

PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY #2



Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah)

U.S. House of Representatives (2003-Present),
Utah's 1st District

Sponsored Bills: 12; **Cosponsored Bills:** 18;
Total Possible Bills: 84

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
Founder, Member, Federal Land Action Group

Rob Bishop has represented Utah's 1st District since 2003. Between 2011 and 2016, Bishop authored 12 and cosponsored 18 of the 84 anti-public lands bills, earning him the spot as Public Lands Enemy #2. Bishop is one of the most aggressive Members of Congress when it comes to divesting and destroying America's public lands. As chair of the House Natural Resource Committee, Bishop controls which bills get hearings and which bills advance for a vote by the House of Representatives.

On the very first day of this year's new Congress, Bishop inserted a provision in the [House Rules package](#) that makes it easier to give away public lands by declaring their value as "budget neutral." This means that public lands are considered to have no monetary value when it comes to giving, selling or trading them to states and that Congress does not need to offset any lost revenue when giving away our public lands.

Together with Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah), in 2015 Rob Bishop created the Federal Lands Action Group whose goal is to create the legislative framework to take America's public lands and turn them over to states and private interests. In a 2015 interview with the *Washington Examiner* he said, "I am pushing a massive land transfer in eastern Utah."¹⁰

For over three years, Bishop focused on an enormous public lands giveaway in Utah in the form of [H.R. 5780](#), the now failed Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI). With his goal of producing a "grand bargain" to end disagreements over public lands issues in southern and eastern Utah, the bill instead promotes fossil fuel development and provides loophole ridden "conservation" designations. The PLI would hand over control for permitting and regulating all forms of energy development to the state of Utah on millions of acres of federal lands. The bill even requires that federal land managers submit a report to Congress if they fail to follow the demands of local politicians. The PLI would unleash a carbon bomb by giving large blocks of federal land to Utah for tar sands, oil shale, coal, oil and gas extraction. The bill also fails to protect well over half a million acres of culturally important areas in the Bears Ears region, fails to protect even half of the region's deserving wilderness, and locks in grazing permits and prohibits any national monuments to be enacted within the PLI area. About a month before the release of the bill the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition [pulled out](#) of Bishop's initiative after having "been consistently stonewalled" during its creation.

Bishop routinely tries to strip away the presidential authority to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act ([H.R. 2147](#), [H.R. 1459](#) and [H.R. 5781](#)) and has ridiculed the concept that ancient American

¹⁰ <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/new-natural-resources-chief-looks-to-overhaul-federal-land-policy/article/2561754>

Indian rock art is worth protecting, saying, in reference to American Indian pictographs: “Ah, bullcrap. That’s not an antiquity.”¹¹ In 2015, when President Obama named three new national monuments, Bishop went ballistic, saying it “makes states and citizens fearful that the federal government can invade at any time to seize more lands like bandits in the night.”¹² His response begs the question: Does Bishop not realize that the lands designated are already publicly owned?

Bishop receives a bigger portion of his campaign money (roughly 93 percent) from [outside his home state](#) than any other member of Congress, with the oil and gas industry providing his most generous support. Over his career the oil and gas industry has donated [\\$390,216](#) to his political campaigns.

Rob Bishop has said of the Antiquities Act, “If anyone here likes the Antiquities Act the way it is written, die. I mean, stupidity out of the gene pool. It is the most evil act ever invented.”¹³ As well as “The Antiquities Act was supposed to be about an antiquity. A fish off the coast of Hawaii is not an antiquity. Trees in Maine are not an antiquity.”¹⁴ Bishop either has not read the Antiquities Act or chooses to misrepresent it. The Act protects “objects of historic or scientific interest.”

Anti-Public Lands Bills Sponsored or Cosponsored by Bishop:

Bill Type	Sponsored	Cosponsored
Land Seizure State Choice of 5 Percent of Public Lands (H.R. 2852) Vieques Wildlife Refuge Giveaway [H.R. ____ (2016)] BLM Land Disposal Database (H.R. 2095) Sale of Western Land (H.R. 1126) Oak Flat Land Trade (H.R. 1904)	X X X	X X
Private/County/State Control of Public Lands Public Lands Initiative (H.R. 5780) Utah County Road Claims Giveaway (H.R. 4579) End BLM/USFS Law Enforcement (H.R. 4751) Local Control of Public Land Access (H.R. 4272) Community Forest Demo Areas (H.R. 6009) State Beetle Kill Timber Projects (H.R. 818) State Beetle Kill Timber Projects (H.R. 6089)	X	X X X X X X

¹¹ <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/bishop-slammed-for-calling-obama-monument-decision-bull-crap/article/2568050>

¹² <http://naturalresources.house.gov/newsroom/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=399008>

¹³ <https://soundcloud.com/wstrnpriorities/rep-rob-bishop-on-the-antiquities-act-if-you-like-it-die>

¹⁴ <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rep.-bishop-time-to-reassert-the-power-of-congress/article/2601923>

<p>Weakening Federal Protections</p> <p>Border Patrol Free Reign (H.R. 2398)</p> <p>LWCF Attack [H.R. (2015)]</p> <p>Sage Grouse Defense Bill Rider [Sec. ____ (H.R. 1735)]</p> <p>Sage Grouse Defense Bill Rider [Sec. 2864 (H.R. 4909)]</p> <p>Sage Grouse is Not Endangered (H.R. 4739)</p> <p>Remove Wilderness Management (H.R. 1581)</p> <p>Logging Priority on Forest (H.R. 1526)</p> <p>Weakens Grazing Management (H.R. 4234)</p> <p>No More Uranium Withdrawal (H.R. 3155)</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>
<p>No More Parks, Monuments, Refuges</p> <p>No New Monuments in Utah (H.R. 2147)</p> <p>Barriers to New Monuments (H.R. 1459)</p> <p>PLI Antiquities Attack Companion (H.R. 5781)</p> <p>No New Monuments (H.R. 302)</p> <p>No New Monuments [H.R. 758 (2011)]</p> <p>Limiting New Marine Monuments (H.R. 4988)</p> <p>State Monument Approval (H.R. 382)</p> <p>No New Monuments (H.R. 817)</p> <p>No New Monuments in Utah [H.R. 758 (2013)]</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>

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

- Oil & Gas Industry:
 - \$138,016
- Energy & Natural Resources Sector:
 - \$235,500
- Major Funders (in Bishop's Top 100 Contributors, 2016 Election):
 - **Oil & Gas:** BP (\$10,000), Exxon Mobil (\$10,000), Chevron Corporation (\$10,000), Sinclair Companies (\$8,100), Conoco Phillips (\$7,500), Tesoro Corporation (\$7,500), Chesapeake Energy (\$5,000), Halliburton Corporation (\$5,000), Marathon Petroleum (\$5,000), QEP Resources (\$5,000), Occidental Petroleum (\$3,000)
 - **Coal:** Alpha Natural Resources (\$6,500), Arch Coal (\$3,500)
 - **Grazing:** National Cattleman's Beef Association (\$10,000)
 - **Mining:** National Mining Association (\$7,000), Barrick Gold Corporation (\$3,000)

League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard:

[Lifetime](#): 3 percent