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A fundraising campaign on FundedJustice.com to pay for Ammon Bundy's legal fees has raised \$73,500 as of Feb. 24, though Eugene attorney Mike Arnold, who is representing Bundy, has said he is providing the work pro bono.

As willy-nilly as the occupation may have looked — the occupiers' call for "snacks" early on in their takeover elicited humor on social media — the campaign to take public lands out of federal control is lengthy and well funded.

Dark money is political funding where the sources are not known. According to the Center for Public Integrity, "The two most common vehicles for dark money in politics are politically active nonprofits and corporate entities such as limited liability companies. Certain politically active nonprofits — notably those formed under sections 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) of the tax code — are generally not required to publicly disclose their donors."

The billionaire Koch brothers are often cited as purveyors of dark money — see *New Yorker* journalist Jane Mayer's *Dark Money: The Hidden History of Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*. As she writes in a 2010 *New Yorker* piece, the Kochs are known for "creating slippery organizations with generic-sounding names," making it "difficult to ascertain the extent of their influence in Washington."

And the Kochs have been associated with funding anti-federal lands efforts in the West, but dark money makes it hard to trace.

What can be traced is that the Kochs have been frequent donors to conservative political advocacy group Americans for Prosperity. For example, the Center for Media and Democracy reports that Koch Industries gave \$902,500 to Americans for Prosperity in 2000, and \$952,500 in 2001. David Koch himself gave \$1 million to Americans for Prosperity in 2001 and \$850,000 in 2003. According to the Koch Industries website, Kochfacts.com, David Koch is chairman of the board of the AFP Foundation.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Americans for Prosperity has donated to a group called the American Lands Council, which seeks to "secure local control of western public lands by transferring federal public lands to willing states" that is largely funded by counties.

The former leader of the American Lands Council, Ken Ivory, has stepped down, and has now joined up with another group, Federalism in Action's "Free the Lands" project. According to *ThinkProgress*, Federalism in Action was founded by the State Policy Network and State Budget Solutions. "Because FIA is a new organization, its funding sources are not yet public. However, according to IRS filings, State Budget Solutions received money through the Donors Capital Fund, an organization known for cloaking the sources of funding which it distributes, and is sometimes referred to as a Koch 'ATM.'"

The new American Lands Council leader, Montana State Sen. Jennifer Fielder, wrote an op-ed in a Montana paper that supported the militants' cause, decried the prison sentences of the Oregon ranchers that set off the occupation, slammed federal land management and promoted the Lands Council.

Finally, ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, which backs right-wing legislation, has long pushed to take public lands out of federal control. It has supported the "Sagebrush Rebellion" bills and currently lists a bill that authorizes states to exercise eminent domain (take over) authority on property possessed by the federal government.

Koch foundations have given ALEC at least \$600,000 in the past decade, according to the Center for Media and Democracy.

Are the Kochs funding the Bundys, and did that funding allow the occupiers to leave their ranches for the weeks of the occupation and now jail time? What's certain is that the billionaire industrialists are funding efforts to take public lands, and its natural and mineral resources such as gold and uranium, away from the federal government. — *Camilla Mortensen*

UO RESEARCH FORUM HIGHLIGHTS WORK BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate student Jewell Bohlinger studies human and cultural geography at the University of Oregon, and she's currently researching prisons — from environmental impacts within prisons to whether prisons can be sustainable with high incarceration rates.

Bohlinger is one of more than 100 UO graduate students who will present their research projects Feb. 26 at the UO's Ford Alumni Center for the UO Graduate Student Research Forum, organized by the UO Graduate School.

The event will include interdisciplinary panel sessions where graduate students will speak about each of their individual projects, a poster session where visitors are invited to vote on their favorite poster and a five-minute blitz presentation by students. In each of these categories, students will be judged and have the opportunity to win a cash prize.

At the event, Bohlinger will speak on a panel about her project, "Sustainability in Prisons."

"Prisons are not great for the environment," Bohlinger says. "They are a lot like hospitals. You have to have power running at all times, they have to

have lights on at all times for safety and they have a lot of power going into them just to keep them safe and effective. That's a lot of energy that's being used."

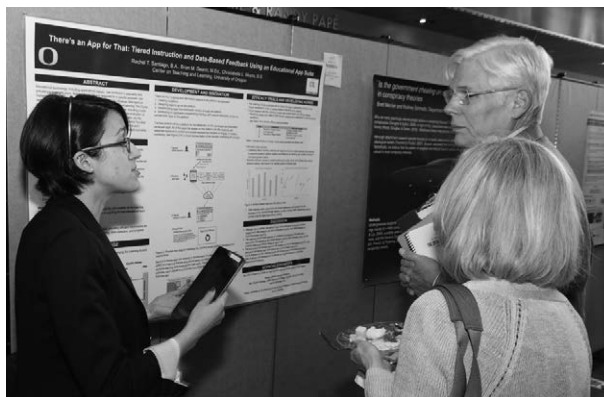
Dan Shtob, a master's student in the environmental studies program, will also speak on a panel at the event and discuss his research project, "Fluid Boundaries: Envisioning Catastrophic Risk on the Oregon Coast."

Shtob's process for this project included speaking with 25 Coos Bay residents to initially discuss climate change. As a result of this discussion, Shtob found that a salient issue for Coos Bay residents was the possibility of a massive earthquake and tsunami, also known as "The Big One."

"I really like empathic research, and I really like

trying to understand not only what people feel or what people believe but why they feel they believe that. It is really a key to both finding effective ways to address problems, and also finding ways to build consensus around issues," Shtob says regarding his work.

The UO Grad Forum will begin at 10 am Friday, Feb. 26, at the Ford Alumni Center at the UO campus. Food will be provided at the free event. To see a full list of the projects, visit bit.ly/1TvPs7P. — *Claire Rischiotto*



ANYA DOBROWOLSKI & BETH SWEENEY

A native of Rockville, Maryland, with a degree in music education from George Mason University, Anya Dobrowolski came to Eugene in 2006 for grad school in landscape architecture. She finished a master's degree in 2011 and was hired as assistant director of the school's newly minted one-year graduate certificate program, Oregon Leadership in Sustainability (OLIS). That's where she met Beth Sweeney, an OLIS student who had worked six years for the EPA in Dallas, Texas, and in her hometown of Seattle. When Dobrowolski left OLIS for freelance work as a planning and sustainability consultant, Sweeney stepped in as assistant director. "We got together for a beer in October of 2013," Dobrowolski recalls. "We talked about our life goals and changes we wanted to make happen." They decided that creating a

community tool library could satisfy many of those goals. "We spent most of 2014 'friend-raising,'" says Sweeney. A meeting with city green-building officials brought a pledge of startup funding, and a neighborhood picnic encounter with Pastor Mike Mugford of the Friendly Street Church of God brought the offer of a building site. The Eugene ToolBox Project gained nonprofit status in February of 2015 and began lending tools from the back of a pickup in July. "We're getting close to 100 members," Dobrowolski reports. A 440-square-foot building, designed by a team of volunteers to house the library, is currently under construction at 23rd and Adams. Until it is completed, lending hours are limited to 9 am to noon on Saturday. To learn about membership and fees, and to see a complete inventory of available tools, visit eugenetoolboxproject.org.