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*Ngātoro-i-rangi Carving at Mine Bay*

*Salt of the earth: Researchers use remote sensing/precision technology to aid growers in arid regions*

*Water conservation proving successful as Colorado River water users avoid crisis again*

Posted by Anne Willie

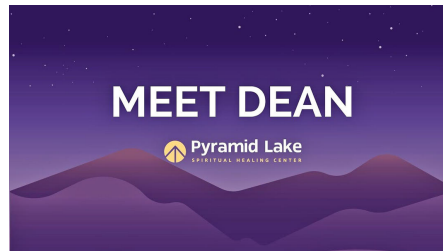


**NCET Biz Tips: NCET to host panel on Nevada's growing lithium economy:** Nevada's Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (NCET) will host a panel on the state's growing lithium economy at the Tamarack Casino in Reno on August 28. The event will feature top industry experts discussing Nevada's role in the lithium energy transition. ([nbnw.com](http://nbnw.com))

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**[Native Solidarity Project is at Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation.](#)**

The road to Burning Man runs right next this Paiute Two Spirit elder's home. Meet Pyramid Lake spiritual leader Dean Barlese in this video by Profiles In Dust and the Pyramid Lake Spiritual aling Center.



**[Native American Media Alliance](#)      **[Calling all Native Animators and Storytellers!](#)**  
**[Are you ready to bring your animated visions to life? The 6th Annual Native American Animation Lab is now accepting applications!](#)****

This intensive program offers mentorship, industry insights, and a platform to develop your animation project. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to connect with other Native creatives and shape the future of animation. Early deadline: August 30th Apply now at [www.nama.media](http://www.nama.media) [#NativeAnimation](#) [#AnimationLab](#) [#indigenoucreatives](#) [#storytelling](#) [#mentorship](#) [#careerdevelopment](#) [#deadlineseptember30th](#) [#animation](#) [#animationart](#) [#animationstudio](#) [#animationmovie](#) [#animationfilm](#) [#animationontv](#)



[nama.media](http://nama.media)

**[Native American Media Alliance](#)**

**[The Native American Media Alliance \(NAMA\) is a new initiative designed to advocate for Native American representation in the entertainment industry. This initiative functions as a resource for industry personnel to work with Native Americans who have an authentic voice for film, television and new m...](#)**

## From Maven's Notebook:

### **Drought in the West has cost hydropower industry billions in losses in two decades, analysis finds**

“Persistent drought in the West over the last two decades has limited the amount of electricity that hydropower dams can generate, costing the industry and the region billions of dollars in revenue. The sector lost about 300 million megawatt hours of power generation between 2003 and 2020 due to drought and low water compared with the long-term average, researchers from the University of Alabama found. That equals about \$28 billion in lost revenue. Half of the drop in power generation was due to drought in Oregon, Washington and California, which produce half the hydropower generated in the U.S. The researchers [published their findings](#) July 23 in the journal Environmental Research Letters. ...” [Read more from the Oregon Capitol Chronicle.](#)

### **Editorial: Generative AI is an energy hog and that could hurt progress fighting climate change**

The LA Times editorial board writes, “Artificial intelligence is one of the world’s fast-growing technologies, with Google, Microsoft, Meta, Apple and others rolling out generative AI models. It’s also one of the most energy-intensive technologies, and that is raising alarm that AI data centers’ thirst for electricity will increase planet-warming emissions and strain the electrical grid. Google AI takes 10 times as much electricity to process a result as a regular Google search, according to one analysis. Data centers, or large buildings filled with computer servers, already accounted for about 4% of energy use in the U.S. in 2022, with consumption expected to hit 6% by 2026, an increase driven in part by the boom in AI use. ... In addition to being a threat to the power grid, servers produce heat and data centers use a lot of water to cool them down. ...” [Read more from the LA Times.](#)

### **Colorado River allotment cuts coming to Arizona, Nevada, Mexico**



“Even though the water level on Lake Powell rose half a foot this year, the Bureau of Reclamation announced on Thursday that Lake Mead is projected to be in a “shortage condition” in 2025 — meaning Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico will see cuts in how much water they can use from the Colorado River. “We are in a base period and we are seeing decreases in our reservoirs and we expect to see decreasing storage through the winter prior to spring runoff next year. However, our reservoirs are at normal levels and look fairly good,” said

Heather Patno, a hydraulic engineer at the Bureau of Reclamation's Glen Canyon Dam, during an online presentation of the bureau's 24-month study on the conditions of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, two large reservoirs for the Colorado River. Although precipitation has been normal this year and there were major storms in January through March this year, warm weather led to significant runoff, Patno said. Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu are 95% full, but Lake Mead is only 33% full. ... ” [Read more from the Associated Press via Courthouse News](#).

### **San Diego forgoes more Colorado River water in new deal**

“The Colorado River’s biggest single user – farmers in Imperial Valley – made another agreement with the federal government to cut their take of the overused, threatened river for the next two years, with help from San Diego. The Imperial Irrigation District’s board announced this week it’d pay farmers to skip some harvests in the coming two years in order to keep around 700,000 acre feet of water (an acre-foot is two California households’ annual water use) in the river’s biggest reservoir, Lake Mead. San Diego is in discussions with Imperial Valley to help farmers reach that goal by selling back some of the water it purchases from the valley. The San Diego County Water Authority has more water than it can use right now after recent rainy years broke multiple years of drought. It’s in a budget pinch, facing a \$2 million cut to its budget along with a 14 percent rate increase on the cost of water for its 22 customer water districts. ... ” [Read more from the Voice of San Diego](#).

### **Nevada to take Colorado River water cuts for 4th straight year**

“Nevada will face cuts in how much water it can use from the Colorado River for the fourth year in a row, triggered by new Bureau of Reclamation projections for Lake Mead, the country’s biggest reservoir. While the Colorado River Basin has experienced above-normal snowfall for two consecutive years, it’s not been enough to best Western drought that’s persisted over two decades. And water managers are bracing for further potential cuts if dry years fueled by climate change and La Niña conditions are to follow. In 2022, Lake Mead’s water level was the lowest it’s ever been. Today, it stands nearly 22 feet higher, but it’s expected to dip to only 13 feet above the all-time low in the next two years, according to projections released Thursday. ... ” [Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).

### **SEE ALSO:**

- [Reclamation announces 2025 operating conditions for Lake Powell and Lake Mead](#), press release from the Bureau of Reclamation
- [Colorado River shortage triggers 7% Nevada water cut](#), from the Las Vegas Sun
- [Reclamation projects Tier 1 shortage for 2025 – Lower Basin continues extraordinary actions to stabilize Colorado River system](#), from CAP Know Your Water News.
- [Water reductions will continue in 2025 due to Lake Mead’s level projections](#), from Channel 12

### **Why isn’t Colorado’s snowpack ending up in the Colorado River? New research suggests the problem might be the lack of spring rainfall**

“The Colorado River and its tributaries provide water for hydropower, irrigation and drinking water in seven U.S. states and Mexico. Much of this water comes from the snowpack that builds up over the winter and then melts each spring. Every year in early April, water managers use the snowpack to predict how much water will be available for the upcoming year. But since 2000,



these predictions have been incorrect, with the actual streamflow being consistently lower than the predicted streamflow. That's left water managers and researchers flummoxed — where's the water going? The problem lies with the lack of rainfall in the spring, according to new research from the University of Washington. The researchers found that recent warmer, drier springs account for almost 70% of the discrepancy. With less rain, the plants in the area rely more on the snowmelt for water, leaving less water to make its way into the nearby streams. Decreased rain also means sunny skies, which encourages plant growth and water evaporation from the soil. ... ” [Read more from the University of Washington.](#)

**SEE ALSO:** [Water Level Mystery Flummoxing US Scientists May Be Solved](#), from Newsweek

### **Strengthening western resilience in the face of drought**

“The lifeblood of the American West, the Colorado River Basin provides water for more than 40 million people and fuels hydropower resources in seven U.S. states. Additionally, the Colorado River is a crucial resource for 30 Tribal Nations and two states in Mexico, and supports 5.5 million acres of agriculture and agricultural communities across the West, in addition to important ecosystems and endangered species. In 2021, historic drought along the river brought the communities it serves to a near crisis. A 23-year megadrought diminished the river's largest reservoirs — Lake Mead and Lake Powell — to critically low elevations, which threatened water deliveries and power production. The Department and Bureau of Reclamation jumped into action. Through the President's Investing in America agenda, Reclamation is leveraging nearly \$13 billion in critical investments across the west through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. ... ” [Read more from the Department of Interior.](#)

### **Think the LA Aqueduct was the city's first water system? Nope, it's the Zanja Madre**

“William Mullholland is often hailed as the man who brought water to Los Angeles, but there's an earlier group Angelenos owe flowers to: The original founders of L.A., and the Zanja Madre. The system of zanjias — Spanish for trench or ditch — was the city's first irrigation network that brought water from the L.A. River to people's homes and fields. For the 44 pobladores who came from New Spain (modern Mexico) to settle in today's downtown, every drop of water was liquid gold. Having quick access to water helped sustain life and raised crops for food. ... ” [Read more from the LAist.](#)

***But don't forget the “Hohokum” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohokam> with a history - and water works - dated back to at least 2000CE.***

### **The art of water conservation**

“As a part of several Getty “PST ART: Art & Science Collide” exhibitions, Lauren Bon and Metabolic Studio are presenting “Portable Wetland for Southern California,” a conceptual artwork and experimental proposal for ecological remediation at [Brackish](#) Water Los Angeles. Located on the California State University, Dominguez Hills campus in South Los Angeles, where local rivers have been transformed into concrete channels, and where industrial contamination and ecological racism have plagued surrounding communities for generations. The exhibition considers issues of access, inclusion, ecological racism and cultural/class system interchanges along Los Angeles' waterways. ... ” [Read more from the Beverly Press.](#)

## [Sandra Day O'Connor Institute For American Democracy](#)

The O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club is a free, online program for 9th-12th graders. Students will interact with guest speakers who have served at the highest levels of government and policy; past guests have included the former secretary of the Air Force and also Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's first law clerk at the Supreme Court, a woman who went on to be chief justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. Ambassadors meetings are run by the O'Connor Institute's directors of civic education and public policy. College scholarships for seniors are also available! Join today: [www.oconnorinstitute.org/ambassadors/...](http://www.oconnorinstitute.org/ambassadors/)



Get involved!  
Learn more about the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute  
Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club for 9th-12th grade  
Students: [OConnorInstitute.org/ambassadors](http://OConnorInstitute.org/ambassadors)

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[O'Connor Institute Ambassadors Civics & Debate Club Calling all high-school-age leaders! Want to impress colleges, sharpen your leadership talents, connect with other driven students from around the country, enhance your civics knowledge and civil discourse skills, and debate the most important ci...](#)

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## **Prehistoric Paintings Found in the Amazon Depict Supernatural Figures**

The rock art is in a region of Colombia that was off-limits to researchers for decades due to political instability.

Read in Gizmodo: <https://apple.news/ABDICbgFqSiGKLfoUzPlwiQ>

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## [American Theatre Wing](#)

High school seniors, don't miss out on the chance to receive financial support for your theatre

 education. Receive a \$10,000 annual university scholarship through the Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative.

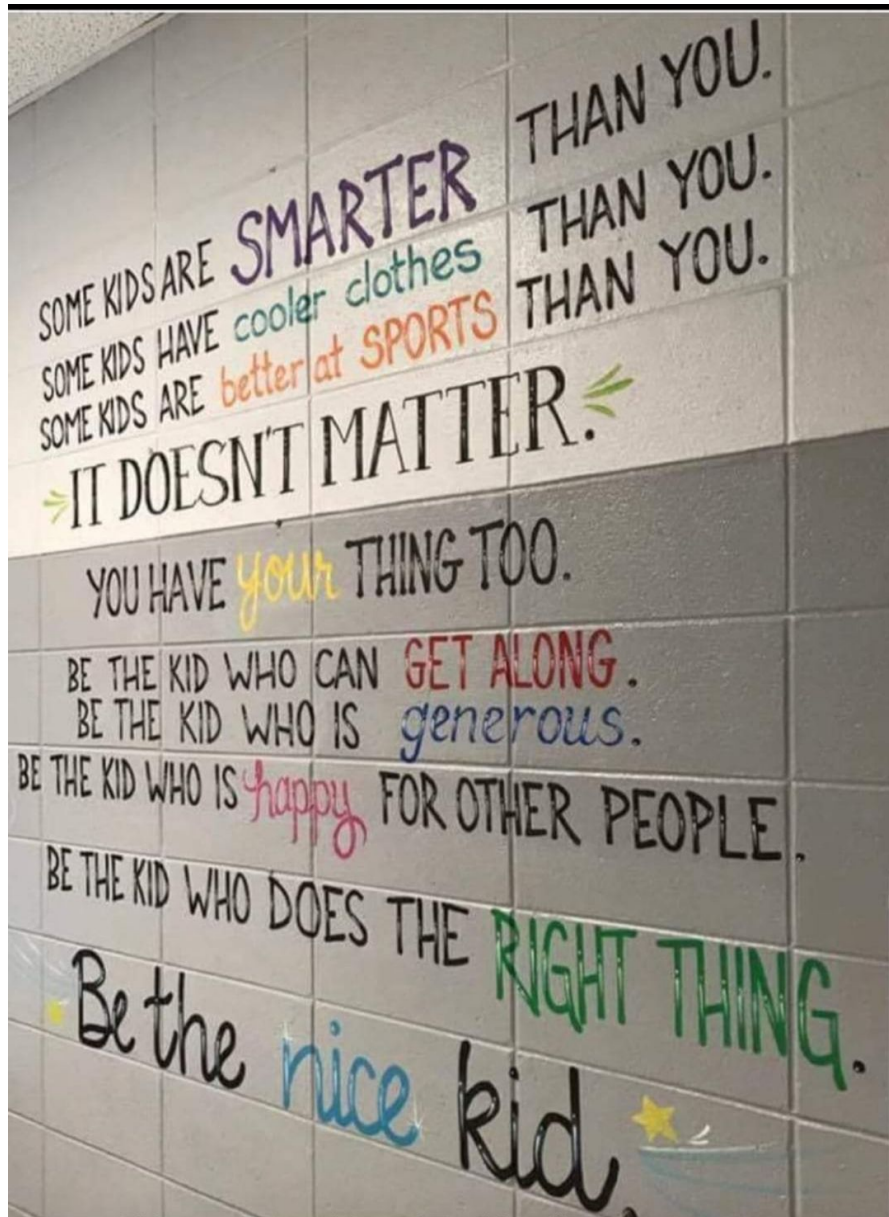
**Apply now! Deadline is September 16.**

## Scholarships with September 30 Deadline

*Some unique opportunities in this listing, particularly the last.*

|                                                                                        |          |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| <a href="#">\$2,000 No Essay CollegeVine Scholarship</a>                               | \$2,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">“Unboxing Your Life” Video Scholarship</a>                                 | \$3,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">AAA - Incitec Pivot Limited Veteran Scholarship and Internship</a>         | \$40,000 | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">AAA Graduate Education Scholarships (USA to Australia)</a>                 | \$40,000 | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">AAA Veteran Education Scholarships (USA to Australia)</a>                  | \$40,000 | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">AASA Education Administration Scholarship</a>                              | \$2,500  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Alliance Medical Education Scholarship</a>                                 | \$2,500  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Creative Biolabs Scholarship Program</a>                                   | \$1,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">CREW Inland Empire Foundation</a>                                          | \$5,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Georgia Engineering Foundation Scholarships</a>                            | \$5,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Heartfelt Dreams Foundation Nursing Scholarship</a>                        | \$5,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">John Grossheim Memorial Scholarship</a>                                    | \$2,500  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Justice Solutions Group Future Mentors Scholarship</a>                     | \$2,500  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">L. Ron Hubbard Illustrators of The Future Contest</a>                      | \$5,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">L. Ron Hubbard Writers of The Future Contest</a>                           | \$6,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Live Poets Society of New Jersey - National High School Poetry Contest</a> | \$500    | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Nuts, Bolts &amp; Thingamajigs (NBT) Scholarships</a>                      | \$2,500  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Orangewood Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship</a>                        | \$5,904  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Plains Anthropology Society Native American Student Award</a>              | \$1,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Regions Riding Forward Scholarship Contest</a>                             | \$8,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">Sport Clips Scholarship</a>                                                | \$5,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">The Home Depot Foundation Path to Pro Scholarship</a>                      | \$2,000  | September 30, 2024 |
| <a href="#">You Can’t Label People, But You Can Label Products</a>                     | \$3,000  | September 30, 2024 |

- As wildfire season becomes more threatening, experts are turning to AI • Michigan Advance:** As wildfires become more intense due to climate change, experts like Zach Tolby, who lived in Reno, Nevada, are turning to AI for better monitoring and response. AI technologies are being developed to help predict and manage wildfires more efficiently. ([michiganadvance.com](http://michiganadvance.com))



### **One of Earth's Continents Is Rising Up, And The Effects Could Be Huge**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/one-earths-continents-rising-effects-015733741.html>

### **When harvesting wild rice, patience is crucial ingredient**

The sacred grain sets its schedule, regardless of what the calendar says.

[https://replica.startribune.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=9d4de646-aa80-4673-88ce-ed98ff21ae4b&share=true](https://replica.startribune.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=9d4de646-aa80-4673-88ce-ed98ff21ae4b&share=true)

### **Cheaper, greener way to build housing — the Legos way**

[https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=f4d5a746-dcdf-4990-b73d-5441f4280949&share=true](https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=f4d5a746-dcdf-4990-b73d-5441f4280949&share=true)



## Reviving Roots

By Bailey Placzek & Michael Holloman

Over three summers in the 1930s, artist Clyfford Still paid members of the Coville Confederated Tribes small sums to pose for portraits. Now, almost a century later, staff at his namesake museum are pursuing a deeper relationship with the community. Find out how they've worked with their partners to yield "reciprocally generative" rather than extractive outcomes.

[Read more »](#)

<https://www.aam-us.org/2024/08/12/reviving-roots-clyfford-still-museum-and-the-colville-confederated-tribes-partner-for-the-future/>



<https://www.aam-us.org/2023/11/14/a-journey-of-healing-creating-co-stewardship-with-tribal-communities/>

### [A Journey of Healing](#)

By Caitlin Dichter & Nicole Armstrong-Best

After a decade of consulting with its local tribal communities, the city-managed S'edav Va'aki Museum in Phoenix has overhauled its mission and changed its name to reflect a new focus on Indigenous perspectives and culture. Here's how staff have leveraged this trusting relationship to make changes to interpretation and exhibitions—and how it's started to spill out into other areas of the city government.

[Read more »](#)

## Related Stories

- [Sharing Authority with Indigenous Peoples](#) Category: [Future Forecasting](#)
- [Take a Deep Dive into the Future of Museums this November](#) Category: [Center for the Future Of Museums Blog](#)
- [ISO Stories about the Future of Voluntary Repatriation, Restitution, and Reparations](#) Category: [Center for the Future Of Museums Blog](#)
- [Call for Content! Repatriation, Restitution, and Reparative Practice](#) Category: [Center for the Future Of Museums Blog](#)

## Secretary Haaland Highlights Conservation, Preservation Efforts During Maine Visit

**STACYVILLE, Maine** — Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz wrapped a multi-day visit to Maine this weekend where they highlighted conservation and preservation efforts underway through the National Park Service.

On Thursday, the leaders visited the Frances Perkins Homestead in Newcastle and held a community meeting to learn about the community’s vision for the care and management of the Frances Perkins Homestead, which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2014. Frances Perkins, the first female cabinet member and longest-serving Labor Secretary, is credited as an architect of the New Deal and other programs that Americans continue to benefit from today, such as unemployment insurance and Social Security. Throughout her life, Perkins considered Newcastle and the 57-acre homestead along the Damariscotta River as her home. Community-led efforts to have the homestead designated as a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service have garnered support from local leaders, including the Governor and current and former members of the congressional delegation.

As America’s storyteller, the National Park Service helps preserve and honor important individuals and chapters of the country’s history. Since Day One of the Biden-Harris administration, the Department of the Interior has invested in efforts that tell a more complete story of our nation’s history.

On Saturday, Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary Estenoz joined federal, state, Tribal and community members for a celebration and ribbon cutting at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument’s new Tekakwimək contact station. The new station will provide visitors a location for orientation and information through exhibits designed with Wabanaki artistry and knowledge that explain the monument’s landscape and significance. The project – a gift from Maine-based Elliottsville Foundation – represents an unprecedented partnership to incorporate Native traditions and culture into every aspect of the visitor experience. The Elliottsville Foundation built and is donating the center to the National Park Service, who will manage it as part of the monument with additional support from the National Park Foundation. These exhibits are the result of a deliberative and collaborative effort with Tribal Nations to fully honor the traditions, languages, images, kinship and ancestral representations of the land’s original stewards. The new contact station will be open to the public in 2025.

Under Secretary Haaland’s leadership, the Department has put in place policies, infrastructure, and [agreements](#) to usher in a new era of Tribal co-stewardship of public lands and waters. At the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit, Secretary Haaland and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack signed [Joint Secretary's Order 3403 \(S.O. 3403\)](#) committing to Tribal and federal co-stewardship of federal lands, waters and wildlife, including through collaborative and cooperative agreements with Tribal Nations.

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**The Conservation Fund** believes that well-managed forests can be both economically viable and ecologically sustainable. We invite you to learn more about the major accomplishments, challenges and activities of our North Coast Forest Conservation program via our 2023 North Coast Annual Review: [bit.ly/4cnDJEG](https://bit.ly/4cnDJEG). [#LandSustainsUs](#)

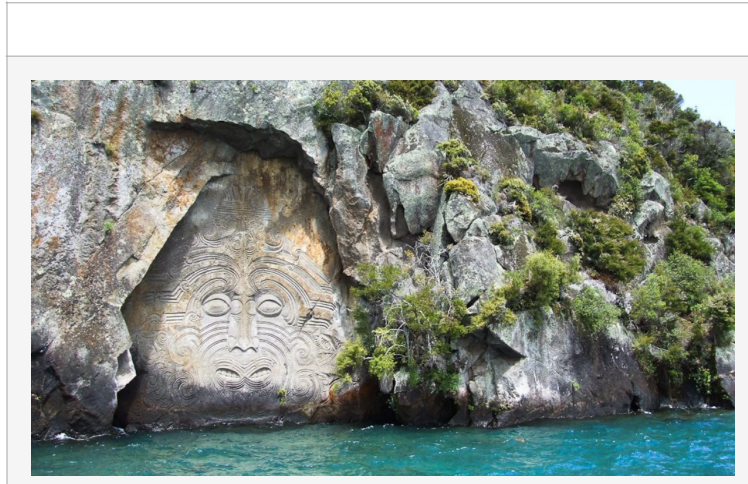


## Ngātoro-i-rangi Carving at Mine Bay

Taupō, New Zealand

This 46-foot-tall carving of a legendary Māori navigator can only be visited by boat.

[https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/ngatoroirangi-mine-bay-maori-rock-carvings?mc\\_cid=e221b1e1c1&mc\\_eid=564e5140e6](https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/ngatoroirangi-mine-bay-maori-rock-carvings?mc_cid=e221b1e1c1&mc_eid=564e5140e6)



### **The salt of the earth: Researchers use remote sensing and precision technology to aid growers in arid regions**

“One of the main challenges of irrigating crops is that available water sources contain salt. Over time, repeated waterings from these sources lead to salt accumulation, damaging soil fertility. This issue is especially acute in the arid and semi-arid regions found in much of the western United States. To address the issue, researchers are beginning to apply the techniques of digital and precision agriculture to help growers provide their crops with the water they need without harming them, or the soil, in the process. Their efforts combine a variety of strategies and tools. Todd Skaggs, research leader at ARS’s Agricultural Water Efficiency and Salinity (AWES) Research Unit, in Riverside, CA, described several ideas that his team is exploring. One approach is to develop crops with a higher salt tolerance, including working to understand that trait at a genetic level. Recently, the AWES team has focused on alfalfa, using greenhouses to grow a variety that is significantly more salt-tolerant than conventional varieties. ... ”

[Read more from the USDA Agricultural Research Service.](#)

### **Water conservation proving successful as Colorado River water users avoid crisis again**

“Today, as it does every August, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released data used to determine Colorado River operating conditions for the following year. Thanks to persistent and increasing conservation by water users in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Mexico in addition to a couple of good winters’ snow accumulation in the mountains—crisis-level shortages impacting cities in Arizona and California will be avoided. The “August 2024 Most Probable 24-Month Study” projects that at the end of the year, Lake Mead, the enormous reservoir supplying the southern portions of the Colorado River Basin, will sit at elevation 1062 feet above mean sea level, resulting in “Tier One” shortages and water conservation requirements under the current rules. Without farmers’ as well as some cities’ proactive water conservation measures in the Lower Colorado River Basin, including Mexico, the water surface in the reservoir might have been 25 feet lower, and significant mandatory water shortages would have hit millions of people living in Phoenix and Los Angeles and across the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. ... ” [Continue reading from Audubon.](#)