Will the Real 30 X 30 Please Stand Up!

Greetings,

Some of you may remember the game show “Truth or Consequences” where three participants were asked several questions by a panel of contestants to find out which of the three was telling the truth about their identity. When questioning was done, the host would ask the real character to please stand up and the contestants would get points to win the game. This is very similar to the game being played with our property.

Some folks, primarily international environmental extremists promoting the “Convention on Biological Diversity” think 30 X 30 is good thing and for the sake of stopping climate change, the government should own thirty percent of the land and water resources to preserve it and protect us Americans from ourselves and from destroying the planet. After much reading and a little research, the real 30 X 30 implemented by the current administration shortly after taking office, appears to be nothing more than a landgrab by the federal government. And as the documents read, the ultimate goal is 50 X 50.

Many of you reading this article may remember a gentleman by the name of Dr. Mike Coffman. Dr. Coffman was instrumental in alerting congress more than 30 years ago regarding the “Wildlands Project” and the UN/US “Man and Biosphere Project.” Some of you may also remember Dr. Coffman as a keynote speaker at a GLTPA spring loggers celebration. The projects referred to by Coffman were based on the need to “protect” biological diversity using core wilderness reserves which are surrounded buffer zones that variably regulate human activity to protect the attributes of the core reserves.

The” Wildlands Project, Land Conservation Strategy” started in 1992 and dimensions, (acres) were described in a special edition of the publication “Wild Earth.” The publication talked about corridors and reserves and the tools of choice for implementing the program. The “Niagara Escarpment” is a good example of a corridor. The escarpment has been mentioned on HGTV programs and comes into play when someone must ask for permission to expand their home or garage. A homeowner has the privilege of paying taxes on property but does not have any control over what can be done with it. Very much like what I think are Preservation Easements dressed in sheep’s clothing as Conservation Easements. Not all are the same but once the rights to certain natural resources are sold, it becomes preservation.

Keeping history in mind, what is the 30 X 30 land grab? Basically, a new warm and fuzzy title for the “Wildlands Project.” From an American Stewards publication, “The 30 x30 program is an international agenda advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30 percent of the worlds land and oceans in their natural state by 2030. The program in America was initiated by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (86 Fed. Reg> 7,619) signed January 27, 2021.”

As stated earlier in this article, proponents of this action claim that climate impacts are human-caused and that permanently preserving 30 percent of Americas and the world’s land, will reverse climate change. Too bad for them the science and data do not justify their extreme policy measures and it is important to understand the science behind this project was “created” by the ICUN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) The ICUN is an advisor to the UN and according to the “Wildlands Project” document, is made up of NGO’s including the EPA, US Forest Service, US National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, The Society for Conservation Biology, and many others.

What works and what does not work is clear. The week this article was written GLTPA had the opportunity to be in Washington DC working with the “National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition” to garner support for continued funding of the “Secure Rural Schools” program. What was learned is that most of the members of this group are from the west where as much as 80 percent of their land is owned by the USFS or the BLM. Basically, the western half of the US is federalized, and the eastern US privately owned. That explains why the Lake States Region has a bullseye on its back for conservation easements, corridors, and reserves such as those being proposed for addition to BMPs for water quality.

Looking at the facts, the West, under government control, is burning up and the East, under more private control, is not. Why do you suppose that is? Could it be that forest management, including the use of clearcutting enhances biodiversity and sustainability? The Spotted Owl, which the forementioned groups claimed to be saving by halting all forest management, destroyed several communities and a thriving timber industry in the West. Several years later it comes to light forest management created owl habitat and that the Barred Owl was the predator of Spotted Owls. How many situations like this, and how much destruction of land with fire will it take to teach Americans that the environmental extremist’s goal is NOT to save us all from climate change, but to have government control over all the natural resources which, has been stated many times, are the true wealth of the nation. On a side note, I was at another meeting in October where a report was given on certification. The report stated that several extremists’ groups have pulled their support from FSC because it is not strict enough. Their action shows they will never be satisfied so why is it that corporations keep spending millions of dollars to appease this squeaky wheel set out to destroy America and its principles of freedom? They will never be satisfied!

America was founded on the principle that middle class people have the right to own property. It is those middle-class people who care most for their property by farming it, logging it, and taking care of it so that it continues to produce whereby wealth is created for themselves and the nation. The truth of the matter is, if the forest industry and private landowners do not start paying attention and continue allowing this slow but steady, transition of government taking control of the wealth in the Lake States Region, the consequences will be no mills left, no jobs, and most certainly no freedom to move about the landscape freely. It happened in the West and is heading our way. As the saying goes, “There are those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what the heck did happen.” Which group are you in?

Until next month,