



**TESTIMONY ON INTERIM STUDY 2023-74
THE BIDEN 30X30 EXECUTIVE ORDER**

October 31, 2023
Room 230 - Statehouse
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Presented to
Senator Casey Murdock and Members of the Oklahoma Senate

by Margaret Byfield, Executive Director
American Stewards of Liberty

Introduction:

Senator Murdock and honorable Members, I appreciate the opportunity to address this critical topic, and more importantly appreciate your efforts to explore sound policies that will protect Oklahoma citizens from increased government control over America's land.

My name is Margaret Byfield and I serve as executive director of American Stewards of Liberty¹. We are a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that has been working on these issues for over 30 years. Our mission is to restore property rights and the liberties they secure by defending the use of our land, and restoring local control.

We educate federal, state and local officials, and property owners, on actions that erode property rights and identify responses that would bring these actions in alignment with full Constitutional protection.

In short, we work to protect American's ability to produce our food, fiber, minerals and energy derived from our rich natural resources. This is to ensure the prosperity, well being and security of our citizens and our nation.

It is to secure our land and liberty.

Our founding fathers understood a principle that many today have forgotten. For our nation to be governed by the people as intended, American citizens must own the land. Whoever owns or controls the natural resource wealth of a nation controls the government and its people. Our founders had the wisdom to set our nation on a course where the citizens, not government and not foreign adversaries, were to be the rightful owners of our land and natural resources.

In so doing, they created America's middle class and the greatest nation ever established that serves as a beacon of liberty to all people.

¹ www.americanstewards.us

Two-hundred and fifty three years later, the local State and federal governments combined own 40 percent of our nation. Of the 60 percent of lands that remain, the ownership of these lands is in question. Much of this is privately held by our citizens, but an ever increasing amount of these lands are controlled and restricted through devices that erode the property right and transfer these rights to government, environmental and foreign interests.

President Biden's 30x30 Initiative

While environmentalists have been working towards this end for decades, it wasn't until the election of President Biden that the international 30x30 agenda was launched in America.

January 27th, 2021, the President signed Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad²," that propelled our nation down a self destructive path. Included in the order was a directive to conserve at least 30 percent of our land and oceans by 2030. This was to implement the international agenda know as 30x30, whose objective is to permanently protect at least 30 percent of the world's land by 2030, and 50 percent by 2050.

This is the largest federal land grab our nation has ever faced, and it is being carried out without congressional authorization or constitutional authority.

Their reasoning for implementing 30x30 is because they claim we are in a climate crisis and we must permanently protect 30 percent of nature to save humanity. But their position is not based on science, it is based on subjective projections. Every claim they make is a prediction into the future, not a position based on historical facts. Their agenda is built on a foundation of sand, and it is easy to debunk.

Here are a few quick facts.

First - Looking back on the most recent set of complete data from 2001 to 2016 we find that instead of losing habitat in America, there is no statistically relevant change in the types of land uses across the nation³. You can look at high growth areas and see natural areas being converted to development, but in other parts of our nation the opposite is true.

Additionally, the amount of land in America that is considered developed is miniscule. Only 5.3 percent of America's land is actually developed, and half of this is considered open space - meaning it is in city parks, golf courses, large lots, flood drainage areas, etc. The remaining 2.5% of developed land is where we go to church, where we work, buy our groceries, travel to schools and hospitals, house necessary services such as sanitation areas, energy generation, drinkable water, firehouses, and it is where we build our homes - where we live.

² Executive Order 14008. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

³ Land and Habitat in the United States: A Reality Check. <https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/lands-and-habitat-the-united-states-reality-check>

Second - When the Biden Administration launched 30x30 they said that this must be done because currently only 12 percent of America's land is protected⁴.

The lands included in the 12 percent figure are:

1. National Parks
2. Wilderness Areas
3. National Wildlife Refuges
4. State Parks
5. Private lands with Conservation Easements in Perpetuity
6. Other protected areas

You put all these areas into one box and it is more than double the land that is currently developed in America today. The rest of the lands are largely being used for the production of our food, fiber, minerals, energy, and for recreation, wildlife and conservation purposes.

Third - Proponents of 30x30 tell the American people that we are losing a football field of habitat every 30 seconds in America⁵. This is to scare us into conceding to their policies.

But you should question their numbers:

- The 12% in protected lands equals approximately 300 million acres.
- The additional 18% they plan to take by 2030 equals approximately 400 million acres.
- Losing a football field of habitat every 30 seconds totals 11 million acres in 10 years.

That leaves us with the obvious question: If they claim the amount of nature we will lose in 10 years is 11 million acres, why are they seeking to lock down 400 million acres in nine short years?

30x30 is not about conservation - It is about political control of our land and liberties.

Since launching 30x30 they have been using every administrative agency and tool they have to lock up our lands and reach their immediate goal.

A few examples of these are:

1. Funding and creating policies that encourage more conservation easements in perpetuity to be enrolled on private lands - where primary control of the property is conveyed to a land trust or government;
2. Increase funds and reduce limitations for conservation programs that create a federal nexus to the private lands opening the door to unforeseen restrictions;

⁴Department of Interior FACT SHEET EO 14009. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-president-biden-take-action-uphold-commitment-restore-balance-public-lands>

⁵“How Much Nature Should America Keep?” Center for American Progress. https://americanstewards.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CAP-How-Much-Nature-Should-America-Keep_-2019.pdf

3. Increasing the regulatory burden on small landowners to the extent that only wealthy individuals, foreign entities and large corporations will have the means to acquire and use the lands;
4. Increasing funds for government acquisitions to conserve, protect and restore land;
5. Designation of conservation areas around National Wildlife Refuges;
6. Designation of National Monuments;
7. Establishing critical habitat for endangered species;
8. Revising federal land planning rules, prioritizing conservation over multiple-uses; and
9. Establishing wildlife corridors to erode property boundaries.

And there are many more vehicles the Biden Administration is using to push American's into compliance.

Importantly, the question we need to ask is why do they need to control so much of our land? Why do they need to take away the property right rights of middle class Americans?

Natural Asset Companies

In September of 2021, we picked up a news item related to 30x30. A company funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Intrinsic Exchange Group (IEG)⁶, and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)⁷ partnered to create a new type of investment vehicle called "Natural Asset Companies" (NAC's)..

This new vehicle is based on the idea that intrinsic values in nature can be quantified and converted to become investment products. Their concept is that the air we breathe, the water we drink, and products we use that are derived from nature all have value that is not being considered by financial markets. IEG claims this value can be converted to new public investment vehicles like NACs.

At the same time, the Biden Administration finalized a plan to record the value of these natural assets on the federal balance sheet. In January of this year, the Administration issued "The National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions: A U.S. System of Natural Capital Accounting and Associated Environmental-Economic Statistics."⁸ According to the report, new "Natural Capital Accounts" will be used to "quantify" nature's value and list those values as new assets of the federal government.

This would provide a basis to increase the national debt and impose new fees and taxes on the American people. It will also establish the fixed and intrinsic value for the federally protected lands, positioning them to be enrolled in the private NAC investment accounts.

⁶ The Intrinsic Exchange Group Website: <https://www.intrinsicexchange.com/>

⁷ The New York Stock Exchange Announcement: <https://www.nyse.com/introducing-natural-asset-companies>

⁸ "The National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions: A U.S. System of Natural Capital Accounting and Associated Environmental-Economic Statistics." <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Natural-Capital-Accounting-Strategy-final.pdf>

The Biden Administration is quietly fast tracking this plan for wall street investors to acquire the rights to our lands.

If you read the article we published a few months back, “*Monetizing the Air We Breathe*,”⁹ then you are already know what this Ponzi scheme is about. We also publicly unraveled this plan at last months “Stop 30x30 Summit,” which Senator Murdock attended, to help get Americans prepared for this next major attempt to take American’s property rights.

They have now taken that critical step to authorize this plan.

On October 4, 2023, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) issued a proposed rule to approve listing “Natural Asset Companies (NACs)” on the New York Stock Exchange¹⁰.

They did this quietly. Not one press release was issued by any of the players. And they allowed only 21 days for public comment. The public comment period closed last week on October 25th.

If this rule is approved, it will allow investors such as Blackrock, Bill Gates, and possibly even China to hold the ecosystem rights to the land, water, air, and natural processes of the properties enrolled in NACs — including our National and State Parks.

This was first exposed in September of 2021 when The Intrinsic Exchange Group partnered with the New York Stock Exchange to create this new investment vehicle. Because they needed “unique listing requirements” from the SEC to legitimize the NACs, the plan became public.

NACs are the way elite investors plan to profit from the protected lands created by Biden’s 30x30 agenda. While they have been driving middle class American’s off their land, they have also been positioning themselves for total political and financial control of our natural resources.

This is a massive fleecing of American’s property rights.

The SEC proposed rule states they will make the decision whether to approve the rule on or after November 17th, where they could authorize NACs to be listed on Wall Street. We need you and this body to oppose SEC approval of NACs, and to ask your Statewide officers to join you in publicly exposing this agenda.

Here is what the SEC is approving in their proposed rule:

1. Natural Asset Companies will own rights to traditional assets such as land and water, as well as the rights to a new set of monetized values for “natural processes.” These processes are clean air and other natural functions no one has a right to own, and are essential for us to live.

⁹ “Monitoring the Air We Breathe,” by Margaret Byfield, published in *Standing Ground*, August 2023. <https://americanstewards.us/natural-assets-monetizing-the-air-we-breathe/>

¹⁰ SEC Proposed Rule Change To Amend the NYSE Listed Company Manual To Adopt Listing Standards for Natural Asset Companies: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/04/2023-22041/self-regulatory-organizations-new-york-stock-exchange-llc-notice-of-filing-of-proposed-rule-change>

The SEC Proposed Rule and Exhibits: <https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro/sr-nyse-2023-09>

2. The assets to be enrolled in the NACs include federal and State owned lands. Our National Parks, State Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, and the Bureau of Land Management lands placed in conservation status will become assets for private profiteers.
3. Conservation easements on private lands will also be enrolled. These easements are owned by a land trust or government and can be listed without the landowner's consent.
4. The NAC will have "management authority" over all the assets. This includes the federal lands, private lands, conservation easements, and all other assets.
5. The NAC must ensure these assets are "sustainably managed," prohibiting any use of the resources that are not regenerative. No mining, oil and gas, or any other activity that can be arbitrarily defined as "unsustainable."
6. There appears to be no prohibition on foreign investment into the NAC. Adversarial countries, such as China, may be able to own shares in these companies.
7. No consideration has been given to how arbitrarily placing a value on natural processes, instead of relying on supply and demand created values will distort the market place and upend the foundation of our financial system - potentially recking our national economy.

As I mentioned we have been tracking this issue alongside 30x30 since September of 2021. We have been preparing our key leaders for the SEC approval.

This is why my husband and I made a quick trip to D.C. two weeks ago - to get members of Congress educated quickly so they can exercise oversight. We first briefed Senator Pete Ricketts (NE) on this last April, so he is ready for this fight and is already leading a letter of opposition on the Senate side. Several House Members are working on a companion letter.

We highly encourage you to ask your Senators and Congressman to sign onto these letters.

We also teamed up with a stellar legal team that quickly filed substantive comments —positioning us and our partners to stop this in court if necessary.

Our Property Rights Task Force members are alerting their networks. Our public relations team is working behind the scenes to get this story exposed.

Only a handful of people knew about this plan until we sounded the alarm. But we are quickly getting key leaders up to speed so they can act - including all of you today.

These efforts combined are intended to create an entirely new economy, virtually out of thin air. None of it should make sense to any serious investor. Investment products are based on tangible assets such as land, homes, and companies—things that have value because they can be secured and held by an owner to the exclusion of others, and that provide a benefit for which consumers are willing to pay. This new economy requires valuing things that no one has a right to own exclusively, such as breathable air.

The actual purpose of this plan seems to be to transfer the natural resource wealth held by America's landowners to wealthy foreign investors, the government, and special-interest environmental and conservation groups. From this perspective, the plan makes sense not as a wise investment for most Americans, but as a diabolical scheme to finance the growth of government while removing land from private citizens.

For this to work, the government must clear title to the lands or obtain lease rights to elements of the property that will be conscripted into the program, hence the 30x30 agenda.

This scheme poses a challenge to traditional property rights that are the foundation of America's Republic. It diminishes liberty in exchange for "solving" a manufactured climate crisis. Overall, the plan will lead to the largest transfer of land ownership and wealth in American history, if it is carried out. The transfers will flow from America's middle class citizens, to anyone with the means to invest in such a product, including international adversaries.

What may be most alarming is that this same scheme is already much further advanced in other countries, largely the third world countries who are debt ridden and compromised, making it easier for foreign adversaries to acquire rights to their natural resources through this new investment vehicle.

America is headed down this same path today as our national deficit continues to climb well beyond our ability to pay. Our adversaries are right now positioning themselves to acquire the rights to America's land and natural resource wealth through these Natural Asset Companies.

We are fooling ourselves if we believe the 30x30 agenda and natural asset scheme are for the purpose of conserving habitat for species, wildlife and humanity.

We are also fooling ourselves if we believe these lands targeted for conservation will be forever protected. It has never been a question of whether we will use our natural resources, we all know that eventually we must. It has always been a question of "who" will be using our resources and gaining the wealth and power derived.

Before the government can collateralize our land and natural assets, they must first clear the title to these lands held by the citizens. This is where the agenda can be stopped, and you as the State's legislative body will play a critical role.

Our land and natural resources must be owned by the people, not government, not environmental land trusts, and not foreign interests, if we are to retain our sovereignty and individual liberties.

We have moved so far away from this principle that trying today to regain this power is daunting. However, there are critical steps that can be taken by the State to ensure the citizens of America and Oklahoma will own our land.

Primary Recommendation:

Limit the percentage of land in any county that can be owned by government and foreign interests, or can be held in conservation easements, conservation programs or other similar

devices, or a combination of one or all of these categories. These are the vehicles that devalue the property, reduce the production of the land, and therefore erode the tax base that generates the funding for necessary public services.

Counties in NM have determined that no more than 10 percent of the land in their counties should be so encumbered with these vehicles. This is to ensure each county has a robust local economy in order to properly fund the schools, hospitals, emergency services, infrastructure and public services.

It is also to ensure the local governing bodies will not be dominated by government or foreign influences.

National leaders have discussed establishing a 15 percent prohibition level.

You may determine that in Oklahoma this number should be smaller based on the needs of your citizens. Whatever you determine this level to be, it is vital that you establish a limit so that regardless of the scheme, whether it is 30x30, Natural Assets, or whatever else is devised to take our land, you have ensured the citizens of Oklahoma will always hold the majority interest in the States natural resources.

This is how you get ahead of this issue today, instead of trying to fix the problem tomorrow.

Final Thoughts:

I want to leave you with one final point.

Every policy and action necessary to implement the 30x30 agenda and Natural Asset scheme must be implemented locally. This is why the State should consider providing the local governments with the protections and authorizations necessary to keep their lands in the hands of Oklahoma citizens.

The American citizen's dream of owning a piece of land is getting harder every day in this great nation. The priorities of our current administration are ushering in policies that are pushing the small landowner off the land, prioritizing foreign prosperity over our citizens well being, diluting our citizens votes through open-border policies and taxing our prosperity by insisting on transforming our economy for an unproven climate theory.

Our founders were determined to create a government where power could not be consolidated and held by a few elites. But, that is exactly what is occurring in America today. We highly recommend that you limit how much control proponents of 30x30 have over Oklahoma's land.

Thank you.

Recommended Reading: Issue Briefing: SEC Poised to Approve "Natural Asset Companies."
<https://americanstewards.us/sec-poised-to-authorize-natural-asset-companies/>