

American Stewards of Liberty

American Stewards of Liberty uses taxpayer money to lobby local governments to oppose conservation efforts and promote fringe conspiracy theories.

Summary: American Stewards of Liberty (ASL) is the extremist group leading the opposition to the Biden Administration's conservation goals. ASL's primary activity is lobbying local governments to pass legislation opposing the Biden Administration's [America the Beautiful Conservation initiative](#) that aims to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030—lobbying which likely [runs afoul of IRS rules](#) for nonprofit organizations.

American Stewards of Liberty is a husband-wife duo formed to defend its executive director's father when he refused to pay his federal grazing fees in the 1990s using the bogus legal arguments that [inspired the Bundys' armed stand-offs](#) in Nevada and Oregon. They failed, and the estate was [ordered to pay over a half million dollars](#) in penalties.

The majority of the nonprofit's revenue comes from taxpayers through [dubious contracts with county governments](#). In total, ASL has taken over \$700,000 in tax dollars. ASL pays its husband-wife executive duo as much as 94% of its total revenue.

ASL promotes [extremist ideas](#) and conspiracy theories like "Agenda 21," which alleges a United Nations plot to eliminate private property rights in the US.

American Stewards of Liberty also express other extremist ideas rooted in racism.

- American Stewards [compares conservation goals](#) to the 1930s Soviet Holodomor genocide of Ukrainian people through engineered famines and also to Nazi Germany.
- An American Stewards spokesman said that the Third Reich was the "birth of environmental impact statements."
- American Stewards claimed that conservation goals will create a ["feudal state."](#)
- American Stewards [denies climate science](#).

American Stewards of Liberty has received at least \$120,000 from the Koch-backed dark money network. It has worked directly with oil and gas industry associations to oppose protections for public lands and wildlife. In 2002, an American Stewards of Liberty spokesman pleaded no contest to cattle rustling charges.

Our detailed report can be found below:

BACKGROUND:

American Stewards of Liberty Is The Texas-Based Nonprofit That Opposes The Biden Administration's Conservation Goals

American Stewards Of Liberty Is A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit. "American Stewards Of Liberty" is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization that was formed through the merger of the American Land Foundation(ALF) and Stewards of the Range (Stewards) in 2009." [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [03/05/21](#)]

American Stewards Of Liberty's Primary Goal Since 2020 Has Been To Convince Rural County County Commissions To Pass Legislation Opposing The America The Beautiful Conservation Plan

American Stewards Of Liberty Has A "Guide To Fight The 30 X 30 Land Grab" On Its Website. [American Stewards Of Liberty, [02/16/21](#)]

- **The 30 x 30 Conservation Plan Is A Popular Plan To Harness The Power Of Public Lands And Waters To Address The Climate Crisis.** "The '30 by 30' target is based on scientific recommendations for addressing the rapid loss of biodiversity and using natural ecosystems to fight climate change. The biodiversity crisis may still be invisible to many people, but it has had profound effects. One recent study found that North America has lost over a quarter of its bird population since 1970. And biodiversity isn't just for birdwatchers, it also underpins the health of the ecosystems that sustain agriculture and many other essential activities." [Vox, [01/27/21](#)]

People: Director Margaret Byfield

American Stewards Of Liberty's Top Executive Started The Nonprofit To Defend Her Delinquent Father, Who Didn't Want To Pay His Public Lands Grazing Fees. They Lost.

American Stewards Of Liberty Sprouted From An Early 90s Effort To Defend Rancher Wayne Hage. "American Stewards Of Liberty" is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization that was formed through the merger of the American Land Foundation(ALF) and Stewards of the Range (Stewards) in 2009. ALF was created by the Farm Credit Bank of Texas in 1993. Stewards was founded by western ranchers in 1992 to support the Fifth Amendment takings case Hage v. United States." [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [03/05/21](#)]

- **Its Executive Director Is Wayne Hage's Daughter.** [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [03/30/21](#)]

Like The Bundy Family, The Hage Family Refused To Pay Grazing Fees For Using Public Lands. "Before Cliven Bundy, there was Wayne Hage, a Nevada rancher whose

quarrel with the federal government churned through the courts for 21 years. Hage, an outspoken critic of public-land management, held water rights predating federal ownership and argued that he therefore didn't need grazing permits." [High Country News, [09/12/12](#)]

- **Hage Lost His Decades-Long Legal Battle And Was Posthumously Ordered To Pay Over A Half Million Dollars In Fees In 2017.** " Starting in the mid-1990s, Nevada rancher Wayne Hage grazed his cows on public land without the necessary permits, saying his rights predated federal ownership. Hage, an outspoken government critic, passed away in 2006, but his son Wayne N. Hage continued the fight, illegally adding more cows annually – up to 648 by 2011. [...] In late February, a federal district judge in Nevada ended the saga, ordering the Hages to pay \$587,294 for “repeated willful unauthorized grazing.” Chief Judge Gloria Navarro said the Hages’ livestock must be removed by the end of March and cannot graze on public lands within Nevada again...” [High Country News, [03/07/17](#)]

People: Spokesman Trent Loos

Trent Loos Has Driven Executive Director Margaret Byfield Across The Country And Emceed Events

Trent Loos Has Driven Margaret Byfield Across The Country And Speaking At Its Events. “There is an ongoing attack on private property rights by eco~extremists across America. Margaret Byfield and Trent Loos are traveling across the country bringing truth to the people. A stop in Lewistown Montana was the perfect setting for the 30X30 program being thrust upon American families. The current administration under Mr. Biden, is outside the law violating the rights of the American people. American Stewards Of Liberty are openly exposing the corruption in federal land management and acts that are outside of the law. Bringing the tools for coordination and establishing a stand at the local government level is priority in stopping the land grab by eco~extremists.” [CNF Montana, [04/20/21](#)]

- **Trent Loos And Margaret Byfield Have Put On At Least Four American Stewards Events Together.** “Margaret, you and I can go into great lengths on all of this. What I really want to do is bring people up to speed on where we will be in the next couple of weeks... you and I are right now scheduled for three events with 1 pending.” [Trent Loos Podcast, [04/06/21](#) (06:58)]

Byfield On Working With Loos: "A Pretty Good Team."

Trent Loos “Works With The American Stewards Of Liberty Group.” “Loos, who works with the ‘American Stewards of Liberty’ group of Texas, just returned from a

'Freedom Festival' in Tulare, Calif., May 8, where he joined Donald Trump Jr. at a fund-raiser sponsored by U.S. Rep. Devin Nunes." [McCook Gazette, [5/14/21](#)]

- **Margaret Byfield Says That She And Trent Loos Are A "Pretty Good Team."**
On his podcast, Loos said to Byfield, "I'm really looking forward to what we're going to do, because we have to remain focused on providing solutions, Margaret. My job is to entertain people, your job is to provide solutions." Byfield replied, "It works out to be a pretty good team. I think so far it's worked out really good. I've certainly enjoyed working with you on this." [Trent Loos Podcast, [04/06/21](#) (08:22)]

Trent Loos Says The Third Reich Was The "Birth Of... Environmental Impact Statements."

Loos Claimed Hitler's Signing Of The Reich Nature Protection Act Was The Birth Of Environmental Permits, Impact Statements And "Environmental Totalitarianism."

"Historians have either overlooked or forgotten that sweeping Nazi environmental laws, all signed by Hitler and considered to be his pet projects, preceded the racially charged Nuremberg Laws, reflecting the fact that Nazi racism was rooted in ecology. By the summer of 1935, right before the Nuremberg laws were set up, Nazi Germany was by far the greenest regime on the planet. The Animal Protection laws were followed up by a strong hunting law for Hermann Goring in 1934. In 1935, Hitler also signed the Reich Nature Protection Act, the high water mark for Nazi environmentalism. Here is seen the birth of environmental permits, environmental impact statements and environmental totalitarianism." [High Plains Journal - Op Ed by Trent Loos, [4/3/21](#)]

- **Loos Claimed Nazi Movements Were "Promoted As An Attempt To Make The Country 'Green.'"** "I could go on and on about the movements started by the National Socialist Party and how they were promoted as an attempt to make the country 'green.' True historians are now reporting that a government that gives legal protection to dogs, rats, wolves and cattle while systematically rounding up millions of human beings for slaughter is not compassionate about anything but power." [High Plains Journal - Op Ed by Trent Loos, [4/3/21](#)]

Trent Loos, The American Stewards of Liberty Spokesperson, Plead No Contest To Cattle Rustling Charges In 2002

In 2002, Trent Loos Was Charged With Illegally Selling Cattle Without A Brand, Or Cattle Rustling. "Jason White, a Broken Bow, Neb., lawyer hired to prosecute Trent Loos of Norris, S.D., said Loos is charged in Nebraska with selling cattle without a bill of sale and selling cattle without a brand inspection. 'It's almost a scheme of transporting cattle before you get your bill of sale, and the next guy doesn't get the bill of sale,' White said. 'It's a long, drawn-out factual situation in which he bought cattle,

never really paid for them, never got a bill of sale, and then he turned around and started selling those cattle,' he said." [*Rapid City Journal*, [05/04/02](#)]

- **The Crime Is A Felony Punishable By Up To 20 Years In Prison.** "Selling cattle without a bill of sale in Nebraska is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison, White said. The remaining charge is a misdemeanor punishable by six months in jail, the special prosecutor said." [*Rapid City Journal*, [05/04/02](#)]
- **Loos Plead The Charges Down And Was Sentenced To Only Two Years' Probation, Restitution, And Court Costs.** "A South Dakota man was sentenced to probation after pleading no contest to sale by deception in a cattle fraud case. Trent Loos of Norris, S.D., pleaded to the misdemeanor charge Friday as part of a deal with special prosecutor Jason White. Prosecutors dropped a felony charge and another misdemeanor charge in the case against Loos and his wife, Kelly, in exchange for the plea. Loos had faced up to 20 years in prison for a charge of selling cattle without a bill of sale or power of attorney. A Custer County District judge sentenced Trent Loos to two years probation, \$5,000 in restitution and court costs." [Associated Press, [08/25/02](#)]

Bilking Local Governments

American Stewards of Liberty Has Taken Hundreds Of Thousands Of Taxpayer Dollars From Local Governments Over The Years For "Various Consulting Services."

Kane County, Utah Paid American Stewards \$483,000 For "Various Consulting Services" From 2014-19. "Kane County has paid American Stewards handsomely for Margaret Byfield's services, although these payments do not appear to support lobbying as defined by the IRS. From **2014 to 2019**, the county shelled out \$483,000 for various consulting services having to do with land-use planning and legal work." [Salt Lake Tribune, [05/14/21](#)]

Chaves County, New Mexico Has Paid ASoL At Least \$185,000 Since 2016. "Chaves County has paid \$185,000 since 2016 to the American Stewards of Liberty for contracts to advise on land management and endangered species issues." [Albuquerque Journal, [03/15/22](#)]

- **In December, 2021, Chaves Signed A New Contract With ASoL For Up To \$20,000.** [Rdrnews.com, [12/25/22](#)]

Otero County, NM Hired ASOL For Contract That "Is Not To Exceed \$20,000 Per Fiscal Year." "Otero County is against changes proposed by the Lincoln National Forest

in a Draft Forest Plan. To help the County handle the aspects of its opposition to the Forest Plan, it hired a consultant in the American Stewards of Liberty. The contract is not to exceed \$20,000 per fiscal year depending on what American Stewards of Liberty's services Otero County decides to use, Nichols said. The Otero County Commission unanimously approved the contract at its regular meeting March 10." [Alamogordo Daily News, [03/23/22](#)]

Garfield County, Colorado, Has Paid The Group More Than \$26,000 Between 2012 And 2015.. "Garfield County, Colorado, has paid the group more than \$26,000 since 2012." [High Country News, [05/11/15](#)]

- **Garfield County, CO Paid ASOL \$20,000 In 2012 To Fight Sage Grouse Protections.** "Commissioners voted 2-0 at Monday's meeting to contract with the organization for an amount not to exceed \$20,000." [Post Independent, [07/17/12](#)]
- **Garfield County, Colorado Signed \$1,500 A Month Contract With ASoL In 2016 In Relation To Multi-County Case.** [Garfield-county.granicus.com, Accessed [04/21/22](#)]

Custer County, ID Has Paid American Stewards More Than \$23,000 Prior To 2015. "Custer County, Idaho, had paid American Stewards more than \$23,000 as of August 2014, an HCN open-records request revealed." [High Country News, [05/11/15](#)]

- **Custer County, ID Paid ASoL \$2,500 In 2019.** "Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the claims as presented with one addition of \$2,500.00 for American Stewards of Liberty, Commissioner Corgatelli seconded and the motion was approved." [Co.custer.id.us, [08/28/19](#)]

Skagit and Chelan Counties in Washington Hired ASoL For No More Than \$10,000 For Grizzly Bear Advice In 2017. "The county contracted with the organization for help in setting up an April 24 meeting for public comment on the federal government's plan to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascades. According to the contract with the American Stewards of Liberty, Skagit and Chelan counties agreed to pay no more than \$10,000 for services." [Goskagit.com, [06/07/16](#)]

Skagit County in Washington Signed Year-Long Contract With ASoL In May 2017. "Personal Services Agreement with American Stewards of Liberty to assist Skagit County... Compensation shall not exceed \$5,000 and is based on a fee schedule. The Agreement is ratified to commence on March 1, 2017, and shall continue through March 1, 2018." [Skagitcounty.net, [05/22/17](#)]

- **Skagit County Paid Full \$5,000 Contract To ASoL.** "The Board of Skagit County Commissioners agreed Monday to recommend against reintroducing grizzly bears into the North Cascades, citing public safety concerns. The

commissioners also promised to end the county's financial relationship with the American Stewards of Liberty with the conclusion of a \$5,000 contract... The group's executive director, Margaret Byfield, was paid \$5,000 by the county to facilitate a meeting between the three counties and the federal government." [Goskagit.com, [08/08/17](#)]

Chelan County, Washington Hired ASoL For No More Than \$10,000 For Grizzly Bear Advice In 2017. "The county contracted with the organization for help in setting up an April 24 meeting for public comment on the federal government's plan to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascades. According to the contract with the American Stewards of Liberty, Skagit and Chelan counties agreed to pay no more than \$10,000 for services." [Goskagit.com, [06/07/16](#)]

Cherry County, Nebraska, Hired Margaret Byfield, Of ASoL, For An Undisclosed Sum To Consult On Zoning Regulations In 2021. The county's minutes read, "the board had a zoom call with Margaret Byfield about becoming a secondary consultant for the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations update that they are currently working on with Keith Marvin. Margaret will be helping in the areas of Conservation Easements, endangered species and wetlands protection plus others as needed. She told the board that they work with boards two ways \$100/hour or \$1500/month. Discuss/ Act on hiring Margaret Byfield as a Secondary Consultant... Duane made a motion to hire Margaret Byfield as a Secondary Consultant at the \$100/hour rate and if need to change to the \$1500/month... Motion carried 5-0." [Co.cherry.ne.us, [06/08/21](#)]

Bighorn County, WY hired American Stewards Of Liberty for \$5,000 in 2016. [Bighorncountywy.gov, [11/15/16](#)]

American Stewards Charges Counties For "Membership"

Ravalli County, Montana, Paid \$1,500 For One-Year Membership To American Stewards In 2011. "About a year ago the Ravalli County Commissioners decided that the county should join the American Stewards of Liberty (ASL)... The county paid \$1,500 for a one-year membership in the organization." [The Bitterroot Star, [02/08/12](#)]

Several Utah Counties Paid Membership Dues To American Stewards In 2016. "Around the same time as the lawsuit, Utah's Piute, Wayne, Carbon, Juab and Sevier counties paid membership dues to the group." [The Salt Lake Tribune, [05/14/21](#)]

American Stewards of Liberty Had \$53,157 Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiven In 2021

American Stewards of Liberty Received A \$53,157 Paycheck Protection Program In April 2020. The loan and its accrued interest was forgiven in January 2021. [ProPublica, accessed [08/23/22](#)]

Nonprofit Mismanagement

Despite Losing Money In 2020, American Stewards Of Liberty Paid 94% Of Its Revenue To Its Husband-Wife Executive Duo As Salary

The Most Recently Available Tax Filings With The IRS Show American Stewards Of Liberty Was \$16,000 In The Red And Giving Nearly All Of Its Money To Its Husband-Wife Exec Team

Most Of American Stewards Of Liberty's Budget Goes Straight Into The Pockets Of Its Executives. In its most recent 990, American Stewards Of Liberty spends over 94% of its budget on salaries for its husband-wife executive duo.

- **Executive Director Pay: \$91,128.** In 2020, the most recent year for which records are available, American Stewards of Liberty paid Executive Director Margaret Byfield \$91,128. [American Stewards of Liberty 2020 IRS form 990]
- **CEO Pay: \$101,253.** In 2020, the most recent year for which records are available, American Stewards of Liberty paid CEO Dan Byfield \$101,253. [American Stewards of Liberty 2020 IRS form 990]
- **Total Revenue \$203,565:** In 2020, the most recent year for which records are available, American Stewards of Liberty Had revenue \$203,565. [American Stewards of Liberty 2020 IRS form 990]

Potentially Excess Lobbying

American Stewards Of Liberty's Anti 30 x 30 Kit Includes Mad-Lib Style "Model Resolutions" Ready For County Commissions To Date, Sign, And Send To Interior

The Other File Includes Draft "Model Resolutions" Intended For County Commissions To Sign. One of the documents has headings titled "Instructions for Resolution Adoption" and "Model Resolution For Federal Land Counties," and "Model Resolution For Federal Land Counties." [American Stewards of Liberty, downloaded 03/20/21]

- **American Stewards Of Liberty's Cookie Cutter Resolutions Read Like An Anti-Conservation Mad-Lib, With Blanks For Commissioners To List Their Names, County Names, And Even Resolution Number.** [Guide To Fight the 30 x

30 Land Grab, downloaded 03/20/21]

- **American Stewards Of Liberty Is “Calling On Local Governments” To “Pass A Resolution Opposing 30 x 30.”** “We are calling on local governments across this great nation to follow Garfield County and pass a resolution opposing 30 x 30. To do this, we have prepared the ‘Guide to Fight the 30 x 30 Land Grab,’ which you can download for free. Included in this package are fact sheets, resource links and two model resolutions: one for areas with federal lands, and one for areas with primarily private lands.” [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [03/30/21](#)]

American Stewards Passed Their First Resolution In Garfield County, Where If American Stewards Call, The Commissioners “Jump”

American Stewards Of Liberty Successfully Lobbied Garfield County, Colorado To Pass Its Cookie Cutter Resolution. “The materials also suggest that elected officials could indicate that they support reasonable efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but oppose setting aside large tracts of lands, especially if it is not done through the planning processes outlined by federal laws that require public review and input and coordination with county governments. A resolution opposing the 30×30 initiative already has been passed by Garfield County in Colorado, according to American Stewards and an online news site.” [Roswell Daily Record, [03/13/21](#)]

- **Garfield County, Colorado Sent A Copy Of Its Cookie Cutter Resolution To Interior And The US Department Of Agriculture.** [Garfield County Letter To Scott De La Vega, [03/08/21](#)]
- **American Stewards Of Liberty Posted The Garfield County Resolution On Its Website.** [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [03/30/21](#)]

Margaret Byfield Said That They Could “Pick Up The Phone” And Get Garfield County To “Jump In” And Pass A Resolution Opposed. “One of the first things that we did when we realized that 30 x 30 was coming up and was put in the executive order is we reached out to a county in Colorado, Garfield County, Colorado. This is a great group. All the commissioners and the staff are on top of these issues, so we can pick up the phone and say, ‘hey, this issue is coming up,’ they always will jump in and start protecting their county. So what they did immediately was develop a local government resolution in policy in Garfield County that they oppose 30 x 30.” [SD Trumpet on Facebook, [04/20/21](#) (01:02:01)]

American Stewards Says The Number Of Counties Signing Its Legislation Opposing 30x30 Has More Than Tripled Since A.US Filed Its Initial Complaint

In May 2021, American Stewards of Liberty Said Roughly 30 Counties Had Signed Or

Were Considering Its Legislation. “ASL’s website tracks more than 30 counties in the United States that have passed or are considering a resolution similar to its model resolution.” [Accountable.US Complaint, [05/15/21](#)]

- **Now, American Stewards of Liberty Lists Over 100 Counties That Have Passed Its Legislation.** [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [05/03/22](#)]

American Stewards, At Its Summit Meeting In April 2022, Taught Attendees How To Contact Their Elected Representatives To Support Their Cookie Cutter Resolutions

American Stewards of Liberty Held A “Stop 30 x 30” Event To Oppose Conservation Policy With The Group American Stewards of Liberty In Lincoln This Month. “The program is set to open with a keynote presentation from the Summit host, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts. Governor Ricketts led the letter signed by 15 Governors opposing 30x30 last year, and has continued to actively oppose the agenda, protecting Nebraskans from the federal overreach.” [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [04/12/22](#)]





The Group Appears To Spend Substantial Money On Byfield’s Salary And Lobbying Trips

Margaret Bayfield Is Scheduled To Give Three Presentations Supporting American Stewards’ 30 x 30 Lobbying Efforts In April 2021.

“Fight 30 x 30 Events” Set for April

Learn more about the 30 x 30 land grab and what you can do to protect your property and our **American** way of life. We will be in four states this month to help educate citizens, landowner and elected leaders.

Watch your email for more information as we get closer to each event. We hope you can join us.

	
April 12, 2021 Paxton, Nebraska Paxton High School @ 6 pm Speakers: Tanya Storer, Chuck Graff	April 15, 2021 Payne County Expo Center @ 7 pm Stillwater, Oklahoma Speakers: Trent Loos, Margaret Byfield
	
April 19, 2021 Fergus High School Auditorium Lewistown, Montana Speakers: Tent Loos, Margaret Byfield	April 20, 2021 The Historic Elks Theater Rapid City, South Dakota Speakers: Trent Loos, Margaret Byfield

American Stewards of Liberty Email Screen Capture, 03/30/21

Byfield's Salary Constitutes 33 Percent Of American Stewards Of Liberty's Revenue.
This figure doesn't include travel expenses.

- **Executive Director Pay: \$99,998.** In 2018, the most recent year for which records are available, American Stewards of Liberty paid Executive Director Margaret Byfield \$99,988. [American Stewards of Liberty 2018 IRS form 990, accessed [03/30/21](#)]
- **Total Revenue:** In 2018, the most recent year for which records are available, American Stewards of Liberty Had revenue of \$299,393. [American Stewards of Liberty 2018 IRS form 990, accessed [03/30/21](#)]

Internet Searches Suggest That American Stewards For Liberty's Primary Focus Since January Has Been Promoting Anti- 30 x 30 Legislation In County Commissions.

Searches on Google, news databases, and social media sites show no major activity from American Stewards of Liberty outside of its 30 x 30 advocacy. [Google, social media, and news searches, 03/30/21]

American Stewards Of Liberty Explicitly Told People To "Ask Your Local Governments To Pass The Resolution Opposing 30x30"

American Stewards of Liberty Explicitly Told People To "Ask Your Local Governments To Pass The Resolution Opposing 30 x 30." "What You Can Do. The first step to stopping this agenda is educating leaders at the local, State and Federal level. Download the Guide to Fight and ask your local governments to pass the resolution opposing 30 x 30. The Guide includes model resolutions, fact sheets and resource lists to help educate your community."
[American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [10/07/22](#)]

Searches Of Lobbying Databases Suggest That Neither American Stewards Of Liberty Nor Margaret Byfield Are Registered To Lobby

American Stewards Of Liberty Is Not Registered To Lobby Federally Or With Any State.

- **Searches For American Stewards Of Liberty Yield No Results In The Senate Federal Lobbying Databases.** [Senate federal lobbying searches, accessed 03/30/21]
- **Searches For American Stewards Of Liberty Yield No Results In State Lobbying Databases.** [State and federal lobbying searches, accessed 03/30/21]

Margaret Byfield Is Not Registered To Lobby Federally Or With Any State.

- **Searches For Margaret Byfield Yield No Results In The Senate Federal Lobbying Databases.** [Senate federal lobbying searches, accessed 03/30/21]
- **Searches For Margaret Byfield Yield No Results In State Lobbying Databases.** [State and federal lobbying searches, accessed 03/30/21]

American Stewards Of Liberty's CEO Is A Former Professional Lobbyist, But Hasn't Reported Lobbying Since 2006

American Stewards Of Liberty CEO Dan Byfield Is A Former Lobbyist. "From 1994 to 2009, Dan served as president of the American Land Foundation and now serves as the CEO of the merged association, American Stewards of Liberty. Dan is a writer, a speaker, and a part time lobbyist. Dan has served as a legislative aide to a Texas state senator leaving to become a lobbyist for agriculture with the Texas Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Bank of Texas, and briefly for the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas. Dan has represented landowner's interests in New Mexico, Texas and Washington, D.C." [American Stewards of Liberty, accessed [03/30/21](#)]

- **Dan Byfield Was Most Recently Registered To Lobby For The Farm Credit Bank Of Texas In 2006.** [Legistorm Search, accessed [03/30/21](#)]

Extremism: Boosting The Agenda 21 Conspiracy Theory

American Stewards Of Liberty Erroneously Believes That Conservation Policies Will Transform The US Into A "Nation... Controlled By The Administrative State," Echoing The Agenda 21 Conspiracy Theory

American Stewards Of Liberty Warns That The 30 x 30 Plan's Goal Is "Moving Us From A Nation Founded On Private Property Principles To One Controlled By The Administrative State." [American Stewards Of Liberty, accessed [03/24/21](#)]

- **American Stewards Spokesperson Trent Loos Says 30 X 30 "Was Previously Known As Agenda 21."** "For those that are not aware, on Jan. 27, 2021, President Joe Biden signed Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [...] For the most part, it explains how we will move away from fossil fuels but also says we will move into 30% of land and water in the nation being used to mitigate climate change by the year 2030. For the record, this madness was previously known as Agenda 21 and Agenda 30 is now officially 30 x 30 until they bump it to 50 x 50." [High Plains Journal, [04/17/21](#)]

American Stewards' Former Chairman Was A Prominent Spreader Of The Nonsensical Agenda 21 Conspiracy Theory

American Stewards' Director Margaret Byfield Is An Acolyte Of Former American Stewards Chairman Fred Grant Kelly, An Agenda 21 Conspiracy Theorist. "Byfield, however, says coordination is different. She learned the strategy from Fred Kelly Grant, the Hages' litigation chairman, who was president of American Stewards in 2006. Grant has promoted coordination in speeches to local governments while railing against the United Nations' Agenda 21, a sustainable-development initiative some conservatives view as an international conspiracy against private property rights." [High Country News, [05/11/15](#)]

The Agenda 21 Conspiracy Theory Alleges That The United Nations Will Subvert American Private Property Rights Through A Nonbinding Resolution From 1992.

"From one end of the country to the other, a 22-year-old, entirely voluntary United Nations planning document known as Agenda 21 has increasingly come under bitter attack from a wide array of far-right fearmongers. Led by nearly a dozen extremist groups and their propagandists, the plan – a document meant to help local communities deal with overpopulation, pollution, poverty and resource depletion – is being pilloried as a secret conspiracy to impose global governance. The end point, these ideologues insist, is the destruction of freedom and the onset of tyranny." [Southern Poverty Law Center, [04/01/14](#)]

American Stewards Of Liberty's Former President Fred Kelly Grant Is A Major Booster Of The Agenda 21 Conspiracy Theory

Fred Kelly Grant, Grant Warned Tea Party Activists That Governments Were "Repackaging" The United Nations "Agenda 21" Plan, Which Would Limit Public Land Use Hinder Property Rights. "On Monday, Grant warned the assembled tea party activists of what's at stake. He said every time a government implements a 'smart growth' plan or begins a discussion about sustainable growth and development, they're merely repackaging the United Nations' 'Agenda 21' under a different name. Agenda 21, Grant says, is an effort by well-funded global environmental groups and their political supporters to limit public land use and hinder property rights." [Record Searchlight, [01/23/12](#)]

- **According To The Southern Poverty Law Center, Agenda 21 "Does Not Have The Slightest Power To Force Anyone, American Or Otherwise, To Do Anything At All."** Agenda 21 is not a treaty. It is not a legally binding document. Even its recommendations do not come from the top down, but are meant to encourage local communities to come up with their own solutions. It does not have the slightest power to force anyone, American or otherwise, to do anything at all." [Southern Poverty Law Center, [04/01/14](#)]

Extremism: Comparing Conservation To Genocide And "Hitler"

Margaret Byfield Agrees That 30 x 30 Could Lead To Genocide Of American Farmers, And Was Quickly Echoed By A Representative From Senator John Thune

An Attendee At An American Stewards Of Liberty Event Said He Saw Similarities Between Byfield's Presentation On 30 X 30 And The Holodomor Genocide. An attendee at an American Stewards for Liberty event said, "I'm wondering if you're aware of whatever happened to Ukraine in 1932 and 1933. Hardly anybody knows what went on there, but it's very similar to what they're trying to do in this country." [SD Trumpet - Facebook, [4/20/21](#) (1:37:16)]

- **The Holodomor Was A Manmade Famine Inflicted On Ukraine From 1932 To 1933.** "In 1932 and 1933, millions of Ukrainians were killed in the Holodomor, a man-made famine engineered by the Soviet government of Joseph Stalin. The primary victims of the Holodomor (literally 'death inflicted by starvation') were rural farmers and villagers, who made up roughly 80 percent of Ukraine's population in the 1930s. While it is impossible to determine the precise number of victims of the Ukrainian genocide, most estimates by scholars range from roughly 3.5 million to 7 million (with some estimates going higher). The most detailed demographic studies estimate the death toll at 3.9 million. Historians agree that, as with other genocides, the precise number will never be known. Through a study of the Holodomor (which has been referred to as the Great Famine), students can come to understand that the Holodomor is an example of how prejudice and a desire to dominate and control a particular ethnic group can lead to the misuse of power, mass oppression, and genocide." [University of Minnesota, accessed [04/28/21](#)]

After An Attendee Told Byfield Her Presentation Reminded Him Of Stalin's Genocide Of Ukrainian People, Byfield Said, "I agree. That's What I See Coming If We Don't Stop It."

The Attendee Explained That The Stalin Government Took Control Of Agricultural Land And Therefor Food. "Those people starved. They solved millions of them. It's very similar to what's happening in this country. The government is trying to take the land away from the people now. When they do that, they'll have control of the land, and they'll have control of us, because they'll have control of the food. [...]" [SD Trumpet - Facebook, [4/20/21](#) (1:38:22)]

- **The Attendee, Referring To 30 X 30 Proponents Emulating The Holodomor Genocide, Said, "It's The Same People."** The questioner said, "It's very similar to what happened there, and hardly anyone knows about it. History repeats, and I think it's being done again. It's the same people that are doing this in this country, they did the very same thing in Ukraine, and they intend to do it to us." [SD Trumpet - Facebook, [4/20/21](#)01:39:00]

- **Byfield Agreed Unequivocally, Saying “That’s What I See Coming.”** Byfield Told The Man That Margaret Byfield said, “I agree. That’s what I see coming if we don’t stop it. That’s exactly what I see coming.” [SD Trumpet – Facebook, [4/20/21](#) 01:39:20]

American Stewards Of Liberty Took The Attendees Comments Further And Found “Parallels” Between 30 X 30 And “Hitler From ‘33 To ‘39.”

Trent Loos Said There Were Parallels Between 30 X 30 And “Hitler” In Addition To The Holodomor. Trent Loos said at an American Stewards of Liberty said, “We’ve just been trying to peel that – Margaret’s term – peel that onion back as the federal government to remove that property right, which comes back to everything you’re talking about. I can draw those parallels to the Ukraine. I can draw those parallels to Hitler from ‘33 to ‘39. But history does repeat itself.” [SD Trumpet – Facebook, [4/20/21](#) 01:52:13]

Extremism: Support Of The 2016 Malheur Wildlife Refuge Occupation

Former American Stewards Chairman Fred Kelly Grant Would Go On To Represent Armed Insurrectionists Who Occupied A Wildlife Refuge In 2016

Jeanette Finicum, Widow Of LaVoy Finicum Who Died At The Malheur Wildlife Refuge Occupation, Planned A Lawsuit. “The widow of an Arizona Strip rancher killed in a showdown with Oregon law enforcement officers called a report about the incident released Tuesday a ‘biased’ and ‘false’ statement that faulted her husband instead of the officers who killed him....[Jeannette] Finicum said she and her Idaho attorney plan a federal lawsuit claiming her husband, LaVoy, was deprived of his Constitutional rights and was wrongfully killed Jan. 26. The lawsuit will coincide with the federal criminal case against the other people accused of illegally occupying Oregon’s Malheur Wildlife Refuge throughout the month of January.” [*The St. George Spectrum*, [03/09/16](#)]

- **Grant Was The Attorney On The Lawsuit.** “The attorney, Fred Kelly Grant, is the lead attorney for the Stand and Fight Club, which represents ranchers, miners and outdoorsmen in disputes against ‘federal regulatory juggernauts,’ according to his website.” [*The St. George Spectrum*, [03/09/16](#)]

Trent Loos Interviewed Ammon Bundy At The Malheur Wildlife Refuge While It Was Under Armed Occupation

Loos Traveled To The Occupied Wildlife Refuge To Visit With Bundy

Trent Loos Interviewed Ammon Bundy At The Malheur Wildlife Refuge. [Protect The Harvest, Accessed [5/19/21](#)]

- **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](#)]

Loos Later Posted Photos Of His Visit With The Bundys



[Twitter – Trent Loos, [8/23/17](#)]

Ties To The Oil Industry

American Stewards Of Liberty Has Received Money From Koch-Related Entities

Donors Trust And Donors Capital Fund Has Given More Than \$400 Million To More Than 1,000 Conservative And Libertarian Groups. “Founded in 1999, Donors Trust (and an affiliated group, Donors Capital Fund) has raised north of \$500 million and doled out \$400 million to more than 1,000 conservative and libertarian groups, according to [Whitney Ball](#), the group’s CEO.” [*Mother Jones*, [02/05/13](#)]

The Koch Brothers Have Donated To Donors Trust. “Donors Trust is not the source of the money it hands out. Some 200 right-of-center funders who’ve given at least \$10,000 fill the group’s coffers. Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust. And other recipients of Donors Trust money include the Heritage Foundation, Grover Norquist’s Americans for Tax Reform, the NRA’s Freedom Action Foundation, the Cato Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, the Federalist Society, and the Americans for Prosperity Foundation, chaired (PDF) by none other than David Koch.” [*Mother Jones*, [02/05/13](#)]

American Stewards Of Liberty Has Received At Least \$120,000 From Donors Capital Trust

- In 2018, Donors Capital Trust Gave \$50,000 To AMERICAN STEWARDS OF LIBERTY. [Donors Capital Trust 2018 990, accessed [03/05/21](#)]
- In 2017, Donors Capital Trust Gave \$40,000 To AMERICAN STEWARDS OF LIBERTY. [Donors Capital Trust 2017 990, accessed [03/05/21](#)]
- In 2015, Donors Capital Trust Gave \$30,000 To AMERICAN STEWARDS OF LIBERTY. [Donors Capital Trust 2015 990, accessed [03/05/21](#)]

American Stewards Of Liberty Teams Up With Oil Industry Associations To Oppose Endangered Species Protections

American Stewards Sued With The Independent Petroleum Association Of America And The Osage Producers Association To Delist The American Burying Beetle

American Stewards Of Liberty Joined The Independent Petroleum Association Of America And The Osage Producers Association In A Lawsuit Regarding The American Burying Beetle. “Three oil and natural gas-associated groups on Thursday sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its classification of the American burying beetle. The Independent Petroleum Association of America, American Stewards of Liberty and Osage Producers Association filed the lawsuit after the government did not issue a required 12-month finding on the groups’ petition last year to remove the beetle from the endangered species list. The suit was filed in federal district court in Muskogee. The groups in February filed a notice of intent to sue the service for violation

of the Endangered Species Act because it did not respond within a year to an August 2015 petition filed with the agency." [*The Oklahoman*, [09/22/17](#)]

American Stewards Worked With The Permian Basin Petroleum Association Keep Prevent Protections For The Dune Sagebrush Lizard

American Stewards Of Liberty Helped The Permian Basin Petroleum Association Organize Landowners To Oppose Protection For The Dune Sagebrush Lizard. "In some cases, American Stewards of Liberty has won traction, helping the Permian Basin Petroleum Association organize landowners to stave off the listing of the dune sagebrush lizard, whose habitat overlaps some of the state's richest oil and gas drilling territory." [*Austin American Statesman*, [10/18/15](#)]