

0:00:08.583,0:00:11.791

Hi, and welcome to the Ogden Way Podcast,  
a place where we tell the story

0:00:12.000,0:00:15.000

about Ogden by telling the stories  
about Ogden's people.

0:00:15.500,0:00:19.250

Today, we have an opportunity  
to flip the script again.

0:00:19.541,0:00:22.166

One of my favorite, podcasts that we do.

0:00:22.166,0:00:23.791

My name is Jaynee Nadolski.

0:00:23.791,0:00:27.208

And I am here  
with, a person from Ogden as well.

0:00:27.375,0:00:32.000

Mayor Ben Nadolski,  
who is also my husband and who allows me

0:00:32.000,0:00:36.500

the opportunity to come and grill him  
on questions that I have.

0:00:36.500,0:00:39.166

And I think a lot of people  
also have in the community.

0:00:39.166,0:00:42.166

I wasn't sure there for a second  
if you to admit me and my wife.

0:00:43.625,0:00:44.333

Here we are.

0:00:44.333,0:00:46.541

Yeah. Well, thanks for coming.  
Public record at this point.

0:00:46.541,0:00:48.416

So I think so, I hope so. I'm proud of it.

0:00:48.416,0:00:50.166

Yeah, I am too. Okay.

0:00:50.166,0:00:53.166

And I think my favorite part about  
this is just giving you a hard time

0:00:53.250,0:00:54.375

whenever I can.

0:00:54.375,0:00:55.250

This is how we talk.

0:00:55.250,0:00:58.000

But how are

how are you doing? Doing good. Yeah.

0:00:58.000,0:00:58.916

Busy day.

0:00:58.916,0:01:00.291

Yes. Yeah.

0:01:00.291,0:01:00.875

Yeah.

0:01:00.875,0:01:03.000

You've been your go, go, go. It's always.

0:01:03.000,0:01:04.958

That's how I live life, as you know.

0:01:04.958,0:01:05.958

Go go go go go.

0:01:05.958,0:01:08.166

Yeah. That's why you fall asleep again.

0:01:08.166,0:01:09.291

Yep yep. Yeah.

0:01:09.291,0:01:11.916

That's what. Yeah. That's why

I fall asleep at nine every night. Yeah.

0:01:11.916,0:01:14.208

So one of the things that we want to do  
with this podcast,

0:01:14.208,0:01:17.791

and a lot of the podcasts that I get to be  
on, is just to talk a little bit about,

0:01:18.375,0:01:21.625

you know, some issues  
that, have popped up in the community

0:01:22.041,0:01:25.166

and, and kind of look at what's going on  
behind the headlines.

0:01:25.166,0:01:26.666

We've talked about this before.

0:01:26.666,0:01:31.583

So there's a couple things that I wanted  
to, you know, pick your brain

0:01:31.583,0:01:36.750

about publicly as it relates to public  
space, open, open space, public lands.

0:01:36.750,0:01:38.791

And, you know,  
the first one is we'll just start

0:01:38.791,0:01:41.416

with an easy one is, you know,  
we live right across from the Mount Ogden

0:01:41.416,0:01:41.791

golf course.

0:01:41.791,0:01:44.458

And I noticed that the

the fence is going in.

0:01:44.458,0:01:46.083

That's correct.

And I'm very excited to see that.

0:01:46.083,0:01:48.791

Can you talk a little bit about that

and what that means. Yeah.

0:01:48.791,0:01:53.166

Well, it's it's really part and parcel  
to an improvement we made in the park

0:01:53.250,0:01:57.541

and at the golf course over in El Monte,  
too, there was this really rough looking,

0:01:59.375,0:02:00.458

net that was a protective

0:02:00.458,0:02:04.375

netting barrier between the driving range

and the, in the golf course.

0:02:04.416,0:02:05.416

It just looked really bad.

0:02:05.416,0:02:06.958

And it's one of those things  
that you get used to,

0:02:06.958,0:02:08.666

and you see it for so long,

0:02:08.666,0:02:09.208

and you really don't

0:02:09.208,0:02:12.333

realize how bad it looks  
and how much it really reflects poorly

0:02:12.333,0:02:15.500

on our on our parks  
and on our golf courses until it's gone.

0:02:16.291,0:02:17.333

And so we replace it.

0:02:17.333,0:02:20.333

And if you go there now,  
this is the curb appeal and the,

0:02:20.916,0:02:24.166

the overall professionalism  
and the appeal of the space is just night

0:02:24.208,0:02:27.041

and day difference  
with that one small change.

0:02:27.041,0:02:30.416

And this fence at Mount Ogden park  
that separates the park from the

0:02:30.416,0:02:31.833

the golf course is really similar.

0:02:31.833,0:02:34.000

It was this old white fiberglass

0:02:34.958,0:02:37.375

fence that was just falling apart  
for years and years and years.

0:02:37.375,0:02:38.625

The paint was peeling off of it.

0:02:38.625,0:02:42.541

And you and I have become  
so accustomed to seeing it all the time

0:02:43.083,0:02:46.125

that we really don't realize  
how bad it looks after a while.

0:02:46.291,0:02:49.208

Yeah, but, so we are replacing

0:02:49.208,0:02:52.291

all of the the white, fiberglass fence

0:02:52.875,0:02:56.583

with brand new steel painted black.

0:02:56.916,0:02:57.750

Really nice.

0:02:57.750,0:03:00.750

It's going to blend more into the,  
into the environment.

0:03:01.291,0:03:04.750

It's also going to be a lot more durable  
and have a lot more longevity

0:03:04.750,0:03:06.458

than what we had before.

0:03:06.458,0:03:08.916

And I think it's going to blend in enough  
that you're

0:03:08.916,0:03:11.166

almost  
just not even gonna notice anymore. Right.

0:03:11.166,0:03:13.958

And we're also and  
and it's an important point too,

0:03:13.958,0:03:17.458

is we're not adding any new fence, we're  
replacing the fence that we had

0:03:18.166,0:03:23.125

where, you know, like when we took our

kids to go, winter sledding.

0:03:24.333,0:03:26.041

We always went through, cut through.

0:03:26.041,0:03:28.916

Yeah. And that was just through  
a broken section of fence. Yes.

0:03:28.916,0:03:31.708

But that's where people created a habit

0:03:31.708,0:03:34.708

to go through to, to access the golf  
course during the winter.

0:03:34.833,0:03:38.875

That's maintained by our golf course  
staff with for winter activities.

0:03:39.500,0:03:42.208

So we're going to accommodate  
that with the, with the gate.

0:03:42.208,0:03:44.833

So it come winter

activities will be able to open up

0:03:44.833,0:03:47.375

that gate for, for public access

just as normal.

0:03:47.375,0:03:47.916

Okay.

0:03:47.916,0:03:53.208

Instead of having to step over a broken  
fence and climb through, a forest.

0:03:53.958,0:03:54.541

Yeah. Yeah.

0:03:54.541,0:03:57.166

The public will have a more formal  
has access point that way, too.

0:03:57.166,0:03:59.458

Well, that'll be good. Yeah. So.

But it's interesting.

0:03:59.458,0:04:00.541

You and I said

0:04:00.541,0:04:03.916

our housing, you just see people walking  
and sitting there looking and wondering.

0:04:03.958,0:04:04.500

Yeah.

0:04:04.500,0:04:04.916

So we've done

0:04:04.916,0:04:08.583

a lot of targeted communication as well  
through local, Facebook pages.

0:04:08.583,0:04:13.250

Neighborhood watch, neighborhood  
pages, etc., to let that area know.

0:04:13.666,0:04:16.333

But, so for anybody  
that's seeing any construction happening

0:04:16.333,0:04:20.583

over at Mount Ogden Park, this was always  
this was the big improvement for,

0:04:21.083,0:04:24.000

the park amenities and thoughtful  
improvements that we were looking forward

0:04:24.000,0:04:25.375

to making there. Right, right.

0:04:25.375,0:04:28.708

And you know how long it'll be like,  
what's the timeline on when they expect

0:04:28.708,0:04:29.416

to be finished with that?

0:04:29.416,0:04:33.250

Because it does take up a lot of  
the parking space at the Mount Ogden Park.

0:04:33.375,0:04:33.666

Yeah.

0:04:33.666,0:04:35.708

Yeah, I think  
I think I don't remember the exact date,

0:04:35.708,0:04:38.166

but I think we'll be done within a month.

Oh, good. Yeah.

0:04:38.166,0:04:39.500

I can't wait to see what it looks like.

0:04:39.500,0:04:41.375

Yeah, and there's already completed  
pieces.

0:04:41.375,0:04:42.833

We've already heard.

0:04:42.833,0:04:46.041

Directly from neighbors on the, north  
end of the course.

0:04:46.208,0:04:46.708

Okay.

0:04:46.708,0:04:49.416

That as soon as we did that section  
before we even painted it,

0:04:49.416,0:04:51.083

they were like,  
thank you, thank you, thank you.

0:04:51.083,0:04:52.500

It looks so good.

0:04:52.500,0:04:55.166

And it's it's just a, huge improvement.

0:04:55.166,0:04:55.708

Yeah.

0:04:55.708,0:04:59.291

Well, and I think a lot of the community  
in that area there, like I said,

0:04:59.291,0:05:00.666

they've had a lot of questions. So.

0:05:00.666,0:05:03.041

Yeah, you know, like you  
said, we've done some targeted,

0:05:03.041,0:05:05.625

you know, explanations on different  
Facebook pages about it.

0:05:05.625,0:05:08.625

Well, and the worry is  
are we closing down more trails etc..

0:05:08.791,0:05:11.625

And like and we're totally transparent.

0:05:11.625,0:05:14.500

We're working with a group of stakeholders  
that were,

0:05:14.500,0:05:16.833

that are trail users,  
and we're trying to find a solution

0:05:16.833,0:05:19.208

that we could find  
a cut through to the golf course,

0:05:20.750,0:05:22.125

so that we could accommodate

0:05:22.125,0:05:25.000

some way to make it through  
instead of just going around.

0:05:25.000,0:05:27.541

And we're looking at  
what the risk profile is for that.

0:05:27.541,0:05:29.166

And how much does it cost?

0:05:29.166,0:05:30.708

What does it take to build it?

0:05:30.708,0:05:33.000

What kind of uses would be allowed  
land, etc.. Right.

0:05:33.000,0:05:34.625

And I think we've had some good options  
there.

0:05:34.625,0:05:39.000

But, we'll kind of announce  
how we're going to accommodate

0:05:39.000,0:05:40.791

that when, when we're ready.

0:05:40.791,0:05:42.166

But we're working toward that.

0:05:42.166,0:05:44.166

We'll make sure we have a really good

0:05:44.166,0:05:46.666

communication strategy

and everything at the time,

0:05:46.666,0:05:49.916

but that is kind of part and parcel

to really just how important

0:05:50.250,0:05:53.791

public lands and open space is here

culturally, recreationally.

0:05:54.125,0:05:55.833

It's just a part of our lives,

right? Right.

0:05:55.833,0:06:00.333

And it's important to to you, you

you are a trail user.

0:06:00.333,0:06:01.166

100%.

0:06:01.166,0:06:04.333

Our kids go on the trails  
all occasionally go on the trails.

0:06:04.416,0:06:07.958

But so we're, well,  
much more trail users than golfers.

0:06:08.000,0:06:09.791

I think your game speaks to that  
really well.

0:06:09.791,0:06:10.291

Oh. Thank you.

0:06:10.291,0:06:11.166

Yeah. Yeah.

0:06:11.166,0:06:11.791

Which is true.

0:06:11.791,0:06:14.125

So I can't be mad about the truth, right?

0:06:15.625,0:06:16.875

So I appreciate that.

0:06:16.875,0:06:18.208

And I think people appreciate that update.

0:06:18.208,0:06:20.250

The other thing

I want to talk to you about,

0:06:20.250,0:06:20.958

and because I had,

0:06:20.958,0:06:24.000

I had watched City council, on Tuesday

and you had brought something

0:06:24.125,0:06:28.666

and I actually apparently,

I've just I've been so focused on my work

0:06:28.666,0:06:32.041

this week that I was not tracking on

any issues

0:06:32.041,0:06:35.125

that were coming out of Washington  
with respect to public lands.

0:06:35.125,0:06:35.791

Yeah.

0:06:35.791,0:06:39.333

And you had said something about it,  
and I'm like, make a note to look that up.

0:06:39.333,0:06:40.291

And so I looked it up.

0:06:40.291,0:06:44.458

And the interesting thing  
is, when you look it up as a layperson

0:06:44.458,0:06:49.708

like myself, I, I don't I can see why  
people have been emailing you.

0:06:49.750,0:06:53.875

Oh, yeah, I'm concerned  
because what you find online,

0:06:53.875,0:06:57.375

what you find on  
oh heaven forbid Reddit, Reddit,

0:06:57.375,0:07:00.416

and Facebook seems scary, right?

0:07:00.458,0:07:04.333

And so I was like, well,  
I know enough to know that there's

0:07:04.333,0:07:05.250

probably a lot more to this.

0:07:05.250,0:07:10.625

So, I wanted to ask you about what you  
understand about this public lands issue.

0:07:10.625,0:07:14.041

That is part of the big, beautiful Bill.

0:07:14.083,0:07:15.750

Is that the. Correct.  
That's what they're calling it.

0:07:15.750,0:07:19.166

So, so Congress is running  
what's called the big beautiful bill.

0:07:19.625,0:07:21.166

It's an enormous funding package.

0:07:21.166,0:07:22.458

It's got tons of things in it.

0:07:22.458,0:07:26.916

But one of the where it really became  
controversial in regards to public lands

0:07:27.000,0:07:31.208

is, Senator Lee,  
proposed an amendment to the bill.

0:07:32.000,0:07:35.041

And this is a topic  
and a and a concept that have been

0:07:35.041,0:07:38.208

talked about for quite a while  
is we're in the midst of a housing crisis.

0:07:39.416,0:07:41.500

And,

0:07:41.500,0:07:44.166

we've got to build our way through this,  
build our way out of it.

0:07:44.166,0:07:47.208

There's a it's a big supply  
and demand challenge out there.

0:07:47.541,0:07:49.708

And so,

0:07:49.708,0:07:52.958

federal lands, especially in other cities,  
not ours as much,

0:07:53.375,0:07:56.125

but in other communities,  
particularly down in southern Utah.

0:07:56.125,0:07:59.833

This is a huge issue because they're  
surrounded by federal lands.

0:08:00.625,0:08:01.375

And so,

0:08:01.375,0:08:05.583

I think that the energy around the idea  
doesn't necessarily start in the North.

0:08:06.083,0:08:07.750

I think it starts in the South,

0:08:07.750,0:08:10.375

but the issue at the end of the day  
affects all of us.

0:08:10.375,0:08:12.791

If we have public lands in our proximity,  
which we do.

0:08:12.791,0:08:15.791

And so when I first heard about it,  
I'm like,

0:08:16.625,0:08:17.375

this sounds familiar.

0:08:17.375,0:08:18.333

I know what's going on.

0:08:18.333,0:08:20.791

Because remember,

I had 23 years experience

0:08:20.791,0:08:22.833

in public land management prior  
to becoming the mayor.

0:08:22.833,0:08:27.666

And so this was kind of an easy  
one for me to see what might be happening

0:08:27.875,0:08:30.375

and to understand kind of the dynamics

0:08:30.375,0:08:33.791

which triggered to me, I need I've got  
some work to do to make some phone calls.

0:08:34.083,0:08:37.083

I've got to read some bills,  
figure out what's going on.

0:08:37.500,0:08:38.250

And,

0:08:39.333,0:08:40.166

and thankfully I've got a lot

0:08:40.166,0:08:43.166

of those contacts one because I'm  
the mayor and two, because of my past.

0:08:44.666,0:08:46.833

What people might not realize  
is we have a Washington DC

0:08:46.833,0:08:50.041

lobbying group  
that helps us with these exact issues.

0:08:50.791,0:08:54.541

And so when the  
when the public alarm alerted me,

0:08:55.041,0:08:58.333

triggered my alarm to reach out to them,  
ask for help on the policy side.

0:08:58.541,0:09:00.125

Because, and let's just put,

0:09:00.125,0:09:04.125

you were receiving these, complaints  
or concerns that were being voiced

0:09:04.583,0:09:08.125

because of what people were reading  
social media, right?

0:09:08.375,0:09:11.375

Or, you know, specific articles  
they found online.

0:09:11.375,0:09:11.791

Correct.

0:09:11.791,0:09:15.375

So, nonprofit, advocacy group,

0:09:17.000,0:09:18.208

looked at the bill.

0:09:18.208,0:09:19.541

Well, they are actually reporting there's

0:09:19.541,0:09:22.708

a leaked version of, of an amendment  
which I haven't seen.

0:09:23.041,0:09:23.625

I don't know.

0:09:26.333,0:09:27.000

I'm not quite sure

0:09:27.000,0:09:30.666

how that changes from  
what's already formally proposed.

0:09:30.750,0:09:33.875

Yeah, but, getting to the facts,

0:09:34.000,0:09:37.416

there's kind of a whole range of, of facts  
that you could say.

0:09:38.000,0:09:41.000

And,

0:09:41.333,0:09:42.083

Not to.

0:09:42.083,0:09:45.083

I'm not going to get into the details  
of what who's right and who's wrong,

0:09:45.833,0:09:48.458

but I was just trying to dial into  
how does this affect Ogden.

0:09:48.458,0:09:49.208

Right.

0:09:49.208,0:09:51.333

And in my old job,  
I would have to understand

0:09:51.333,0:09:54.291

the bigger picture for everybody  
in the whole state. Right?

0:09:54.291,0:09:56.750

But at the end of the day,  
how does this thing affect Ogden?

0:09:56.750,0:10:00.833

So we  
the bill was primarily targeted to to,

0:10:01.916,0:10:04.416

to identify, like orphaned

0:10:04.416,0:10:09.541

and orphaned lands within the boundaries  
of, of a city or lands that are adjacent

0:10:09.666,0:10:12.875

and explained orphan like  
if you have like an in holding of federal

0:10:12.875,0:10:15.958

land, that's  
that's like surrounded by development.

0:10:16.083,0:10:18.875

This is the intent.

I'm just explaining the intent. Okay.

0:10:20.833,0:10:22.083

And I and I remember this intent

0:10:22.083,0:10:25.916

because I've been hearing  
this discussions, at the city level

0:10:25.916,0:10:27.750

as well through the League of Cities  
and Towns, etc..

0:10:27.750,0:10:30.750

So I've heard it come up at times,

0:10:30.833,0:10:33.333

but the idea being that  
the federal government owns lands

0:10:33.333,0:10:38.250

that no longer meet the, the multiple use  
and sustained yield mandates

0:10:38.250,0:10:41.791

of federal lands for the Forest Service  
or for the, the BLM.

0:10:42.541,0:10:45.750

In those instances, why should the  
federal government own that land

0:10:46.250,0:10:49.916

if someone else can make a better use

of it, a higher, better use, right?

0:10:49.916,0:10:52.166

That's the idea in the concept.

0:10:52.166,0:10:55.333

How it rolled out is not quite all that.

0:10:55.333,0:10:56.958

Right.

0:10:56.958,0:11:00.291

But, in the bill and in the legislation,

0:11:00.875,0:11:03.875

it provides for an avenue  
for local consultation.

0:11:04.000,0:11:07.250

And local consultation is a term  
that's in public land policy

0:11:07.791,0:11:09.000

that I'm really familiar with,

0:11:09.000,0:11:12.166

because that was my job  
to get local consultation in the past.

0:11:13.083,0:11:17.208

And so, as I was in touch with, Senator  
Lee's office personally,

0:11:18.125,0:11:22.250

I was able to really share  
how valuable our public land is for us,

0:11:22.833,0:11:26.125

how it does not apply  
in this case that we don't want our lands.

0:11:26.125,0:11:27.125

Not considered orphaned land.

0:11:27.125,0:11:27.708

Correct.

0:11:27.708,0:11:31.666

Land that the federal government owns in  
the Ogden area is not considered orphaned.

0:11:31.666,0:11:34.375

It's not in our municipal boundaries.

0:11:34.375,0:11:36.875

It's not surrounded by development.

0:11:36.875,0:11:37.916

Okay. Right.

0:11:37.916,0:11:40.416

It doesn't really meet the intent  
or the description. Okay.

0:11:40.416,0:11:42.416

And so I don't have to argue  
the facts of the bill.

0:11:42.416,0:11:45.333

I need to understand the intent  
and how it affects Ogden.

0:11:45.333,0:11:46.083

Right.

0:11:46.083,0:11:50.000

So we do have federal lands that are  
critically important to our way of life.

0:11:50.916,0:11:52.791

I was able to share that message  
with their office.

0:11:52.791,0:11:54.875

The message was well received. Okay.

0:11:54.875,0:11:59.208

They actually really supported  
and agreed with our intent and our wishes.

0:11:59.708,0:12:02.083

And I was also able  
to call the governor's office,

0:12:02.083,0:12:04.500

talk to the governor's  
cabinet member about,

0:12:04.500,0:12:08.041

the issues that I had, how it might  
or might not affect Ogden, etc..

0:12:08.708,0:12:11.791

And he conveyed his support

for what we wish here as well.

0:12:12.166,0:12:12.666

Okay.

0:12:12.666,0:12:16.208

And,

the bill also would require county input.

0:12:17.000,0:12:21.000

So having local input

is important to this legislation.

0:12:21.625,0:12:24.791

And I'm, I feel good knowing that

I would be giving the input for our city

0:12:25.333,0:12:27.500

and that the input would be hands off

our public lands.

0:12:27.500,0:12:30.333

We want that for recreation

and outdoor space. Right.

0:12:30.333,0:12:33.458

But the bill, as you've  
just explained to me, it sounds like it's

0:12:33.458,0:12:38.833

specific to lands that are, as you  
said, orphaned or just disposal, I heard.

0:12:38.833,0:12:39.125

Yeah.

0:12:39.125,0:12:43.416

So disposal or lands that are not meeting  
the needs of the mandates

0:12:43.416,0:12:44.666

of this federal agencies. Yeah.

0:12:44.666,0:12:47.416

And so are there any types of those lands  
in Ogden?

0:12:47.416,0:12:51.291

Depends on which kind of disposal list  
you look at, in which context?

0:12:51.291,0:12:51.708

Okay.

0:12:51.708,0:12:52.916

Because there's been  
a lot of different efforts

0:12:52.916,0:12:55.291

around public lands in the past,  
like the Public Lands initiative.

0:12:55.291,0:12:58.916

That was an enormous effort  
that didn't, ultimately get traction.

0:12:59.000,0:13:00.666

Right. But,

0:13:02.166,0:13:03.333

so those are the kind of

0:13:03.333,0:13:06.750

differences between, what could happen.

0:13:07.666,0:13:11.625

Or what the, the maximum level versus  
what could happen on the minimal level.

0:13:11.625,0:13:15.083

And I don't know, I don't know  
what the truth is somewhere in between.

0:13:15.083,0:13:16.250

Right.

0:13:16.250,0:13:18.750

Suppose  
I think anything could be possible.

0:13:18.750,0:13:19.375

Right.

0:13:19.375,0:13:22.625

And so the only way to combat  
anything being possible and,

0:13:23.458,0:13:26.541

the kinds of concern that we're hearing  
is for us to be engaged,

0:13:27.000,0:13:30.166

for us to have a seat at the table,  
for us to make our intentions

0:13:30.166,0:13:33.166

clear with our elected officials.

0:13:33.291,0:13:34.708

And that's what I've done. Yeah.

0:13:34.708,0:13:39.666

So I've been able to call, Senator Lee's office and express my desires directly.

0:13:40.625,0:13:42.125

I received very good feedback.

0:13:42.125,0:13:44.083

That was well received.

0:13:44.083,0:13:46.125

I was able to call the governor's office and do the same.

0:13:46.125,0:13:46.458

Very well

0:13:46.458,0:13:49.708

received, very supportive of the direction

we wish to go for our public lands.

0:13:50.750,0:13:52.208

And I haven't  
talked to the commissioners about it,

0:13:52.208,0:13:55.416

but I really feel good  
about where they would stand as well.

0:13:56.041,0:13:59.750

And so when you have all of those levels  
wanting our lands

0:13:59.750,0:14:03.458

to stay, public lands  
to stay available for public access,

0:14:04.083,0:14:07.458

I think we stand a really strong chance  
of however this thing shapes up.

0:14:08.875,0:14:11.375

Of our public lands being okay.

0:14:11.375,0:14:15.083

And so now my job is to make sure  
that we stay engaged, that

0:14:15.083,0:14:18.333

if there are any changes moving forward  
because Congress is a huge machine.

0:14:18.500,0:14:20.375

Right, right.

0:14:20.375,0:14:23.166

That our local officials  
would reach out to us because now

0:14:23.166,0:14:24.625

we're in touch on this issue.

0:14:24.625,0:14:26.166

Right, right, right, right.

0:14:26.166,0:14:29.916

And we have a good working relationship  
through our lobbying team and directly

0:14:30.458,0:14:33.458

through my office to make sure

that happens for us, for Ogden.

0:14:33.541,0:14:34.708

Yeah.

0:14:34.708,0:14:36.875

Well, and

and when you hear a lot of these things

0:14:36.875,0:14:40.875

that just seem

so I guess extreme is the word.

0:14:41.041,0:14:43.166

Does that kind of set off

alarm bells in your head of like way?

0:14:43.166,0:14:44.458

There's got to be more to this.

0:14:44.458,0:14:46.791

Well,

and that could be the worst case scenario.

0:14:46.791,0:14:49.791

And with trust being what it is right

0:14:49.875,0:14:53.041

in America right now,  
like you can see where some lead to that.

0:14:53.666,0:14:56.083

There's also best case scenario.

0:14:56.083,0:14:58.666

But you can't just rely on  
best case scenario.

0:14:58.666,0:15:01.083

You got to be a realist  
and understand that anything's possible.

0:15:01.083,0:15:01.708

Right.

0:15:01.708,0:15:05.791

And so if and again  
a lot of the analyzes out,

0:15:05.791,0:15:09.750

there are a lot of people that are,  
kind of pontificating on its impacts.

0:15:10.458,0:15:12.708

They're looking at it from  
a different perspective than I am as well.

0:15:12.708,0:15:13.916

If I were looking at this

0:15:13.916,0:15:17.041

from the entire state's perspective  
or from the entire Western United States

0:15:17.041,0:15:20.083

perspective,  
maybe I'd have a different opinion.

0:15:20.250,0:15:20.791

Yeah.

0:15:20.791,0:15:23.791

My job is to have an opinion for Ogden  
to represent Ogden's voices.

0:15:23.916,0:15:24.500

Right.

0:15:24.500,0:15:27.500

The people are very clear  
what they want for our federal lands.

0:15:27.625,0:15:29.750

And so am I. We're in alignment. Yeah.

0:15:29.750,0:15:33.875

And so I want to make sure everybody knows  
that I've done the work,

0:15:34.458,0:15:37.458

leverage my past experiences,  
my past relationships and contacts.

0:15:37.583,0:15:39.791

I've used the tools that we have here

0:15:39.791,0:15:42.291

to make sure that our voices  
are represented in decision making.

0:15:42.291,0:15:45.291

And again,  
the goal, as you understand it, from that

0:15:45.541,0:15:49.000

little section of the bill, is to address  
public housing crisis.

0:15:49.000,0:15:49.583

That's correct.

0:15:49.583,0:15:50.916

That's the ultimate goal of why this,

0:15:50.916,0:15:53.583

which we can all agree,  
we do have a crisis forward. Yeah.

0:15:53.583,0:15:54.875

And and then actually there's

0:15:56.041,0:15:56.500

I remember

0:15:56.500,0:16:00.041

just in my past life, you can  
there are a lot of parcels out there

0:16:00.333,0:16:03.833

that the federal government owns

that have absolutely nothing to do

0:16:04.041,0:16:08.625

with any of the mandates

of timber management.

0:16:08.791,0:16:09.083

Yeah.

0:16:09.083,0:16:13.916

Talk about oil, gas,

I don't know, like so timber, gas.

0:16:13.916,0:16:14.833

What else did you say.

0:16:14.833,0:16:17.833

So I mentioned like the multiple use

and sustained yield model.

0:16:17.916,0:16:20.583

Those are mandates that are

0:16:20.583,0:16:23.333

required by Congress,

particularly for BLM.

0:16:23.333,0:16:26.916

And then there's the National  
Forest Management Act that determines

0:16:27.750,0:16:31.500

what the forest and the Forest Service  
have to do when they manage their lands.

0:16:32.041,0:16:35.875

And the idea is they've got to manage  
for a lot of different uses.

0:16:36.541,0:16:39.291

So, recreation

0:16:39.291,0:16:42.291

like trail users or mountain biking, etc..

0:16:42.541,0:16:45.416

Hunting and fishing, livestock,

0:16:45.416,0:16:48.625

timber, oil, gas, mining,

0:16:49.125,0:16:53.166

those are all relevant interests  
on our public lands

0:16:53.166,0:16:56.166

and that they were established  
in order to provide for those needs.

0:16:56.166,0:17:01.208

The idea of everybody having a fair  
shake in of use then becomes pretty messy,

0:17:01.583,0:17:04.166

because that's a lot of different uses  
in in competing space.

0:17:04.166,0:17:04.666

Right.

0:17:05.500,0:17:06.125

And so,

0:17:06.125,0:17:09.125  
that's where you start to see  
a lot of pushing and pulling and,

0:17:09.375,0:17:13.000

you know, a competitive space around  
setting the narrative and arguing facts

0:17:13.000,0:17:18.291

and so on, because different special  
interests want more of their, you know.

0:17:19.333,0:17:20.583

Yeah, that's just how it is.

0:17:20.583,0:17:21.041

Absolutely.

0:17:21.041,0:17:22.416

So decision makers are in a hard place

0:17:22.416,0:17:25.208

because you're trying to balance  
all these needs and interests.

0:17:25.208,0:17:27.625

And each of them have their lobbies,  
each of them

0:17:27.625,0:17:31.416

have loud, loud voices

and a lot of well-heeled resources.

0:17:31.625,0:17:32.375

Right.

0:17:32.375,0:17:35.375

And so, that advocacy gets pretty sporty.

0:17:35.666,0:17:38.666

I can I can speak to that personally  
because, yeah.

0:17:38.666,0:17:42.166

Well, and it's I think one thing  
that like, as the average layperson

0:17:42.166,0:17:45.208

who didn't work for the state  
and wasn't a liaison

0:17:45.833,0:17:48.083

to understand all these things,  
like how does someone who's

0:17:48.083,0:17:51.000

just seeing something on Facebook

that just seems like, oh my gosh,

0:17:52.291,0:17:53.458

how do they find the truth?

0:17:53.458,0:17:57.583

Because I think it, you know,  
you can call up DC,

0:17:57.583,0:18:00.583

you can copy lobbyist,  
you can call up the senator's office.

0:18:01.666,0:18:03.416

How how do we

0:18:03.416,0:18:07.416

how do the laypeople of the community  
actually find the truth?

0:18:07.416,0:18:09.333

Well,

and I'm not accusing anybody of lying.

0:18:09.333,0:18:10.291

I'll just say that. No, no, no.

0:18:10.291,0:18:12.958

But, like. But the truth is that  
the truth is a bigger picture.

0:18:12.958,0:18:15.208

It's a more well-rounded  
understanding and description.

0:18:15.208,0:18:17.541

And that's kind of why  
we have these discussions.

0:18:17.541,0:18:20.166

If you look at a headline  
that's not going to give you everything

0:18:20.166,0:18:21.375

about the truth. Right.

0:18:21.375,0:18:24.125

I did notice that,  
I was reading this morning,

0:18:24.125,0:18:27.125

Deseret news had an article

that was really pretty well done.

0:18:27.333,0:18:29.166

But you had to pay really close  
attention.

0:18:29.166,0:18:33.458

The headline was pretty,  
pretty tension getting.

0:18:33.666,0:18:34.833

That's the point, right? Right.

0:18:34.833,0:18:37.291

Oh, man. We're going to lose  
all of our public lands.

0:18:37.291,0:18:39.750

It's kind of the thought,  
whatever the words were, I don't remember.

0:18:40.958,0:18:43.291

But as you read into the article,

0:18:43.291,0:18:46.041

it's like it says this NGO

0:18:46.041,0:18:48.875

did an

analysis came up with this many acres.

0:18:48.875,0:18:51.875

It's like a quarter

million acres or something

0:18:51.875,0:18:53.416

like an enormous amount of acreage.

0:18:53.416,0:18:55.666

Right.

0:18:55.666,0:18:57.083

And that's one perspective.

0:18:57.083,0:19:01.708

And then they continue on and share kind  
of what different versions of the bill

0:19:01.708,0:19:05.250

actually say, how does it affect acreage  
range wide, etc..

0:19:05.791,0:19:08.166

And it kind of gives you a full picture.

0:19:08.166,0:19:10.750

But you have to look for it.

0:19:10.750,0:19:12.125

It's not just there,

0:19:12.125,0:19:15.166

and you have to also be understanding  
of the nuance of everything.

0:19:15.166,0:19:16.708

Correct. These are complicated issues.

0:19:16.708,0:19:19.625

And this isn't just impacting  
the state of Utah, right?

0:19:19.625,0:19:22.875

This is all all 11 Western states know.

0:19:23.458,0:19:24.500

Gotcha. Okay. Yeah.

0:19:24.500,0:19:26.250

And so

0:19:26.250,0:19:28.750

our public land  
environment is very different.

0:19:28.750,0:19:33.333

Nevada has a lot of public land,  
you know, and theirs is very different.

0:19:33.333,0:19:36.416

And just take wild horses in the burros,  
for example.

0:19:36.708,0:19:39.708

Nevada's got an enormous challenge  
on their hands with that.

0:19:39.875,0:19:42.208

We have issues too,  
but nothing like Nevada.

0:19:42.208,0:19:43.083

And I think that

0:19:43.083,0:19:46.250

when you one of the scariest things,  
I think and I'm so glad

0:19:46.250,0:19:49.250

I learned about it after the fact  
when you were working for the state,

0:19:49.458,0:19:52.791

was when you had to go down  
and deal with public lands issues

0:19:53.250,0:19:56.666

between ranchers and the the government.

0:19:56.666,0:19:58.166

I believe it was right.

0:19:58.166,0:19:59.916

Yeah, I found out about it later.

0:19:59.916,0:20:00.416

I'm glad you didn't

0:20:00.416,0:20:03.416

tell me about it when it was happening,

because the story from that

0:20:03.875,0:20:05.791

people are very,

very passionate about public lands for.

0:20:05.791,0:20:06.416

That's great.

0:20:06.416,0:20:08.250

A multitude of reasons. Right, right.

0:20:08.250,0:20:11.833

And so I think that that's always

going to be a hot topic, especially here.

0:20:11.875,0:20:12.708

Right? Yeah.

0:20:12.708,0:20:14.958

I often found myself

kind of in this position of,

0:20:16.375,0:20:17.458

you know,

0:20:17.458,0:20:20.666

almost like on this brink of range war,  
like Sagebrush Rebellion.

0:20:20.666,0:20:21.208

Yeah.

0:20:21.208,0:20:25.500

Over some serious issues  
that are affecting people's livelihood.

0:20:25.916,0:20:27.416

Right.

0:20:27.416,0:20:29.375

And then there was the federal  
government's

0:20:29.375,0:20:32.791

always sort of a really big entity.

0:20:33.125,0:20:33.750

Right.

0:20:33.750,0:20:36.500

It's it's hard to be a personal like that.

0:20:36.500,0:20:39.250

And so my job was really to kind of step  
in between, say, okay, how can we help?

0:20:39.250,0:20:40.416

What's going on?

0:20:40.416,0:20:44.041

What's the problem between this group  
that owns that's carrying guns?

0:20:44.583,0:20:45.750

That's correct. That's correct.

0:20:45.750,0:20:47.916

Guns and a lot of open carry a lot.

0:20:47.916,0:20:49.708

Like, glad I didn't know about that one.

0:20:49.708,0:20:50.625

Yeah, it was hard.

0:20:50.625,0:20:53.625

It was,

put you in a difficult position to,

0:20:54.541,0:20:57.000

have some really tense discussions.

0:20:57.000,0:20:58.708

I mean, I'm, I'm

0:20:58.708,0:21:03.083

really making light of it, but there was  
a lot of threats of violence at times.

0:21:04.625,0:21:06.000

Yeah, it was hard work, for sure.

0:21:06.000,0:21:09.291

But it's important work,  
because if you don't intervene and try

0:21:09.291,0:21:12.291

to provide solutions through policies  
that work for people,

0:21:13.250,0:21:14.166

people are going to get hurt.

0:21:14.166,0:21:16.083

Yeah. With with it. Yeah.

0:21:16.083,0:21:17.416

And so that's the job of leader.

0:21:17.416,0:21:19.083

You got to step up step in.

0:21:19.083,0:21:19.791

It's going to suck.

0:21:19.791,0:21:22.583

It's going to be uncomfortable

right. Yeah.

0:21:22.583,0:21:24.125

But it's but every single time

0:21:24.125,0:21:27.125

there was never a simple simple solution

or it wouldn't have been a problem.

0:21:27.208,0:21:28.041

Correct. Right.

0:21:28.041,0:21:30.458

If it hadn't been simple,  
someone would have already fixed it.

0:21:30.458,0:21:31.291

Yeah.

0:21:31.291,0:21:34.291

So, so so your recommendation to,

0:21:35.041,0:21:37.833

people of Ogden is like,  
when you see these things,

0:21:37.833,0:21:38.041

you know,

0:21:38.041,0:21:41.416

obviously look behind the headlines,  
but like, what are the other options like

0:21:41.833,0:21:42.708

how do they

0:21:43.958,0:21:45.750

do they need to call their senator

or I mean,

0:21:45.750,0:21:48.750

but you know, instead of does

I calling a senator or a congressperson

0:21:48.750,0:21:52.000

to just complain about something

that maybe they're only getting one

0:21:53.041,0:21:55.125

piece of information

from social media, for example.

0:21:55.125,0:21:55.791

Right.

0:21:55.791,0:21:59.458

How do they

I mean, I know you mentioned Deseret News,

0:21:59.458,0:22:03.000

but how do they find the full story?

0:22:03.000,0:22:07.708

So using this case as an example,

I think calling your congressional

0:22:08.041,0:22:11.041

representative is one important piece.

0:22:11.291,0:22:12.416

What are their facts?

0:22:12.416,0:22:14.041

What are they sharing.

0:22:14.041,0:22:16.833

And then take

the other facts that you have

0:22:16.833,0:22:19.083

and what are they sharing and why.

0:22:19.083,0:22:20.041

Right.

0:22:20.041,0:22:22.083

What what other explanation

could there be?

0:22:22.083,0:22:24.291

What is the best case scenario?

What is the worst case scenario?

0:22:24.291,0:22:27.791

What is it that I want versus

what someone else might want and why?

0:22:28.416,0:22:31.541

I mean, those are all just basic questions  
around critical thinking,

0:22:31.541,0:22:34.541

but these issues, the decisions

0:22:34.541,0:22:37.958

that are being made by public  
officials can be pretty complex, right?

0:22:41.708,0:22:43.750

It's just I think that we owe it

0:22:43.750,0:22:47.125

to ourselves to do the best  
we can to learn to understand.

0:22:47.666,0:22:49.458

And that's my job as well.

0:22:49.458,0:22:51.458

When the public's reaching out.

0:22:51.458,0:22:53.458

And I'm not saying

they were reaching out for nothing.

0:22:53.458,0:22:55.291

This is important stuff.

0:22:55.291,0:22:58.083

This is serious. Oh, yeah.

0:22:58.083,0:23:00.000

But I also went to the direct language

0:23:00.000,0:23:03.875

of the bill of the amendment

and read it specifically myself.

0:23:04.000,0:23:04.625

Yeah.

0:23:04.625,0:23:07.625

So that you can see exactly  
what's being proposed.

0:23:08.083,0:23:11.583

And, but I'm not quite sure how  
that changes from the leaked copy, etc..

0:23:12.125,0:23:15.000

So I haven't quite got that first  
copy that no one's seen.

0:23:15.000,0:23:15.833

No, I mean, it's out.

0:23:15.833,0:23:17.250

It must be out there, but I don't

0:23:17.250,0:23:20.041

I haven't had time to compare them  
all word for word for word.

0:23:20.041,0:23:20.458

Okay.

0:23:20.458,0:23:23.375

But that's also what we rely on

our lobbyist to help us do too.

0:23:23.375,0:23:24.250

Right.

0:23:24.250,0:23:27.250

Because like, they just need to have  
a better control of the narrative.

0:23:27.333,0:23:28.666

Maybe, maybe.

0:23:29.666,0:23:30.416

Good luck with that.

0:23:30.416,0:23:33.375

Well, but the narrative is,

0:23:33.375,0:23:35.833

thank you for reaching out.

0:23:35.833,0:23:38.166

Thank you  
for caring about your public lands.

0:23:38.166,0:23:40.708

Thank you for letting me be the mayor  
that has access

0:23:40.708,0:23:43.708

to resources to make sure  
that our interests are covered.

0:23:43.791,0:23:47.958

Thank you to, Senator Lee staff for  
spending so much time with me directly.

0:23:48.250,0:23:51.625

Helped me understand  
the ins and outs from their perspective.

0:23:51.916,0:23:55.416

Thank you to the to the groups  
that are providing analyzes that

0:23:55.458,0:23:57.333

that provide  
a different perspective as well.

0:23:57.333,0:24:00.416

So that I understand the full range  
of issues and concerns and perspectives.

0:24:00.541,0:24:02.791

Right.

0:24:02.791,0:24:04.958

But I'm also really thankful  
to have the staff around me

0:24:04.958,0:24:07.958

that are helping  
to inform these decisions, making sure

0:24:07.958,0:24:11.416

that I know that the public is starting  
to get stirred up about something.

0:24:11.416,0:24:12.333

Right?

0:24:12.333,0:24:15.375

Because it's signaled to me,  
we have some work to do.

0:24:16.166,0:24:17.541

And I'm not saying we're done.

0:24:18.750,0:24:20.666

I'm saying that

0:24:20.666,0:24:23.958

there are there are requirements  
in the current language.

0:24:24.958,0:24:27.541

That would require my blessing.

0:24:27.541,0:24:28.916

That's good to know.

And they're not going to get it.

0:24:28.916,0:24:30.875

Yeah, they know that. Yeah.

0:24:30.875,0:24:35.666

They also agree with my assessment  
of our lands in our situation.

0:24:36.666,0:24:40.375

Do your do our surrounding cities and  
mayors, are they also involved in this.

0:24:40.375,0:24:42.916

Do you know, are they having those type  
of conversations?

0:24:42.916,0:24:45.125

No, I don't think so.

0:24:45.125,0:24:46.625

And that's  
just one of the responsibilities

0:24:46.625,0:24:51.208

of being the big city in the county is  
we kind of have that resource.

0:24:51.458,0:24:53.166

Yeah. And

0:24:53.166,0:24:55.291

connection to go to kind of handle that.

0:24:55.291,0:24:56.166

Yeah. Right.

0:24:56.166,0:24:59.958

But we're, we're also the only we're  
not the only city, but we're the main city

0:25:00.416,0:25:03.000

that bound with boundaries in,

0:25:04.125,0:25:05.375

forest service lands.

0:25:05.375,0:25:06.416

Right, right.

0:25:06.416,0:25:08.583

But now we have another city  
up in the valley.

0:25:08.583,0:25:10.208

They're surrounded by Forest Service.

0:25:10.208,0:25:11.125

It's a big deal.

0:25:11.125,0:25:12.791

North Ogden has it as well.

0:25:12.791,0:25:15.750

But all the same  
things would apply. There.

0:25:15.750,0:25:17.791

If it was a

if it was a proposed in North Ogden,

0:25:17.791,0:25:19.000

they would have to reach out to the north.

0:25:19.000,0:25:20.916

Ogden mayor and City Council.

0:25:20.916,0:25:22.333

They still have to have the blessing

0:25:22.333,0:25:24.416

and the support

from the county commissioners.

0:25:24.416,0:25:25.541

That's the work that the governor's

0:25:25.541,0:25:29.166

Office Public Lands Policy Coordinating

Office would do just to find out

0:25:29.166,0:25:32.166

what does the local elected officials  
and the local people want?

0:25:32.458,0:25:35.458

How does that line up with  
what's in their resource management plan?

0:25:35.583,0:25:38.250

And then how does that feed up  
into a recommendation

0:25:38.250,0:25:41.375

for disposal or excess lands or not?

0:25:41.625,0:25:44.125

Yeah. So in our case  
they would go through that whole process

0:25:45.125,0:25:47.875

and say don't touch those lands.

0:25:47.875,0:25:49.666

The key is making sure that we're engaged  
enough to know

0:25:49.666,0:25:52.666

that that process remains in the bill

0:25:52.833,0:25:54.666

moving forward. Okay. Right.

0:25:54.666,0:25:57.416

And that's the job of the elected  
officials of me in particular,

0:25:57.416,0:26:02.416

my staff, is to to stay abreast of that  
so that if things change that we reengage.

0:26:02.416,0:26:05.375

All right. That's good. And yeah,  
good to know.

0:26:05.375,0:26:08.916

I think it's good that everyone knows  
that the mayor and his staff is

0:26:09.333,0:26:10.500

tracking on all of the issues.

0:26:10.500,0:26:12.291

And there's not just

it's not just public lands

0:26:12.291,0:26:14.166

issues that are blowing up right

now, obviously. Right.

0:26:14.166,0:26:18.291

So I think it's good that,

you're keeping on top of of all of it.

0:26:18.291,0:26:20.500

So trying to it's a lot. It is a lot.

0:26:20.500,0:26:24.166

But that's, that's kind of your it's

kind of your thing though.

0:26:24.708,0:26:26.625

You love to be busy. I do,

0:26:27.958,0:26:30.000

I do when I love

0:26:30.000,0:26:33.875

public lands and I love yes she does

public lands management and policy.

0:26:33.875,0:26:36.916

So it's kind of fun, like  
like when we're working

0:26:36.916,0:26:39.916

on delivering water,  
the Great Salt Lake with the legislature,

0:26:41.041,0:26:44.416

we were able to make  
a huge environmental impact positively.

0:26:44.541,0:26:47.375

Yeah. For the Great Salt Lake  
using some of our tools.

0:26:47.375,0:26:50.416

That was fun for me because that's  
something I'm passionate about.

0:26:50.416,0:26:52.916

That's why I had 23 years  
experience there. Right.

0:26:52.916,0:26:55.916

And and because there's such  
a great significant impact

0:26:55.916,0:27:00.208

to the quality of life in the community  
and in the wildlife.

0:27:01.625,0:27:02.125

Right.

0:27:02.125,0:27:04.375

So I still it kind of really helped

0:27:04.375,0:27:07.916

me feel better about leaving my career,  
the life, career and life goal

0:27:07.916,0:27:10.916

that I always had of working in that,  
in that world.

0:27:11.250,0:27:13.125

I miss it.

I miss the people that are in that.

0:27:13.125,0:27:15.708

And it was fun to kind of reengage  
a little on this one.

0:27:15.708,0:27:16.375

Yeah.

0:27:16.375,0:27:19.500

Especially fun to come out of it knowing  
that right now we're in a good place.

0:27:21.083,0:27:21.583

Much better.

0:27:21.583,0:27:24.583

If we were in a way worse place,  
maybe it wouldn't be so much fun.

0:27:25.750,0:27:28.166

But it is always fun to work on things  
you care deeply about.

0:27:28.166,0:27:31.000

And public lands, access  
to the public lands.

0:27:31.000,0:27:33.000

That's

0:27:33.000,0:27:35.833

fundamental to who I am

and what I've always worked in.

0:27:35.833,0:27:37.125

It's absolutely. And I love that.

0:27:37.125,0:27:40.916

Well, I don't think I have,

any other questions for you. So,

0:27:41.083,0:27:45.791

thanks for having this, podcast with me

and let me take over the show again.

0:27:45.791,0:27:48.125

It's one of my favorite things

that you do that I get to do.

0:27:48.125,0:27:51.125

So thanks for coming in. Yeah, absolutely.

0:27:51.333,0:27:54.958

Just want to make sure

that you like this episode.

0:27:55.208,0:27:56.666

Subscribe.

0:27:56.666,0:27:59.166

Share it with your friends, family visit.

0:27:59.166,0:28:02.458

You know,

come to the come to city council meetings.

0:28:02.458,0:28:05.458

If you are curious about the inner

workings of government

0:28:05.458,0:28:06.791

and ask them specifically yourself.

0:28:06.791,0:28:09.791

So, thanks everyone for for tuning in.