

THE WESTERN CAUCUS

JOBS FRONTIER



Breaking Down Washington's Barriers to
America's Red, White and Blue Jobs

Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses
Senator John Barrasso (WY)
Congressman Steve Pearce (NM-2)



Jobs Frontier

A Report by the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses

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The Western Caucus Jobs Frontier

Since President Obama's inauguration in January 2009, the White House and Democratic leadership in Congress have repeatedly promised that their policies would create millions of jobs across the country. Each month, the list of broken promises grows longer:

- **Stimulus:** *President Obama predicted it would save or create 3.5 million jobs.*
- **Green Jobs:** *President Obama said clean energy policies would create 5 million new jobs.*
- **Healthcare:** *Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that the President's health care law would create 4 million jobs and 400,000 jobs almost immediately.*
- **Unemployment:** *The Obama Administration predicted that extending unemployment benefits through 2011 would create 600,000 jobs in 2011 alone.*

Instead of growing our economy, these policies have created more debt and made it harder for the private sector to create new jobs. Since President Obama took office, America has lost approximately 2.3 million jobs and the unemployment rate has increased from 7.8 percent to 9.1 percent. Americans in six western states have over 9 percent unemployment (Washington, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, California and Nevada).

Americans want to replace Washington's broken promises with America's boldness.

Members of the Senate and House Western Caucuses have proposed this report to introduce Washington to the next frontier of American job creation.

Our policies will create jobs by proposing steps that:

1. **Increase Affordable American Energy**
2. **Explore for American Oil and Natural Gas**
3. **Strengthen the American Mining Sector**
4. **Overturn Washington's Overreach**
5. **Promote Agriculture, Ranching and Forestry**
6. **Support Recreation, Hunting and Public Land Access**
7. **Eliminate Backdoor Cap and Tax Regulations**
8. **Reduce Junk Lawsuits**

If the White House is serious about helping more Americans find good jobs – especially in the West, it will support our “Jobs Frontier” plan.

#1: Increase Affordable American Energy

For decades, westerners have worked in high paying energy jobs with good benefits. However, the Obama Administration has consistently pushed extreme policies and heavy handed regulations that make it harder to develop American energy. Fewer energy projects mean fewer American jobs.

Members of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses and others have proposed a wide range of legislation to protect and increase the number of red, white and blue energy jobs across the country. The bills listed below will ensure America's future domestic energy comes from the responsible development of federal lands which are home to vast reserves of energy resources. In addition to oil and natural gas, these sources include solar, coal, hydro, wind and geothermal power.

Encouraging the development of all-of-the-above energy resources will create thousands of jobs in the West and make our country less dependent on foreign energy.

Western Caucus Job Creators

1. **H.R. 1405/H.R. 1391 - Recycling Coal Combustion Residuals Accessibility Act of 2011:** These two bills would prevent the designation of coal ash, the residual from burning coal, as hazardous waste under the Solid Waste Disposal Act. Coal is America's most affordable energy, and treating coal ash as hazardous waste would be the equivalent of treating it as nuclear waste, even though coal ash can be beneficially reused. If declared hazardous, the same expensive procedures for storing nuclear waste would have to apply to coal, thus making it impossible for coal fired power plants to afford to operate. The net result is more expensive energy costs for factories and small businesses, as well as reduced demand for coal. Reduced demand only results in lost mining jobs in the West and Appalachia. It would also devastate businesses that recycle coal ash for a number of uses, including paving America's highways, which would cost construction jobs. Unfortunately, the Obama EPA is deliberating whether to designate coal ash as hazardous waste. These two bills stop that job crushing effort.
Sponsors: Rep. Robert Latta (R-OH); Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)



2. **S. 631 - The Hydropower Renewable Development Act of 2011:** This bill would include hydroelectric energy generated in the United States within the definition of "renewable energy" for the purposes of any federal program or standard. Hydropower is a clean and affordable renewable energy resource. It powers small and large businesses throughout the West, which keeps business cost low, and jobs intact. It also provides for the affordable power needed to attract more companies to the West to bring job growth.
Sponsor: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

3. **H.R. 2172 - Utilizing America's Federal Lands for Wind Energy Act, H.R. 2173 - Advancing Offshore Wind Production Act**: These two bills would facilitate the development of wind energy resources both onshore and offshore. These bills would waive the application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to various proposed renewable-energy projects on federal lands, such as onshore and offshore weather testing sites for wind exploration. Many western states are home to world class wind, which can be an important affordable energy resource. Unfortunately, environmental red tape and litigious activist groups have made it difficult to develop wind energy. The net effect is the loss of clean energy jobs in the West and other parts of the country that this Administration purports to support.



Sponsors: Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD); Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)

4. **S. 1470/H.R. 2171 - Exploring for Geothermal Energy on Federal Lands Act, H.R. 2172 - Utilizing America's Federal Lands for Wind Energy Act**: These bills would waive the application of NEPA to various proposed geothermal projects on federal lands, making it easier to develop this domestic energy resource. Geothermal energy is another domestic renewable energy resource that America can utilize to power business and create jobs. The same litigious groups and leaders in the Administration refuse to expedite the permitting of this renewable energy resource on federal lands, where it is in abundance. Sponsors: Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID); Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD); Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID)

Positive Economic Impact

- [Coal is mined in 25 U.S. states and is responsible for over 550,000 U.S. jobs.](#)¹ Those jobs disappear if coal ash cannot be stored or recycled affordably by utilities.
- According to the National Mining Association, the average wage for all U.S. coal miners is [\\$73,476](#) compared to the average wage for all U.S. workers which is [\\$45,146](#).²
- According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, [“The U.S. hydropower industry provides approximately seven percent of our electricity and employs 200,000-300,000 people in project development and deployment, manufacturing, operations and maintenance.”](#)³
- The Department of Energy (DOE) has completed a [resource assessment](#) for 49 states.⁴ According to DOE, [“The completed work has identified 5,677 sites in the United States with undeveloped capacity of about 30,000 MW.”](#)⁵ An increase in capacity will mean an increase in the number of American jobs in this sector.
- According to the Geothermal Energy Association, they estimate [“that the industry currently supports approximately 5,200 direct jobs related to power production and management, while the total direct, indirect, and induced impact of geothermal energy is approximately 13,100 full-time jobs.”](#)⁶
- According to the Geothermal Energy Association, [“Geothermal resources tend to be located in rural areas and require the support of the local workforce. The development of geothermal resources provides not only income for rural communities but also a means by which to educate, train, and employ a diverse workforce.”](#)⁶

#2: Explore for American Oil and Natural Gas

The Obama Administration has consistently shutdown offshore energy exploration. It has also arbitrarily cancelled existing leases and continues to try and impose additional hurdles to onshore production such as duplicative environmental reviews, burdensome permitting review requirements, and delays in processing.



Members of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses and others are working to increase responsible oil and gas exploration across the country. The bills listed below will streamline the permitting process and break down the barriers imposed by this Administration. This will make it cheaper and easier for the private sector to create more jobs.

In addition to growing our economy, these bills will also strengthen America's energy security and national security.

Western Caucus Job Creators

1. **S. 706/H.R. 1287 - The Domestic Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act:** The bill would require the Interior Department to move forward with offshore energy exploration. It would also open up the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil and gas exploration. The bill creates a timeframe for environmental and judicial review. The revenues generated by the new energy production would go towards deficit reduction and alternative energy development.
Sponsors: Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)
2. **S. 1027 - The American Energy and Western Jobs Act:** The bill would streamline the oil and gas leasing process and requires this Administration to create goals for American oil and gas production in the West. The bill also encourages exploration of oil shale resources in the West.
Sponsor: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)
3. **S.953 – Offshore Production and Safety Act, H.R. 1229 - The Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act:** The bill would end the Administration's *de facto* moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico in a safe, responsible, transparent manner by setting firm time-lines for considering permits to drill. It reforms current law by requiring the Secretary to issue a permit to drill and also requiring the Secretary to conduct a safety review.
Sponsors: Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY); Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA)
4. **H.R. 1230 - The Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act:** The bill would require the Administration to move forward promptly to conduct offshore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore Virginia that the Obama Administration has delayed or canceled.
Sponsor: Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA)

5. **H.R. 1231 - The Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act:** The bill would lift the President's ban on new offshore drilling by requiring the Administration to move forward in the 2012-2017 lease plan with energy production in areas containing the most oil and natural gas resources. The bill sets a production goal of 3 million barrels of oil per day by 2027, which would reduce foreign imports by nearly one-third.

Sponsor: Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA)

6. **S. 1226/H.R. 2021 - The Jobs and Energy Permitting Act:** This bill would eliminate confusion and uncertainty surrounding the EPA's decision-making process for air permits, which is delaying energy exploration in the Alaskan Outer-Continental Shelf (OCS). It will create over 50,000 jobs and produce 1 million barrels of oil a day.

Sponsors: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Positive Economic Impact



Colorado have an estimated [800 billion barrels of recoverable oil](#), which is more than triple Saudi Arabia's proven oil reserves.⁹

- According to the American Petroleum Institute, increased oil and gas production in the Outer-continental Shelf, ANWR, and onshore could yield anywhere between [113,817 and 160,636 American jobs](#).¹⁰

- According to the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and natural gas industry supports more than [9 million jobs](#) in the United States.⁷
- According to the Energy Information Administration, oil production in the Gulf of Mexico is expected to drop by [20 percent](#) in 2012 from 2010 levels because of the Obama Administration's shutdown of offshore exploration.⁸
- According to a Rand Corporation Study, oil shale deposits in parts of Utah, Wyoming and

#3: Strengthen America's Mining Sector

Minerals are a vital component of America's incredible natural resources landscape. However, many of these valuable resources remain locked up by Washington. In fact, unnecessary and outdated permitting practices and regulations make it hard for companies to hire workers to discover and produce America's minerals.

Since the Obama Administration won't break down barriers to American minerals, our nation is growing increasingly dependent on foreign minerals from countries like China and Russia. Their inaction is unacceptable.

Caucus Members and others have proposed legislation that will ensure the long-term viability of American mineral production.

Western Caucus Job Creators

- 1. S. 1113 - The Critical Minerals Policy Act, H.R. 2011- National Strategic and Critical Minerals Policy Act:** These bills would require the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to establish a list of minerals critical to the U.S. economy and provide a comprehensive set of policies to address each economic sector that relies upon critical minerals. It also creates a high level, interagency working group to optimize the efficiency of permitting in order to facilitate increased exploration and production of domestic critical minerals.
Sponsors: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
- 2. H.R. 1904 - Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011:** The bill would authorize a land exchange near Superior, Arizona. It would swap 2,400 acres of Tonto National Forest land to pave the way for the new \$4 billion, 7,000-foot underground Resolution Copper Mine. The Resolution mine is believed to be the third largest undeveloped copper resource in the world. The land the federal government would acquire in the exchange consists of highly-coveted recreational and conservation areas, therefore this land exchange will assist the federal government in its efforts to more efficiently manage existing federal properties and protect natural treasures in the state.
Sponsor: Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
- 3. H.R. 1192 - Soda Ash Royalty Extension, Job Creation, and Export Enhancement Act:** China continues to distort the global trade of soda ash by artificially reducing the price of producing its synthetic soda ash (a product used in many household items, most notably glass). Natural soda ash, which is a much cleaner product than synthetic and is produced on public lands in the Mountain West, must compete with China's trade distorting practices. The Obama Administration has indicated that it would like to raise fees on soda ash producers just as these American companies are trying to expand and add more jobs. The Soda Ash Royalty Extension, Job Creation, and Export Enhancement Act of 2011 would keep fees the same for the next 5 years to promote job growth in this important industry, and help American companies compete against trade distorting Chinese activities.
Sponsor: Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
- 4. H.R. 2184 - The Rare Earth Policy Task Force and Materials Act:** This bill would help reestablish a competitive rare earth domestic supply chain to avert a rare earth supply crisis in the United States. There are 17 rare earth minerals that are used in many advanced technologies, from computers to precision guided

munitions to components necessary for the production of renewable energies and hybrid vehicles. They are dispersed widely around the Earth's crust but rarely in concentrations that are commercially viable. China currently provides 97% of the world's supply of rare earth metals. China has ordered a reduction in exports of rare earth metals and they have used their near monopoly status as leverage to force factory jobs to China.

The Rare Earth Policy Task Force and Materials Act requires the Department of the Interior to establish a government-wide task force to review and report back on all U.S. laws, regulations or policies that discourage the reestablishment of a domestic rare earth industry. It also calls for a comprehensive plan for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to ensure the long-term, secure, and sustainable supply of rare earth materials for the United States. In addition, the plan includes proposals on how to promote recycling possibilities and alternative materials that could act as substitutes.

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO)

Positive Economic Impact

- According to the National Mining Association, ["Every American uses an average of nearly 40,000 pounds of newly mined materials each year."](#)¹¹
- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, [rare earth deposits are largely found in the western half](#) of the United States. The development of these deposits can create thousands of jobs and provide the resources we need to manufacture key technologies.¹²



- Strict environmental regulations, litigious groups, and competition from China has stalled the development of rare earths. According to a report by CNBC on domestic rare earth mining, ["Once self-sufficient in rare earth production, sites in the US such as the Mountain Pass Mine in California's Mojave Desert operates far below capacity, according to the USGS, for these environmental and economic concerns."](#)¹³
- Resolution Copper CEO David Salisbury testified before the Senate Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee on July 9, 2008 citing an independent Ellicott D. Pollack & Company economic report. The report highlighted that the Resolution Copper Mine is projected to meet [20 percent of the nation's copper demand](#) for about 50 years and benefit the community and the region by generating as many as [1,400 full-time technical jobs](#) directly affiliated with the mine ([1,200 direct jobs and 200 contract jobs](#)) as well as a large number of service-related jobs within the region."¹⁴

- According to an independent economic study by Ellicott D. Pollack & Company, ["Over the 66 years of mine life, a peak of 1,200 mine employees and 200 construction workers are expected on-site during normal operations. Including indirect and induced jobs, the annual mine operations are initially expected to account for 2,603 total jobs with \\$178.7 million in wages."](#)¹⁵
- According to the National Mining Association, ["The U.S. possesses 550 million tons in identified and undiscovered reserves of copper. Yet, America produces only half the copper it consumes despite the fact that the price of copper is at record levels."](#)¹⁶

#4: Overturn Washington's Overreach

The Obama Administration has consistently rolled out red tape that has made it harder for the private sector to create jobs across the West. In July 2011 alone, the Administration issued 229 rules and finalized 379 rules. This will cost job creators over \$9.5 billion.

Obama Policy	Potential Jobs Lost
EPA Greenhouse Gas Regulation	1,400,000
New Utility Regulations	1,400,000
Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Delays	504,00
Offshore Drilling "Permitium"	430,000
Reclassification of Coal Ash as Hazardous	316,000
New Boiler Regulations	60,000
Alaska Drilling Delays	57,000
New Cement Kiln Regulations	15,000
Total:	4,182,000

Source: Senate Republican Policy Committee

Specifically, the Administration has attempted to drastically increase wilderness areas, expand Washington's jurisdiction of private waters, and misuse the Endangered Species Act.

The Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses support legislation that will prevent this overreach and cut the red tape.

Caucus members and others have proposed legislation that will reassert congressional authority to ensure a proper balance between job creation and conservation. These bills will increase transparency and stop any Administration from issuing regulations without considering the local economic impact.

Western Caucus Job Creators

1. **S. 1219/H.R. 2204 - Employment Impact Act:** The bill would require all federal departments and agencies to undergo a rigorous and transparent analytical process dedicated to examining job impacts comparable to that which is given to environmental impacts before they take final action on major regulatory proposals. Thus, this legislation would establish a policy that recognizes that jobs are as important to Americans as the environment – not more important, but equally important.
Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE)
2. **S. 407/H.R. 758 - National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act:** The bill would limit the unchecked presidential power related to the designation of new national monuments. The reforms include restoring Congress' authority over monument designations by requiring the legislative branch to approve new national monuments within two years of establishment. Failing congressional approval, new monuments would revert to their previous status. The bill would also ensure that any restrictions placed on public lands are narrowly tailored and essential to the proper care and management of the objects protected by a monument designation.
Sponsors: Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)

3. **H.R. 1837 - San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act**: Since the construction of the federal Central Valley Project, California's water needs have grown dramatically while supplies have stayed virtually steady. In the past few years, California saw massive economic damage inflicted by the capricious curtailment of water deliveries to San Joaquin Valley communities. Such limitations cost thousands of farm workers their jobs, inflicted up to 40 percent unemployment in some towns, and fallowed hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile farmland. Even now, when California has experienced near record precipitation and reservoirs are in flood operation, some farmers are only receiving 80% of their contracted water supplies. This year, Mother Nature has helped mitigate the current circumstance. But a far worse man-made drought, similar to 2009 where water allocations barely reached 10%, could return because draconian regulations are in place to once again divert water from farms to three inch fish – the Delta smelt. The San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act would promote water policies that facilitate the delivery of California's abundant supply of water, as well as support the implementation of an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable river restoration of the San Joaquin River.
Sponsor: Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)

4. **S.1292/H.R. 1872 - Employment Protection Act of 2011**: This bill would require EPA to analyze the impact on employment levels and economic activity, disaggregated by state, before promulgating any regulation or other requirement, issuing any policy statement, guidance document, endangerment finding, or denying any permit. Each analysis is required to include a description of estimated job losses and decreased economic activity due to the denial of a permit, including any permit denied under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).
Sponsors: Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Positive Economic Impact

- Job impact statements provide the public with more information about costs and impact of Washington's regulations. As the Competitive Enterprise Institute states in their report *Ten Thousand Commandments*, [“Regulatory costs are unbudgeted and lack the formal presentation to the public and media to which ordinary federal spending is subject, and thus regulatory initiatives allow the government to direct private-sector resources to a significant degree without much public fuss.”](#)¹⁷
- President Obama's proposed regulations on manufacturing, energy development and production will cost [11.5 million American jobs.](#)¹⁸
- In a letter to Sen. Crapo from the Public Lands Council in support of the *National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act* on February 18th, the Council highlights the negative effects of additional National Monument designations when they say, [“Such designations would be devastating to our nation's federal lands ranchers and a burden to rural economies across the west.”](#)¹⁹
- According to Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), author of the *San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act*, [“the end of regulatory uncertainty and the availability of reliable water supplies are expected to create 25,000 - 30,000 jobs in the region.”](#)²⁰

#5: Promote Agriculture, Ranching & Forestry



Throughout our nation's history, American farmers and ranchers have provided an affordable, abundant, and safe domestic supply of food, fiber, and energy. In recent years, America's agriculture and forestry industries have been increasingly threatened by the surge of burdensome regulations coming from Washington – particularly the EPA. Excessive regulations present few tangible health or economic benefits – but handcuff farm families from continuing to efficiently and affordably feed a growing population.

Additionally, the Intermountain West faces threats from wildfires, bark beetles, erosion, habitat loss, and lost forest revenue like never before. Declining federal timber harvests have adversely affected many rural communities, resulting in thousands of jobs lost.

The Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses support common sense initiatives to help promote America's agriculture, ranching and forestry industries. The bills listed below will strengthen these industries and their ability to meet the world's growing food, fiber, and energy needs.

Western Caucus Job Creators

Agriculture

- 1. Colombia, Panama, and South Korea Free Trade Agreements:** The Colombia agreement was signed in 2006, while the Panama and South Korea agreements were signed in 2007. Unfortunately, the Obama Administration has refused to move forward with these important agreements. Passage of these agreements would mean increased exports sales across the agriculture industry, as many tariffs would be eliminated immediately upon implementation. If the White House doesn't act, American exports will be replaced by other countries.
- 2. S. 718/H.R. 872 - Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011:** This bill would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to ensure that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are not needed for the application of pesticides that are currently registered and regulated under FIFRA. In 2009, a federal court held that pesticide applicators must obtain a NPDES general permit under the Clean Water Act, regardless of FIFRA registration. The permitting guidelines are scheduled to take effect on October 31, 2011. After this date, approximately 35,000 pesticide applicators will need permits to cover about 500,000 applications per year. The EPA estimates the permit will cost states, local entities, and pesticide applicators \$50 million and require 1 million hours to implement per year.
Sponsors: Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS), Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH)
- 3. H.R. 1633 - Farm Dust Prevention Act:** This bill would stop the EPA from imposing more stringent dust standards for one year. Additionally, it would afford states and localities the flexibility to address any rural dust issues before the federal government would have the authority to do so. If unregulated at the state, local or tribal level, the EPA could not regulate this type of dust unless it finds that the dust

causes substantial adverse health effects and that the benefits of rural dust regulation outweigh economic costs in the local communities. Further regulation of dust could result in lost jobs in rural America.

Sponsor: Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD)

Ranching

1. **S. 1129 - Grazing Improvement Act of 2011**: This bill would provide needed certainty and stability for family farms and ranches with grazing permits. The Act codifies language allowing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to continue issuing grazing permits while an environmental analysis is being completed and provide more flexibility with categorical exclusions for grazing permits. Absent enactment of this legislation, permit holders will continue to be at the mercy of the year-to-year appropriations process. In the face of constant environmental legal challenges, these reforms will provide greater certainty and stability to the livestock industry and the rural economies they support.

Sponsor: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)

2. **S. 989 - Flint Hills Preservation Act**: This legislation would prevent the EPA from dictating when and where ranchers in the Flint Hills region can conduct prescribed burning of native rangeland. For decades ranchers have used fire to maintain the tall grass prairie ecosystem to benefit both livestock and wildlife. Rather than have to worry about a schedule dictated by the EPA, this legislation will allow landowners to manage prescribed burning around the forces of weather and other factors impacting safe conditions, while at the same time preserve a unique ecosystem.

Sponsor: Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)

Forestry

1. **S. 781/H.R. 1920**: The current renewable biomass definition excludes any material removed from national forests and most private forestlands. As a result, cellulosic ethanol derived from this feedstock does not count toward the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) when it is used to produce biofuels. This bill would change the definition of “Renewable Biomass” to include waste material from national forests and private forestland, allowing waste from national forests to be eligible feedstock for the RFS.

Sponsors: Sen. John Thune (R-SD), Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD)

2. **S. 375 - Good Neighbor Forestry Act**: This bill would give the USFS and BLM the ability to contract with state foresters to complete forest, rangeland, and watershed health projects on federal land. This is known as good neighbor authority and is currently enjoyed by the states of Colorado and Utah. The authority has gained broad support among diverse interests in these states, including conservationists, state and federal agencies, and local governments.

Sponsor: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)

3. **H.R. 1485 - Catastrophic Wildfire Community Protection Act**: This bill would address the public health and safety threat presented by the risk of catastrophic wildfire on Federal forestlands by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to expedite forest management projects relating to hazardous fuels reduction, forest restoration, forest health, and watershed restoration. This bill also requires eligible projects on such lands to be carried out in a cost-effective manner that focuses on surface, ladder, and canopy fuels reduction activities or implements forest restoration activities in response to extreme weather events or natural disasters.

Sponsor: Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA)

4. **H.R. 1202** - This bill would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to place the Mexican Spotted Owl in sanctuaries, while also requiring the Secretary to permit the carrying out of any timber application as long as the application does not propose unauthorized clearcutting. The bill would create jobs throughout in the timber industry, which has been severely damaged by the listing of the Spotted Owl. The bill also bans clearcutting, unless it complies with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.

Sponsor: Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM)

Positive Economic Impact

- In 2010, the [U.S. had approximately 2.2 million farms that managed 920 million acres of land used for crops, pasture, or grazing](#). States west of the Mississippi comprise over [52 percent of U.S. farmers](#), but constitute over [78 percent of farmland](#) in the U.S.²¹
- In 2010, the [U.S. exported \\$108.7 billion in agricultural products](#) and the agriculture sector maintained a [positive \\$29.7 billion trade surplus](#).²² Failure to enact pending trade agreements puts U.S. agriculture at a [competitive disadvantage](#).²³
- [Agricultural production costs are projected to exceed \\$300 billion](#) in 2011 for the first time rising to an estimated 7 percent above 2010 levels.²⁴ Pending regulations will further increase production costs, resulting in reduced profitability.
- Prescribed burning of pastures controls invasive species, improves wildlife habitat, and results in an [increased average daily gain of 0.35 pounds per head per day](#).²⁵ Limiting prescribed burns will adversely impact the prairie ecosystem and ranchers' profitability.
- States west of the Mississippi comprise over 74 percent of the nation's 92.6 million [inventory of cattle and calves](#) and have nearly 92 percent of the nation's 13.6 million [head of cattle on feed](#).²⁶
- Every [1000 domestic sheep create 18 U.S. jobs](#) and over 2.75 million sheep spend time on public lands – that equates to almost 50,000 jobs.²⁷
- Total meat production in the U.S. supports [6.2 million jobs](#).²⁸
- The forest products industry accounts for approximately [5 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP](#), produce about \$175 billion in products annually, and employ nearly 900,000 men and women, exceeding employment levels in the automotive, chemicals, and plastics industries. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 47 states.²⁹

#6: Support Recreation, Hunting & Public Land Access

Over the past several years, Washington and extreme activist groups have taken steps to severely restrict access to public lands and multiple-use on those lands. Specifically, the EPA has sought to ban lead in hunting and fishing products and federal land agencies have closed roads and restricted access for off highway vehicles (OHV). In addition to undercutting local economies, these actions deter Americans who wish to responsibly recreate on public lands.

The bills listed below seek to protect Americans' Second Amendment rights, support hunting and fishing opportunities, encourage public land access and create additional year-round recreational activities in our national forests.

Caucus members and others are working to give sportsmen and recreationists the ability to enjoy our great outdoors while supporting local economies and jobs.

Western Caucus Job Creators



1. **H.R. 1443, 1444, & 1445 - Pro Hunting and Fishing Bills:** H.R. 1443, the Outdoor Sports Recreation Act, would prevent the Departments of Interior and Agriculture from prohibiting or limiting, based on material content, the use of any traditional hunting and fishing implement on public lands. H.R. 1445 would restrict the EPA from regulating, based on material composition, any type of firearm ammunition or fishing tackle. Finally, H.R. 1444 would encourage hunting on federal lands. This bill would require hunting activities be considered as a land use in all management plans for federal land, to the extent that it is not clearly incompatible with the purposes for which the federal land is managed.

Sponsor: Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA)

2. **S. 1087/H.R. 1581 - The Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011:** This bill would end the cycle of indefinite wilderness review for nearly 43 million acres of public lands. The act would allow local Americans who live and recreate on or around public lands to work with agency officials to develop land-use management plans that best balance recreation, hunting, multiple-use, and conservation. The act would release those areas the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management recommended for non-wilderness designation.

Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY); Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)

3. **S. 382/H.R. 765 - Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011:** This bill would amend permitting rules for ski areas on Forest Service land to allow for additional winter and summertime recreational opportunities. The 1986 law currently allows only ski-related activities in USFS ski areas. The bill would allow recreational sports other than skiing, such as snowboarding and tobogganing and authorize the USFS to decide on appropriate year-round and summertime activities such as mountain biking, zip lines,

ropes courses, and concerts. These changes will provide additional recreational opportunities in our national forests, and help provide year-around job opportunities for the people who make up these communities.
Sponsors: Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO), Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

4. **H.R. 412 - Kids Just Want to Ride Act:** The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act would require the removal of any product intended for children under the age of 12 that contains lead components. Some youth-model motorcycles and ATVs have lead components – all on areas of the vehicle that children are unlikely to put their mouths on. This legislation would exempt off-highway vehicles from children’s product lead limits. It’s important that young motorcycle and ATV riders use only appropriately-sized machines. This is a family-oriented issue; every weekend, thousands of families use these vehicles year-round to access their favorite camping, fishing, hunting and skiing points along endless roads and trails.
Sponsor: Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT)
5. **S. 1475 - The Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Act:** The bill would direct the BLM to manage, protect and designate nearly 9,000 acres of the Nellis Dunes area for OHV use and conveys approximately 1,200 acres of the Nellis Dunes area to Clark County for its Parks and Recreation Department to develop a race course and support area for parking, rest rooms, and other commercial support services.
Sponsor: Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)

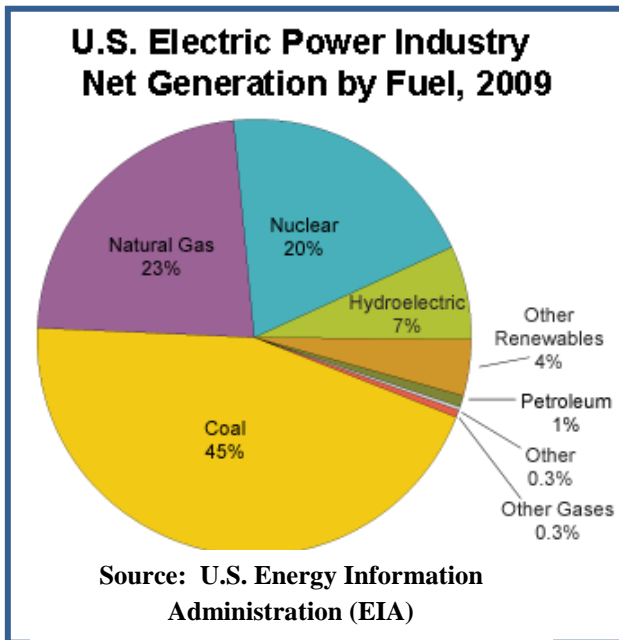
Positive Economic Impact

- Nationally, hunting and fishing generates [\\$193 million dollars per day and supports 1,179,000 jobs](#). Hunting and fishing generates [\\$87 million dollars per day and supports 530,300 jobs](#) in states west of the Mississippi.³⁰
- Approximately [44 million people](#), aged 16 years or older, participate in off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation and [one-in-five Americans](#) join in OHV recreation one or more times a year.³¹
- Over [\\$33 billion](#) was spent on outdoor recreation equipment and [159 million individuals](#) in the U.S. participated in 18.3 billion outdoor recreation activities.³²
- The 2010 Motorcycle Industry Council Statistical Annual Report stated there were 13,230 motorcycle and powersports retail outlets employing 107,544 workers nationwide with a payroll of \$3.6 billion. States west of the Mississippi accounted for 5,522 retail outlets employing 50,409 workers with a payroll of \$1.69 billion.
- The economic impact of off-highway vehicle recreation in California alone is [\\$9 billion annually](#). This makes OHV recreation the fastest growing form of recreation in California.³³



#7: Eliminate Backdoor Cap & Tax Regulations

Coal is America's most affordable and reliable energy resource. The Obama Administration has tried to make the price of coal "necessarily skyrocket." Coal plants have to make the decision whether to make costly upgrades and pass the costs on to businesses and families, or simply close. Rolling blackouts have become more common in recent years and President Obama's policies are making it worse.



Backdoor climate change regulations being proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies, are a big part of the problem. The more expensive it is for companies to produce energy, the more expensive it will be for Americans to buy energy. U.S. companies are at a competitive disadvantage with companies in China, where new coal fired power plants are being built each week to provide cheap energy and Chinese job growth.

All of this is done by the Administration knowing that the benefits of reducing carbon output in the U.S. will not reduce global temperatures by one degree. The only real result will be a dramatic reduction in American jobs. That is why the American people rejected cap and tax legislation. This Administration is moving forward with these climate tax policies regardless, without Congressional authorization.

Members of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses are committed to fighting Washington's backdoor cap and tax regulations.

Western Caucus Job Creators

1. **S. 228/H.R. 750 - The Defending America's Affordable Energy and Jobs Act**: This bill would pre-empt federal restrictions on greenhouse gasses in the name of addressing climate change, in the absence of explicit Congressional authorization. This would necessarily include mandatory requirements that may stem from applications of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.
Sponsor: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
2. **S. 482/H.R. 910 - The Energy Tax Prevention Act**: This bill would prohibit the Administrator of the EPA from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change using the Clean Air Act.
Sponsors: Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI)

Positive Economic Impact

- According to the National Association of Manufacturers, “Access to affordable, reliable and secure energy supplies is absolutely critical for manufacturers as they use one third of our nation’s energy supply.”³⁴
- According to *Investor’s Business Daily*, “It is estimated that 1.3 million jobs will go overseas by 2014 if steps are not taken to address the bad economic policies that lead to outsourcing, which can include raising the cost of energy on large and small employers.”³⁵
- According to Thomas Pyle with the Institute for Energy Research, “There is also no question that if the President is concerned about keeping jobs in the U.S. and keeping energy prices low for all Americans, he should demand that the EPA drop its nonsensical assault on the American people. This new ‘green tape’ will cost businesses billions of dollars a year and force companies to either lay off workers or send jobs to China, India, and the other developing nations of the world.”³⁶

#8: Reduce Junk Lawsuits

Since 1970, the number of excessive lawsuits against federal agencies has increased dramatically. Often these suits are based on procedural motions that serve no purpose but to tie the hands of federal agencies. These lawsuits cancel energy projects across the West and destroy jobs.

Worse, the taxpayer is unwittingly on the hook to reimburse these heavy litigators. Individuals, small businesses, energy producers, farmers, and ranchers are forced to fight relentless litigation out of their own pocket. These irresponsible lawsuits destroy jobs and economic growth.

Members of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses are fighting to reform the litigation process. American energy, grazing and forestry projects must be able to move forward without the threat of junk lawsuits.

Western Caucus Job Creators

1. **S. 1061/H.R. 1996 - The Government Litigation Savings Act:** This bill would reform the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) by disallowing the reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs for large, deep-pocketed special interests when they repeatedly sue the Federal Government. In accordance with Congressional intent, the bill retains federal reimbursement for individuals, small businesses, veterans and others who must fight in court against a wrongful government action. By eliminating taxpayer funded reimbursement of attorney's fees for wealthy special interest groups, the legislation will help eliminate repeated, procedural lawsuits that grind the work of land managers to a halt.
Sponsors: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
2. **S. 706/H.R. 1287 - 3-D, Domestic Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act of 2011:** This bill, along with stimulating important energy projects, would establish a reasonable time frame on the review process for energy projects, as well as limits the reimbursements from the federal government to groups for filing claims against domestic businesses.
Sponsors: Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Positive Economic Impact

- In a June 14th, 2011 letter signed by 34 members of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to the members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus they state, "[Passage of the Government Litigation Savings Act will restore order to our land management agencies' missions, and permit them to manage and conserve our wildlife, natural, scenic and cultural resources.](#)"³⁷
- According to the Western Energy Alliance, "[Litigation significantly drives up the cost of development and threatens job creation and economic growth in the West.](#)"³⁸
- According to the National Association of Conservation Districts, taxpayer funded EAJA reimbursements "[...come out of federal agencies' bottom line, which detracts from agency priorities, such as the management of multiple-use activities on federal lands.](#)"³⁹

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