

# NATURE'S TRUST

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# THE TRUST PARADIGM

- Climate change puts a premium on all remaining natural resources.
- Government must mitigate dangerous carbon loading of the atmosphere.
- Confronting climate change and protecting natural resources requires a clear sense of government obligation that is inherent to sovereignty, not a matter of political choice.

# (1) Government is the Legal Trustee of our Natural Assets.

- The atmosphere, oceans and the global hydrologic cycle are commonly held assets shared by all nations.
- All Nations are sovereign co-tenant trustees, holding the *fiduciary responsibility* to not degrade the common assets.
- Government must manage the trust for present and future generations of citizens.

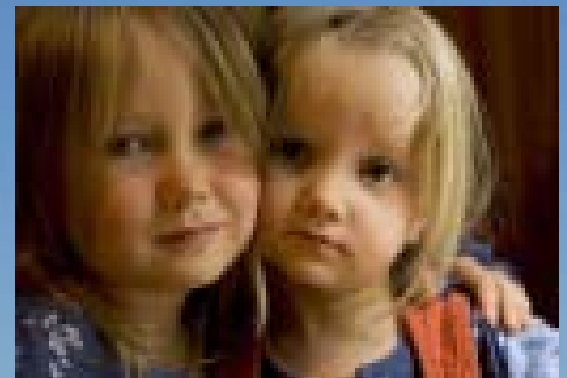


“The state can no more abdicate its trust over property in which the whole people are interested...than it can abdicate its police powers in the administration of government....”

*Illinois Central Railroad Co. v. Illinois,  
U.S. Supreme Court (1892).*

## (2) Trustees Have a Duty to Protect Assets and Restore Assets

- “The trustee has a duty to protect the trust property against damage or destruction. He is obligated to the beneficiary to do all acts necessary for the preservation of the trust res . . . .” – Bogert, The Law of Trusts
- Government must manage the trust for present and future generations of citizens, and cannot give away crucial public assets or allow private interests to irreparably damage them.



### (3) The Atmosphere is the Most Crucial Asset in the Trust.

- The atmosphere is a shared asset.
- All nations must together protect the atmosphere in order to prevent climate catastrophe.



- If even one major industrialized nation does not accept its share of carbon reduction, it will sink other planetary efforts and leave an “orphan share” that must be compensated for elsewhere.

## (4) By Abdicating its Trust Responsibility, the U.S. is Threatening the Earth.

"Climate crisis is . . . a civilizational issue."

Ross Gelbspan, *Boiling Point* (2004).

"Earth [is] perilously close to dramatic climate change  
that could run out of our control. . . ."

James Hansen et al., *Climate Change and Trace Gases*,  
Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A, 1925 (2007).



## (5) Trustees Have Specific Duties that Serve as Measures of Performance.

- To meet its *fiduciary obligation*, the United States government must take to steps to meet its share of the planetary carbon reduction:
  - 1) Cap emissions by 2010;
  - 2) Reduce emissions by 4% every year thereafter;
  - 3) Ultimately reduce 80% below 2000 levels by 2050.





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# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Vision
- Courage
- Imagination
- Perseverance
- School & Community Support
- Hard Work

