

CLAIM: A message to all Montana voters, regardless of how you consume your campaign information: Gianforte's views on public lands are self-serving and dangerous.

Missoulian: “Governor Candidate Gianforte Sued State In 2009 Over Access To River.” In 2016, from the Missoulian: “Gov. Steve Bullock and Democratic organizers took aim at Republican gubernatorial candidate Greg Gianforte on Monday after an anonymous liberal blog surfaced a 2009 lawsuit filed by a family-owned company to kill a public access easement in Bozeman. East Gallatin LLC sued Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in May 2009 to remove an easement that provided public access along the East Gallatin River, arguing that users were damaging adjacent land, the original 1993 agreement by a previous owner was invalid and that the public had sufficient access via two other nearby sites. The complaint was filed to create a foothold for a case, but the papers were never served to the agency.” [Missoulian, [5/10/16](#)]

CLAIM: Montanans should be insulted by Gianforte's actions to sell Montana's public lands to the highest bidder and privatize national forests.

Gianforte Contributed to \$27,500 to the Foundation for Research on the Economy and the Environment (FREE). From 2007 to 2013, Gianforte contributed \$27,500 to the Foundation for Research on the Economy and the Environment. [Guidestar, Gianforte Family Charitable Trust, accessed [7/18/16](#)]

- **FREE Advocated for the “Charter Forest Plan” to Transfer National Forests to “Users.”** In 1997, John Baden, chairman of the Foundation for Research on the Economics and the Environment (FREE) advocated for a plan to transfer national forests, later known as the “Charter Forest Plan.” According to Baden: “A public, non-government trust could oversee the management of noncommercial areas. Endowment boards, like those running museums, hospitals and private schools would operate under a legal charter to steward individual forests.” [FEE.org, [10/01/97](#)]
- **FREE’s Charter Forest Plan Would Privatize National Forests.** From *Milwaukee Business Journal*: “The Charter Forest Plan transforms nature into commodity. The people’s forests would become mere production units. Producing what? Why, whatever yields the most money-whether trees, minerals, game, Jeep trails or family-fun operations. [...] After generations of supporting these forests with federal taxes, citizens would quickly become mere customers seeing price tags on every use. With its frank invitation for ‘the creative efforts of environmental entrepreneurs,’ the Charter Forest Plan sets the state for a transfer of control of the people’s forests from the larger representative government to private industry.” [Milwaukee Business Journal, [4/14/02](#)]

Gianforte Family Charitable Trust Contributed \$1,150 to Americans for Prosperity. In 2013 and 2014, the Gianforte Family Charitable Trust contributed \$1,150 to Americans for

Prosperity at 6909 Rising Eagle Road, Bozeman, MT 59715. [[Gianforte Family Charitable Trust 2013 IRS 990 via Guidetsar.org](#)]

- **Americans for Prosperity Pushed for Transferring Federal Land to the State.** From Americans for Prosperity Director James Valvo: “On behalf of more than two million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I am writing in support of the Federal Land Freedom Act of 2013, which would allow governors to petition the federal government to control and lease certain federal land in order to develop energy and natural resources. Trillions of dollars in natural resources exist in public lands through the United States by federal government policies prohibit their use.” [Americans for Prosperity, [5/30/13](#)]
- **Americans for Prosperity Lobbied for A Bill to Transfer Federal Land to the State.** From the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*: “Barbs were thrown during a legislative hearing on the first of three bills dealings with transferring federal lands in Montana to the state...Joe Balyeat, Americans for Prosperity spokesman and former Bozeman legislator, was the only person who spoke in favor of the bill saying it would take politics out of the debate. ‘In the ultimate long-term goal, which is to get many federal lands transferred back to Montana state government, this removes political posturing so instead you can just focus on the policy,’ Balyeat said.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [2/09/15](#)]

Gianforte Contributed \$8K to the Heritage Foundation. From 2008 to 2014, Gianforte contributed \$8,000 to the Heritage Foundation. [[Gianforte Family Charitable Trust IRS 990 via Guidetsar.org](#)]

- **The Heritage Foundation Called For Selling Federal Land in the West.** “A recent Heritage Foundation report details some areas ripe for privatization: ‘The federal government currently owns and controls vast assets, including huge swaths of commercial land, especially in the West; power generation facilities; valuable portions of the electromagnetic spectrum; underutilized buildings and financial assets. Given the federal government’s huge debt, it makes sense to sell at least a portion of these assets...’” [Library Economics and Liberty, [7/04/11](#)]

CLAIM: Gianforte violated Montanan's constitutional rights when he sued to keep people from accessing public land off of his riverfront mansion.

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complaint was filed to create a foothold for a case, but the papers were never served to the agency.” [Missoulain, [5/10/16](#)]

The Montana Constitution Guaranteed Public Ownership Of All Waters In The State And The 1985 Stream Access Law Solidified Public Access. According to the Public Land/Water Access Association: “The Montana Constitution of 1972 also said that the public owns the waters in the state. However, It took until 1985 to make this access policy when the Montana State Legislature passed House Bill 265, the stream Access Law. SAL allows the use of the public rivers to the ordinary high water line for recreational purposes. [...] In 2009 the public won another access issue when the Montana legislature ruled that public recreational access to streams at county road bridges was legal and could not be denied.” [Public Land/Water Access Association, accessed [9/22/20](#)]

Greg and Susan Gianforte Own a Bozeman, Montana Home Appraised at Nearly \$806,577 in 2019. Greg and Susan Gianforte own property at 1320 Manley Rd in Bozeman, MT. The property consists of more than 11 acres of agricultural land, a five bedroom three and a half bathroom dwelling, and a garage. In 2019 the property was appraised at \$806,577; the land was appraised at \$7,957 and the dwelling was appraised at \$798,620. The Gianfortes purchased the property in 1994. There is no indication of late payment of property taxes. [[Gallatin County Assessor, Accessed 11/5/19](#)]

Greg Gianforte can't be trusted to protect our Montana way of life; he only cares about himself.