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Three Horses, One Rider, A Spritual Tradition

The Klamath Dam removals: A story of people and possibility

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call: September 17, 2024

National Park calls out 'world changing' impact of dropped Cheetos bag

Listen: How eating less beef and dairy could help save the Colorado River

2023-24 Native American Fee Waiver Report

Native American Non-Profit Appeals to US Supreme Court to Block Arizona Mine

Mothers of the Earth: The Role of Indigenous Women in Protecting the Rainforest

Chumash Celebrate

My Time at Standing Rock

Art Unveiled: A Mural Clebration

Tyler Shane Summerfield



Three Horses, One Rider, A Spritual Tradition

Indian relay horse racing is hard work, requiring dedication and commitment for a whirlwind of excitement that lasts only a few minutes. The Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indian magazine goes into the arena to tell the story of the fast-paced world of Indian relay horse racing, which is not just a sport to the Native competitors who participate, but also a cultural and spiritual tradition handed down through generations.

<https://www.americanindianmagazine.org/story/indian-relay-horse-racing>

The Klamath Dam removals: A story of people and possibility

Ann Willis writes, “As I stood on a bridge and looked upstream along the Klamath River, I felt confused. For over 15 years, I had stood in the same spot and gazed on the earthen face of Iron Gate Dam. But on this day, I saw...space. Framing the edges of that space, I saw canyon walls, river bed, floodplains and terraces, and miles of vista. I lost my dad last year, so I understand having the experience of noticing the absence of someone who had been monumental in my life – both physically and metaphorically. I understand the confusion that results from seeing a space where he used to be and being keenly aware of his absence. I noticed the absence of Iron Gate Dam in the same way – the loss of something that had been monumental in my life and in the lives of thousands of others. But unlike the absence of my dad, seeing the absence of Iron Gate Dam stirred feelings of wonder, joy, hope, and gratitude. ... ” [Read more from American Rivers.](#)

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call: September 17, 2024

EPA invites Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates to participate in the next [National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call](#) taking place on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time). These calls are free and open to the public. Also please mark your calendars for our upcoming call on October 15th.

Registration Link: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_XlgAdMDiSnuzJAIQGTZ6rA

Tentative Agenda:

- **Community Spotlight**
- [National Environmental Youth Advisory Council](#)
- [EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup \(ARC\) program](#)
- [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Nominations](#)
- [White House Council on Environmental Quality](#) (Read the [White House Fact Sheet](#), the [White House Blog](#), and view a [Recording](#) of White House Summit on Environmental Justice in Action)

The purpose of these calls is to inform the community and other stakeholders about EPA's EJ work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with EJ advocates.

Please email Farrell.Ericka@epa.gov to request reasonable accommodation for a disability or interpreter services in a language other than English, so that you can participate in the call and/or to request a translation of any of the event documents into a language other than English. For more information about the National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls, please email Farrell.Ericka@epa.gov.

National Park calls out ‘world changing’ impact of dropped Cheetos bag



Marnie Hunter, CNN
Edwin Remsberg/VW Pics/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

Plain water is the only thing visitors are allowed to consume inside the huge cavern at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. Cheetos are a no-go, and the recent park visitor who dropped a bag full of them created a “huge impact” on the cave’s ecosystem, the park said Friday in a Facebook post.

“At the scale of human perspective, a spilled snack bag may seem trivial, but to the life of the cave it can be world changing,” the [park said in its post](#) about the garbage found off-trail in the Big Room.

“The processed corn, softened by the humidity of the cave, formed the perfect environment to host microbial life and fungi. Cave crickets, mites, spiders and flies soon organize into a temporary food web, dispersing the nutrients to the surrounding cave and formations. Molds spread higher up the nearby surfaces, fruit, die and stink. And the cycle continues.”

The park said rangers spent 20 minutes carefully removing molds and foreign debris from surfaces inside the cave, noting that while some members of the ecosystem that rose from the snacks were cave-dwellers “many of the microbial life and molds are not.”

The post called that particular impact on the cave “completely avoidable,” contrasting it with the hard-to-prevent fine trails of lint left by each visitor.

“Great or small we all leave an impact wherever we go. Let us all leave the world a better place than we found it,” the post urged park goers.

The park’s website says that eating and drinking anything other than plain water attracts animals into the cavern.

Carlsbad Caverns followed up its post about the Cheetos bag with a post about the “leave no trace” principle of disposing of waste properly.

“Contrary to popular belief, the cave is NOT a big trash can,” the post said, yet rangers pick up waste left behind every day.

“Sometimes this can be a gum wrapper or a tissue, other times it can unfortunately mean human waste, spit, or chewing tobacco.” Visitors are asked to make sure they don’t leave trash in the cavern and to use designated restrooms.

The Big Room at Carlsbad Caverns National Park is the largest single cave chamber by volume in North America. It is accessible via a relatively flat 1.25 mile (2 km) trail. The cavern was formed millions of years ago when sulfuric acid dissolved limestone, creating cave passages.

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**Listen: How eating less beef and dairy could help save the Colorado River**

“Most Colorado River water is used to grow hay to feed cattle. This story traces the history of how the Imperial Valley became the hub for the cattle feed business, and follow the supply chain all the way to meat and milk we buy at a Southern California grocery store and work to answer the questions — do we need to change our diets to save the CO River? How are farmers thinking about this issue?” [Listen at KUNC](#).

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2023-24 NATIVE AMERICAN FEE WAIVER REPORT

Nevada System of Higher Education
Department of Academic and Student Affairs
August 2024
The Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Chair/Dr. Jeffrey S. Downs, Vice Chair/Mr. Joseph C. Arrascada
Mrs. Susan Brager/Ms. Heather Brown/Mrs. Carol Del Carlo/Mr. Donald Sylvantee McMichael
Dr. Lois Tarkanian/Mr. Patrick J. Boylan/Mr. Byron Brooks/Dr. Michelee Cruz-Crawford
Ms. Stephanie Goodman/Ms. Laura E. Perkins/Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff

Officers of the Nevada System of Higher Education
Ms. Patricia Charlton, Chancellor/Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, President University of Nevada, LV
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President, Nevada State University
Dr. Amber Donnelly, President, Great Basin College
Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe, President Western Nevada College
Mr. Brian Sandoval, President, University of Nevada, Reno
Dr. William Kibler, President, College of Southern Nevada
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, President, Truckee Meadows Community College
Dr. Kumud Acharya, President, Desert Research Institute³

[Contents](#)

Background.....	4
Program Eligibility – 2023-24 Academic Year	4
Institutional Eligibility.....	4
Student Eligibility	5
Waiver Amount.....	5
Recipients and Cost Since Waiver Inception	5

Fee Waiver Recipients, Total Value, and Foregone Revenue.....	6
Table 1: Number of Recipients by Institution	6
Table 2: Total Value Waived by Institution	6
Future Student Success Metrics	7
Conclusion.....	7

In 2021, the Nevada State Legislature enacted [Assembly Bill 262](#) (Chapter 349, Statutes of Nevada 2021) requiring the Board of Regents to grant a waiver of the base registration fee, laboratory fees, and all other mandatory fees associated with enrollment for an eligible Native American student who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada, or is certified by the enrollment department of a tribe or nation or the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant of an enrolled member of such a tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of Nevada. Additional eligibility requirements include enrollment in a school within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE); being a resident of the State for not less than one year; maintaining a 2.0 grade point average (GPA); and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

During the 2023 Session, the Nevada Legislature enacted [Assembly Bill 150](#) (Chapter 431, Statutes of Nevada 2023) which expanded student eligibility and fees covered by the waiver effective July 1, 2023.

Accordingly, in June 2023 the [Board of Regents Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 17](#) was updated to bring Board policy into alignment with these new provisions. [Assembly Bill 150 also appropriated General Fund dollars to NSHE in order to partially defray the cost of granting the waivers during the 2023-2025 Biennium.](#)

This report is written to satisfy the annual reporting requirements outlined in Nevada Revised Statute 396.54495. Accordingly, information is provided on the number of students that qualified for the NSHE Native American Fee Waiver, and the “total funding made available for the waiver.” In addition to the appropriation made by the Legislature in Assembly Bill 150, \$457,449 per each Fiscal Year 2023-24 and 2024-25, a one-time distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was made by the State of Nevada to cover waiver costs for 2023-24 in the amount of \$1,670, 563. Between the Assembly Bill 150 appropriation and these ARPA funds, NSHE institutions were reimbursed for all Native American Fee Waivers issued for 2023-24 as of April 1, 2024.

24 Academic Year

[Institutional Eligibility](#)

Eligible institutions where students may use the waiver include the NSHE universities, state college, and community colleges:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas;
- University of Nevada, Reno;
- Nevada State University;
- College of Southern Nevada;
- Great Basin College;
- Truckee Meadows Community College; and
- Western Nevada College.⁵

Student Eligibility

Effective July 1, 2023, in order to be eligible for the Native American fee waiver, a student must:

- Be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation or certified by the enrollment department of such a tribe or nation or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant of an enrolled member of a tribe or nation, regardless of membership status;
- Be enrolled at an NSHE institution; including, without limitation, enrollment in a dual credit course through a program for dual credit;
- Have maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, each semester or the equivalent of a 2.0 grade point average if a different scale is used;
- Have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid unless the student is or will be enrolled exclusively in one or more dual credit courses through a program for dual credit; and
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - Be a bona fide resident of this State, as defined in NRS 396.540;
 - Be a member or descendant of an enrolled member of an Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of this State; or
 - Currently reside on qualified tribal land, whether his or her actual residence was located within or outside of the boundaries of this State, and has been such a resident for not less than 1 year.

Waiver Amount

AB 150 includes several provisions that increase the cost of providing the waiver. It expands eligibility for the waiver to certain students who are enrolled members or descendants of enrolled members of tribes or nations from outside Nevada. It also significantly expands the types of programs and courses for which the waiver may be used, to include dual-enrollment, non-credit, non-state-funded (self-supporting) and summer term courses. Notably, AB 150 also eliminates the “last dollar” aspect of the fee waiver, no longer taking into account federal gift aid the student received when calculating the waiver amount. This means that all eligible students receive a fee waiver equal to the amount of the base registration fee and all other mandatory fees, regardless of other aid received.

As mentioned above, Assembly Bill 150 made an appropriation of \$457,449 from the State General Fund for each year of the 2023-25 Biennium to partially defray the costs of the waiver. This action by the legislature was unprecedented for the Native American and other NSHE fee waivers. In 2023-24 this appropriation covered slightly more than 20 percent of the cost of waivers granted. In addition, NSHE received a one-time allocation of ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,670,563 to further defray the costs of the waiver as reported through April 1, 2024. Between April 1 and the end of the Academic Year in May 2024, an additional \$87,049 in waivers was granted by the NSHE institutions, and this amount is forgone revenue for the institutions.

Tables 1 and 2 below provide the number of recipients and dollars waived since the Native American Fee Waiver first became available to students in Fall 2021. With the enactment of Assembly Bill 150 in 2023, the fee waiver became applicable for summer; accordingly, Summer 2023 waivers are included in the 2023-24 column and summer term will be treated as a header in future reporting years.⁶

Fee Waiver Recipients, Total Value, and Foregone Revenue

Table 1: Number of Recipients by Institution

School	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
UNLV	10	19	47
UNR	73	94	197
NSU	1	1	6
CSN	4	4	21
GBC	18	11	58
TMCC	24	26	105
WNC	10	19	52
NSHE Total	140	174	486

Due to the last dollar structure of the waiver during Academic Years 2021-22 and 2022-23, it is important to note that in both years there were waiver applicants who met all eligibility criteria but did not receive a waiver due to receipt of federal education benefits equal to or greater than the amount of fees charged to each student. In 2022-23 there were 50 students in this category, and in 2021-22 there were 24. Beginning in 2023-24, all eligible applicants received a waiver due to the discontinuation of the last dollar approach with the enactment of Assembly Bill 150.

Table 2: Total Value Waived by Institution

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
UNLV	\$39,609	\$141,661	\$429,075
UNR	\$330,655	\$443,479	\$1,275,664
NSU	\$653	\$3,135	\$24,907
CSN	\$7,056	\$6,448	\$37,335
GBC	\$26,626	\$29,079	\$156,481
TMCC	\$30,045	\$47,451	\$193,268
WNC	\$22,806	\$30,959	\$88,332
NSHE Total	\$457,449	\$702,212	\$2,205,061
State Appropriation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$447,449
Other Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,670,563
Foregone Revenue	\$457,449	\$702,212	\$87,049

Note: totals may not match exactly due to rounding. Beginning with reporting year 2023-24, summer is included as a header.⁷

While not required by NRS 396.54495 for inclusion in this report, tracking student success metrics, such as fall-to-fall persistence and graduation, is one way to determine whether students are reaching their academic goals. Such data can also be a factor in determining whether additional supports are needed by students. NSHE has begun gathering the necessary data to do such an analysis for Native American Fee Waiver recipients, but due to waiver provisions that allow students who are not degree seeking to utilize the fee waiver for courses that are both credit-based and non-credit based, there are additional complexities that need to be accounted for in the data. NSHE will work on developing an appropriate framework for including student success metrics in future reports.

Approved by the Nevada Legislature during 2021 Session, the Native American Fee Waiver program was first implemented during the 2021-22 Academic Year. During that year, 140 students had \$457,449 in fees waived, and 24 additional students qualified for the waiver but had fees paid by federal education benefits and therefore did not have fees waived under this program. During 2022-23, 174 students had \$702,212 in fees waived, which is an increase of 53.5 percent over 2021-22, and an additional 50 students qualified for the waiver but had fees paid instead by federal education benefits. Over the two academic/fiscal years, this totals \$1.16 million in forgone revenue for the NSHE institutions.

With the Assembly Bill 150 expansions to the fee waiver as well as a growing awareness by students and families of this program, in 2023-24 486 students received a Native American Fee Waiver and the total dollars waived amounted to \$2,205,061. This is a 179 percent increase in recipients and a 214 percent increase in dollars waived. Of the total Native American Fee Waiver cost for 2023-24, only \$87,049 was forgone revenue thanks to the legislative appropriation in AB 150 and an allocation of ARPA dollars from the State. However, due to increasing utilization of the waiver, it is likely the AB 150 appropriation will cover less than 20% of the cost of the waiver in 2024-25.

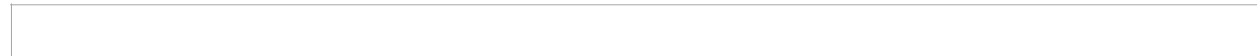
According to the requirements of Senate Bill 72, during the 2023-24 Interim the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education (COE) conducted a study concerning NSHE fee waivers. At its [Work Session on August 22, 2024](#), the Committee voted to propose legislation unifying the conditions and requirements of NSHE fee waivers. In addition, a recommendation was included to encourage the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means of the 2025 Legislative Session to consider state funding support to offset the fee waiver costs should additional fee waiver programs be created or if student participa

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### **Native American Non-Profit Appeals to US Supreme Court to Block Arizona Mine**

<https://www.rsn.org/001/native-american-nonprofit-appeals-to-us-supreme-court-to-block-arizona-mine.html>

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Mothers of the Earth: The Role of Indigenous Women in Rainforest Protection

WHAT: A conversation about how women in the Peruvian Amazon are protecting their rainforests and communities—and the barriers they face

WHO: Kathya Castillo, Gender and Inclusion Specialist, Rainforest Foundation US and Betty Rubio, Kichwa, Former President, Federation of Native Communities of Medio Napo, Curaray, and Arabela (FECONAMCUA)

WHEN: Thursday, September 26, 2024, 4pm Eastern Time / 1pm Pacific Time

WHERE: [Zoom \(Register to receive link or recording afterwards.\)](#)

REGISTER NOW

Chumash Celebrate

Today, September 6, 2024, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation. We're in the final steps to make this vision a reality!

It's not over yet! What's next?

Following today's release of the FEIS, Sanctuary designation will enter a 30-day cooling off period before designation documents can be issued. We anticipate the final designation documents, including the **final management plan and regulations, to be released October 2024**. This will trigger a 45-day Congressional and State review, leading to the **final decision for designation in December 2024**.

Stay tuned & help us celebrate!

These are the final steps of the designation phase! The next three months will be a waiting game, where **we need to keep the celebrations and momentum going**. Stay engaged to help us get over the finish line.

Repost our celebrations on social media:



We are so honored to have such a large community of supporters from local to global. Thank you for uplifting our voice, for sharing yours and of course, for protecting Grandmother Ocean.

Sincerely, Chair Violet Sage Walker, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council & Chumash Heritage Sanctuary Campaign Team

<https://www.chumashheritagesanctuary.org/>

The Journey

<https://chumashsanctuary.org/2024/09/06/final-environmental-document/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/24/travel/chumash-marine-sanctuary-morro-bay-california.html>

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/08/11/after-decades-a-tribe-s-vision-for-a-new-marine-sanctuary-could-be-coming-true/>

And since the XL Pipeline was part of the “debate”:

My Time at Standing Rock By Harmony Lambert

It was truly an honor to be able to go to Standing Rock and represent Greenpeace in a humble way. Being surrounded by fellow Indigenous water protectors was grounding and allowed for the continued healing of ancestral trauma that many of us in Indian country have to deal with on a daily basis. <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/stories/time-standing-rock/>



MJ, a young water protector patrolling the camp for security with his horse Champagne. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe has opposed the Dakota Access Pipeline since first learning about plans for the pipeline in 2014. But its only been in recent months that the issue has gained national attention, as thousands of Water Protectors have gathered in North Dakota in an attempt to block the 1,200-mile project.

“Peaceful direct action meant we were able to keep pressure on both the company behind the pipeline, the banks funding it, and the hearts and minds of people across the country.”

“I think this sentiment is the most powerful thing coming out of Standing Rock: we have united in a way we haven’t seen before to grow our power as Indigenous peoples.”



President Brian Sandoval '86
Executive Vice President & Provost Jeffrey S. Thompson
and the Office of Indigenous Relations
invite you to

Art Unveiled: A Mural Celebration

e beautiful new mural at the University of Nevada as part of our sesquicentennial celebration. This stunning piece of art will be a new space for gathering, reflection, and celebrating Native American Peoples.

Thursday, September 19
5:00 p.m.

The event will be hosted on campus on the west side of the Ansari Business Building, between the Ansari Business Building and the William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center.

Come hear from university leadership and meet the artist, Autumn Harry, as we welcome this inspiring new art to our campus. Enjoy light refreshments and connect with our community in a celebration of diversity and unity.

Register now at: [ArtUnveiled.eventbrite.com](https://artunveiled.eventbrite.com)

For more details about the mural art project, visit unr.edu/indigenous-relations/mural

(Again, apologies, not rec'd til Thurs pm)

*In Loving Memory of
Tyler Shane Summerfield*



January 21, 2003 — September 10, 2024

Viewing & Memorial Service to be held at the Walker River Tribal Gym
Thursday, September 19, 2024

Viewing to begin @ 10:00 a.m.
Services to begin @ 11:00 a.m.

Burial to follow at the Schurz Cemetery

Potluck will follow at the Walker River Tribal Gym

Food and Flower donations are greatly appreciated

Flower donations may be placed directly to Twigs in Yerington, Nevada, or orders must
be placed by September 16, 2024