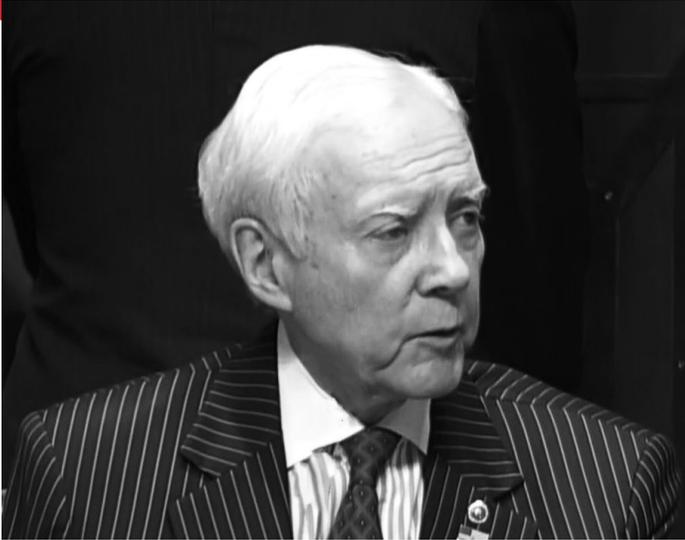


PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY #3



Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)

Sponsored Bills: 4; Cosponsored Bills: 15;

Total Possible Bills: 48

U.S. Senate, (1977-Present)

Senate President Pro Tempore

Between 2011 and 2016, Senator Orrin Hatch sponsored or cosponsored 19 of the 48 anti-public lands bills we identified, making him Public Lands Enemy #3. As the longest serving member of the Senate's majority party, Hatch is [president pro tempore](#) of the Senate, presiding over the chamber in the absence of the vice president. During the portion of his political career for which campaign contributions have been recorded (since 1989), the oil and gas industry — including Chevron and the Koch brothers — has donated [\\$706,179](#) to Hatch's elections.

Hatch is a longtime opponent of federal rules, federal ownership of land and an ardent proponent of expanding fossil fuel production, especially on America's public lands. Unsurprisingly, Hatch strongly opposes efforts to protect these lands from harmful activities and would like to see them handed over to the states.

In Senator Hatch's world, 13 western states would be able to seize over 28 million acres¹⁵ of America's public lands and sell them to the highest bidder. His bill [S. 1524](#) would do just that, allowing states to choose which five percent of lands — even including American Indian tribal land — they would like to take control over. Any oil, gas and other minerals not currently leased on those lands would also become the property of the states.

Other bills introduced by Hatch include [S. 1182](#), which prohibits the president from establishing new national monuments in Utah, and a 2015 bill, [S. 937](#), that gives states the power to take over the management of and weaken protections on a portion of the 250 million acres of public lands where federal livestock grazing is allowed.

During a public event organized by Hatch in opposition to an American Indian proposal to designate the Bear's Ears National Monument, just a few months after the armed takeover of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, Hatch fanned anti-federal government flames and violence by saying "I would hope that my fellow Utahans would not use violence, but there are some deeply held positions that cannot just be ignored."¹⁶ The senator went on to warn Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that if the designation occurred, there could be an armed confrontation.

Hatch gives credit to [W. Cleon Skousen](#) for providing guidance throughout his political career. Skousen was the father of a radical, religiously steeped doctrine that posits that many functions the federal government currently serves are unconstitutional¹⁷ — including enforcing environmental regulations, owning large amounts

¹⁵ Based on acreages from 2013. Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf>

¹⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-major-native-american-site-is-being-looted-will-obama-risk-armed-conflict-to-save-it/2016/06/05/bf2dfcfc-1dff-11e6-8c7b-6931e66333e7_story.html?utm_term=.1901f8c77c1b

¹⁷ J. A. (2011). THE TEA PARTY'S CONSTITUTION. *Denver University Law Review*, 88(3), 559-576.

public lands, and establishing wildernesses, national forests, and national parks. In a tribute to Skousen on his passing Senator Hatch said, "...every day I have served in the U.S. Senate—Cleon has been there for me, through highs and lows—buoying me up, giving suggestions, discussing principles and issues, and above all else being a true, supportive friend. I can never overstate what his support has meant to me throughout my years of service."¹⁸

Anti-Public Lands Bills Sponsored or Cosponsored by Hatch:

Bill Type	Sponsored	Cosponsored
Land Seizure State Choice of 5 Percent of Public Lands (S. 1524)	X	
Private/County/State Control of Public Lands State Management of Grazing (S. 937)	X	
Weakening Federal Protections Escalante Monument Grazing Levels (S. 365) Remove Wilderness Management (S. 1087) Weakens Grazing Management (S. 258) Weakens Grazing Management (S. 1129) No More Uranium Withdrawal (S. 1690) Oil and Gas Leasing Increase (S. 1027)	X	X X X X X
No More Parks, Monuments, Refuges No New Monuments in Utah (S. 1182) No New Monuments in Utah (S. 3317) State Approval of Land Designations (S. 2473) No New Monuments Rider (S.A. 3447) No New Monuments Rider (S.A. 3023) No Water for Monuments (S. 1416) No New Monuments (S. 407) No New Monuments (S. 2004) No New Monuments (S. 228) No New Monuments (S. 104) Alaska Oil and Gas Over Public Land (S. 3203)	X	X X X X X X X X X X

Campaign Contributors ([2011-2016](#), as of Dec. 2016, source: Center for Responsive Politics):

- Oil & Gas Industry:
 - \$495,250
- Energy & Natural Resources Sector:
 - \$912,400
- Major Funders (in Hatch’s Top 100 Contributors, 2011-2016):
 - **Oil & Gas:** Chevron Corp. (\$39,500), ConocoPhillips (\$38,000)

¹⁸ <https://www.congress.gov/crec/2006/01/25/modified/CREC-2006-01-25-pt1-PgS114-2.htm>

- **Energy:** Xcel Energy (\$35,750), National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc. (\$25,000)
- **Conglomerates:** Koch Industries (\$63,500), General Electric (\$26,500), Honeywell International (\$31,000)

League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard:

[Lifetime](#): 10 percent