



NEWS

# No Jews allowed: White supremacists are building a segregated community in Arkansas, but is it legal?

Return to the Land is one of the most established white supremacist residential communities in the US, according to the ADL

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Eric Orwoll is co-founder of Return to the Land, which is establishing a segregated community in Arkansas. *Courtesy of screenshot from Eric Orwoll Return to the Land video*



By Hannah Feuer

June 30, 2025

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Nearly 60 years after the United States outlawed racial and religious discrimination in housing, one group in Arkansas is openly reviving it.

Return to the Land, a white supremacist group started in 2023,

owns 160 acres in northeast Arkansas, according to [the group's website](#). Jews and non-whites are explicitly banned from membership. Prospective residents must verify their “ancestral heritage” in a written application and interview before becoming paying members and residing in the off-grid settlement, according to [the group's Substack](#).

The organization hopes to replicate its whites-only settlements across the country, with the stated aim of “trying to put land back under the control of Europeans.” Experts warn the group's practices likely run afoul of anti-discrimination laws and express doubt about its long-term viability.

Still, the group's financial and legal infrastructure makes it one of the most established white supremacist residential communities in the United States today, according to Morgan Moon, an investigative researcher with the Anti-Defamation League's Center for Extremism.

Return to the Land is part of a long tradition of white supremacist groups that have sought to create isolated living communities, according to Moon. In the 1970s and '80s, white supremacists urged like-minded racists to move to the Pacific Northwest with the goal of transforming the area into a white ethnostate. In recent years, similar attempts at forming remote enclaves have cropped up in [Kentucky](#), [North Dakota](#), and [Maine](#).

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Such communities almost always fail to gain traction, Moon said, often due to financial troubles, infighting, or simply the difficulty of asking people to move to remote areas and uproot their lives.

This isn't the first time Arkansas has been the site of such a

project. In 2012, Jason Barnwell, a member of the Aryan Terror Brigade, hoped to persuade white supremacists to relocate to the small town of Evening Shade, Arkansas, where he had purchased 12 acres, according to an ADL report. But the project soon fell apart after Barnwell and several others pleaded guilty to federal charges of firebombing an interracial couple's home.

## **Return to the Land 'is actually a path to power'**

The acreage owned by Return to the Land is near Ravenden, a town of fewer than 500 people in northeast Arkansas that's more than 97% white. The bare-bones setup consists of tiny homes with tents and outhouses at times. A few dozen people live on the property, where residents grow their own food, homeschool their children, and rely on well water for drinking.

Though the Arkansas community may be small and remote, its founders are transparent about their ambitions to gain influence and expand beyond the region. According to Moon, the group's leaders are part of the identitarian movement, a far-right ideology that believes white European identity is under threat from immigration and globalization. Their response is to create a parallel society of whites-only communities.

Orwoll, Return to the Land's president, is a YouTuber with about 14,000 subscribers who also sells online philosophy courses about Plato, Pythagoras and Aristotle. On his YouTube channel, he recounts being "mocked by Mexicans for being blonde" while growing up as a "minority" in Southern California.

Orwoll has described the remote Arkansas development as only a starting point, with grand visions of Return to the Land chapters in cities such as San Francisco and New York City. According to its website, the group is also actively exploring another land purchase in Arkansas.

"We're not running away," Orwoll said in a YouTube video. "This is actually a path to power."

Peter Csere, Return to the Land's self-identified [secretary](#), worked for several years on a farm in Florida before moving to Ecuador, where he co-founded Fruit Haven Ecovillage — an off-grid raw vegan community. Csere left amid [accusations](#) that he had racked up \$40,000 in debt, stolen \$25,000 in cryptocurrency, and was facing criminal charges in Ecuador for stabbing a local miner. In a fundraiser for his [legal defense](#), Csere denied the charges, writing that he acted in self-defense.

Now living in Arkansas, Csere says he helps with “organization and administration, development, budgets, construction, IT, and much more” for intentional living communities through his consulting group, [Global Homestead Solutions](#). He also maintains a YouTube channel where he promotes Return to the Land. In [a video](#) responding to accusations that Return to the Land is filled with “secret Nazis,” he implied he rejects only the former word.

“What does ‘secret’ mean? Well it means, like, you’re hiding something,” he said.

## **Is Return to the Land's approach legal?**

White supremacist enclaves typically consist of one individual buying land and encouraging others to move there, Moon said. But Return to the Land has a more complex legal and financial structure, she said, and the group “seems very organized, at a higher level than I’ve seen in other communities.”

An [LLC operating agreement](#) from 2023, now archived on the group's website, lists eight unnamed individuals as founders who contributed between \$10,000 and \$90,000 each in startup capital.

Those looking to join Return to the Land must pay a \$25 membership fee after completing the vetting process. They then become eligible to buy membership units of the limited liability company that holds ownership of the land. Those interested must buy a minimum of three acres for about \$6,000.

Moon estimated Return to the Land has made about \$300,000 on land sales since September 2023. The group also hosts crowdfunding campaigns to build out their community center and on-site school, which Moon estimated have raised about \$20,000.

“Even though this is a lot of money for a white supremacist group, it’s not a ton when you’re thinking about creating an entire independent society,” Moon said.

The group has also fundraised for “legal research” and says they have connected with “a highly experienced real estate attorney.” In a [promotional video](#) for the development, Orwoll acknowledges potential legal trouble, stating that the Fair Housing Act of 1968 — which prohibits housing discrimination based on race and religion — “made it difficult for white neighborhoods to retain their identity and character.”

So Orwoll and Csere say they structured the organization as a Private Membership Association, limiting land sales to pre-approved members only, which, in their view, makes it legal to restrict membership to white, Christian or pagan people of European heritage.

But according to Stacy Seicshnaydre, a law professor at Tulane University who specializes in fair housing and anti-discrimination law, this may not be the legal loophole that Return to the Land expects. The Fair Housing Act does carve out an exception that allows private clubs which provide lodging “as an incident to its primary purpose” to give preference to its members.

But it appears that Return to the Land is explicitly building residential communities as part of its primary purpose, Seicshnaydre said.

“It would be difficult for any private association to avoid compliance with fair housing law if it is engaging in real estate development,” Seicshnaydre said.

And Return to the Land’s discrimination is explicit. The group does not accept applicants who practice Islam or what it calls “Talmudic Judaism,” explaining in a [Substack post](#) that “both are religions wholly created and mostly promulgated by non-European ethnic groups. We do not accept any applicants who follow those religions, even if they are ethnically European.”

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission, the regulatory agency charged with enforcing fair housing laws in the state, did not respond to a request for comment.

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*Editor’s note: This story has been updated to integrate information provided after publication by Return to the Land’s Peter Csere.*



Hannah Feuer joined the *Forward* as a general assignment reporter in May 2025 after two years as a culture reporter at *Seven Days*, an independent weekly in Burlington, Vermont. Originally from the Washington, D.C., area, she is a 2023 graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

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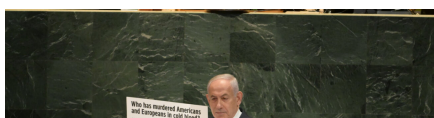
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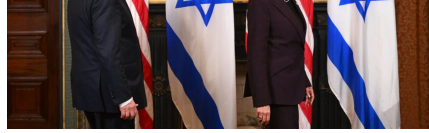
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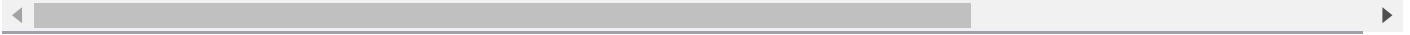
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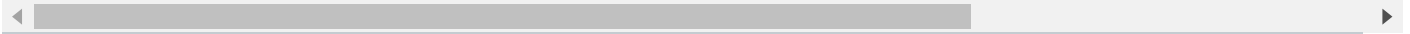
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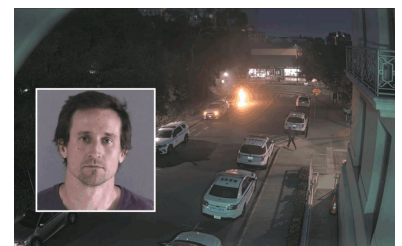
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