

Escape

(synopsis)

Sam Gold

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"In every game of con there is always an opponent, and there is always a victim. The trick is to know when you're the latter, so you can become the former."

~ *Jake Green* [1]

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A decentralised autonomous ledger (DAL) that automatically adds new units to a given land owner's account in proportion to certain ecosystem services provided by that land can be used to pay for those services.¹ If such units have a market price, the consequence will be a decrease in both poverty and environmental degradation as land owners receive income for their healthy land. Proper scaling and mass adoption of the ledger units as money, along with the introduction of market competition, will quickly and permanently eliminate the unholy trinity of poverty, crime and environmental degradation. This can be predicted even though no person knows how to accomplish it, in the same way that number two wood pencils can be manufactured even though no person knows how to make one. [3]

A change We the People of these fifty united states in North America can make to Our US dollars to become such ledger units is described.

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¹Land owners can already get paid for some ecosystem services, such as for example timber and wild game. However the most basic ecosystem services, like breathable air and drinkable water, have not yet been incorporated into human financial accounting systems [2].

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1 Problem

We, humanity, are causing poverty, crime, and environmental degradation by using gold as money. We are using gold as money by using gold US dollars as the reserve money of the world. They can be referred to as gold US dollars because each of them is, by the full faith of credit of We the People of these United States of America, 1/42²/₉ ounces of gold [September 30th, 2023 report from 4]. Because gold is heavy and bulky, we normally exchange gold in deals by exchanging paper receipts for US dollars, or US dollar bills. Because both US dollars and dollar bills are not very portable, we normally exchange electronic claims to dollar bills when engaging in commerce with remote parties.

Because we're using gold as money we're directly causing environmental degradation by paying the owners of land parcels to excavate gold from their property. Because we use claims to gold, dollar bills, as money, we're causing many more problems due to fractional reserve banking rules. There are many more dollar bills (~2.33 trillion dollar bills, using the Federal Reserve System currency in circulation report [p. 2 of 5]) in circulation than dollars (~11 billion dollars, if there are 7,413 tonnes of gold in the vault at Fort Knox [4] and a dollar is defined as 1/42²/₉ ounces of gold). Also due to fractional reserve banking rules there are many more electronic claims to dollar bills than there are dollar bills. Because the collective We the People keep printing new dollar bills and lending them to ourselves, paying credit cards with credit cards, compound interest is causing the number of dollar bills, and even more so of electronic claims to dollar bills, to enter circulation faster and faster. Because of this acceleration, and because the dollar bills are being spent into circulation from the central spending point of our federal government agencies, we individuals are paying an inflation tax as prices respond to the increased money supply. The money is causing poverty [6–19], as the new money moves out into circulation while real goods and services move in the opposite direction, toward the money printer.

Because of the paper claims to gold entering circulation faster and faster from a central spending point and causing prices to run away, we individuals are always working harder and extracting more value from our agriculture, timber, and mining sectors in order to produce more products

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in our attempt to keep up with prices. Extracting more value from those sectors means damaging our living world more [20–108]. Therefore gold causes environmental degradation both directly by incentivizing parcel owners to excavate their land, and indirectly as a result of causing poverty. Finally, gold causes crime as a direct result of causing poverty. We need a new world reserve money. We the People of these fifty states have the power to cause that to happen by engineering new US dollars.

2 Solution

We the People of the United States can fix everything by using the health of the various land parcels as money. The way this can be done is the same way we manufacture new monetary units now, except by changing the sign of the energy flow. Right now, we use the lack of health of our land as money. This lack comes in the form of land destroyed in order to excavate gold. The amount of health removed from the land is measured by measuring the amount of gold recovered. The recovered gold is made into coins with specific weights so that the removed health can be traded amongst people by being used as money. Those coins can be thought of as physical ledger entries. Similarly, the health of our land can be used as money by measuring it and making it into a form suitable for use as money. Land health can be measured in one of the same ways your doctor measures your health which is by measuring its respiration rate.

The respiration rate of a parcel of land can be approximated by its rate of oxygen production, from which can be estimated the amount of oxygen it has produced in a given time interval. In the same way that a US dollar was defined as $1/42^{\text{nd}}$ ounces of gold, it could also be defined as 38g of oxygen. If We the People chose to engineer our new US dollars to consist of 38g of oxygen, the number of these new US dollars, along with appropriate meta-data such as provenance and time of measurement, could be tracked in a ledger entry spendable by the owner of the parcel that produced these oxygen dollars. A decentralized autonomous network similar to the bitcoin network could be produced to manage such a ledger. If We the People, as a group, own approximately 251,134,400 acres of trees [109], and if each of

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those acres produces 1,060,000 grams of oxygen² per year, then at a rate of 1/38 \$/gram our national lands will produce approximately \$7 trillion per year for us. If we apply those funds to our federal government budget, and if our federal government budget needs \$7 trillion per year, our national lands will have entirely provided for our federal budget and all federal government taxation and borrowing could be eliminated.

In addition to removing our federal government revenue from our lives, making such a change would reduce everyone's inflation tax by getting them closer to the new money now produced by the approximately 421 million acres of trees in the USA on private land parcels, and approximately 80 million acres on state, county and city parks [109]. All these funds from forests would be supplemented by those from grass and shrub lands, along with all the lawns on private homes. It would give everyone financial incentive to care for their public lands, and would give all private land owners the same incentive to care for their lands, and thus we can expect the health of our lands to improve.

This change to our US dollars would reduce poverty by creating jobs to measure and track oxygen production and to assist land parcel owners to optimize it. For example, computer programmers would be needed to measure and track oxygen production, arborists and foresters could be hired to optimize it, and lawyers could be hired to sue anyone who impaired it. In addition, people would be afforded the opportunity to be paid to provide liquidity to oxygen dollars money markets by hedging and trading the oxygen dollars. Further reductions in poverty would occur thanks to reduced commodity price volatility and improved interest rate predictability. Further reductions in poverty would be provided as the parks on state, county and city lands produced income, decreasing the need for taxation.

If about a third of our trees here in these fifty states are on our national lands [109], and if those lands are producing \$7 trillion per year, then a total of \$21 trillion of these new oxygen US dollars will enter circulation every year due to the trees in these states. If our money is used to reduce poverty and environmental degradation for the entire world then possibly

²This number was found by a brief internet search for the number of grams an acre of trees produces in a year, and must be updated by biologists with expertise in plant photosynthesis dynamics.

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something around the \$125 trillion estimated by the World Wildlife Fund [110] will enter circulation every year. This much money entering circulation every year would expose us to the risk of a hyperinflationary runaway, but we could obtain the benefits of our new money while eliminating risk by repealing legal tender statutes. If we took this step, then that repeal, combined with the repeal of national tax statutes, would protect us from risks while freeing our new oxygen US dollars to evolve to serve their users better. It would protect us from the risk of a hyperinflationary runaway or other problems by allowing people to easily abandon a money in which prices are running away, and would free entrepreneurs to offer improved versions of money to consumers.

It can be argued that the most important uses for money are to pay for shelter and food, meaning in effect to buy time since without shelter and food you don't have much time left. Therefore, money that is free to improve to serve its users better will probably evolve to help them buy more and better time. For example, measurements of the health of land parcels could be expanded to gain the oxygen dollar payouts up depending on the measured biodiversity of the parcel. Entrepreneurs could conceivably produce parcel health measurements which are granular to the point of taking into account the health of the individual plants and animals on the parcel, including the humans. If human health is part of the health of the parcel, then humans would be paid directly for their own health, and could use such payouts to improve their health more.

If We the People of the United States chose to repeal our IP statutes [111, 112] along with changing and freeing our national money in this way, the rate of improvements to human health could begin improving exponentially faster [113]. Since there doesn't appear to be any limits on indefinite human body repair and rejuvenation [114, 115], expected life spans could be expected to begin increasing rapidly in such a scenario, with expected death dates possibly continually receding away from people into the future. In addition to becoming longer, human lives could be expected to become happier and more fulfilling as the improving money made our world a healthier and more beautiful place to live, while the repeal of IP statutes would free our technical progress to accelerate, improving our lives faster and faster. In such a scenario, human planning could expand to science fiction levels, executing plans over decades, centuries, and millenia. For

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example, human ingenuity could end up protecting the world from sun coronal mass ejections (CME) as well as asteroid or comet strikes. It is even possible that humanity could use science fiction author Donald Moffitt's ideas [116, 117] and invent Bussard ramjet [118] powered space poplars [119] to escape our solar system before the sun turns into a red giant.

In summary, paying land parcel owners for the health of the parcel by using that health itself as money will simultaneously improve everyone's financial wealth and improve the health of our living world, along with reducing and eventually eliminating crime. Proper scaling of the money will remove the yoke of national taxes and borrowing from our lives, and making it free to improve to serve us better will lead humanity quickly to its excellent science fiction future.

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3 How

Considering We the People of these fifty states to be a committee of fifty giant committees, one per state, a switch to a new, free to compete US dollar consisting of a fixed mass of oxygen could be accomplished with a simple administrative action. The people of each of the states could sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) instructing our federal government treasurer to purchase a two year budget supply of *retail* bitcoin.³ If the treasurer was instructed to do this, everyone would know it ahead of time, and would therefore know the US dollar/*retail* bitcoin ratio was going to shoot to the moon, and would therefore front run, meaning they would buy first. This would immediately reduce poverty by transferring a large amount of financial value away from the central (federal) government of the fifty states, to individuals, companies, tribes, charities, and city, county, state or province or prefectures, and non-US national governments, in that order. It would also produce new money for charities from newly minted wealthy philanthropists produced by the legacy US dollar/*retail* bitcoin runup. In one of many examples, the effectiveness of child molester hunters would almost certainly be greatly improved due to greatly increased charitable contributions.

Our federal government could use the acquired *retail* bitcoin to pay its bills for two years, thus eliminating the need for national taxes and borrowing for those two years, and thus enabling a two year tax jubilee. It would acquire a stable store of value in this way, which it could pay for with a special bond run (Escape bonds), which could be purchased by our central bank, the Federal Reserve System.

The MOA could instruct our treasurer to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for a hard fork from the *retail* bitcoin network and ledger. The RFP could specify that the new network must use measured parcel oxygen production to credit land owner-controlled ledger entries at the rate of 1/38 of a US dollar per gram of oxygen produced. The MOA could also include

³*Retail* bitcoin is the same as bitcoin, with the same software, except it is ready for retail use, and is usually referred to as digital cash (<https://www.dash.org>). It is the right choice here since it is fast, low cost, and easy to use [120–125], and is by orders of magnitude the most reliable of the decentralized autonomous networks, being even more reliable than bitcoin (which technically should be referred to as prototype bitcoin).

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instructions to various federal government officials to repeal tax and legal tender statutes. Since everyone in the country wants such a new and improved US dollar that improves their lives so dramatically, it shouldn't be a problem to get 90 percent of us to sign the MOA, thus giving our federal government employee/agents an unambiguous signal to do these things.

A second MOA could then be used to choose from among the proposals submitted in response to the RFP, and to make the tax and legal tender statute repeals permanent.

4 What

Your job is to spread the word, and to sign the MOA and participate in the front run when the time comes. If you know people with influence, get them to read *Escape*. If you know *retail* bitcoin (<https://www.dash.org>) developers, get them to read the book and they'll know what to do. One option for implementing the MOA would be for our Google Earth engineers to add functionality to their product to allow people to sign the MOA by persuading the algorithm that they are who they say they are and live where they say they live, and then click on their home. If you know any of the Google Earth engineers, or know someone who knows someone..., get them to read *Escape*. The sooner we can get this idea into everyone's minds the sooner we can escape to our mind-bogglingly beautiful and amazing science fiction future.

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