

**Journal #5817**

**from sdc**

**9.25.24**

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**Supermoon over Devils Tower, Wyoming**

# McDermitt COMMUNITY EVENT

Fort McDermitt Tribal Community Center  
111 North Reservation Road McDermitt, NV

Monday - October 7, 2024

5:30-7:30pm

Please join us as we return for an open community listening session to discuss incoming lithium projects in the McDermitt Caldera.

Our groups have expertise on the negative impacts of mining including effects to water, wildlife, the environment, cultural resources, and communities. We are coming as an educational resource for the community and to help answer questions folks may have!

Food and free raffle provided.

Help Protect the McDermitt Caldera! All are welcome!

People of  
Red Mountain



Great Basin  
Resource Watch

EARTHWORKS



Questions Contact - [Kassandra@gbrw.org](mailto:Kassandra@gbrw.org)

## Zuni Tribe Endorses America's Red Rock Wilderness Act!



We're pleased to report that the Zuni Council, consisting of the governor, lieutenant governor, and six council members, has voted unanimously to support [America's Red Rock Wilderness Act](#) (ARRWA). Their July 10th [resolution](#) endorses congressional wilderness designation for lands within the bill, which would protect more than 8.4 million acres of federal public lands in Utah.

"The animals and plants found there, along with the cultural and historic record of the legacy of the Zuni peoples, could be harmed," said Zuni Tribal Governor Arden Kucate. "Our approach to life is an all-encompassing effort to protect the environment for the benefit of all mankind. We find that America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is an important part of that effort."

The [Hopi Tribal Council](#) and [Navajo Nation Council](#) passed similar resolutions in 2023 and 2021, respectively.

"We greatly appreciate the Zuni Tribe's endorsement of the Red Rock bill," said SUWA Executive Director Scott Groene. "With other tribes, the Zuni Tribe is leading in protecting lands in southern Utah, including their work for the establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument."

[>> Read our full press release](#)

## [\*\*SUWA Challenges BLM Decision to Reaffirm Fossil Fuel Leases in Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness\*\*](#)

On August 28th, SUWA filed a lawsuit in federal district court challenging the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) recent decision to reaffirm controversial oil and gas leases in Utah's San Rafael Desert region—including a lease within the Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness.

Congress designated the Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness in 2019 as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Dingell Act). The lease, which the Trump administration BLM rushed to issue as a last-minute handout to its industry allies only a few days before the Dingell Act was signed into law, is located in the very heart of this wild landscape.

A legal challenge by SUWA and other conservation partners initially stopped the drilling project, but the court eventually allowed development to proceed (the well turned out to be a dry hole). As a result of our original litigation, the BLM agreed to take a closer look at the prior administration's leasing decision, and this supplemental leasing analysis is the subject of our new challenge. Instead of closely scrutinizing the prior leasing decision, the BLM simply rubber-stamped it. We are now asking the court to set aside the agency's decision as unlawful and vacate the leases.

[>> Read our full press release](#)



*Because notice of this forum was publicized on short notice, I doubt that many of you participated. It was most informative and inspiring. I have asked that they provide access to a recording (if they did). Indigenous Climate Action has a report coming out (“next week”) that also covers much of the material, but watching/listening to this generation of warriors is probably more stimulating.*

In the meantime: <https://sacredearth.solar/>

An Indigenous women-led grassroots organization that works in solidarity with impacted Indigenous communities who are protecting their homelands by bringing climate solutions and healing initiatives directly to the frontlines of land protection, cultural resurgence, and language revitalization. Melina Laboucan-Massimo, the founder of **Sacred Earth Solar**, is a Lubicon Cree woman from the heart of the Alberta Tar Sands. She has been actively involved in climate justice, just transition, healing justice, Indigenous sovereignty and movement building work for over 20 years.

<https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com>

**Indigenous Climate Action (ICA)** is an **Indigenous**-led organization guided by a diverse group of **Indigenous** knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders from communities and regions across the country. We believe that **Indigenous** Peoples' rights and knowledge systems are critical to developing solutions to the **climate** crisis and ...

### **What We Do**

We emphasize the following approaches to support our programs and practices to help us stay accountable to our communities and build generative capacity for Indigenous-led climate solutions. Click on the links below to explore our five pathways to better understand how ICA strives to undertake our work:

### **vision+mission+values**

Our Mission. Our Values. — Indigenous Climate Action. A world with sovereign and thriving Indigenous Peoples and cultures leading climate justice for all. We inspire action through the development of tools and opportunities created with, by and for our communities, with the goal of uplifting Indigenous voices, sovereignty, and stewardship of ...

### **funding principles+sustainers**

Note: Indigenous Climate Action is a registered non-profit organization in so-called Canada. We work with a variety of charitable sponsors in Canada and we have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsorship in the USA with Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples. As such, we can establish both charitable and non-charitable funding relationships within ...

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**And ironically** The Canadian province of Saskatchewan has vowed to compete with China in processing and production of rare earths and become the first North American commercial alternative source for the metals, used to make magnets for electric vehicles and wind turbines.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/miner-backed-by-canada-pro>



## **BLM Releases Final Management Plan for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

At the end of August, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced the release of its [final Resource Management Plan \(RMP\)](#) for the restored Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. SUWA is currently reviewing the plan and will have more information to share in the weeks ahead.

After President Biden signed a [proclamation](#) restoring Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to its full, original boundaries, the BLM began the process of developing a new management plan. Many of you submitted comments during this process (thank you!) and the final plan takes that input into account.

"We hope that in this final Plan the BLM has taken seriously its duty to protect one of the most treasured public landscapes in America," said SUWA Wildlands Attorney Kya Marienfeld. "Moving forward, we expect that the monument will once again be managed to protect what makes it like nowhere else—remarkable paleontological discoveries and cultural sites, jaw-dropping scenery, and outstanding intact and diverse natural ecosystems. SUWA will closely monitor the implementation of the final Plan, and continue to encourage management actions that will preserve the monument for current and future generations."

[>> Read our full press release](#)

## **National Wilderness Coalition Launches in Washington, DC**

Last week in Washington, DC, SUWA staff and volunteers joined a coalition of local, statewide, and national conservation and environmental justice organizations in formally announcing the creation of the [National Wilderness Coalition](#) (NWC). The NWC, of which SUWA is a founding member, is comprised of organizations that have come together to build political power, advance wilderness legislation, and reinvigorate a diverse and enduring wilderness movement.

In addition to a panel conversation on the future of the wilderness movement and multiple days of meetings with Congress and Biden administration officials, the Coalition presented the inaugural Wilderness Champion Awards to seven current representatives and senators—including [America's Red Rock Wilderness Act](#) champions Representative [Melanie Stansbury \(D-NM\)](#) and [Senator Dick Durbin \(D-IL\)](#)! SUWA and the larger wilderness movement are lucky to have such passionate and unflinching advocates for wild places.

"The National Wilderness Coalition and its members know that wilderness conservation is a critical tool for addressing interrelated crises of our time. Our work builds on decades of advocacy and organizing from communities, nonprofit organizations, Indigenous people, and Tribal Nations across the country," said SUWA DC Director Travis Hammill. "SUWA is proud to join with like-minded organizations from across the country to protect public lands and waters at this critical moment."

[>> Read more about the National Wilderness Coalition and the Wilderness Champions](#)



This dugout canoe was found on the banks of the Red River! It dates to the 14th Century! At 34 feet in length, it is the largest Native American canoe ever discovered in Louisiana! Larto Lake is connected to the Red River through Big Larto Bayou, which is where the dam is located. One can just imagine Native Americans paddling on Larto Lake and the surrounding streams in such a dugout canoe! These water bodies served as liquid highways! There certainly were plenty of cypress trees around to use as building material. The cypress wood was impervious to insects and rot, as evidenced by this canoe which is over 700 years old!  
By Trevor Fry



### **Great prayer by Janet Davis**

To all of our PL peeps who went Pinenut picking today! May your buckets be full, may you be filled with a lot of energy, may your hair be free of pitch, have a good day! Thinking about you

converging on the hills full of trees with pinenuts! 🙏❤️



### [Tashunke Witko Tiwahe/Crazy Horse Family/ECF](#)

A colorized photo of Touch the Cloud (seated far left) and Black Tongue (seated far right). Both attended peace talks prior to the Little Bighorn battle to find out if Touch the Cloud's father Lone Horn had unknowingly signed away the Black Hills after Custer had conducted an expedition there. They found out he had not. But they did find out Custer's expedition found gold that made the government want the Black Hills. Touch the Cloud went under his father's name at that fact finding meeting. This photo was taken later in 1877. We addressed this in greater detail in our book "Crazy Horse the Lakota Warrior's Life and Legacy" available at <https://reelcontact.com/.../crazy-horse-the-lakota...>

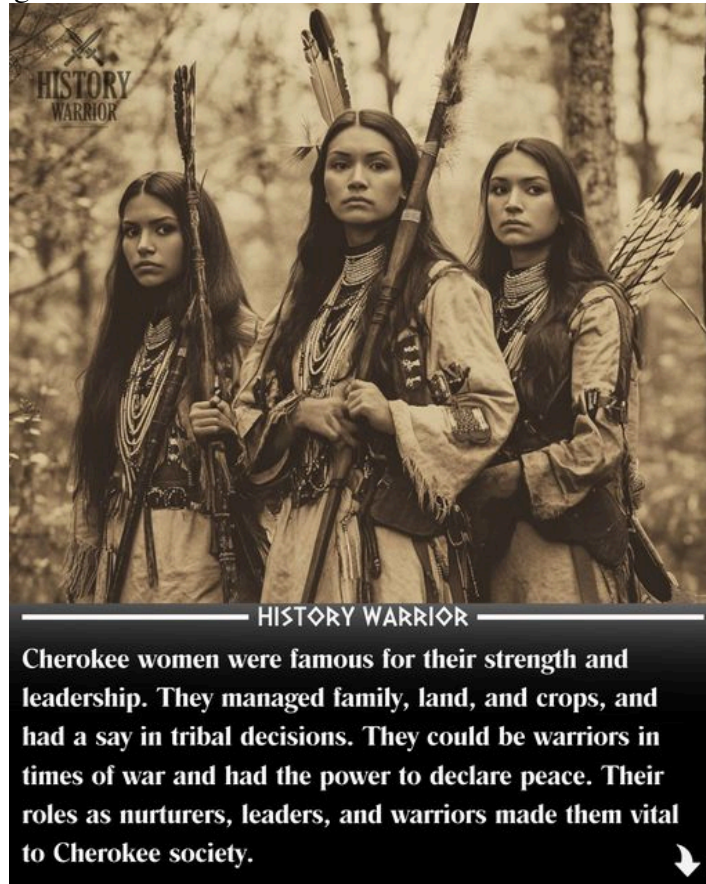
### [Native American History](#) ·

**In Cherokee culture, women held significant positions and enjoyed certain privileges and responsibilities.** Women in Cherokee society were considered equals to men and could earn the title of War Women. They had the right to participate in councils and make decisions alongside men. This equality sometimes led outsiders to make derogatory remarks, such as the accusation of a "petticoat government" by the Irish trader Adair.

Clan kinship was matrilineal among the Cherokee, meaning that family lineage and inheritance were traced through the mother's side. Children grew up in their mother's house, and maternal uncles held the role of teaching boys essential skills related to hunting, fishing, and tribal duties. Women owned houses and their furnishings, and marriages were often negotiated. In the event of a divorce, a woman would simply place her spouse's belongings outside the house. Cherokee women had diverse responsibilities, including caring for children, cooking, tanning skins, weaving baskets, and cultivating fields. Men contributed to some household chores but primarily focused on hunting.

Cherokee girls learned various skills by observing and participating in their community. They learned story, dancing, and acquired knowledge about their heritage. Women were integral to the

Cherokee society, and their roles played a central part in the community's functioning and adaptation to changing circumstances.



## **EPA vows action at toxic Cass Lake site**

### **40 years later, 163 acres still on Superfund list of most-polluted places.**

CASS LAKE, MINN. – The pungent smell of creosote slowly faded after the St. Regis Paper Co. shuttered in Cass Lake in 1985, but toxic wood-treatment chemicals continued seeping into the groundwater, contaminating nearby lakes and decimating the neighborhood.

Only three homes remain.

One is slated for demolition Monday.

“It wasn’t always this way.

This was a thriving community,” said Brandy Toft, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe’s environmental director.

St. Regis landed on the National Priority List, the nation’s most polluted places, under the federal Superfund program. Forty years later, the 163-acre site in Cass Lake is still on that list. Tribal leaders say the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to remedy the contamination that has since spread and prevented the community from building housing for future generations.



South of the railroad tracks and Hwy. 2 is a vacant field where 40 homes once stood next to St. Regis. The houses, including a day care, were deemed unsafe and knocked down one by one as studies found the contamination was worsening. In 2003, the toxic soil led the EPA to call for immediate fencing in areas to prevent exposure to cancer-causing chemicals. The agency advised residents to eat no more than a dozen whitefish — an Ojibwe staple — from Pikes Bay and Cass Lake per year because of dioxin levels high enough to increase risks of cancer.

On Thursday, about 50 residents and officials gathered on a field to observe the 40th anniversary of the St. Regis Superfund designation. A moment of silence honored those who died from cancer before officials explained what it will take to complete the cleanup and why it has taken so long.

“This here has been going on, you know, maybe even before 40 years,” said Tribal Chair Faron Jackson Sr. “I had relatives living in this area here back in the ’50s. And a lot of my relatives have passed from cancer, too.”

The St. Regis plant opened in 1957. Workers preserved raw lumber used as railroad ties and phone poles. International Paper Co. acquired ownership in the ‘80s. Toft said the company is not a cooperative or responsible party. “Everything goes to litigation,” she said.

International Paper Co. did not respond to requests for comment.

Some Superfund sites in the state are cleaned within a few years. Others take decades. In Duluth’s Morgan Park neighborhood, the U.S. Steel Duluth Works site along the St. Louis River closed in 1981. It took more than 30 years and \$186 million to remove toxic waste.

This summer, leaders announced the water is safe for swimming.

“It’s both frustrating and heartbreaking to realize that while these sites are being dealt with, ours is lingering without the same level of attention and urgency,” said Taylor O’Shea, a senior at Deer River High School and member of the Leech Lake and Minnesota youth councils.

O’Shea said action is needed “to ensure that the St. Regis Superfund site is not just a forgotten chapter in our community’s history, but a success story of resilience and recovery.”

EPA officials said St. Regis is the only Superfund site wholly within a reservation in EPA’s Region 5, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and 35 tribes.

“We know that the length of time the complex cleanups like this would take are frustrating,” said EPA Region 5 administrator Debra Shore. “But we at EPA want to work carefully and closely with the community to ensure that we get the job done right once and for all.”

Superfund sites are investigated to determine the nature and extent of pollution. That has happened many times over the years at St. Regis, leading to the removal of some contaminated soil.

Some EPA studies and reports suggested the cleanup was done or nearing completion, but the Band's own studies contradicted the EPA data.

In the early 2000s, researchers with the University of Minnesota found evidence of a worsening situation that the EPA seemed to miss.

"It's easy for a lot of people to say, 'Well, they didn't know any better when they were poisoning the water ... when they were poisoning the land, they didn't know any better.' But they really did," said Leo Anderson, who lived on a section of the Superfund site, as did his grandparents.

"One of the earliest memories I have of living on this site was that if you left a glass of water out overnight, in the morning there was an oil on top of it," Anderson said.

Twenty years ago, he began documenting the ravages of St. Regis in a film project, "Killing Cass Lake."

"We had repeated stories of these companies putting freshly treated creosote wood right next to people's homes," he said. "They would pile it as close as they could to your home until you moved out and then they would continue working their way through the whole community. So this was not a mistake."

"I think about the people that I love that died, the fact that my entire family is decimated, and it's not a unique story," Anderson said. "It's hard not to get angry."

Leech Lake Band elder Mike Smith Sr. said many went to their graves not knowing why they died. "And it was because of the contamination of this land here, and it's still contaminated to a degree. But that's what we're going to work on to correct that."

Shore said a team will begin sampling residential yards next year. Beginning this winter, she said, monitoring wells are being installed, and the EPA is reviewing health and ecological risk assessments. She said climate justice grants are available to fund the work "in communities that have been underserved for far too long."

Cliff Villa, deputy assistant administrator for the EPA, said part of Thursday's event was acknowledging mistakes while holding parties accountable and finding better ways forward.

"I just know from experience, it doesn't take 40 years to clean up Superfund sites," Villa said. "So I'm fairly hopeful that we're going to be seeing some more rapid progress here soon."

Toft said she wants to see children playing in the neighborhood again. She wants to see a revitalized area that is healthy and safe, and one that families don't have to fear once cleanup is complete.

The EPA would not say when that day may come.

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## U.S. military will apologize to Alaska Natives for 1800s harm

Navy says apology for attacks on two villages is “long overdue.”



*Kaaxooutch, who also goes by Garfield George, in Angoon, Alaska, in 2011. He will help lead the ceremony in Angoon on Oct. 26 to commemorate the attack's 142nd anniversary. “It will mean a lot,” he said.* ALEX HORTON The Washington Post  
Billy Jones stood overlooking the Alaskan village of Angoon and took stock of what the U.S. Navy had wrought.

Long spruce houses blasted apart by U.S. warships. Food stores burned. The U.S. troops responsible had gathered canoes — the village’s lifeblood — and smashed them to pieces. At least six children died, according to historical accounts, asphyxiated by the smoke of their smoldering homes.

Jones, then 13 years old, committed to memorializing what he witnessed in October 1882, including how fellow members of the Deisheetaan clan would later die of hunger and exposure. Before his death in the 1960s, Jones shared the story with others in the community, including a young boy who would grow up to become a prominent local leader and help preserve the oral history and its sorrowful final lines:

Wul-laa-xooooo Almost all the people starved A-adeiiiiii yei yu toowunnooku ye This is how we were wounded in mind, body, soul and spirit.

On Saturday, the Navy will issue the first of two formal apologies to the Lingít communities (also called Tlingit) who its forces targeted in harrowing assaults on Kake in 1869 and Angoon 13 year later. The message will be delivered by Rear Adm. Mark Sucato, a senior officer overseeing the Navy’s shore presence in Alaska.

The apologies are a rare concession from the U.S. military. American troops committed atrocities against Native people for decades, and in many cases celebrated their deaths as achievements. To that end, the Pentagon also has undertaken a review of close to two dozen battlefield commendations awarded for actions in the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee.

In a statement, Navy officials acknowledged that its “wrongful” actions at Kake and Angoon had

“inflicted multigenerational trauma.” A spokeswoman, Julianne Leinenveber, said the “pain and suffering inflicted upon the Tlingit people warrants these long overdue apologies.”

In interviews, community leaders in the isolated islands south of Juneau, Alaska’s capital, said they welcome the gesture but also called attention to enduring challenges.

“It will mean a lot,” said Garfield George, who will help lead the ceremony in Angoon on Oct. 26 to commemorate the attack’s 142nd anniversary. The Navy’s apology, George explained, will correct the record and finally wipe away what he called longstanding exaggerations and lies.

The tragedies in Kake and Angoon were set into motion after the Alaskan territory was purchased from Russia in 1867, putting the region under the control of the federal government with the U.S. Army and Navy providing oversight early on.

In 1869, after a period of simmering tension between the Lingít people and American soldiers, a sentry at the military fort in Sitka killed two unarmed Lingít men in a canoe. In accordance with local customs, a leader from the clan demanded blankets and other goods as recompense, but American commanders refused.

The Lingít then captured four fur traders and killed two to settle the dispute.

The Army dispatched the USS Saginaw that February. The sloop-of-war trained its guns on Kake, and afterward troops went ashore to torch the village.

“They burned everything. All the shelters, all the food caches, the canoes,” said Joel Jackson, president of the Organized Village of Kake. While no one was killed in the bombardment, the eradication of boats and food supplies in wintertime condemned the community to suffering.

Thirteen years later, a medicine man named Til’xtlein from the nearby settlement in Angoon was killed in an explosion aboard a whaling ship. As in Kake years earlier, misunderstanding shaped what happened next, James said. Military officials wrongly sensed the tribe was preparing for war.

“The military responded probably the only way they knew how,” James said, “without having an understanding of the culture and the people and the language.”

Leaders in Angoon and Kake say the attacks are but one calamity in a series of injustices tied to the Americans’ arrival.

Jackson said local leaders have yet to decide whether they will accept the Navy’s apology .

“It’s a start of what they need to do to help us heal our people,” Jackson said. “But by no means can it erase what they did.”

[https://replica.startribune.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=955c4be0-d3d0-475a-9714-2bebd7a695e&share=true](https://replica.startribune.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=955c4be0-d3d0-475a-9714-2bebd7a695e&share=true)