

Prepared Questions & Answers
We the People Radio
(12-6-15) Ginger Rodgers Interview

1. How do you know Catherine Vandemoer? (Dr. Kate?)

I previously worked with Ms. Vandemoer (Dr. Kate) in the U.S. government. Dr. Kate is quite smart and crafty, and is very loyal to her prior bosses in the Clinton administration Department of Interior. She is not likely as close to Interior officials working in the Obama administration Department of Interior.

- a. Why is it important for others, especially irrigators in the Pacific Northwest, to know about her?

Everywhere Dr. Kate has worked in the West and Pacific Northwest, either for the government or for a federally recognized Indian tribe, irrigators have lost valuable privately held water and land rights. She is bad news for irrigators whom she pretends to educate and protect at the same time that she restores and expands federal and tribal water and land rights. Those irrigators who have come across Dr. Kate should, out of conscience, warn others about her.

2. Who is Catherine Vandemoer and where and for organizations has she worked?

As you can see from her **resume**, which remains publicly available on the Montana State Legislature's website (**Doc.# 1 on We the People Radio website**), Dr. Kate is a highly trained hydrologist specialized in the quantification of federal reserved water rights, including water rights reserved by the federal government for the benefit of federally recognized tribes. She was the first assistant to former Clinton administration Interior Department Assistant Secretary Ada Deer, who was the well-known Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") responsible for substantially reforming it. Since the Nixon administration, the BIA has become an agency staffed by Indians performing services for Indians. The BIA is anything but an objective federal agency.

Dr. Kate also has a keen interest in Indian reservation-related environmental and wildlife issues, having worked also on a limited basis with EPA on environmental tribal self-governance issues, including, by developing programs to enable and enhance implementation of National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act on and off reservations by federally recognized tribes via adoption and enforcement of tribal regulations (**Doc. #s 4 and 5 on We the People Radio website**).

In addition, Dr. Kate worked more extensively with NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service as the Mid-Columbia River Basin representative in Washington State and Oregon, where she oversaw tribal implementation of the Endangered Species Act (**Docs. # 6, 7, 8 and 9 on We the People Radio website**).

- a. Is it true that she is a hydrologist specializing in the quantification of federal reserve water rights and endangered species act implementation in favor of federally recognized tribes and federal agencies?

Yes.

As Dr. Kates' resume (**Doc.# 1 on We the People Radio website**) reveals, while she was a BIA official, she: 1) “[c]haired the Taos Pueblo Federal Water Rights Negotiation Team and produced the first settlement assessment document” (**Doc. # 27 on We the People Radio website**); 2) co-chaired “the American Indian & Alaska Native Task Force on the White House Domestic Policy Council” which *inter alia* focused on “government-wide funding sources for Tribal natural resources, environmental, and treaty rights protection programs” (**Docs. # 3, 4 and 5 on We the People Radio website**);” 3) materially contributed to the intergovernmental Clean Water Action Plan by coordinat[ing] the development of guidelines for and completion of Tribal Watershed Assessment reports;” 4) “contribut[ed] several chapters” to a Western Water Policy Commission report “describing the distribution and status of Indian water rights across the western U.S.;” 5) “[n]egotiated the ‘Columbia River In-Lieu Fishing Sites’ agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, implementing P.L. 100-581, a sixty million dollar program for the restoration of fishing sites on the Columbia River;” 6) worked on intergovernmental and tribal-inclusive forums and participated in tribal-governmental negotiations that produced Secretarial Order 3175 - “American Indian Treaty Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act” (1997); and 7) “[d]eveloped the Wind River Water Code to implement and protect federal reserved water rights awarded to the Tribes in the Big Horn Decree” (**Doc. # 11 on We the People Radio website**).

When she worked for NOAA, Dr. Kate: 1) served as a “Hearings Officer [/Administrative Law Judge] for several hearings on the implementation of the Endangered Species Act in central and western Oregon and Washington;” 2) “[n]egotiated an ESA-habitat conservation plan for two million acres of farm land involving the Mid-Columbia Consortium of Soil and Water Conservation Districts spanning four counties in Central Oregon;” 3) “[w]rote a Biological Opinion under Section 7 of the ESA for the conservation of steelhead salmon in the Bureau of Reclamation’s Umatilla Project in the Umatilla Basin, east-Central Oregon, considering the water rights and treaty resources of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, state water uses, and federal program priorities” (**Doc. #s 6 and 7 on We the People Radio website**); 4) “[r]epresented the Habitat Conservation Division in the planning of a watershed-wide program for salmon protection, watershed restoration, and agricultural development in the Walla Walla Basin, Washington.”

- b. Has she worked for Indian tribes (See her resume) and nonprofit environmental groups? (Oregon Watch)

Yes. As Dr. Kate's resume (**Doc.# 1 on We the People Radio website**) reveals, she also has worked as an employee or representative of several federally recognized tribes on watershed and environmental issues. These include the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming (**Doc. #s 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 28.B on We the People Radio website**), and the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated

Tribes) on the Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota (**Doc. #s 28, 28.A on We the People Radio website**).

Moreover, Dr. Kate has worked for some environmental groups, such as the Oregon-based WaterWatch for which she served temporarily as Executive Director (**Doc. #s 15, 16 and 17 on We the People Radio website**).

3. What type of work is Dr. Kate doing currently that you feel her identity and her work need to be publicly disclosed at this time?

On June 19, 2014 (almost 80 years to the day from the enactment of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (“IRA”)), Dr. Kate first expressed her interest via email in participating in the State of Montana’s negotiation of a Water Compact with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwestern, Montana. Dr. Kate dispatched this email to the Chair of the Montana Legislature’s Interim Water Policy Committee CSKT Compact Technical Working Group (“WPIC-CCTWG”) (**Doc. #25 on We the People Radio website**). For those members of your audience unfamiliar with the CSKT, the CSKT became the first federally recognized tribe in 1935, one year after President Franklin D. Roosevelt had signed the IRA into law. The IRA, otherwise known as the “Indian New Deal,” generally served to reverse Congress’ traditional goal of assimilating Indians into American society via its prior enactment the Great Allotment Act of 1887 and its amendments which had opened up Indian reservations to white settlers for homesteading, mining and other activities. The IRA is also historically significant because it generally decreased federal control of American Indian affairs and increased Indian “self-government” (self-governance) and responsibility.

Following her June 19, 2014 email, Dr. Kate was provided the opportunity, on June 25, 2014, to make a presentation to the Montana Legislature in which she analyzed the technical elements of (i.e., the quantification of federal reserve water rights in) what is now known as the “CSKT Water Compact” (**Doc. # 31 on We the People Radio website**). She thereafter advised the WPIC-CCTWG from time-to-time.

While Dr. Kate’s resume remained on the Montana Legislature website (and still does) (**Doc.# 1 on We the People Radio website**), she tactically created for herself, via use of the blogosphere and regular Church attendance, an intolerant, racist and “God-loving,” Bible-preaching, anti-Compact “Constitutional Conservative” persona that has endeared her to many members of the irrigator communities located on and near the Reservation, including in the community of Kalispell, MT to the north of the Reservation (**Doc.# 32 on We the People Radio website**). Dr. Kate thereby strategically embedded herself among those who would eventually come to believe they could trust her and provide her with monetary contributions (since, as the story is told, she arrived penniless and required financial handouts and a borrowed home) in exchange for which she worked “tirelessly” on their behalf for “the cause.” Dr. Kate then set off to oppose the CSKT Water Compact in the same Montana Legislature she simultaneously (and secretly) advised, in an apparent “effort” to defeat then circulating legislation designed to enact the Compact into state law. Despite her “formidable efforts,” which, at times, assumed the form of putative public outbursts, demonstrations and tirades against Indians and the federal government, the Montana

House and Senate managed to vote in favor of bills favoring the Compact's enactment. The last of these bills (SB262), which was introduced in January 2015, favorably reviewed by Republic Attorney General Timothy Fox and passed by the Senate in April 2015. It was then signed into state law by Democratic Governor Steve Bullock in May 2015, and thereafter, approved by the CSKT. Although Congress must first ratify this State-Federal-Tribal Water Compact as federal law, given the need for federal appropriations to enable full state implementation, Montana has already begun to implement it by forming the bodies needed to achieve full implementation, and the Tribes have already begun to take liberties in restricting water flows to Reservation irrigators.

- a. You mentioned that Dr. Kate arrived penniless and receives handouts from members of the irrigator communities. Do you know if she is currently receiving funding from any other sources?

Dr. Kate may possibly be receiving funding from several different sources, ranging from deep-pocketed ranchers north of the Flathead Indian Reservation to private foundations (**Doc. # 33 on the We the People website**).

One such foundation is the Wyss Foundation begun by Swiss billionaire, Hansjorg Wyss, which has ties to George Soros, through one of the environmental groups the Wyss Foundation funds. The Wyss Foundation is reported to be "one of the main backers of the controversial American Prairie Reserve project which is buying out ranches in Northeastern Montana, and one of whose Board members is Keith Anderson – George Soros' "money man." Wyss also is "a big contributor to several dark money environmental groups posing as 'sportsmen' in order to help advance the Democratic party agenda here in Montana. (In fact, he's donated \$132 million to 186 different liberal groups since 2002)," and Hansjorg Wyss is, himself, [a Board member for the left-wing Center for American Progress](#).

Since 2007, the Vice-Chair of the Wyss Foundation's Board has been John Leshy, a U.C. Hastings Law Professor who previously served as Team Leader of the Clinton-Gore Transition Team, as Special Counsel to Chair George Miller of the Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and as the Solicitor General of the Clinton administration's U.S. Department of Interior. He is recognized as having represented tribal and environmental group interests in litigation, and as drafting some rather telling departmental memoranda restoring federal Indian reservation status.

Dr. Kate also may be receiving funding partially from the Conservation Lands Foundation ("CLF") which has former Clinton administration Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, serving on its Board of Directors. CLF's mission is "to protect, restore and expand the National Conservation Lands through education, advocacy and partnerships." The National Conservation Lands is short for the [Bureau of Land Management's National Conservation Land System](#). Current (since 2007) Wyss Foundation President, Molly McUSIC, previously served as counselor to former Secretary Babbitt, overseeing the designation of national monuments under the Antiquities Act. Former Secretary Babbitt, "[i]n a 2010 speech commemorating the 10th anniversary of the "executive order creating the system," praised McUSIC's role in both creating NCLS and facilitating the Clinton administration's monuments' frenzy."

Dr. Kate, no doubt, has run across Hansjorg Wyss and George Soros, as well as, John Leshy, Molly McUSIC, Bruce Babbitt and members of the Center for American Progress's Board of Directors, with whom she served in the Clinton administration, such as former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former EPA Administrator (and Obama administration Director of the Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy), Carol Browner, and former Clinton White House Chief of Staff (and Counselor to President Obama), John Podesta.

4. I understand that you have come to the conclusion that Catherine Vandemoer is a deeply embedded "operative." How does she manage so well to remain "under deep cover"?

Well, she regularly attends Church with members of the irrigator community and current and former members of the Montana Legislature, refers to herself as a "Constitutional Conservative," is involved in one or more tea party groups, has authored some pretty disturbing racially infused internet blogs, and cohosts a radio show where she has appeared on-air with religious extremists, including Red Beckman. This provides a rather extensive resume of some who ostensibly opposes "big" government and champions private property rights. This all looks good from the outside but, upon closer inspection, reveals itself as inherently inconsistent with her many years of service to the U.S. government and federally recognized Indian tribes (**Doc. #32 on the We the People website**).

5. Given Catherine Vandemoer's / Dr. Kate's extensive knowledge and experience of federally reserved water rights and her prior work for the U.S. government and for federally recognized Indian tribes whose fishing, hunting and water rights she fought to protect, how concerned should irrigators in Montana and elsewhere be?

As I noted earlier, Dr. Kate's finest water rights work has had an impact at the following locations:

- a. Washington State, Mid-Columbia River Basin (**Yakima Reservation**)
- b. Southern Oregon, Northern Klamath Basin (**Klamath Indian Reservation**); Eastern Oregon (**Confederated Tribes of Utmilla Tribal Reservation**)
- c. Wyoming (**Wind River Reservation**)
- d. North Dakota (**Fort Berthold Reservation**)
- e. Montana (**Flathead Reservation**)

(Doc. #s 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 34 on We the People Radio website)

6. Do you think Catherine Vandemoer is now looking to make new "friends" elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest?

I understand that she is, but I can't say where at this time.

7. Do you have any specific advice concerning Catherine Vandemoer that you wish to share with Pacific Northwestern irrigators?

a. How should irrigators deal with Catherine Vandemoer should they encounter her?

Irrigators in all Western and Pacific Northwestern States should establish open channels of communication and be willing to come to the support of one another when they learn of irrigators in a given state or region who are encountering federal, tribal and environmental group efforts to limit their water and land rights. They should know that what happens in one state or region can be used against them at some point.