

Land Rights Network
American Land Rights Association
PO Box 400 – Battle Ground, WA 98604
Phone: 360-687-3087 – Fax: 360-687-2973
E-mail: alra@pacifier.com
Web Address: www.landrights.org
Legislative Office: 507 Seward Square SE – Washington, DC 20003

Who Is American Land Rights and Why You Should Care

American Land Rights (ALRA), Who We Are and What We do

ALRA has been asked by our members and allies to tell better explain about some of the specialized activities we engage in.

Who are our members:

Private Property owners nationwide
Inholders inside Federal areas nationwide
Ranchers with grazing permits
Private land Ranchers
Cabinowners on Forest Service land
Cabinowners on private land
Users of Federal land
Individuals and businesses concerned about access to Federal land
Individuals and businesses concerned with environmental regulation
Individuals and businesses concerned with the following agencies:
National Park Service
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection Agency
US Army Corps of Engineers

This message should allow you to fully understand how ALRA can help you.

The following threats are coming at you now.

Are you concerned about the following issues?

The expanding deficit;
Protecting private property rights
Borrowing money from China;
Eminent domain and Condemnation;
Federal land acquisition;
Competing with the Green Groups in Congress;
Obama National Monuments;
Obama Treasured Landscapes Initiative;
Obama America's Great Outdoors Campaign;
Local and National Federal EIS Comment Periods;
Spreading new Obama Federal land use controls;
New Obama Wilderness Study Areas;

Corps Of Engineers and EPA Wetlands Jurisdiction Expansion;
New Federal areas
New land lock-ups like National Parks, NRA's and much more;
Lost access to National Forest and BLM Areas;
Omnibus Federal land and water Bills in Congress;
Proposed new Wild and Scenic Rivers;
Alaska lands issues;
RS 2477 roads issue;
The Wildlands Project
Coordination and County Empowerment
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWAR);
Protecting grazing on Federal lands;
Protecting access to minerals and forestry areas; and the
Economic impact on your community of new or expanded
Federal land use controls?

All these threats and more are coming at you now!

American Land Rights can help you fight back.

ALRA can help you with tools and tactics to guide you and your local group be more successful. We can lead a campaign or simply help you organize a coalition led by local leaders. It is all about team play.

ALRA is at its best when working with aggressive, energetic local leaders and groups. Together we can organize to fight back against the coming giant Obama land grabs as well as local threats.

A few examples of successful campaigns are cited below. You can get more specifics and information by calling ALRA at (360) 687-3087 or writing ALRA at alra@pacifier.com or Chuck Cushman at ccushman@pacifier.com

We are giving you this information not to toot our own horn but to help you see the different kinds of battles; tactics and tools ALRA can help you with.

You can see lots of documents, films and helpful material at the website of American Land Rights --- www.landrights.org

-----Do you need help fighting eminent domain or condemnation?

ALRA helps individuals and groups fight eminent domain and condemnation by the Federal, State or county government.

-----Do you need help fighting a new Obama National Monument or other land grab?

ALRA works in cooperation with other groups and has led successful campaigns to stop new National Monuments. ALRA can give you the tools and tactics to increase your chances of fighting off the proposed Obama Monuments.

-----Are you facing a Federal or state public comment period and need to get in as many comments from allies as possible to protect your rights?

ALRA can help you reach out to hundreds of thousands of allies to get comments on your side of an issue.

ALRA helps local groups and individuals with e-mail, fax and mail campaigns to get as many public comments as possible protecting private property rights, keeping Federal lands open and limiting the spread of government control and new Federal areas.

ALRA has over 600,000 e-mail addresses, 900,000 fax numbers and several million names and addresses of people who generally support private property and access and use of Federal lands. ALRA has allies in every state and Congressional District.

-----Do you need help fighting the new Obama Treasured Landscapes Initiative or New Wilderness Study Areas? The first test of this massive land grab is in Montana where the Interior Department and the Obama Administration are planning the withdrawal of millions of acres and the land acquisition of millions more.

ALRA has many years of experience fighting these kinds of proposals and can help your local groups put together a plan to fight them off.

-----Do you need to defeat a bill in Congress that threatens you?

ALRA can help you develop a campaign to allow you to compete in Congress on land, natural resource, private property and environmental issues. We can help you reach out and tell your story to the constituents of the Congressmen and Senators you need to educate in any state. ALRA can help you build allies for your issue.

-----Do you need help passing legislation that can assist you?

ALRA has the tools and many years working with Congress to help you achieve your objectives. ALRA has key people and allies in Washington, DC who can help us help you. ALRA has tens of thousands of allies in every state and Congressional district.

-----Do you need to get the attention of your Congressman or Senator?

ALRA has a reputation of being effective in Congress on many land, private property and environmental issues.

-----Do you need help and are not sure whether you need a lawyer or political help?

Often issues do take a lawyer, or they can be solved through political action. There are many cases where it is appropriate to do both. ALRA can help you get the assistance you need. We can recommend a lawyer or legal foundation that may be able to help you.

-----Do you need help learning to compete in the political process?

ALRA arranges seminars on competing in the political process.

Are you starting a grassroots group and need help? Chuck Cushman and ALRA can help you get your group up and running and guide you as you put together all the parts to make you effective from the start.

-----American Land Rights, Chuck Cushman, and our other associates and allies can help you with all these subjects and many more.

ALRA has the tools, tactics and techniques to help you fight for your rights. Chuck Cushman has over 35 years of experience working with groups in all 50 states to help them organize and win their battles. We have a success rate of over 90%.

Many people are surprised to learn that ALRA helps individuals as well as organizations. We have been helping individuals for our whole history.

ALRA can help you build an organization to protect your community.

ALRA is a non-partisan political action association specializing in private property rights, stopping the expansion of government land use controls, land acquisition, environmental legislation and government regulation with unique specialized political skills in grassroots activism.

ALRA networks with and affiliates with many groups across America to help them as they compete in the political process on their own issues. ALRA has the tools and tactics necessary to help you get on the political playing field and compete quickly and effectively.

You can call American Land Rights at (360) 687-3087 or write alra@pacifier.com or Chuck Cushman at ccushman@pacifier.com

Why you and American Land Rights (ALRA) should be on the same team:

-----ALRA is your political insurance policy;

-----ALRA has a powerful record of accomplishment in Congress;

-----Cooperating as a team with ALRA, your voice is loudly heard in Washington, DC;

-----ALRA is known for its aggressive protection of members' rights;

-----You have access to our Washington, DC office;

-----You have a full time Headquarters in Battle Ground, Washington loaded with tools to help you;

-----Hundreds of thousands of allies in ALRA e-mail, fax and mail lists to help you win on your issue;

-----ALRA offers crisis management services to members and allies;

-----Grassroots organizing and coalition building to help you save your property or interest are areas where ALRA excels.

-----ALRA has helped organize grassroots groups in every state; These groups are independent and do not operate under the ALRA umbrella. ALRA is simply an ally with a set of specialized tools to help local and national groups achieve their objectives.

-----Day-to-day consulting on land use and environmental issues is available. ALRA and Chuck Cushman can help you get started, obtain the tools you need and show you how to use them when you are threatened in your local area by government expansion or actions by extreme environmental groups.

-----ALRA provides teaching tools for grassroots activists to help you compete in the political process.

If you are already an ALRA member, we thank you and appreciate your support.

If you are not a member you can join ALRA for the first year at the reduced membership rate of \$25. The regular rate is \$35.

Just go to www.landrights.org to join or simply mail a check for \$25 if you are a new member to American Land Rights, PO Box 400, Battle Ground, WA 98604. If you are a returning member, the rate is \$35.

Be sure to specify what issues you are concerned about to make sure you receive the appropriate e-mails.

Getting started is easy. Just call American Land Rights or send an e-mail to alra@pacifier.com or ccushman@pacifier.com with your contact information (phone, fax and e-mail) and a little about your issue. Your postal address would be helpful too.

American Land Rights helps local landowners, grassroots groups and communities to fight threats to their property and future. ALRA has helped elected officials, County Commissioners and Supervisors, State Legislators and even numerous Members of Congress on specific issues.

Examples of threats might be:

A proposal for a new National Park, national monument, expansion of government controls, or the taking of land from many landowners, ranchers, miners, forestry and other multiple use advocates;

The new Obama Treasured Landscapes Initiative, National Monuments, Wilderness Study Areas or Obama National Great Outdoors Plan proposals would be examples that you might need help fighting in your area.

You might want to stop a proposal to convert existing multiple use Federal land such as a National Forest or BLM area into a limited use National Park largely set aside as Wilderness where you and the public largely can't go.

One of many examples of action by ALRA was stopping the proposed Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Oklahoma. ALRA designed and led the campaign to defeat the proposal. ALRA has helped defeat dozens of similar proposals across America for over 35 years. We've listed a few more examples below.

-----Are you facing a public comment period for a new Federal Regulation that threatens your use of or access to your property? Examples might be the Clinton Roadless Rule, Obama National Monuments, Wilderness Study Area or Treasured Landscape Initiative proposals.

-----Are you facing a bill in Congress that if passed, would threaten your use of your land or water? This might be a bill that affects just a local area like a proposed Wild and Scenic River or a huge bill affecting a large part of your state or several states.

Or it might be the now pending Clean Water Restoration Act (S 787 in the Senate) (HR 5088 in the House) that vastly expands the jurisdiction of the EPA and Corps of Engineers to cover all of your water and your watersheds. Those numbers apply to the old Congress. The new Congress will give these bills new numbers.

The Clean Water Restoration Act eliminates the word "Navigable" from the Clean Water Act thus allowing the Corps and EPA to gain jurisdiction over "all waters of the United States and all activities affecting the waters of the United States."

S 787 is the "Clean Water Restoration Act" in the Senate while Rep Oberstar changed its name in the House to "America's Commitment To Clean Water Act" (HR 5088) in order to confuse you. Happily Rep. Oberstar was defeated in the November election.

If passed, HR 5088 and S 787 would give the Corps and EPA jurisdiction over all waters of the United States and all activities that might affect all waters of the United States. Since all land is in a watershed, HR 5088 and S 787 will give the Corps and EPA jurisdiction over all your land and all Federal land.

These bills will be reintroduced in the new Congress with new numbers but the danger is still there.

Another bill you might be concerned about is the effort by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to turn the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) into an off budget Billion Dollar Trust Fund where the land acquisition funding for the Federal agencies does not have to go through the Congressional appropriations process or compete with other national fiscal priorities. This bill must be defeated.

The current Obama massive expansion of government land use controls is an example of how ALRA would help you fight locally.

The Obama Treasured Landscapes Initiative is a huge expansion of Federal regulation. Recently the Obama Administration announced the proposal to lock up millions of acres in withdrawals and new Monuments in Montana.

They've also announced their plan to overturn the Bush Administration Wilderness Study Area rules and plan to announce more Wilderness Study Areas.

This plan is coming to you soon. Montana is just the first test state. You will hear about many more in the next few weeks.

-----ALRA has successfully fought plans like this numerous times in many states over the years.

-----Other examples include the successful fight against the Yellowstone Vision Document that threatened two million acres of private and Federal land around Yellowstone National Park.

-----Another example is the proposed Interior Columbia Basin Eco-System by the Clinton Administration. This was a monster land grab. 72 million acres of private land out of the 144 million acres total in the area. The plan would have covered all of Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington, all of Idaho, Western Montana and small parts of California, Wyoming and Utah.

American Land Rights helped form a coalition and worked with grassroots leaders in several states to stop the massive land grab in the 90's.

President's Commission on Americans Outdoors – Another giant land grab plan fought by ALRA. ALRA led the effort to stop the biased report and exposed the illegal activities being carried out by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors in the 80's. This plan was very similar to the Obama Great Outdoors Plan now being pushed across America. Some of the same people are involved.

-----ALRA led the successful effort to stop 56 Wild and Scenic Rivers in Washington State. We helped groups stop Wild and Scenic River proposals in a dozen other states.

-----ALRA also stopped 19 Wild and Scenic Rivers in Michigan in 1990 twice.

ALRA organized the successful Fire Babbitt White House Phone In during the Clinton Administration. The White House phone system was shut down for days. This went along with our Fire Babbitt Pink Slip campaign that resulted in bill boards in several states.

ALRA also organized the successful Official Clinton Free Zone campaign with tee shirts, bumper stickers, banners and even billboards across the West.

American Land Rights helped local communities work with Congress to defend their rights in various ways. ALRA helped prepare many witnesses for Congressional hearings.

ALRA helped develop numerous films that educate the public about the abuses by the Federal land agencies. These include:

The PBS Frontline TV show "For the Good Of All" about Park Service land acquisition abuses. The film can be seen at www.landrights.org

Other films that ALRA was involved with can also be seen at www.landrights.org including:

- 1. In Condemnation, The Cuyahoga Valley
- 2. For All People, For All Time
- 3. Big Park – Created by Grant Gerber from the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation in Elko, Nevada.

-----American Land Rights helps defend landowners from the proposed taking of private land. Here are just a few examples that ALRA fought and won over the years: ALRA has over a 90% winning record.

-----The key to our success is your call to us asking for help.

ALRA saved the Saddleback Mountain Ski Area in Maine from Park Service condemnation and extreme regulation in 2000.

ALRA worked with very good local landowners to stop the Big Sur National Park and then a National Scenic Area twice on the California Coast in the 80's.

ALRA organized and led the effort to stop the Corps of Engineers from removing 2,000 cabins on the Mississippi River in several states.

500 landowners in Alabama were saved by ALRA on the Little River from the National Park Service.

The Park Service threatened eminent domain against numerous landowners in different communities along the Appalachian Trail in various states in the East over 25 years. ALRA led the successful effort to stop every eminent domain where we were asked for help.

Chuck Cushman got his start in the 70's when the Park Service tried to take his house and those of 300 neighbors in Wawona in Yosemite National Park in California. That successful battle led to the formation of the National Inholders Association that later changed its name to American Land Rights. The Community of Wawona is still there and the Cushman cabin is still there.

ALRA helped stop the takeover of the Gaviota Coast in California by the Park Service in the mid 2000's.

ALRA led the effort to stop a massive Park Service plan on the Upper Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New York in the mid 80's.

ALRA stopped the foreclosure of Wayne Hage's ranch by Cigna Insurance allowing him to go forward with his successful lawsuit against the Forest Service.

The Hage lawsuit changed Western land law. ALRA helped Hage go national, organized his first press conference and helped him stop several bad grazing bills in Congress over a number of years.

ALRA stopped the condemnation of the entire community of Foresta in Yosemite National Park after the Park Service had allowed much of it to burn down in a huge fire.

ALRA saved Kathy Stocklen and her Riverside Canoes rental business in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore from Park Service eminent domain.

ALRA stopped several eminent domain actions by the Park Service in Grand Teton National Park and saved the entire community of Kelly from the Park Service.

ALRA worked with other organizations to kill the National Natural Landmarks plan. This was called “ladies in waiting” by the National Parks and Conservation Association. It was a secret plan for dozens of new National Parks. It is still the dream of the Park Service.

-----ALRA led the successful fight to stop two Clinton National Monuments in Oregon in 2000 working in cooperation with local groups.

-----ALRA worked with many groups and led the Northern Forest Stewardship Act Battle. This was the fight to stop the Northern Forest Stewardship Act which would have put Federal controls around 26 million acres of private timberland in the North Woods of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

-----That would have led to a whole new series of Federal land areas such as National Parks, refuges and other designations.

This was a huge win for American Land Rights and its allies, private property advocates and the many groups who participated in the campaign.

-----Here are some more specific examples of the kind of work ALRA does:

The Battle over CARA (1999-2004) (Conservation and Reinvestment Act) – ALRA called it the Condemnation and Relocation Act. It would have set up a Federal trust fund to pay the Park Service and other land acquisition agencies over \$3 billion per year automatically, off budget to buy private land and convert it into government ownership.

It would have meant the end of most inholders and landowners in Federal areas over time and put a dagger in the heart of Rural America.

Review Chuck Cushman CARA testimony on HR 701 from 2000 at www.landrights.org

The CARA battle began in 1999 and ran through approximately 2004. Senator Lamar Alexander still wants to re-introduce it in an upcoming Congress.

ALRA successfully led an early 1990's Boycott of GE and Ford over Audubon TV shows that in three episodes targeted grazing, mining and logging. The Audubon shows in general up to that time were great but the group began to use the show as a pulpit for their political agenda. The ALRA boycott got both Ford and GE to drop their sponsorship.

The Audubon shows then were switched to CNN for a while but ALRA organized a successful boycott against CNN and the shows

were dropped. The Audubon shows have not been back on the air since.

2008 – ALRA saved Colf family farm in Washington State from eminent domain by the Corps of Engineers for wetlands mitigation resulting from Corps dredging on the Columbia River. ALRA has saved numerous farms, ranches and other types of property and businesses over 30 years.

The Colf family farm battle shows how ALRA takes on individual cases and helps individuals, families and businesses fight back against eminent domain and other government controls.

These are just a few examples. ALRA is usually helping individuals and groups to save themselves in battles going on all the time.

To join with the American Land Rights Association, go to www.landrights.org For only \$25 for the first year, you can help ALRA help you and road test ALRA to see if it fits you.

After the specially reduced Membership rate the first year of \$25, the regular membership of \$35 applies.

If you are a member of another grassroots group, do not quit. ALRA urges coalition building and team play. ALRA simply adds help but you need to continue to support your local, regional and national grass roots organizations.

The more members that participate in the American Land Rights Association, the more resources we have to fight for your property rights and your continued use of and access to Federal lands.

Go to www.landrights.org to check us out.

If you wish to unsubscribe, reply to this e-mail with “unsubscribe” in the subject line. If you know of others who would like to receive these alerts, reply with their e-mail addresses.

-----Please forward this message as widely as possible. The more allies ALRA has the more we are able to help you protect your property rights and your community.

It is important for other groups, individuals and communities to know where to go to get help when threatened by the new Obama Federal land use control programs.

If you are not already a member, we hope you decide to join and help ALRA help other groups compete in the political process.

You can join easily by going to www.landrights.org or just mailing a check for \$25 (New Members) or \$35 for regular membership to PO Box 400, Battle Ground, WA 98604.

Your support will make a big difference. Many members send extra contributions to help American Land Rights be even more successful. These extra contributions are often the difference in how much success we achieve.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Chuck Cushman
Executive Director
American Land Rights Association
(360) 687-3087
ccushman@pacifier.com