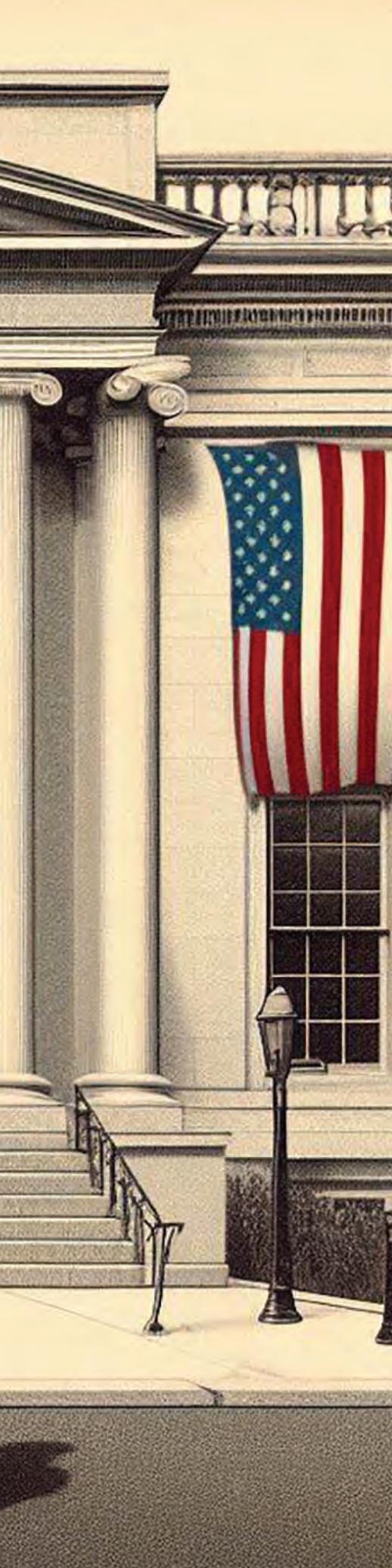


D.O.U.P





D.O.U.P.

*An introduction to the Department of Unserious People.
Words & A.I. meme by Marjorie Haun.*

The six-foot-something man bore a moustache, sharply prominent nose and chiseled jaw. He was decked out in a National Park Service regulation shirt and green miniskirt, pantyhose, black spike platform go-go boots, a flaming red wig and Kabuki-style theatrical makeup. Drag queen NPS ranger “Patti Gonia” towered over Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland as she stood at the gates of New York City’s Stonewall National Monument and interviewed him in commemoration of pride month.

“Tell me, in your own words, why places like Stonewall are so important to telling America’s story,” Haaland inquired of Gonia.

He replied: “That’s a good question. I think it’s because queer rights are more under attack than ever.”

If you’re having trouble formulating this scene in your mind, I understand, so let me help out. On June 24, 2016, President Obama designated the site of the “Stonewall riots” as a national monument. Covering a few acres in Greenwich Village, Stonewall National Monument pays tribute to the demonstrations that gave rise to the gay movement in America. The only part Obama got right about SNM was its limited size. Otherwise, there are few Americans aware of the monument and even fewer who believe it tells the story of America. But demographics aside, what the hell are they doing at the Department of Interior?

Seemingly obsessed with sexual identity politics, the feds’ land-management agencies (Interior and Agriculture) have “pride” employee resource groups (ERGs) in their underling agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. According to a BLM press release: “Pride in BLM ERG strives to promote interaction, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among

Department of Interior and BLM employees who identify as LGBTQIA+ and their allies while aiming for full inclusivity of various sexual, gender and romantic minorities. The aim for inclusivity is not only in the organization but also for those exploring BLM-managed lands.”

Okay. So you want LGBTQIA+ (I have no idea what most of that acronym stands for) folks to be included, but what does that have



Standing at the entrance of DOI’s Stonewall National Monument in New York City, Secretary Haaland interviews self-proclaimed environmental activist drag queen “Patti Gonia” about the LGBTQ movement and its roots in the “Stonewall Riots” in Greenwich Village. (Screenshot from @SecDebHaaland X account video, dropped Oct. 2, 2023.)

to do with protecting grazing rights and facilitating multiple uses and resource development? And where is the science in all this?

DOI’s principal deputy communications

Secretary Deb Haaland @SecDebHaaland · Jun 1
 Happy Pride Month, everyone! I'm proud of @Interior's efforts to lift up the LGBTQI+ community. Together, we can help our country learn and reflect on the history of the ongoing fight for equality, especially in the face of more aggressive attacks and violence.



TOP LEFT: Screenshot from official DOI Secretary X account @SecDebHaaland. TOP RIGHT: On June 1, 2023, the Bureau of Land Management showed its support of the LGBTQI+ community by marching in Utah's Pride Parade. Photo from Bureau of Land Management website. CENTER LEFT: In October 2023, '80s pop star Billy Idol lends his wisdom and scientific expertise on western water issues to eager listeners at the Department of Interior. Screenshot taken of a retweet on Secretary Haaland's official X account. BELOW: Transgender activist and part-time left-wing agitator Tyler Cherry is the deputy communications director for the DOI. (Photo from Cherry's professional LinkedIn account.)

Secretary Deb Haaland @SecDebHaaland · Oct 19
 I'm grateful to leaders like @BillyIdol, @DepSecBeaudreau and @usbr Commissioner Touton for using their platforms to help all Americans learn what they can do to address the drought impacting the U.S.

Tommy Beaudreau @DepSecBeaudreau · Oct 19
 @BillyIdol gets it! The Colorado River Basin is the life source for countless communities who depend on it for drinking water and electricity. @Interior is working to make the Basin more resilient to climate change and drought, but everyone has a role in helping conserve water.



director is Tyler Cherry, a transgender activist. Lifestyle choices aside, Cherry seems to have a taste for Marxist revolution and was recently taken to task on X for posting comments that equated police to the KKK and called them "slave patrols." He unabashedly sides with Palestine in the war against Israel, and as early as 2018, Cherry called for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to be abolished. Yeah, this person works for the government you fund with your tax dollars. Cherry is obviously well acquainted with what BLM stands for, but not the Bureau of Land Management BLM.

But never fear! Folks at the DOI are so laser focused on solutions that in October of 2023, Secretary Haaland held court with foremost western water expert Billy Idol (yes, that Billy Idol) in her D.C. office to discuss ways to conserve water and make the West more "climate resilient." It's comforting to know our DOI is seeking the best scientific minds to hash out serious solutions to weighty problems. No, let's be honest. These people are



completely unserious.

For three years, Biden's cabinet departments have been populating agencies with radical activists. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is herself in league with the climate cultists who want us to believe that weather of any sort is evidence of global climate instability and that unless we rid the world of fossil fuels, that weather is going to bring about the end of civilization in two, three, five years—whatever the most recent hysterical talking points stipulate.

Tracy Stone-Manning, Haaland's director of the Bureau of Land Management, is an unvarnished ecoterrorist, and her senior-most deputy, Nada Wolf Culver, is an attorney who has sued the government many

times on behalf of Green groups including the Wilderness Society.

But, c'mon man, let's give credit where credit is due to the old-fashioned environmentalist radicals. There was a time when they—with their devotion to environmental activism—at least pretended to care about science. But as Patti Gonias, Tyler Cherry and Billy Idol so graphically illustrate, Biden's DOI seems to have abandoned science altogether for pandering and theatrics.

While western ranchers are in peril of losing millions of AUMs through the loss of access to BLM and USFS lands, hostile

foreign actors are buying up land and water rights, myriad natural and man-made threats are bearing down on Americans whose livelihoods depend on well-managed public lands, the DOI is "larping" as social justice warriors. "Live Action Role Play" is an activity in which grown-ups with too much time on their hands act out a fantasy life with costumes and choreographed action. ■

Marjorie Haun is a freelance journalist specializing in western issues related to ranching, agriculture, natural resource development and property rights. Her old-fashioned sensibilities are challenged by the transformation of land and resource management agencies into petri dishes of weird and wacky social activism.