

Journal #5854 from sdc 11.5.24

Towering stalks of corn

Doug Burgum is picked to serve as Interior secretary.

Ex-leader of Bureau of Reclamation calls for Trump administration to eliminate it

A salad starring the “three sisters” of Indigenous cuisine

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call: November 19, 2024

Lack of consensus emerges as courts apply new WOTUS rule to ditches and canals

The Supreme Court’s next big chance to wreck the environment is here

Evaporation

is a big deal in the arid West. Scientists say we should stop measuring it like the 1950s

A historic water settlement could ensure more water for Native people in the Southwest

A receding Lake Powell is bringing Colorado River rapids in Utah back to life

Glen

Canyon Dam faces deadpool

Let’s do the bi op again.

A century after Owens Valley aqueduct protest, event marks tense time in L.A. water history

Beyond water: Recapping the series on how CAP connects Arizonans

More examples of Library of Congress holdings (focusing on Elko, NV)

Celebrating Native Languages

28,000 Jobs, \$3 Billion to the Economy Last Year from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Projects

Tammie Lee Eagle



A young Navajo boy, wearing traditional beads and moccasins, gazes up at towering stalks of corn that are double his height. Natallia Yerzhannikava, California, 2022

- **Doug Burgum is picked to serve as Interior secretary.** The governor of North Dakota, Burgum is a former Republican presidential primary challenger who endorsed Trump and was a serious contender to be Trump’s vice presidential choice. The two-term governor was seen as a possible pick because of his executive experience and business savvy. Burgum also has close ties to deep-pocketed energy industry CEOs. (AP The Morning Wire)

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**Ex-leader of Bureau of Reclamation calls for Trump administration to eliminate it**



*An aerial view of Lake Shasta and the dam in Shasta County, California. Photo taken May 9, 2024 by Sara Nevis / DWR.*

“A progressive civil servant who led the Bureau of Reclamation under former President Clinton is now urging the incoming Trump administration to eliminate his former agency — an entity he has long deemed superfluous. Daniel Beard, who served as commissioner from 1993-95, said in a statement shared with The Hill that if the “administration is serious about reducing government bureaucracy, cutting wasteful expenditures and restructuring federal agencies, it should start by abolishing the Bureau of Reclamation.” Beard argued Congress only maintains the Bureau of Reclamation for political reasons, stressing that the agency’s every function could be overseen by the private sector or other federal, state, regional or local entities. ... ” [Read more from The Hill.](#)

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Reaching gourmet status:

A salad starring the “three sisters” of Indigenous cuisine

This salad features the three sisters — corn, squash, and beans — important in indigenous American cuisine. Read in FOOD & WINE: <https://apple.news/AZv0OaDezRteE-LkaxP9OfA>

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**NDOW committee meets in Reno to discuss killing contests, potential ban ([mynews4.com](http://mynews4.com))**

— A crucial meeting in Reno drew Nevadans to discuss the controversial killing contests, with opinions divided on the potential ban. The NDOW Contest Committee gathered public feedback, including from the Humane Society, to decide on future regulations.

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Trump names Karoline Leavitt as youngest ever White House press secretary

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2024/11/15/trump-karoline-leavitt-youngest-ever-white-house-press-secretary/><https://www.mercurynews.com/2024/11/15/trump-karoline-leavitt-youngest-ever-white-house-press-secretary/>

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call: November 19, 2024
EPA invites Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates to participate in the next [National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call](#) taking place on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time). These calls are free and open to the public. This will be the last call of 2024, with plans to resume in January 2025.

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

Tentative Agenda:

- Community Spotlight
- Office of External Civil Rights Update
- Updated Grants Information
- Engagement Call Feedback Session (*EPA welcomes comments and feedback on these community engagement calls to help ensure productive and meaningful discussions. Please limit all comments to 2 minutes, as we will be enforcing time limits to allow everyone an opportunity to speak. We kindly asked that you remain respectful to EPA and other participants, and note that there are certain topics EPA cannot discuss at this time*)

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.

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***Things are about to go topsy-turvey again!***

**Lack of consensus emerges as courts apply new WOTUS rule to ditches and canals**



**“The limits to federal jurisdiction over “[waters of the United States](#)” (WOTUS) have continued to develop following the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, as federal district courts begin to vary in determining federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction over manmade ditches and canals. A critical question, subject to extensive rulemaking and litigation over past decades, involves the extent to which manmade ditches and canals qualify as waters of the United States subject to federal regulation. In 2001, in *Headwaters Inc. v. Talent Irrigation District*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal recognized manmade irrigation canals as WOTUS if water flowed, at least occasionally, through such features into natural streams. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took a consistent view, defining WOTUS to include drainage ditches, even with only**

intermittent flow, provided that they were [tributary](#) to a water of the United States and had perceptible ordinary high water marks. ... ” [Read more from Somach Simmons & Dunn.](#)

### **The Supreme Court’s next big chance to wreck the environment is here**

Molly Coleman, Executive Director at People’s Parity Project, writes, “Just over three months ago, the Supreme Court ended its 2023-24 term by dealing a crushing blow to the administrative state, issuing a series of rulings that will drastically impede the federal government’s ability to make people’s lives better. As of last week, the justices are back to work for another nine months of service to the Federalist Society’s agenda. This Wednesday, they’ll hear oral argument in *San Francisco v. EPA*, a challenge to the power of democratically accountable agency experts attempting to fulfill the EPA’s mission of protecting human health and the environment. The basic dispute in *San Francisco v. EPA* arises from the question of how much junk can be legally dumped into waters protected by the Clean Water Act, which Congress passed in 1972. Most of the time, the answer is none, but there are exceptions: The law empowers the Environmental Protection Agency to issue permits via the National Pollutant [Discharge](#) Elimination System (NPDES), which allows certain cities or businesses to discharge some amount of pollutants into specified bodies of water, under such conditions as the EPA sets forth. ...” [Read more from Balls and Strikes.](#)

### **Evaporation is a big deal in the arid West. Scientists say we should stop measuring it like**



**the 1950s**

“On a hot August day, CU Boulder climatologist Peter Blanken and Ph.D. student Holly Roth cleaned a \$50,000 weather station at the edge of Standley Lake to measure a phenomenon even grade schoolers know about: evaporation. Evaporation is the natural process of liquid water turning into water vapor. As Colorado and Western states heat up, more water evaporates into the atmosphere, leaving less for irrigation and drinking water supplies. It’s a vicious feedback loop: Warmer, drier air triggers more evaporation, which creates warmer air, and so on. “As the lake is warming, the atmosphere is warming, so the rate of evaporation will increase,” said Blanken, also a professor at the university. “We can’t fight that. It’s going to happen.” Evaporation is a big deal because it eats into our declining water supply, at a time when the entire West is in a record mega-drought. The problem is that the tools historically used to measure evaporation are stuck in the 1900s. “Better understanding [evaporation] as a whole, and how it varies in time and space, is a key need on the Colorado,” said the Desert Research Institute’s Chris Pearson, who studies high-tech techniques to measure evaporation. ... ” [Read more from Colorado Public Radio.](#)



### **A historic water settlement could ensure more water for Native people in the Southwest**

“A third of the Navajo Nation population doesn’t have access to water on the reservation. Hauling bottled water is common. So the Navajo Nation, along with the Hopi and San Juan Southern Paiute tribes, want the government to authorize the country’s largest Indian water rights settlement. It would provide water infrastructure to hundreds of thousands of indigenous people and also resolves water claims made by those tribes. Navajo spokesperson Justin Ahasteen says settling this decades-long legal dispute will be a positive step forward for Native and non-native communities. ... ” [Read more from KUNC.](#)

### **A receding Lake Powell is bringing Colorado River rapids in Utah back to life**

“There’s a lot of anxiety about climate change shrinking Lake Powell, but it also means whitewater rapids upstream have re-emerged. Thrillseekers can now run them for the first time since the 1960s. At the bottom of a deep, red rock canyon in the desert southwest, the Colorado River is restoring itself, or at least a part of itself, even as climate change shrinks its volume. And that has river enthusiasts celebrating. Long-forgotten whitewater rapids are reemerging upstream. Reporter Luke Runyon set out to find more. ... ” [Continue reading or listen at NPR.](#)

### **Glen Canyon Dam faces deadpool**

“In 1998, when I was in fourth grade, I joined a class field trip to Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. But when we got to Cortez, the road was barricaded. Hours earlier, three men had stolen a water-tanker truck and killed a police officer before fleeing into the desert. In his book *Dead Run*, writer Dan Schultz makes the case that the criminals were inspired by Edward Abbey’s 1975 novel, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. The men were survivalists planning to turn the water truck into a mobile bomb, Schultz says. Their probable goal: To pack the tanker truck with explosives and blowup Glen Canyon Dam. Back then, the idea of draining Lake Powell was a fringe idea, attractive to anti-government extremists and radical environmentalists. Those who advocated a legal decommissioning of the Glen Canyon Dam, including supporters of the Glen Canyon Institute in Salt Lake City, were often laughed out of the room. ... ” [Read more from the Sierra Nevada Ally.](#)

### **Let’s do the bi op again**

“Central Valley agriculture’s star is rising with President-elect Donald Trump’s return to power. Now, it just needs to figure out what to do with it. Trump made a point on the campaign trail of promising California’s Republican-leaning farmers he’d “turn on the faucet” and deliver more water than ever before to them, even if he had no chance of winning California’s electoral college votes. Valley interests knew they were risking in-state ire by backing Trump, but to hear them tell it, they had no choice. “I have become a single-issue voter. It’s all about water,” said Johnny Amaral, chief of external affairs for the Friant Water Authority, one of the biggest recipients of federal water deliveries in the Central Valley. “Maybe not since John F. Kennedy, when he came out to California and dedicated the San Luis Reservoir site, has there been a president who has been so strong and so vocal on this.” ... ” [Read more from Politico.](#)

### **A century after Owens Valley aqueduct protest, event marks tense time in L.A. water history**

“It’s a chapter of California history filled with subterfuge and conflict: More than a century ago, agents secretly working for Los Angeles posed as farmers and ranchers as they bought land and water rights across the Owens Valley. Their scheme laid the groundwork for the construction of the [Los Angeles Aqueduct](#), which in 1913 began sending the valley’s water to the growing city

233 miles away. Residents were so enraged in the 1920s that some carried out a series of attacks on the aqueduct, blasting it with dynamite. But there was also one major nonviolent protest, an act of civil disobedience 100 years ago that is being commemorated this weekend with a series of free community events in Lone Pine. In that defiant act of resistance on Nov. 16, 1924, a group of about 70 unarmed men took over an aqueduct spillway and control gates north of Lone Pine and began releasing all the water back into the dry channel of the Owens River. That act, called the Alabama Gates occupation, grew as more than 700 residents of all ages came to celebrate the takeover during four days of festivities, bringing food and barbecuing as the protest became a community picnic. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times](#).

### **Beyond water: Recapping the series on how CAP connects Arizonans**



**“What benefits to Arizonans lie beyond the critical source of Colorado River water CAP delivers? We recently published a three-part series explaining some of the perhaps lesser-known facts about CAP that, in one way or another, connect Arizonans. Most likely, you now know that the Colorado River water delivered by CAP serves six million people living in central and southern Arizona. CAP is also the single largest delivery system of water to tribal communities in the Colorado River basin. The CAP system’s amazing infrastructure has immense value to our economy and quality of life. We encourage you to browse the information linked above and consider how you might spread awareness of these efforts and resources, and “connect to CAP” beyond the water we rely on each day. ... ”** [Read more from Know Your Water News](#).

### **How an ‘ocean’ under Arizona and oil companies water could reduce our water crisis**

“In 2018, the United States Geological Survey reported it estimated there was 680,000,000 acre feet of brackish water under Arizona. That represents what Arizona uses in 100 years. This water was left between 500 and 1,500 feet under the surface of the state millions of years ago when an ocean covered what is now Arizona. Brackish water is not as salty as seawater, but it is more so than fresh water. It is found in geological layers lower than fresh water and does not mix with it. Brackish water costs about 50% less to desalinate than seawater. The state has a giant desalinization plant in Yuma that is hardly used and a huge atomic reactor outside of Phoenix that can make it potable/drinkable. The state could choose to make more desalinization plants. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Capital Times](#).

## More examples of records at Library of Congress:

**Southern Pacific track approaching Wells, Nevada - intermediary roll film |  
Library of Congress**

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8b19562/>

## *Draft environmental impact statement for the Arturo Mine Project*



[View Enlarged Image](#)

[ Disk Image Zip File ]

Download:

**Title: Draft environmental impact statement for the Arturo Mine Project**

**Names** United States. Bureau of Land Management. Elko District, author.  
United States. Bureau of Land Management. Tuscarora Field Office.

### **Created / Published**

- Elko, Nev. : U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Elko District Office, [2012]

### **Headings**

- - Environmental impact statements--Nevada--Elko County
- - Gold mines and mining--Environmental aspects--Nevada--Elko County
- - Silver mines and mining--Environmental aspects--Nevada--Elko County
- - Water-supply--Nevada--Elko County

### **Notes**

- - "December 2012."
- - Cover title.
- - Includes bibliographical references.

### **Medium**

- 1 volume (various pagings) : illustrations (chiefly color and some on folded leaves), maps (chiefly color and some folded leaves) ; 28 cm + 1 CD-ROM ( 4 3/4 in.).

**Call Number/Physical Location** TD428.G64 U55 2012

**Digital Id** <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/gdclccn.2014472838>

**Library of Congress Control Number** 2014472838

**Online Format** compressed data image

**LCCN Permalink** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014472838>

### **Additional Metadata Formats**

- [MARCXML Record](#)
- [MODS Record](#)
- [Dublin Core Record](#)

**IIIF Presentation Manifest** [Manifest \(JSON/LD\)](#)

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***Daily Independent (Elko, Nevada) 188?-1915 [Online Resource]*** **Daily Elko independent / Elko daily independent**

- [About this Item](#)
- [Libraries that Have It](#)

### **About this Newspaper**

**Title** Daily Independent (Elko, Nevada) 188?-1915 [Online Resource]

**Other Title** Daily Elko independent Elko daily independent

**Dates of Publication** 188?-1915

**Created / Published** Elko, Nevada : S. S. Sears, -1915

### **Headings**

- - Elko (Nev.)--Newspapers
- - Elko County (Nev.)--Newspapers
- - Nevada--Elko County
- - Nevada--Elko
- - United States--Nevada--Elko--Elko

**Genre** Newspapers

### **Notes**

- - Daily (except Sunday)
- - Ceased with forty eighth year, no. 72 (March 29, 1915)
- - "Democratic." Cf. Ayer, 1889.



- - Publisher: C. W. Grover,
- - Also issued on microfilm from the Library of Congress, Photoduplication Service.
- - Weekly ed.: Weekly Elko independent, -Jan. 23,1887; Weekly independent (Elko, Nev.), Jan. 30, 1887-.
- - Vol. XX, no. 1 (July 1, 1885); title from masthead, Readex America's Historical Newspapers (viewed August 6, 2020).
- - Forty-eighth year, no. 72 (March 29, 1915) (Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov, viewed April 4, 2018).
- - Elko independent 2577-5332 (DLC) 2018218670 (OCoLC)1030440556

**Books**  
**Celebrating Native Languages**

Celebrate indigenous voices in their languages! A collection of bilingual books in Native languages is available at OPL, and check out the authors' other books for translations in other languages too. Arohanui (much love) to all the language warriors fighting to keep indigenous languages alive!

[https://oaklandlibrary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/1986034569\\_opl\\_shaw/2650361657\\_celebrate\\_native\\_languages](https://oaklandlibrary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/1986034569_opl_shaw/2650361657_celebrate_native_languages)

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Projects Stewarded by Interior Department Supported More Than 28,000 Jobs, \$3 Billion to the Economy Last Year

*Report highlights how President Biden's Investing in America agenda is creating good-paying jobs, revitalizing infrastructure and growing the economy*

**WASHINGTON** — Today, ahead of the third anniversary of President Biden signing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Department of the Interior released a [new analysis](#) that estimates that investments from the [Law](#) supported more than 28,000 jobs and contributed more than \$3.3 billion to the economy in fiscal year 2024.

“Today’s report further demonstrates how President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering critical investments into the hands of American communities to create jobs and revitalize economies,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “The law is a historic down payment on ensuring that future generations have clean air, drinkable water, fertile soil, and an improved quality of life, all of which are currently threatened by the worsening climate crisis.”

“At the Interior Department, we know that success in implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law means creating good-paying jobs and improving the health, safety and quality of life of Americans,” said **Infrastructure Coordinator Winnie Stachelberg**. “Today’s reports show that we are delivering real results as President Biden envisioned, growing the economy from the bottom up and middle out.”

The Department also released a [three-year anniversary report](#) today, which highlights overall key successes, accomplishments and stories of personal impact as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contains an overall \$28.1 billion over 15 years for the Department’s initiatives, including for combatting legacy pollution, restoring critical habitats, addressing the drought crisis, assisting with wildland fire management, and helping communities prepare for extreme weather events. Many of the programs funded by the law advance the President’s [Justice40 Initiative](#), which set the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Since President Biden signed the law in November 2021, the Department has, among other milestones:

- Allocated over [\\$12 billion](#) for more than 2,200 projects across the country.
- Plugged over 9,000 orphaned oil and gas wells on state, Tribal, federal and private lands through multiple grant programs, cleaning up toxic legacy pollution and building healthier communities.
- Helped states reclaim over 811 acres of dangerous or polluted lands by addressing 130 abandoned mine land hazards.
- Supported over 587 water infrastructure and conservation projects in the 17 western states, Alaska and Hawaii, bringing clean drinking water to communities who’ve never had access before and safeguarding the West in the face of severe drought conditions. For example, the [Lewis and Clark Rural Water System](#) connected 20 new communities in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota to its system, wrapping up the project a decade ahead of schedule thanks to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.
- Launched a first-of-its-kind voluntary Community Driven Relocation program with \$135 million in funding. By the end of 2024, Newtok Village in Alaska will have relocated and

reunited its members in their new, safer community in Mertarvik using funding and technical assistance from the Department and other federal agencies, the State of Alaska, and non-profit organizations.

- Advanced efforts to save [Hawaiian Forest Birds from extinction](#), which without intervention were expected to go extinct within the next two years.
- Increased fuels management work to reduce wildfire risk, with resilience efforts conducted on over 2.2 million acres.
- Broke ground on a new U.S. Geological Survey Energy and Minerals Research Facility on the Colorado Schools of Mines campus to advance collaborative research and continued partnership.

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Fiscal Year 2024, by Activity:**

The economic estimates released today examine the direct, indirect and induced impact from the Department’s orphaned well program, abandoned mine land remediation program, water infrastructure program, and ecosystem restoration program. These estimates do not capture the totality of social, environmental, and long run operational contributions from the Department’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law activities.

| <b>DOI BIL Programs</b>                       | <b>Contributions to GDP</b><br>(in millions\$) | <b>Jobs Supported</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water infrastructure                          | \$1,446.7                                      | 13,015                |
| Orphaned oil and gas well plugging operations | \$841.2                                        | 5,977                 |
| Abandoned Mine Land remediation activities    | \$700.9                                        | 6,056                 |
| Ecosystem restoration <sup>1</sup>            | \$339.5                                        | 3,643                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>\$3,328.3</b>                               | <b>28,691</b>         |

###

Let’s see what happens!

*FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS*



*Tammy Lee Eagle*

*01/14/1963 - 11/07/2024*

**Monday, November 18, 2024**

**Viewing:** Hungry Valley Gymnasium @ 10am

**Service:** Following viewing @ 11am

**Burial:** Hungry Valley Cemetery

**Dinner:** Immediately following burial at the HV Gym

**Food donations are greatly appreciated.**