hang “no trespassing” signs on all our favorite fishing holes. Seriously, no Montanan would stand for that.

We also should not overlook the fact that when it comes to public land economics, Montana out-performs federal land managers year in and year out. We generate positive cash flow for our state and communities from responsible natural resource utilization such as farming, ranching, logging, mining, as well as hunting, fishing, and recreation. And we do it while protecting our environment and managing world class wildlife throughout our state.

All Montanans treasure the scenic splendor and abundant natural riches of this beautiful place that we call home. The question isn't whether or not we will keep our public lands public. Of course we will. The question is who should manage them – Montanans, or bureaucrats, lobbyists, and politicians headquartered in Washington DC.

PS:

The false narrative pushed by leaders of the Democrat Party, Wilderness Association, Back Country Hunters and Anglers, Wildlife Federation, Conservation Voters and other democrat party affiliates has been pretty well debunked. At the same time while organizing their first #KeepItPublicRally in 2015, they actually worked to kill the bills that would keep it public. Video documentation of this may be viewed in these short video clips taken from official legislative hearings on SB 215 and SB 274:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jK4KPJcHyo&t=17s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZu_gFnO4X0&t=9s

If you would care to know what the Land Transfer movement is really all about, and how a shift to greater state and local control can be done successfully, you will find the truth about the issue in this brochure:

https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/americanlandscouncil/pages/857/attachments/original/1526657728/ALC_-_Brochure_2018.pdf?1526657728

An avid outdoors woman and hunter, Jennifer Fielder resides near beautiful Thompson Falls, Montana. She has served in the Montana State Senate since representing Northwest Montana 2013, and accepted the position of CEO of American Lands Council in 2016.

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