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For Immediate Release: Western Proponents of Public Lands Seizure Court
Anti-Indian Extremists

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Western Proponents of Public Lands Seizure Court Anti-Indian Extremists

While the conversation about starving the federal government is present on the minds of politicians in DC facing a potential shutdown, out West there is a nagging, increasingly desperate, but forceful effort to sell off public lands to the highest bidder, as long as it's not a Native American tribe.

The country's most notorious anti-Indian organization, Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), held a small conference last week in Northwest Montana, an area known as a hotbed for far-right entities like the Militia of Montana and white supremacists.ⁱ The conference brought together foes of the recently advanced Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes water compact with the state of Montanaⁱⁱ, national anti-Indian activists, Agenda 21 conspiracy theorists, and a State Senator at the center of the effort to sell off public lands out West.

Native American Indian activists protested outside of a hotel in downtown Kalispell as Montana State Senator Jennifer Fielder presented inside the conference alongside CERA representatives and anti-Indian activists from around the country.ⁱⁱⁱ Sen. Fielder has been a leader in the effort to seize public lands in the West and is active with the American Lands Council (ALC), a Utah-based group advocating the selloff of public lands. ALC is run by Utah Representative Ken Ivory and funded in part by millionaires like the Koch Brothers and local tax dollars contributed by right-leaning county commissioners across the West.^{iv}

The public lands seizure message was sandwiched between vehemently anti-Indian and bigoted statements like the invalidity of the 14th amendment. Richard Heidel, President of the Village of Hogart, WI, who opposed the sovereignty of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, spoke at the conference. He called the federal government's support of tribal programs with tax dollars a fraud and disease based on imagined inequality. He went on to claim that the U.S. government doesn't owe tribes anything and called the federal government the 'great white father' that gives weekly allowances via a pipeline of money to the tribes who don't need it because of their casino money and whom will cause mischief until the pipeline is capped and welded shut.^v

Meanwhile CERA leader Elaine Willman claimed that supporting “European cultures” drew the label white supremacist, claimed that the Obama administration is encouraging Middle Eastern companies to invest in economic development in Indian country because “no one is looking and no one has authority,” and that there is no definition of ‘indigenous’ but instead the indigenous movement is part of a one-world order towards a global reservation. Willman talked about ‘cooperative federalism’ and UN Conspiracy theories including the goal to get rid of states. She even alleged, “This current administration is using tribal governments and Indian reservation to expand the federal footprint out among the states, capture the states resources, let tribal government govern the state citizens that aren’t tribal members.”^{vi}

Sen. Fielder built on Willman’s anti-government, anti-tribal statements and presented to a friendly audience, whom lauded her message. She is a familiar face to many CERA supporters as was one of the most fervent opponents of the CSKT water compact at the state legislature^{vii}. Sen. Fielder passed out shiny leaflets from ALC and made her pitch for the seizure and selloff of public lands, including inaccuracies about how a selloff would mean better air and water quality and animal habitat. In reality the sell off is estimated to be too costly for states to shoulder and be a detriment to environmental quality.^{viii}

In all, CERA conference attendees were treated to a platter of anti-government far-right topics including: Flawed Fundamentals of Federal Indian Policy, Spreading tribalism across the US, Rogue Federal Agencies: EPA, BIA, USFW, BLM, DOI & Others, and Fielder’s Update on the Transfer of Public Lands.

While Congress symbolically passed a budget amendment this spring that supported the idea of selling off and transferring public lands, politicians backed by ALC that support the seizure and selloff continue to keep busy courting the far right fringes of the American populace, stooping as low as to team up and pitch their bad idea to the anti-Indian movement.



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ⁱ Report: [“Anti-Indian Escalation in Montana” CERA Announces Regional Conference in Kalispell on Heels of Elaine Willman’s Move to Montana](#)

ⁱⁱ Report: [Right-Wing Conspiracies and Racism Mar Opposition to Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and State of Montana Water Compact Going to Extremes](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Missoulian: [Anti-Indian or not? Controversial conference on tap in Kalispell](#) & Char-Koosta: [Native Americans and Others to Protest Anti-Indian Conference](#)

^{iv} Reprint: [GOING TO EXTREMES The Anti-Government Extremism Behind the Growing Movement to Seize America’s Public Lands](#)

^v CERA Conference 9-26-15 Kalispell, MT video

^{vi} CERA Conference 9-26-15 Kalispell, MT video

^{vii} Report: [“The Revolutionary War for Citizens of Montana” National Anti-Indian Leader Moves to Ronan, Montana to Fight Tribal Water Compact](#)

^{viii} Report: [THE WILDFIRE BURDEN: WHY PUBLIC LAND SEIZURE PROPOSALS WOULD COST WESTERN STATES BILLIONS OF DOLLARS](#)

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