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Everything on Earth is borrowed.....

Project 2025

Mining for uranium at the Grand Canyon

Invitation to Thriving Landscapes - a Forum

In Dialogue Virtual Exchange Program

Mapping the purchasing power of \$100 in each state.

Back to School: Lynn Manning John's Life

Michener Center for Writers

The Klamath Dam Removals: A Story of People and Possibility

Inside the Effort to Save Earth's Biocrusts

Diversification

The value of history: Dr. Eric Nystrom teaches mining history at UNR

Water infrastructure legislation would be boost for civil engineers

Dive into the opulent tapestry of American history through the lens of its indigenous populations

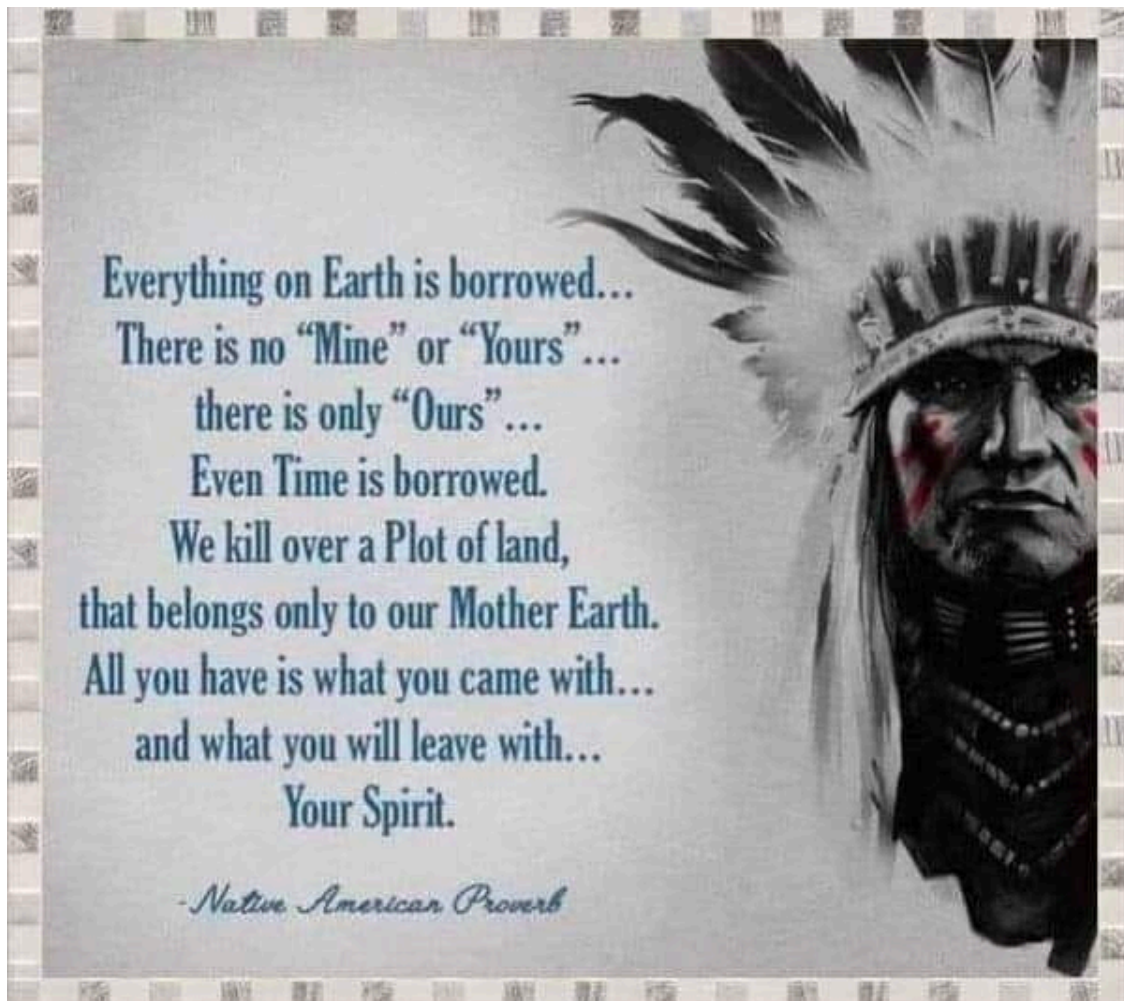
EPA - Policy for Meaningful Engagement/Public Participation in Agency Decision-Making Processes

Why the San Fernando Valley suburbs could be ground zero for the next farming revolution

Names

Crazy Horse

10,000 Indigenous children from 140 tribes attended Carlisle. Only 158 graduated



PROJECT 2025

Project 2025 is important in many way. Most people will not take the time to read almost 1000 pages (which is why so many complex pieces of legislation get passed) but one can search the document and read pertinent sections at leisure. And one should not miss the footnotes. In the meantime, here's some extracts to whet your appetite.

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The Project 2025 Advisory Board

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Pacific Research Institute
Patrick Henry College
Personnel Policy Operations
Recovery for America Now Foundation
1792 Exchange
Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America
Texas Public Policy Foundation
Teneo Network
Young America's Foundation

— 536 —Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise

2. Engaging in real-time monitoring of operations.
 - 1 Reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies by consolidating federal water working groups.
 - 1 Implement actions identified in the Federal Action Plan for Improving Forecasts of Water Availability,⁹³ especially by adopting improvements related to:
 1. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations; and
 2. Aerial Snow Observation Systems.
 - 1 Clarify the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act⁹⁴ to ensure consistent application with other federal infrastructure loan programs under the Federal Credit Reform Act. This should be done to foster opportunities for locally led investment in water infrastructure.
 - 1 Reinstate Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West.⁹⁵

AMERICAN INDIANS AND U.S. TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

The Biden Administration has breached its federal trust responsibilities to American Indians. This is unconscionable. Specifically, the Biden Administration's war on domestically available fossil fuels and mineral sources has been devastating. To wit:

- 1 The ability of American Indians and tribal governments to develop their abundant oil and gas resources has been severely hampered, depriving them of the revenue and profits to which they are entitled during a time of increasing worldwide energy prices, forcing American Indians—who are among the poorest Americans—to choose between food and fuel.
- 1 Indian nations with significant coal resources have some of the highest quality and cleanest-burning coal in the world, but the Biden Administration has sought to destroy the market for their coal by eliminating coal-fired electricity in the country and to prevent the transport of their coal for sale internationally. Meanwhile, the Biden Administration, at great public expense, artificially boosted the demand for electric vehicles, which, because of their remote locations, the absence of increased electricity demands for charging electric vehicles nearby, and the distances to be traveled, are not a choice for Indian communities.

— 537 —Department of the Interior

- 1 A significant percentage of critical minerals needed by the United States is on Indian lands, but the Biden Administration has actively discouraged development of critical mineral mining projects on Indian lands rather than assisting in their advancement.

1 Despite Indian nations having primary responsibility for their lands and environment and responsibility for the safety of their communities, the Biden Administration is reversing efforts to put Indian nations in charge of environmental regulation on their own lands.

Moreover, Biden Administration policies, including those of the DOI, have dis-proportionately impacted American Indians and Indian nations.

1 By its failure to secure the border, the Biden Administration has robbed Indian nations on or near the Mexican border of safe and secure communities while permitting them to be swamped by a tide of illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl.

1 When ending COVID protocols at Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, Biden's DOI failed to ensure an accurate accounting of students returning from school shutdowns, which presents a significant danger to the families that trust their children to that federal agency.

1 The BIE is not reporting student academic assessment data to ensure parents and the larger tribal communities know their children are learning and are receiving a quality education.

The new Administration must take the following actions to fulfill the nation's trust responsibilities to American Indians and Indian nations:

1 End the war on fossil fuels and domestically available minerals and facilitate their development on lands owned by Indians and Indian nations.

1 End federal mandates and subsidies of electric vehicles.

1 Restore the right of tribal governments to enforce environmental regulation on their lands.

1 Secure the nation's border to protect the sovereignty and safety of tribal lands.

1 Overhaul BIE schools to put parents and their children first.

— 538 —Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise

Finally, the new Administration should seek congressional reauthorization of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations,⁹⁶ which provided a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value, but which sunsets November 24, 2022. New funds should come from the Great American Outdoors Act.⁹⁷

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The preparation of this chapter was a collective enterprise of individuals involved in the 2025 Presidential Transition Project. All contributors to this chapter are listed at the front of this volume, but some deserve special mention. Kathleen Sgamma, Dan Kish, and Katie Tubb wrote the section on energy in its entirety. I received thoughtful, knowledgeable, and swift assistance from Aubrey Bettencourt, Mark Cruz, Lanny Erdos, Aurelia S. Giacometto, Casey Hammond, Jim Magagna, Chad Padgett, Jim Pond, Rob Roy Ramey II, Kyle E. Scherer, Tara Sweeney, John Tahsuda, Rob Wallace, and Gregory Zerzan. The author alone assumes responsibility for the content of this chapter; no views expressed herein should be attributed to any other individual.

Mining for uranium at the Grand Canyon

“The Pinyon Plain uranium mine is a decades-old, but recently activated uranium mine roughly 10 miles from the Grand Canyon National Park. The mine sits inside the boundaries of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument but due to a 1872 mining law, it side-steps the monument's restrictions against damaging activity like mining. The General Mining Act of 1872 protects mining rights as long as the mine is in operation prior to newly passed laws or land protections. Despite outcry from tribal, environmental and health officials, Pinyon Plain is allowed to mine for uranium—a practice that can have drastic health and ecological effects. ...” [Read more from Environment America.](#)

You're invited to USDA Rural Partners Network's Thriving Landscapes Forum on September 18th 2024 in Yerington, Nevada. Please register for attendance via the following link, or click on the invitation below. We hope to see you soon! <https://forms.office.com/g/G3ZMbWU0DG>



Thriving Landscapes: Cultivating Outdoor Recreation Economies

Join USDA Rural Partners Network's Thriving Landscapes Forum, convening federal, state, Tribal, and rural partners on how to create an ecosystem for outdoor recreation economies.

We'll focus on four pillars:

- Outdoor Recreation
- Rural Tourism
- Entrepreneurs and Small Business
- Placemaking

We look forward to sharing more information and an agenda shortly!

September 18th, 2024
8:00am-4:30pm
Social Hour at 3:30pm

Yerington Theatre for the Arts
120 N California St, Yerington,
NV 89447

Register [here](#) or for more information, contact rachel.dahl@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

In Dialogue Virtual Exchange Program

Image Caption: [Preamble](#) by Mike Wilkins, 1987.

More than a date on the calendar, 1776 represents a launching point of the qualities that make up American democracy, including but not limited to diversity, innovation, and perseverance. While not always perfect, communities of all sizes have drawn inspiration from these qualities to contribute to 250 years of the American experiment. Centering local stories within this national narrative helps young people grasp the indispensability of the human voice, in all its variety, in ensuring a robust democracy.

How has your community played a role in 250 years of the American experiment?

Become a Smithsonian Virtual Exchange Facilitator and learn how to collaboratively design and lead place-based investigations with your students to better understand the stories emanating from your hometown. Share and reflect with another community in another corner of the country. Celebrate the commonalities and the differences.

2024-2025 Virtual Exchange Schedule

Democracy in

Dialogue is built around semester-long engagements with each exchange lasting between 6 - 8 weeks. Each cohort begins a new cycle with new participants:

- Cohort 1: September – December 2024 (10 exchanges led by 20 facilitators)
- Cohort 2: January – May 2025 (20 exchanges led by 40 facilitators)
- Cohort 3: June – August 2025 (20 exchanges led by 40 facilitators)
- Cohort 4 & 5: September – December 2025 (40 exchanges led by 80 facilitators)

The application period for Cohort 2 (40 facilitators) will start on September 3, 2024. All applications must be received by October 4, 2024, 5PM, EST.

Mapping the purchasing power of [\\$100 in each state](#).

Back to School: Lynn Manning John's Life

<https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/back-school-lynn-manning-johns-life-comes-full-circle>

Michener Center for Writers

Applications to the Michener Center for Writers are open through December 1st.

MICHENER.UTEXAS.EDU

[UT–Austin's Fully Funded M.F.A. in Writing](#)

[Michener Fellows receive a \\$34,000 annual stipend plus tuition, an insurance stipend, and an annual conference attendance grant. Applications for Fall 2025 entry in Playwriting, Screenwriting, Poetry, and Fiction are open through December 1st, 2024.](#)

The Klamath Dam Removals: A Story of People and Possibility

<https://www.americanrivers.org/2024/09/the-klamath-dam-removals-a-story-of-people-and-possibility/>

Smithsonian Magazine

Also called biocrust, cryptobiotic soil is a community of tiny, dirt-dwelling organisms that form a distinct crust on the top of soil in arid landscapes.



smithsonianmag.com

[Inside the Effort to Save Earth's Biocrusts](#)

[Think twice before stepping on that crunchy top layer of soil. It may be a vital ecosystem that you can help protect](#)

City Profile: **Diversification** proves a sound strategy for the Reno-Tahoe region: Reno is diversifying its tourism and hospitality sector to attract more visitors beyond gamblers. Investments in outdoor recreation, advanced manufacturing, and special events are driving the city's resurgence and economic growth. (hotelmanagement.net)

- **The value of history: Dr. Eric Nystrom teaches mining history at UNR:**
Dr. Eric Nystrom, a new professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, is revitalizing the study of mining history. His work highlights the importance of mining in Nevada's past and its ongoing significance. (elkodaily.com)
-

Water infrastructure legislation would be boost for civil engineers

“In a bitterly divided Congress amid a contentious race for the presidency, one piece of legislation that is beneficial to society and the engineering community stands out for its bipartisanship. Congress reconvenes next week, and the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 is expected to be taken up and likely passed in relatively short order. Its passage would provide a big boost for ports and inland waterways, bolster flood risk management and storm risk reduction programs, and emphasize ecosystem restoration, according to statements from ASCE President Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., F.ASCE. ... The legislation is “extremely well supported on a bipartisan level,” said Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, Ph.D., P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE, an environmental senior project manager in the Jackson, Mississippi, office of Neel-Schaffer Inc. ... ”

[Read more from Civil Engineering Source.](#)

- The Great Courses
Dive deep into the **opulent tapestry of American history through the lens of its indigenous populations** with Native Peoples of North America. Crafted by The Great Courses in collaboration with the Smithsonian, this enlightening journey disrupts conventional narratives, offering fresh perspectives on the roles and impacts of Native Americans throughout more than five centuries.

Guided by Professor Daniel M. Cobb of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, this comprehensive 24-lecture course incorporates extensive resources and insights from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, alongside rare artifacts and historical accounts, to challenge misconceptions and expand your understanding of American history from an Indigenous viewpoint. Through vivid storytelling and scrutiny of pivotal events and figures, from the Columbian Exchange to modern-day challenges and achievements, this course reframes the American historical landscape, emphasizing the resilience, agency, and contributions of Native peoples in shaping the nation.

Try The Great Courses Plus with a special **FREE TRIAL** and uncover the untold stories that will forever alter your perception of American history!



thegreatcoursesplus.com

[Survey Native American History for FREE!](#)

EPA Finalizes Policy for Meaningful Engagement and Public Participation in Agency Decision-Making Processes

Today, September 5, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the release of the final [Achieving Health and Environmental Protection Through EPA's Meaningful Engagement Policy](#). The new policy outlines updates on how the agency intends to engage with the public and provide meaningful public participation opportunities in all of its programs and regions. This policy is grounded in the acknowledgment that EPA's actions to protect public health and the environment are stronger when they are informed by and reflect the lived experiences of the communities and individuals the agency serves.

"EPA's ability to deliver critical public health and environmental protections to all communities depends on the meaningful input that our stakeholders share with us," said **Theresa Segovia, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights**. "The Biden-Harris Administration has made it a priority to engage with and hear from the American people, and our updated policy brings EPA one step closer to meeting our mission and solving some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our lifetimes."

EPA's Meaningful Engagement Policy highlights three steps to help EPA staff design appropriate and effective processes for meaningful engagement and public participation for a particular

action or situation, recognizing that engagement processes will need to be tailored to meet different program or decision contexts, and the people we serve. The three steps include:

1. Understanding EPA actions and key issues the public can inform.
2. Identifying the expected level of participation using EPA's public participation spectrum.
3. Identifying the appropriate engagement tools and practices using EPA's public participation model.

Although this document does not create new legal requirements or mandatory obligations for EPA, the recommendations finalized in the policy provide the public with meaningful engagement opportunities for program and regional needs. This final policy updates and supersedes EPA's 2003 "Public Involvement Policy." It builds on EPA's foundational commitment to ensuring that the public has timely, accessible, and accurate information about EPA programs, and that EPA teams provide opportunities for participation that foster a spirit of mutual trust, confidence, and openness between the agency and the public. The final policy also advances the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to meaningful engagement and President Biden's Executive Orders [13985](#), [14094](#) (supported by the guidance [Broadening Public Participation and Community Engagement in the Regulatory Process](#)), and [13990](#), [14008](#) and [14096](#) to revitalize our nation's commitment to environmental justice.

To learn more about the final policy, please visit [EPA's website](#).

Background

In 1981, recognizing the requirements for meaningful public engagement in authorizing statutes and executive orders, EPA issued its [Public Participation Policy](#), addressing public participation in decision-making, rulemaking, and program implementation by the Agency and entities carrying out EPA programs. In 2003, the agency published its [updated Public Involvement Policy](#), resulting from the multi-year effort of the cross-agency "Review of EPA Public Participation Policies" Workgroup established in 1999. EPA had success with hosting regular meetings of a cross-agency community of practice, building a [web portal](#), developing training, publishing a [newsletter](#), documenting [case studies](#), and collecting information on [customer satisfaction](#).

Read the Federal Register Notice containing the updated policy. EPA's Response to Comments document addresses comments received during the 60-day public and Tribal consultation period from November 16, 2023, to January 16, 2024, and is also available in the [Federal Register](#) and on [EPA's website](#).

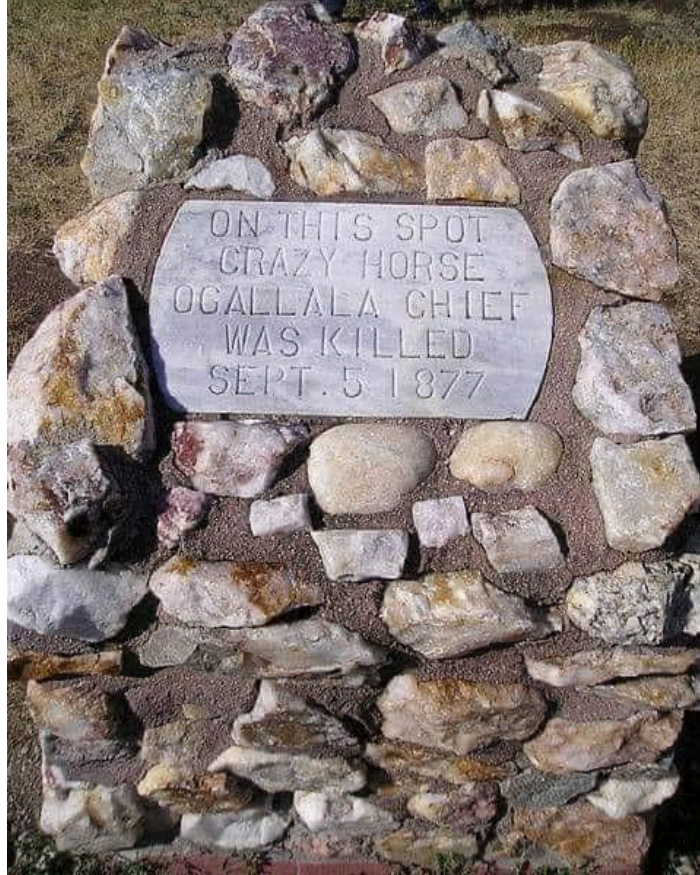
Why the San Fernando Valley suburbs could be ground zero for the next farming revolution

"The San Fernando Valley is a quintessential Los Angeles suburb. But now that [climate change](#) has made the valley's classic clean-cut lawns more unsustainable, some people have been replacing their green grass with crops. So could this slice of suburbia, with more than 1.8 million people living across 260 square miles, be home to the next farming revolution? Elliott Kuhn, owner of Cottonwood Urban Farm in the San Fernando Valley, told LAist you might not make a living selling boutique microgreens from your front lawn, but it absolutely can work on a smaller scale to help feed your family and build a community with your neighbors. "I think the opportunity here for L.A. specifically ... is the idea that we have one of the largest stages in the world," Kuhn said. "If we can lay out a pathway that's replicable here for transforming underutilized space to valuable green space that can be used and important to people, holy smokes, man. Holy smokes." ... " [Read more from the LAist](#)

"So many names, there is barely room on the walls of the heart."

<https://www.pbs.org/video/pbs-newshour-poet-billy-collins-reflects-on-911-victims-in-the-names/>

We can think of, oh, so many other names



[Hinhan Cetanhotanka](#)

“Remember me when you see the black hills. Tell my people that when they see the sacred black hills, to always remember me. A defender of my people and of this land. So said Crazy Horse as he went to the spirit world.” Tasunke Witko.

From 1879-1918 over 10,000 Indigenous children from 140 tribes attended Carlisle. Only 158 graduated.

FCNL is pushing to pass a bill addressing the boarding school era (H.R. 7227/S. 1723) before the end of this Congress.

<https://fcnl.actionkit.com/mailings/view/74848?akid=74848.444357.6BoVvH&co=74848.oeu1Fg&rd=1&t=4>

(Note: In the first hundred years of the University of Nevada, only four Natives graduated. Congratulations to all those who have changed history. UNR is no longer a blonde campus.)