

Glenda Wiles

From: Daniel Ritter <ritter4@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 9, 2018 3:50 PM
To: Greg Chilcott
Cc: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Dark money letter to AG

Commissioner Chilcott,

I am concerned about several issues raised in the commissioners recent letter to the State attorney general regarding “dark money” funding of environmental groups.

While I agree some environmental groups engage in dubious tactics designed to slow or stop Forest Service resource management projects, to imply they are responsible for our extreme fire seasons is a little over the top. Global warming and development in the wildland-urban interface are the biggest factors contributing to the unprecedented fire severity and costs associated with fighting them. We can’t log our way out of the fire and smoke problem.

That issue aside, I am more concerned that your letter only partially addresses the role of outside influence on resource management policy. In addition to outside funding of environmental groups, I am concerned about who is behind the funding of groups like the Montana Outdoor Coalition. Other than a list of advisory board members, their website provides no information about their non-profit status or organization funding. Are they receiving outside money or are any of their sources of information linked to dark money political influence?

I am hopeful that you will revisit this issue and consider amending your letter to include all dark money groups that are influencing our politics and resource management policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Ritter
Stevensville