

HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK NEWS

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MARGINS TO THE MAINSTREAM: RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVES SCORE A FEW WINS

As with previous election cycles, the Network monitored the 2006 campaigns with concern that right-wing themes would continue creeping into mainstream politics. There were plenty of candidates with histories of right-wing activism, including those discussed below.

Right-Wing Ideologue Named House Speaker

Despite never chairing a legislative committee, Rep. Scott Sales (R-Bozeman) won the race for Speaker of the House when the 2007 legislative session convened. His victory was a win for both conservative Republicans and the right wing in general.

Sales has served as a board member for Bozeman's Heritage Christian School. The school's curriculum is based on the "infallible and inspired" word of God, including science classes that teach biblical creationism. In order to attend the school, each student must have at least one parent who is a born-again Christian. The local newspaper reported that all fifth graders recite a pledge to the Christian flag every day. "I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and the savior for whose Kingdom it stands," the pledge stated, "one savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe."

Sales' conservative Christian beliefs have guided his tenure as a lawmaker. He has opposed equal protection under the law for Montana's gay and lesbian community and supported efforts to limit access to abortion.

In 2003, he sponsored legislation to gut Montana's hate crimes statute. Along with removing the list of characteristics in the current law, his bill eliminated the part of the statute that makes cross burning a hate crime. Sales' bill ignored the history of discrimination and violence that fostered hate crimes law. A hate crime is different than other crime. It impacts more than the individual victim. It sends a message to the victim and members of the targeted group that they are not welcome in the community.

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Scott Sales' (R-Bozeman) ascension to Speaker of the House was a win for right-wing conservatives.

Human Rights Network News is a publication of the Montana Human Rights Network, a non-profit organization.

*Editor: Travis McAdam
Contributors: Alison James, Kim Abbott, and Rebecca Leinberger.*

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Sales' 2003 bill was probably a reaction to attempts to include sexual orientation in the current hate crimes statute. He has consistently displayed anti-gay views. He supported efforts to keep Montana's unconstitutional sodomy law on the books, even though it is unenforceable, because he thought it set a moral standard. When the Montana Supreme Court ruled the state must make the same benefits available to same-sex couples that it does to unmarried straight couples, Sales attacked the court. "We have a very activist court that doesn't reflect...the rank and file people of Montana," he said. "They think they are rulers instead of judges." He finished by calling the Supreme Court justices "a group of despots." While he has opposed equal rights for gays and lesbians, Sales opposed legislation banning open alcohol containers in vehicles, worrying it might be a "loss of civil rights."

Along with rulings on sexual orientation, Sales has complained about Montana Supreme Court decisions dealing with school funding. Responding to a 2004 ruling in which the Court said the state needed to more adequately fund public schools, Sales said he was "not inclined" to give schools more money. He said he felt the Court's decision "blackmailed" lawmakers. While a legislator, Sales has advocated closing colleges and cutting funding for the Office of Public Instruction as a way of saving money.

As Speaker of the House, Sales' dislike of public schools was evident in his appointments to the House Education Committee. He named Constitution Party of Montana member Rick Jore the chair (for more on Rick Jore, see the following news brief). Jore and the Constitution Party are vocal opponents of public education. Upon naming Jore chairman, Sales said he didn't think schools necessarily needed more funds. Jore said he told Sales, "If [you're] willing to take the heat over it [the appointment], I'd be willing to do it." Jore's appointment wasn't the exception to the rule. Sales stacked many influential committees with right-wing Republicans, while at the same time leaving off experienced Democrats.

While positioning himself for Speaker of the House, Sales echoed a common rationale for the national losses

by Republicans in November—the GOP had abandoned its conservative values. "Republicans are for limited government and property rights," he stated. "I don't think we delivered on those issues in the past 15 years like we could have or should have." He also emphasized that he was one of the few GOP members to criticize his own party. He complained there hadn't been much of a difference between Republicans and Democrats in recent years, and he would lead the party back to its conservative roots. He has promised to limit government spending and to reduce the "bloated state government." Sales has also said he hopes to use his new position to recruit more candidates for office that share his views.



Rep. Rick Jore (C-Ronan) was named chairman of the House Education Committee.

Fringe Party Wins Legislative Seat

Since initially qualifying for the ballot in 2000, the Constitution Party of Montana had never had a candidate win a legislative race. Ronan's Rick Jore broke the drought, receiving 55% of the vote in his race and defeating Democratic incumbent Jeanne Windham. The only other Constitution Party candidate to get over 30% of the votes in a race this cycle was Great Falls' Christopher Gregory, who, like Jore, did not face a Republican in the General Election (see inset table on page 10).

The Constitution Party of Montana combines anti-government ideology with right-wing Christian fundamentalism. The party's platform endorses militia groups and echoes many of the "New World Order" conspiracy theories promoted by the "patriot" movement. The party also believes that civil law should reflect their interpretation of biblical law. It opposes abortion in all circumstances, even if the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, and its activists frequently protest outside health clinics in Great Falls and Missoula. The group also opposes public schools.

Following the General Election, the Montana Republican Party held a 50-49 advantage in the Montana House, with Jore the lone Constitution Party member. Jore announced he would vote with Republicans on most issues, including when it came to picking leadership. Jore's reward was the chairmanship of the House Education Committee.

(Margins, continued on page 10)

NETWORK HELPS RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

STAFF MEMBERS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN RUNS FOR OFFICE

On Election Day, Montanans voted to give their families, friends, and neighbors a much deserved raise. With an overwhelming 73% of the vote, the initiative to raise the state's minimum wage (I-151) passed. It increased the wage to \$6.15/hour starting on January 1, 2007. I-151 also ties the wage to the Consumer Price Index, meaning it will now increase over time instead of remaining stagnant as it had since 1997. Over 30,000 Montanans will benefit from the increased wage.

Using the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as a framework, the Human Rights Network was an integral part of the coalition that supported I-151. The *Universal Declaration* decrees, "Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity...." It also declares, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care...." Raising the minimum wage to \$6.15/hour will not fulfill these human rights mandates. However, it is a first step toward creating a moral economy where the minimum wage lifts families out of poverty, rather than ensuring they stay in it. At the old minimum wage of \$5.15/hour, a person worked full time for an entire year and fell \$6,000 below the federal

poverty line.

In March 2006, the Network held a "train the trainers" meeting with 20 people from around the state to teach them how to use the human-rights framework to support I-151. The unifying concept that came out of the training was, "No one who works full time should live in poverty." The 20 activists held eight more trainings in six cities around the state. Following the trainings, the groups went out and collected signatures to put I-151 on the ballot. When all was said and done, the Network and the people it trained



The Network was part of Raise Montana, the coalition that successfully campaigned to raise Montana's minimum wage.

gathered over 9,000 of the 22,000 signatures necessary to qualify I-151 for the ballot.

The main opposition to I-151 came from the Coalition Against Continual Price Increases, a group primarily supported by the Chamber of Commerce and Montana Restaurant Association. Brad Griffin, a spokesperson for the coalition, said it opposed I-151 because tying the minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index would cause "automatic inflation." Five Nobel Prize winners joined five leading Montana economists in disagreeing with I-151's opponents. They said the initiative would help low-income workers "without the adverse effects that critics have claimed."

Another group, Montanans for Equal Application of Initiative Laws, tried to defeat I-151 by taking it to court. This was the right-wing's retaliation for a judge disqualifying three conservative initiatives from the ballot due to fraud and illegal activities during signature gathering. The judge hearing the lawsuit against I-151 dismissed the case. Montanans for Equal Application appealed the decision to the Montana Supreme Court. In December 2006, Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath filed a brief with the court asking it to throw out the appeal. McGrath stated the challenge was no longer valid, as voters had already approved I-151. At press time, the Supreme Court had not taken action.

While the Montana minimum wage increased to \$6.15/hour in January, it may go even higher. Democrats, who took control of the U.S. House and Senate, stated raising the federal minimum wage was one of their first priorities.

The U.S. House passed a bill in mid-January that would raise the minimum wage from \$5.15/hour to \$7.25/hour over two years. It passed 315-116, with Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT) voting against it.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate gave into the demands of President George W. Bush, who said he would only sign minimum-wage legislation that also included tax breaks he favored. U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) helped author legislation linking increases in the minimum wage to tax cuts.

As we went to press, the U.S. Senate passed a measure to raise the *(Wage, continued on page 11)*

NEW GROUP PUSHES CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

by
Cedron Jones

Corporate power is rapidly subjugating the entire world. Advancing corporate goals has become more important than protecting human rights and meeting human needs. We think of ourselves as consumers—not citizens. We ask if government policies and programs are good (or bad) for business. We do not ask if businesses are good (or bad) for society, for our health, for our communities, for liberty and democracy, or for the planet.

Corporations were originally conceived and chartered to serve the public interest. Montanans for Corporate Accountability joins a growing number of organizations across the country working to restore citizen sovereignty over corporations. We seek reform at many levels, from revoking corporate “personhood” at the national level to changing economic development policies at the local level.

Is corporate reform a human rights issue? We believe it is, in several different ways. Perhaps most obvious are examples of what even corporate apologists characterize as “bad” corporate behavior: sweat shops, attacks on union organizers, disregard for indigenous cultures and

“I am convinced ...we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a people-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

~Martin Luther King, *Speech to Clergy & Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, April 4, 1967*

the resources on which they depend.

At another level, and closer to home, direct corporate participation in such “civic” activities as election and initiative campaigns, funding research and schools, and developing governance policies can compromise or marginalize the rights of citizens.

Finally, the economic clout of corporations and their domination of mass media, coupled with their one-dimensional focus on profit, has created a kind of mass intellectual bondage to materialism and/or consumerism. Economic measures and concerns are now accepted as the highest priority of society. It is amazing that the materially “richest” people ever to live on earth consistently rank “the economy” as their greatest concern.

Organizationally, Montanans for Corporate Accountability is a project of The Policy Institute, which is a non-profit think-tank associated with

the Montana Human Rights Network. Programmatically, the group challenges, through public outreach and advocacy, the excessive power of large corporations over our economy and our democracy.

To date, Montanans for Corporate Accountability has sponsored nine public events in Helena (lectures and films) that explore topics and issues from the perspective of assessing the impacts of corporate power.

We have prepared and are supporting several bills during the 2007 Montana Legislature. Our legislative efforts are primarily intended as vehicles for broadening the debate about corporate power. For more information, e-mail us at corp@mhrn.org or visit our website, which can be accessed at: <http://www.reclaimdemocracy.org/rdc/>. □

MILITIA MISTRESS TOLD TO STOP CONTACTING THE NETWORK:

DUTY POPS UP IN HATE-GROUP CIRCLES

John Trochmann, founder of the Militia of Montana and a former Aryan Nations' participant, has a new wife. In early 2005, Trochmann's longtime wife announced she was divorcing him, because he was having an affair. Trochmann ended up marrying Heidi Duty, his mistress. Toward the end of 2006, Duty engaged the Human Rights Network in a series of communications that kept getting increasingly bizarre.

In her mid-thirties, Heidi Duty came to Montana from Washington, where she was active with the United Daughters of the Confederacy. According to Professor Karen Cox of the University of North Carolina, the Daughters of the Confederacy formed after the Civil War in an effort to preserve white supremacy and states' rights. The Southern Poverty Law Center defines the group as part of the neo-Confederate movement, which the Center categorizes as racist.

In October 2006, Duty called the Human Rights Network. She claimed her current mission was to transform Trochmann into a better person through love. Duty attributed Trochmann's militia beliefs to his service in the armed forces. She complained about living in Noxon, which she called the "redneck capital of the world." Finally, Duty said she wanted to join the Human Rights Network.

A couple of days later, the Network received a packet from Duty. It included a letter featuring the Daughter of Confederacy's logo. Directly underneath, it proclaimed "Proudly Partnering with Montana Human Rights Network" and the Network's logo. Duty also began calling and e-mailing the Network in ways that reflected a belief that she saw herself as volunteer staff member. Concerned she might represent herself to others that way, the Network took action.

Network staff wrote to Duty and told her to cease and desist using the Network's logo. She was told the Network was not in partnership with her group, and her organization's views were exactly the opposite of the

Network's. Duty was instructed to quit contacting the Network. If she failed to comply with these demands, the Network informed Duty it would take legal action against her.

Toeing the White Supremacist Line

John Trochmann, his brother, and his nephew formed the Militia of Montana (MOM) in the early 1990s. The pre-cursor to MOM was United Citizens for Justice, which Trochmann ran with self-proclaimed neo-Nazi Chris Temple. As MOM gained media attention,

Trochmann tried to downplay his previous activism with Aryan Nations and other white supremacists. Richard Butler, founder of Aryan Nations, became so fed up with Trochmann's denials that he issued a press release outlining Trochmann's participation with his hate group.

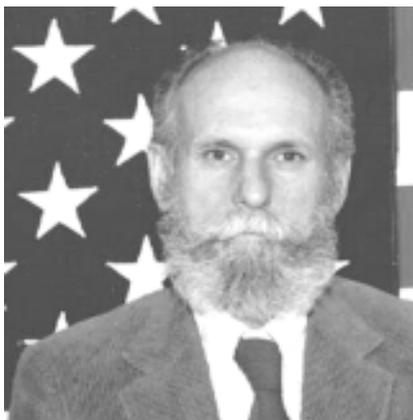
Heidi Duty continues her husband's tradition of interacting with white supremacists, while trying to downplay it. In one communication to the Network, she said she was trying to reform the Daughters of the Confederacy's bad image.

Likewise, she ran into trouble on a white supremacist website for saying she prays for non-whites and has non-white friends. The majority of her comments, however, reflect a different worldview.

Duty has frequently posted messages on the Stormfront website, an online clearinghouse for white supremacist information. "Yes, I am racist," she wrote in one post, while calling herself a "White Nationalist" in another. "My White Pride has never died," she proudly announced. "It has been tested and sanctified." White supremacists frequently use terms like "white pride" and "white nationalist" to downplay their racist views.

Her Stormfront posts also frequently mentioned well-known racists and anti-Semites. She called Adolph Hitler a "brilliant man" and a "genius." She referred to longtime Klansman David Duke as an "inspiration." She routinely expressed her admiration for Edgar Steele, a

(Duty, continued on page 7)



John Trochmann

BELGRADE PROPERTY PLASTERED WITH SWASTIKAS

Over a three week period in November 2006, unknown perpetrators spray painted swastikas on property around Belgrade. Fifteen incidents were reported to the Belgrade Police. The symbol of the Third Reich was painted on everything from mailboxes to cars.

"I do not think this is related to religion or hate-oriented," Belgrade Police Chief Greg Waldon told the press. "We suspect it's kids. There are a lot of kids wandering around at night when they should be home. We just haven't caught anyone yet."

Writing the incidents off as the actions of misguided youth may be a mistake. Examples from recent history, along with current events, help illustrate a pattern.

Since 2004, Kevin McGuire has made Bozeman his home. First as a recruiter for the white supremacist National Alliance and now with the National Vanguard, he plastered the Gallatin Valley with racist and anti-Semitic literature. McGuire and his cronies also hung out around Bozeman schools, trying to recruit youth.

In 2005, McGuire got into trouble with the police in Belgrade. He forced his way into an apartment and demanded to speak to a person who lived there. He faced charges of disorderly conduct and criminal trespass. McGuire eventually pleaded guilty to the first charge and the other was dropped. He was fined \$185 and given a suspended 10-day jail sentence (for more on McGuire, see past editions of *Network News* on our website).

McGuire's presence in the area is not the only reason to take the swastikas seriously. As a whole, the white supremacist movement in Montana is taking on a visibility not witnessed since the late 1980s.

The National Socialist Movement, also known as the American Party Nazi Party, has chapters established in Montana (*Network News*, October 2006). Its activists in Libby have already faced hate crimes charges for their actions against a multi-racial family. Another Nazi Party activist recently ran for the Montana Legislature as a Republican.

Likewise, April Gaede and her family moved to Kalispell over the summer (*Network News*, October 2006). Gaede's teenage daughters form Prussian Blue, the most sought after white power musical group in the country. Recently, Gaede said she plans to start actively recruiting new members in the Flathead Valley for the National Vanguard, the white supremacist group to which both she and McGuire belong.

Also, back in April 2006, a person going by the screen name "Swampfox" posted a message on a popular white supremacist website, Stormfront, looking for contacts in Belgrade, Bozeman and Manhattan.

"Swastikas have a universal meaning that separates them from other graffiti," says the

Network's Travis McAdam. "Right now, there are plenty of hardcore activists in the state who appreciate what the swastika represents—the Third Reich and Hitler's Final Solution. With these white supremacists' dedication to activism, blaming the Belgrade swastikas on bored kids may cause the community to ignore what it actually is—a symptom of a larger, scarier problem."

Editor's Note: As this newsletter was going to press, two teenagers turned themselves into the Belgrade Police. While saying they were not white supremacists, one of the boys said he had always been "fascinated" by swastikas. □

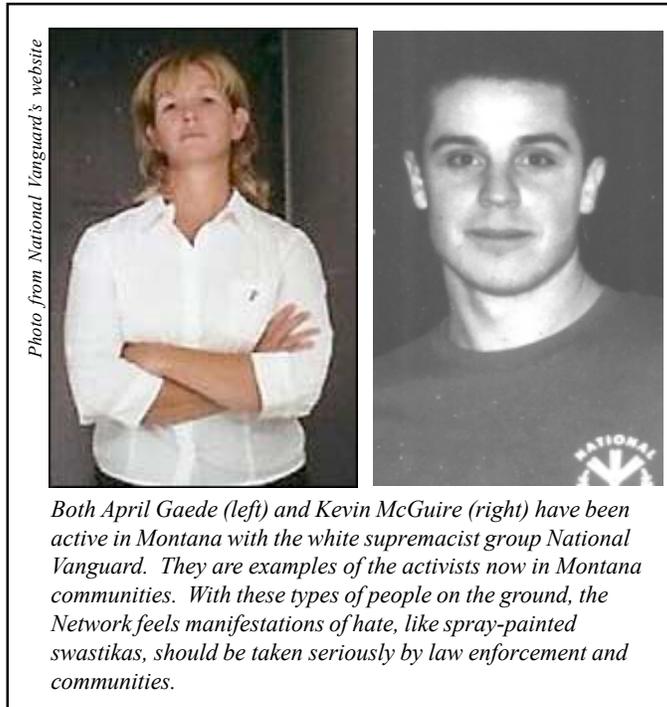


Photo from National Vanguard's website

Both April Gaede (left) and Kevin McGuire (right) have been active in Montana with the white supremacist group National Vanguard. They are examples of the activists now in Montana communities. With these types of people on the ground, the Network feels manifestations of hate, like spray-painted swastikas, should be taken seriously by law enforcement and communities.

2007 Legislative Agenda

The Human Rights Network will once again be a presence at the Montana Legislature. Along with working to secure equal rights and protection under the law for Montana's gay and lesbian community, the Network has also made healthcare a priority. It will be supporting efforts to expand coverage under already existing plans, such as the Children's Health Insurance Program, and supporting bills advocating for universal healthcare. The Network also plans to support efforts to increase funding for "Indian Education for All." It will be opposing legislation attempting to capitalize on the anti-immigrant fear tactics being used by conservatives across the country. The Network also plans to take a stand against the Religious Right's effort to stifle the scientific community.

The following list contains just a few pieces of the legislation the Network is following. You can keep track of bills at the "Montana LAWS" website: [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/pls/laws07/LAW0200W\\$.startup](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/pls/laws07/LAW0200W$.startup). Keep an eye out for legislative alerts from the Network as bills get scheduled for hearings!

- HJ 21 – Rep. Robin Hamilton – Supporting strong science curriculum
- SB 306 – Sen. Dan Harrington – Abolish the death penalty in Montana
- SB 371 – Sen. Christine Kaufmann – Include sexual orientation in the Human Rights Act
- SB 390 – Sen. Carol Juneau – Increase funding for Indian Education for All
- LC 1608 – Revise Montana's hate crimes statute

(Duty, continued from page 5)

favorite speaker at white supremacist events who once served as the Aryan Nations' attorney. She has even quoted David Lane. Lane was a member of a white-supremacist paramilitary group called The Order. During the 1980s, it masterminded bank robberies in hopes of financing a race revolution. Lane's role in the assassination of a Jewish radio host resulted in a prison sentence of 190 years.

Gabbing with the Gaedes

Heidi Duty told the Network she is trying to change another white-supremacist friend, April Gaede, through love. Over the summer, Gaede and her family moved to Kalispell. Gaede has been active with hate groups like the National Alliance and World Church of the Creator. However, her claim to fame in the white supremacist movement is that her teenage daughters form Prussian

Blue, a white-power music group (for more on Prussian Blue, see the October 2006 *Network News* at our website). Duty has called herself a "big fan" of Prussian Blue.

In November, Gaede asked for Duty's help in buying "some guns." She hoped that John Trochmann might be able to offer some advice. Duty replied that her "Alpha Aryan Male" [Trochmann] had just returned from Nashville. However, Duty said she worried Gaede was setting her up by asking such a loaded question. Gaede replied she just wanted recommendations on what type of firearm to get. In the end, Duty suggested Gaede get a nine millimeter and a concealed weapons permit.

Over-Estimating Trochmann

Along with being an "Alpha Aryan Male," Duty describes Trochmann as a "senior to the Patriot cause, respected world wide."

Those platitudes may have applied during MOM's high point in the early 1990s, but now they are questionable.

Duty says Trochmann is no longer affiliated with MOM. According to a former MOM member, that was a direct result of Trochmann cheating on his former wife. The militia was Trochmann's claim to fame, but even while running MOM, some members of the militia movement speculated he was a federal informant. The former militia member who talked to the Network said Duty thought she was marrying a well-respected member of the community. "If that was the case, Duty's judgment was off," says the Network's Travis McAdam. "Currently, Trochmann is best known for engaging in an extra-marital affair; getting kicked out of MOM; and leading the Coalition for Men's Rights, a group of men with restraining orders against them due to domestic violence charges." □

(Range, continued from page 12) and tradition. Based on this, the Human Rights Network asserted the movement was racist in its 2000 report *Drumming Up Resentment*. Roland and Lisa Morris sued the Network over the report. During his deposition in the case, Roland Morris agreed with the Network's definition of racist. The case was settled out of court without the Network having to change the report.

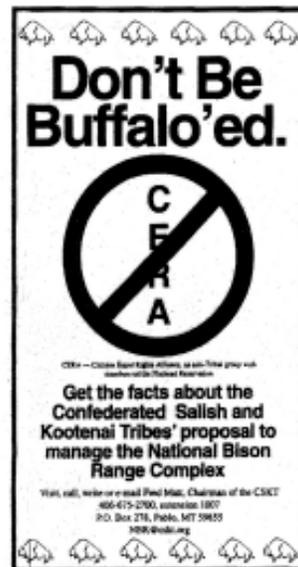
A decision supporting joint management of the Bison Range did not result from the process in the mid-1990s. However, when talks resumed in 2003, many of the same anti-Indian activists reappeared, and this time they were joined by members of the conservation movement.

Round Two

When the tribes and FWS began discussions again in 2003, Lisa Morris led the anti-tribal charge. Now active with Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), Morris held meetings where opponents complained Indians already received too many handouts from the federal government. They felt joint management of the Bison Range would be another example of this. Opponents also claimed the tribes' real goal was to phase out all non-tribal employees at the Range. CERA and All Citizens Equal ran ads in local newspapers protesting joint management.

Unlike in the mid-1990s, the anti-Indian movement was not alone in protesting tribal management. Some conservation groups, including the Montana Wildlife Federation and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), opposed joint management. These groups worried that an agreement would negatively impact how the national

refuge system was managed. They also viewed it as another attempt by the Bush Administration to privatize federal functions, instead of recognizing that the negotiation was between two sovereign nations. These conservation groups stepped into a racially-charged debate, and some anti-Indian activists, including Lisa Morris, adopted the rhetoric of conservation groups to downplay the racial component of the controversy.



During negotiations in 2004, the Tribes ran newspaper ads denouncing the claims of anti-Indian groups like CERA.

The tribes took a very pro-active approach during this round of negotiations. They ran advertisements in local papers denouncing the views of groups like CERA. They also ran newspaper inserts outlining their reasons and plans for joint management of the Bison Range. Public hearings on the process were also sponsored by the tribes.

In December 2004, the tribes and FWS entered into a joint management agreement lasting through September 2006. The tribes were

to administer programs like weed control, wildfire suppression, surveying, and mapping and counting birds. The federal government maintained oversight of the Bison Range and ownership of the land.

Agreement Called a "Disaster"

In July 2006, a federal report called into question tribal management. While the tribes received high grades for conducting the annual bison roundup, the report stated other tasks were performed in unacceptable fashion. PEER claimed the report proved joint management was a "disaster."

Despite the media focusing on the negatives, FWS Director Dale Hall told U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) that the agreement's first year represented "tremendous progress." Likewise, Tribal Chairman James Steele commented, "Taken as a whole, the report cannot be said to show that significant work is not being done." He said the problems cited were "minor." Steele also pointed out the federal government had not conducted a study before tribal involvement at the Bison Range, meaning there were no benchmarks for comparison. In fact, Steele felt "more work with fewer resources" was done than in prior years.

In September 2006, on the heels of the federal report, federal workers at the Bison Range filed a grievance. It stated "intolerable" working conditions existed due to "safety, and ethical violations, harassment, intimidation, and personal slander."

PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch claimed the tribes were told they could fill any vacant positions at the Bison Range with tribal members. Ruch said this stipulation was *(Range, continued on page 9)*

(Range, continued from page 8)

“putting targets on the backs of refuge staff and creating incentive for harassment” of non-tribal workers. Ruch also claimed employees had been subjected to “racial” and “sexual” intimidation. The grievance called on the joint management agreement to be rescinded or renegotiated. FWS called for an outside investigation of the working conditions.

Since the initial joint management agreement ended in September, the tribes viewed the grievance as a strategy by PEER and others to keep the agreement from being extended. “If you look at PEER’s past statements on the issue, they’ve always demonstrated a bias against the tribes,” a tribal attorney stated. “PEER has a history of this [filing grievances to disrupt negotiations]. This fits in with their standard practice.” Also, the tribes never received copies of the specific incidents that led to the grievance. This kept the tribes from being able to evaluate the substance of the charges.



Feds Break Off Negotiations

In November 2006, the tribes submitted a proposal to gradually phase in complete control of the Bison Range by 2010. The proposal said the Range would be run just like other wildlife refuges, and FWS would continue to own the land.

While still in negotiations, FWS announced in December 2006 it was terminating the joint management agreement. FWS said it made its decision because the tribes had failed to live up to their responsibilities and had created an unacceptable work environment. The agency told the tribes to stop performing any activities at the Bison Range and withdraw all their employees.

Anti-Indian Forces Can Declare Victory

PEER’s Grady Hocutt complained that the “anti-Indian flag” was raised whenever his group objected to

tribal management. “I’m saddened the racism card gets played,” he said. While PEER and other conservationists oppose privatization and not Indians, they have provided political cover for anti-Indian groups. As the controversy surrounding the Bison Range continued, anti-Indian activists began reframing their rhetoric to fit with the conservationists’ message.

A source of opposition to joint management also came from Bison Range employees, some of whom have connections to the anti-Indian movement. Skip Palmer, son of Del Palmer, is one such employee. Del Palmer is a longtime anti-Indian activist on the Flathead Reservation. He frequently hunts without obtaining a tribal permit and challenges state, county, and tribal officials to prosecute him. He has testified at the Montana Legislature for resolutions opposing tribal management of the Bison Range. He has also distributed anti-Semitic publications on the reservation and has claimed that Indians and African-Americans holding office is a threat to society. His son, Skip, claims the tribes want to create a “Disneyland-type atmosphere” at the Bison Range and bar non-tribal workers from the Range.

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Tribal Chairman James Steele has stated it is common for the tribes to “deal with resistance” from the federal government as it assumes federal programs. He also noted that the tribes have a successful history of running former federal programs, from establishing wilderness areas to habitat restoration. The tribes also understand the role that racism plays. “If you get to the bottom of the arguments, you can see how racist they really are,” said tribal spokesperson Anna Sorrell in 2004. “Most of our opponents have deep roots within anti-Indian organizations.”

In the immediate future, the tribes have announced they will appeal FWS’ decision to end the joint management agreement. □

(Margins, continued from page 2)

Jore refers to public schools as “government schools,” and he has called them a “socialistic monopoly.” He does not believe that any state or federal money should be used to fund education. His dislike of public schools has resulted in him being a longtime activist in Montana’s conservative home schooling movement. While serving in the Montana Legislature as a Republican in the 1990s, Jore sponsored legislation to eliminate the state’s compulsory education law. He is sponsoring similar legislation in 2007.

Supporters of public education, including the Network, immediately condemned Jore’s appointment. “The GOP has turned the future of public education in Montana over to a person who doesn’t think public schools should be funded or have students attending them,” said the Network’s Travis McAdam. “This is outright ideological warfare.”

The Network has updated and re-released its report on the Constitution Party of Montana, including profiles of the party’s officers and main activists, including Jore. The report can be accessed on the Network’s website at: <http://mhrn.org/publications/specialresearchreports/CPMReport.pdf>.

Nazi Loses Legislative Bid

In March 2006, Shawn Stuart of Butte announced he was running for the Montana House of Representatives as a Republican. What Stuart didn’t reveal when launching his campaign was that he was also the state leader for the National Socialist Movement, a hate group also known as the American Nazi Party (*Network News*, June 2006). The group proudly worships Adolph Hitler and believes citizenship should be denied to people of color, Jews, and gays and lesbians. At its public rallies, members frequently wear brown-shirt uniforms replicating Hitler’s storm troopers.

Constitution Party of Montana Election Results

Town	Name	Votes	Percentage
Libby	Russell Brown	172	5%
Troy	Freeman Johnson	209	5%
Columbia Falls	Tad Rosenberry	198	6%
Olney	Rick Komeda	574	12%
Ronan	Rick Jore	2045	55%
Ulm	Timothy Sollid	90	2%
Great Falls	Kent Holtz	158	5%
Great Falls	Terry Poupa	95	3%
Great Falls	Roger Nelson	116	4%
Great Falls	Christopher Gregory	682	30%
Black Eagle	Philip DuPaul	77	4%
Great Falls	Robert O'Connor	122	3%
Richland	Torry Fair MacLean	663	17%
Huntley	David Anderson	155	4%
Roberts	Jay McKean	151	3%
Hamilton	George Karpati	141	3%
Stevensville	Gil Turner	143	3%
Missoula	Kandi Matthew-Jenkins	188	5%
Great Falls	Jonathan Martin	1032	18%
Polson	Ron Marquardt	86,027	25%

Once the story broke, the Montana Republican Party denounced Stuart’s candidacy and said it would support the Democrat on Election Day. Stuart ended up receiving 476 votes, which translated into 18% of the votes cast in his race. No longer enrolled at Butte’s Montana Tech, the Network has received reports that Stuart has been seen recently with a skinhead crew in Washington State. □

(Wage, continued from page 3)

minimum wage to \$7.25/hour over two years. It did contain tax breaks, so it will have to be reconciled with the U.S. House version that passed without the tax breaks. If the federal wage does rise to \$7.25/hour, it would become Montana's minimum wage, and it would still be tied to the Consumer Price Index.



Commissioner Ken Toole (D-Helena)

Co-Executive Directors Win Office

While the Network scored a victory in the campaign to raise the minimum wage, two of its staff won their individual campaigns for office.

Program Director Ken Toole ran for the Public Service Commission, the state agency regulating public utilities in Montana. He won by 190 on Election Day. However, the race was close enough that his opponent requested a

recount. When the six counties making up the PSC district finished their recounts, Toole was declared the winner by 181 votes out of over 80,000 cast. Toole left the Network at the end of December and started at the Public Service Commission in January 2007.

Christine Kaufmann, the Network's Administration Director, was re-elected to the Montana House of Representatives with 73% of the vote. However, she ended up in the Montana Senate. Toole was an incumbent state senator as he ran for the Public Service Commission. With his victory, his seat was open and the Lewis and Clark County Commission had to fill it. The commission appointed Kaufmann. Kaufmann will be on an unpaid leave of absence during the legislative session. Research Director Travis McAdam will be the Network's interim director during the session. □



Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D-Helena)

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FEDS, TRIBES WRANGLE OVER NATIONAL BISON RANGE

Since discussions first began in the mid-1990s, the idea of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) jointly running the National Bison Range with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes has been controversial.

In 2004, such an agreement was reached. Both anti-Indian groups and some conservation groups vehemently opposed it. Following reports of alleged tribal misconduct and unacceptable working environments, FWS announced in December 2006 that it was terminating the agreement.

Founded in 1908, the National Bison Range is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by FWS. Under the Tribal Self-Government and Indian Self-Determination Acts, the federal government can enter into agreements with tribes that want to manage lands meeting certain criteria. Since passage of the Acts, the Salish and Kootenai Tribes had attempted to reach such an agreement for the Bison Range. From the start, the tribes faced opposition from the anti-Indian movement.

Round One

During the mid-1990s, tribal interest in sharing the Bison Range's management energized anti-Indian groups in the Flathead. Led by Roland and Lisa Morris, All Citizens Equal and the Concerned Signatories of the Bison Range Petition led the charge against the tribes. Racist stereotypes, like Indians being too lazy to run the Range, frequently surfaced during public meetings and rallies against joint management. As the *Char-Koosta News*

New Developments

In late December 2006, FWS reversed its decision to cut off talks with the Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The agency announced it was drafting a proposal for a five-year operations plan for the Bison Range and would re-establish a relationship with the tribes. The proposal included provisions for a deputy to be stationed at the Range to resolve any problems with management. FWS also stated that the tribes' proposal to assume full management of the Bison Range would be suspended.

The tribes have filed an appeal to have the record corrected. "People who oppose the Tribal presence at the Bison Range can only coast on unsupported allegations for so long," said Tribal Chairman James Steele. "The Tribes need to correct the record of our performance at the Bison Range and we will do so through the administrative process."

noted, one event featured anti-Indian activists firing "ignorant stereotypical epithets with scattergun imprecision at any and all Indians and their perceived shortcomings."

Even with bigoted stereotypes set aside, the anti-Indian movement is a systematic effort to deny legally-established rights to a group of people who are identified on the basis of their shared culture, history, religion

(Range, continued on page 8)

MONTANA HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

P.O. Box 1222
Helena, MT 59624
(406)442-5506
e-mail: network@mhrn.org
Web: <http://www.mhrn.org>

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