



Written by [Joe Wolverton, II, J.D.](#) on August 14, 2023

Biden's Latest Land Grab Less About Saving Native American Culture Than Seizing Control of Uranium

The White House has claimed control over more than 900,000 acres of land in Arizona. President Biden insists that the land grab was necessary to “tell a more complete story of our nation” and to “strengthen climate resilience across America’s National Parks system,” but the real reason is likely a little less noble.

As reported by [Reason](#), the control of critical deposits of uranium might have motivated the president to “preserve” this particular swath of the Southwest:



BAlvarius/Wikimedia Commons
Gray Mountain, Arizona

According to a senior administration official, the area hosts 1.3 percent of the country’s known uranium reserves. But this figure doesn’t tell the whole story.

“Maybe if you’re trying to count molecules then it’s only 1.3 percent, but I’d say it’s 100 percent of America’s high-grade uranium deposits locked up in the monument,” says Curtis Moore, senior vice president of marketing and corporate development at Energy Fuels—a uranium-mining company that owns the Pinyon Plain mine in the Grand Canyon area. “And grade typically corresponds to lower-cost, more-accessible, and lower-environmental-impact mining. For every ton of ore you pull out of the ground, there is more uranium in that ton.”

What could possibly go wrong with giving the federal government complete control over such a rich resource?

Besides, who is going to oppose the policy when it’s presented in a such a way as to discourage any criticism or questioning? Here’s an excerpt from the [White House’s “Fact Sheet”](#) regarding the “protection” of the land in question:



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President Biden will sign a proclamation establishing the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument in Arizona. Baaj nwaavjo (BAAHJ – NUH-WAAHV-JOH) means “where Indigenous peoples roam” in the Havasupai language, and i'tah kukveni (EE-TAH – KOOK-VENNY) means “our ancestral footprints” in the Hopi language. The name reflects the significance of the Grand Canyon area, not just to one, but to many Tribal Nations.

This designation, which marks the fifth new national monument established by President Biden, honors Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples by protecting sacred ancestral places and their historically and scientifically important features, while conserving our public lands, protecting wildlife habitat and clean water, and supporting local economies.

Who has the political capital required to tell the truth about an act wrapped in such politically correct packaging?

Furthermore, who has the knowledge to explain that, although this theatrical pandering may be popular, it is a clear violation of the U.S. Constitution's limits on the federal government's authority to possess land within the territories of sovereign states?

Let's look at the exact wording of the U.S. Constitution. Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 states that Congress shall have power:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of Particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.”

From this passage, we can derive the constitutional prerequisites for the federal government to gain control of land within the United States.

Firstly, the land must be acquired through purchase.

Secondly, the acquisition of the desired land by the federal government necessitates permission from the state government in which the land is situated.

Thirdly, the land's usage is limited to forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, or “other needful buildings” of a military nature.

How did the Founding Fathers come to adopt the notion that the central government could only assert dominion over land when it served military purposes? This concept traces back to Anglo-Saxon law known as the *Trimoda Necessitas*. This law, first documented in English legal writings in A.D. 680, restrained the monarch from asserting exclusive control over land within the realm unless it was intended for military purposes such as arsenals, facilities for crafting military armaments, or fortifications.

That's pretty clear — and pretty clearly ignored.

According to [data compiled](#) by the Congressional Research Service in 2020, the federal government possesses approximately 640 million acres, equivalent to roughly 28 percent of the total land area of the



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United States (about 2.27 billion acres).

The Constitution is clear. The process is plain. So why is nothing being done to stop the federal government from stealing land from the states and the people, regardless of the pretext?

The most likely explanation is that the people are unaware of the historical and constitutional facts set out in this article. The federal government has an interest in assuring that the American people are kept ignorant of these principles, so the federal government exercises some degree of curricular control over most of the country's schools, where most of the country's children are "educated."

In fact, the indoctrination and misinformation machine has exalted the concept of government supremacy to such a degree that to convince the people that such a thing as a "national park" is unconstitutional is an uphill battle, to say the least. National parks are seen as evidence of the government's wise stewardship of our country's natural beauty, not as evidence of the federal government's tyrannical disregard of clear constitutional restrictions on its power.

Not only does the Biden administration's latest land grab put tons of uranium under the monopoly control of the military-industrial complex, but, as noted above, it provides the president with an opportunity to be seen as a defender of the rights of Native Americans.

Perhaps the smokescreen isn't blinding everyone, however, as the [following statement](#) issued by Representative Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) reveals:

This administration's lack of reason knows no bounds, and their actions suggest that President Biden and his radical advisors won't be satisfied until the entire federal estate is off limits and America is mired in dependency on our adversaries for our natural resources. This land belongs to the American people, not any administration or bureaucrats who think they make the laws.



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