

PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY #6



Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah)

Sponsored Bills: 5; Cosponsored Bills: 16;

Total Possible Bills: 68

U.S. House of Representatives (2013-Present), Utah's 2nd District Member, Appropriations Committee

Member, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Founder, Chairman, Federal Land Action Group

Chris Stewart is a two-term congressman representing much of southern and western Utah, an area that contains some of America's, and the world's, most spectacular public lands. During his time in office, Stewart sponsored or cosponsored 21 of the 68 anti-public lands bills, making him Public Lands Enemy #6. Stewart was a founder and is the chairman of the Federal Lands Action Group, whose congressional members seek to hand over ownership of and authority over America's public lands to Western states for sale to the highest bidder.

Toward this goal Stewart introduced [H.R. 4579](#), a bill that would grant an estimated 6,000 miles of rights-of-way across public land to three counties in Utah, opening up those lands to the possibility of road construction and development. These routes, known as Revised Statute 2477—or simply RS 2477 roads, are part of Stewart's broader goal to wrest control of public lands from federal agencies. Stewart also put forth bills to give states more power over livestock grazing on federal land ([H.R. 1792](#)), to block the president's authority to designate new national monuments in Utah ([H.R. 758](#) [2013]), to force increased and unsustainable grazing levels in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument ([H.R. 743](#)), and to give the Hurricane Sand Dunes National Recreation Area, to Washington County primarily for off-road vehicle use ([H.R. 3560](#)) in exchange for certain state lands that would be restricted to off highway vehicle use.

The congressman is known for his severe dislike of the federal government, having been called "[Glenn Beck on steroids](#)." Stewart advocates for "devolving [control over public lands away from the federal government](#)" and his 2012 campaign website stated, "De-federalizing public lands is vital to a coherent energy strategy."²⁴ After the 2014 Bunkerville standoff in Nevada, in which rifles were aimed at federal employees who were attempting to round up Cliven Bundy's cattle after 24 years of illegal grazing on public lands, he attacked the BLM's law enforcement authority saying that the agency should have instead, "Call[ed] the local sheriff, who has the capability to intervene in situations like that."²⁵

Stewart was formerly president and CEO of, the Shipley Group, which, among other courses, offers [trainings on climate change](#) analysis. However, during his political campaigns, the oil and gas industry has been his biggest donors — contributing [\\$194,650](#) over his career. Stewart denies the reality of climate change saying, "...the science regarding climate change is anything but settled."²⁶ One of the books Stewart authored is on the [Koch Industries recommended reading](#) list. The Koch Brothers are well known for having perpetrated the [image of climate change as a lie](#) and stand to gain immensely from the federal government's loss of authority to protect our public lands from unrestricted coal mining and oil and gas drilling and fracking.

²⁴ <https://web.archive.org/web/20120506210517/http://www.chrisstewartforcongress.com/energy-independence/>

²⁵ <http://archive.slttrib.com/story.php?ref=/slttrib/politics/57881083-90/stewart-blm-bundy-agencies.html.csp>

²⁶ <http://archive.slttrib.com/story.php?ref=/slttrib/opinion/56130738-82/climate-global-stewart-regarding.html.csp>

Anti-Public Lands Bills Sponsored or Cosponsored by Stewart:

Bill Type	Sponsored	Cosponsored
Land Seizure Washington County OHV Giveaway (H.R. 3560) Public Lands Sale for “Recreation” (H.R. 5836) No Increase in Public Land (H.R. 4423)	X	X X
Private/County/State Control of Public Lands Utah County Road Claims Giveaway (H.R. 4579) State Management of Grazing (H.R. 1792) Weakens RS 2477 Rules (H.R. 4313) State Oil and Gas Control (H.R. 866) End BLM/USFS Law Enforcement (H.R. 4751) Local Control of Public Land Access (H.R. 4272) State Beetle Kill Logging Projects (H.R. 695) State Beetle Kill Timber Projects (H.R. 818)	X X	X X X X X X
Weakening Federal Protections Escalante Monument Grazing Levels (H.R. 743) Border Patrol Free Reign (H.R. 2398) Weakens Grazing Management (H.R. 657) New Mexico WSA Release (H.R. 3478) Sage Grouse is Not Endangered (H.R. 4739)	X	X X X X
No More Parks, Monuments, Refuges No New Monuments in Utah [H.R. 758 (2013)] Barriers to New Monuments (H.R. 1459) Limiting New Monuments (H.R. 3946) No New Monuments (H.R. 250) State Monument Approval (H.R. 382)	X	X X X X

Campaign Contributors ([2016 Election](#), as of December 2016, Source: Center for Responsive Politics):

- Oil & Gas Industry:
 - \$73,500
- Energy & Natural Resources Sector:
 - \$108,200
- Major Funders (in Stewart’s Top 100 Contributors, 2016 Election):
 - **Oil and Gas:** Chevron Corp. (\$10,000), Marathon Petroleum (\$10,000), Sinclair Companies (\$8,100), Halliburton Co. (\$8,000), Questar Corp. (\$5,400), Tesoro Corp. (\$5,000), Exxon Mobil (\$3,500), QEP Resources (\$2,500), Western Energy Alliance (\$2,500)
 - **Energy:** National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. (\$7,500), Williams Companies (\$4,000), CMS Energy (\$3,000), Association of Energy Service Companies (\$2,500)
 - **Coal:** Alton Coal (\$3,256), Arch Coal (\$2,500)
 - **Mining:** National Mining Assn. (\$3,000), Rio Tinto Group (\$2,500)

- **Conglomerates:** Berkshire Hathaway (\$3,700)
- **Grazing:** National Cattlemen's Beef Assn. (\$2,500)

League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard:
[Lifetime](#): 4 percent