

Journal #5903 from sdc 1.23.25

From whence your water comes

This revolutionary breakthrough converts rainwater into a solid resource

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B-H Administration announced \$282M+ for long-term Colorado River conservation projects.

How Land Reshuffling Made the American West's Racial Divide

Archeologist Stumble on 1000 Y-O Road Built by Maya Warrior Queen

Without Indigenous History, There Is No U.S. History

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Trenton Dale Paddy



**Yes, Virginia, this is from whence your water comes.....
(fitting in the Year of the Snake)**

[16Interesting Nature](#) ·

WONDERFUL INVENTION. This revolutionary breakthrough converts rainwater into a solid resource using potassium acrylate, a biodegradable polymer. Developed by Mexican engineer Sergio Jesús Rico Velasco, this powdered polymer transforms into a gel when hydrated with rainwater, capable of retaining up to 210 times its weight in water for 41 days. This innovative technology promises to improve crop growth in areas with extreme climates, where water availability is scarce and variable. He also assures that his method can reduce the use of water in agriculture by up to 92%, reducing costs and dependence on expensive irrigation systems. I HOPE YOU SUPPORT THIS TYPE OF PROJECTS THAT WILL HELP US TAKE CARE OF



WATER. Credits: Bonitos Animales

[EPA Releases External Civil Rights Case Resolution Manual Update](#)

Today, the EPA's Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), within the Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights, posted an updated version of its Case Resolution Manual (CRM). The updated CRM is available here.

The CRM provides procedural information to OECRC case managers and other EPA staff members to ensure EPA's prompt, effective, and efficient resolution of civil rights complaints and compliance reviews, consistent with federal civil rights laws and the EPA's mission – to protect human health and the environment for all people. It is designed to be a living document that reflects the latest and best practices of our office.

In keeping with our commitment to transparency, we are pleased to share the updated CRM with you. OECRC extends gratitude to the various EPA staff, federal advisory committees, and state and local agencies that OECRC works with on compliance and enforcement efforts, who provided valuable feedback on our practices based on their experiences with OECRC.

Notably, the CRM includes updates to more clearly and accurately articulate our regulatory practices and procedures, particularly with regard to:

- Memorializing the complainant's role in investigations and informal resolution processes, including the process for facilitated sessions in which the EPA meets with the complainant and recipient together;
- Detailing when and how complaints are referred to other EPA offices or federal agencies;
- Describing communications practices between OECRC and complainants, including provisions related to language access and case updates; and
- Incorporating recent policy guidance for the initiation and process for conducting compliance reviews.

The CRM will continue to be evaluated, updated, and revised periodically to ensure that it remains a relevant and effective tool.

OECRC looks forward to continued engagement with you as we continue to protect and promote civil rights. To learn more about OECRC and how to file a civil rights complaint, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/external-civil-rights>.

BUT

President Donald Trump’s administration moved Tuesday to end affirmative action in federal contracting and directed that all federal diversity, equity and inclusion staff be put on paid leave and eventually be laid off. The executive order on affirmative action revokes an order issued by President Lyndon Johnson. [Read more](#) *Check your HR policies*

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**Trump puts federal DEI workers on notice**

[https://view.email.bbc.com/?](https://view.email.bbc.com/?qs=9e45bb21861c588ab801db201832f6043817e7fded6feae8101513a6181afc56932dac63d9b6fb)

[qs=9e45bb21861c588ab801db201832f6043817e7fded6feae8101513a6181afc56932dac63d9b6fb](https://view.email.bbc.com/?qs=9e45bb21861c588ab801db201832f6043817e7fded6feae8101513a6181afc56932dac63d9b6fb)  
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Mark Bransom: Veteran water engineer demonstrates agility and ability to adapt and coordinate on the nation’s largest dam removal project

“Mark Bransom, CEO since 2016 of Klamath River Renewal Corp., credits his more than 30-year career in water resources management and engineering for his ability to oversee the successful completion of the largest dam removal project in U.S. history. The \$450-million project involved removal of four dams, built between 1903 and 1962 and reaching 425 ft in height, across 35 miles of the Klamath River in Oregon and California. The ability to be nimble proved critical in the success of the project, which began as a kernel of an idea more than 20 years ago through efforts of tribal leaders dedicated to returning the river to its natural state and opening it once again to salmon habitat. “The things that I have learned through project delivery experience over the years taught me to keep a keen focus on risk evaluation and risk management, and [the project team] did a really good job with that, being flexible as the unknowns became knowns or partial knowns, and being nimble to address risks and change,” says Bransom. ...” [Read more from Engineering News-Record](#).

The fish are back!

“Salmon and steelhead are roaring back above the recently removed Klamath dams. Now, what comes next? One of the truly magical moments of dam removal is when the fish start returning to their historic, reconnected habitat. It is a tangible moment in a process that can take decades to accomplish, and it confirms our hopes for these rivers. The Klamath is in this joyful, magical moment now. The final barriers came out in August, and the first fish, a fall-run Chinook, swam through the former Iron Gate dam site soon after. Last fall, over 100 Chinook spawned above the dams, and even made it all the way into Oregon. A handful of coho and steelhead have been observed, too, and Sonar documented large numbers of fish swimming upstream past the Iron Gate site. ...” [Read more from Trout Unlimited](#).

New bill introduced to protect salmon in the Klamath River Watershed

“[Yesterday], Assemblymember Chris Rogers (D-Santa Rosa) introduced his first bill as a

member of the California State Assembly. AB 263 is an important measure to protect salmon populations in the Klamath River watershed and provide local agricultural operations with more certainty on river flows. This measure was introduced in partnership with the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, as well as the California Coastkeeper Alliance. “I’m proud to stand with the fishermen and Tribes of the North Coast to protect California’s fisheries,” said Assemblymember Rogers. “We have made tremendous strides to restore the salmon runs in the Klamath River but more must be done further upstream to ensure salmon populations can grow and flourish. This legislation will protect some of the most critical salmon habitat in California and will complement the restoration efforts associated with Klamath dam removal.” ... ” [Read more from the Redheaded Blackbelt.](#)

Nevada Senators announce millions to prevent invasive species in Lake Tahoe

“More than \$3 million to prevent invasive species from entering Lake Tahoe will go towards local tribes and agencies. \$3.1 million will support efforts by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe. The money supplements a total of \$17 million in grants the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided to support the lake’s conservation. Funding will come from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and was announced by U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen. ... ” [Read more from Channel 8.](#)

Over \$3 Million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to protect Lake Tahoe Basin

“Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced an additional \$3.1 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for existing cooperative agreements with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to prevent and combat the spread of aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe. The funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents the continuation of a historic effort dedicated to restoring the Lake Tahoe Basin ecosystem and emphasizes the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to protecting and restoring freshwater resources and to inclusive engagement with Tribes, partners and stakeholders. “Lake Tahoe is a national treasure that is being protected for future generations thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Service, Tribes, state and local government and others working together to protect it,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams. “The additional funding being announced today will ensure that the progress we have already witnessed in protecting the habitat of Lahontan cutthroat trout and other native species will continue.” ... ” [Read more from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.](#)

Unique California festival celebrates salmon, Native American culture

“Tucked in a tiny town in far Northern California, the upcoming 61st annual Salmon Festival will be a destination for all things salmon and for understanding the importance of the animal to so many Native American people. Sponsored by the Yurok Native American tribe, the event typically draws 4,000 of people to downtown Klamath, a city of just over 600 people that’s situated about a quarter-mile from the Klamath River. The daylong festival being held August 16 blends Native culture with sports, live music, art and food. Along with tourists, tribal members living along the Klamath River turn out, including people from the Hoopa, Yurok, Tolowa and Karuk tribes. Expect to find about 150 mostly tribal vendors from California, Nevada and Oregon. They typically sell everything from clothing and jewelry to local foods, which in the

past has included a family-made jam made from local huckleberries as well as shanks of fresh-caught salmon cooked over an open fire. ... ” [Read more from the Redding Record-Searchlight](#)
SEE ALSO: Scenes from the Yurok Salmon Festival, held each year in Klamath, California, from Redding Record-Searchlight

Privatization of USPS threatens a lifeline to Tribes

Every election, we mobilize the Native vote on reservations, confront voter suppression, and show the power of our communities as a decisive vote in key races. But Trump's plans, with Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, to privatize the US Postal Service threaten a lifeline for essential goods, medicines, and the delivery and return of vote-by-mail ballots.

Privatization turns mail delivery into a profit-making venture rather than a vital human service for rural communities, seniors, veterans, and Tribal nations.

On reservations, homes are identified by landmarks, directions, and crossroads. Residents often depend on P.O. boxes in nearby towns or drop-offs at local businesses. Some must drive as much as 70 miles -- one way -- just to access their mail.

Last year, our movement successfully pushed Congress to halt closures of USPS processing centers until at least January 2025. But now that limited time frame of protection is up, and with Trump taking office on January 20, vote-by-mail is yet again under threat. These proposals, identified in Project 2025, target rural communities and Tribal communities.

[Don't let Trump and DeJoy privatize the USPS -- now or ever! Sign and send a message to Congress urging them to maintain and improve the post office as a public service.](#)

For rural and Native communities, the post office is not just a mail service. It delivers essential items like medications, Social Security checks, and vote-by-mail ballots. With 99 million votes cast by mail in 2024, out of a total 156 million votes -- nearly 2/3 of all votes -- reliable mail service is critical to protecting our right to vote.

In Arizona, for example, only 18% of reservation voters outside Maricopa and Pima counties have home delivery. On the Navajo Nation, the largest reservation -- spanning an area the size of Ireland -- most residents live in remote areas.

If the USPS is handed over to private entities, Native communities -- and Native votes -- are at risk of being left behind.

[We can stop privatization of the USPS, but only with your help. Sign and send your message to Congress now.](#)

Hawwih (*thank you*) for standing up to protect our right to vote -- a high priority for achieving our constitutional right to sovereignty.

Judith LeBlanc (Caddo), Executive Director, Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund



A woman sells noken at a market in Jayapura, Papua province, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)

Papua's noken bag, the knotted legacy of resilience and identity
The distinctive bag, handcrafted from natural fibers like tree bark or leaves, is a common sight in the Papua capital and bigger cities of the province, with many noken becoming [a valuable item passed down from generation to generation](#). The U.N. cultural agency UNESCO recognized the traditional bag as needing urgent safeguarding in 2012 because there are fewer crafters making noken and more competition from factory-made bags.

Timothy O'Sullivan

O'Sullivan's experience photographing in the field earned him a position as the official photographer for the Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel led by Clarence King. From 1867 to 1869, he followed the first governmental survey of the American West. The expedition began at [Virginia City, Nevada](#), where he photographed the mines and worked eastward. His job was to photograph the West to attract settlers. O'Sullivan's images were among the first to record the prehistoric ruins, [Navajo](#) weavers, and pueblo villages of the Southwest.

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/timothy-osullivan/>

Tribes' suit against card rooms could affect cities

https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=fd87e70f-3803-4467-8f73-bf38e8a10e01&share=true

INVESTING IN AMERICA: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$45 Million in Grant Awards for Connected, Active Transportation Infrastructure Projects (edited)

States, local and Tribal governments, and metropolitan and regional planning organizations can use ATIIP grants to plan, design, or construct safe and connected active transportation networks such as sidewalks, bikeways, and trails that connect schools, workplaces, transit, and other destinations within a community or metropolitan region. Grants can also be used for projects to

plan, design, and construct routes known as “transportation spines” that serve as backbones to connect two or more communities, metropolitan regions, or states.

Projects awarded funding include:

- **California:** The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians will receive **\$1.4 million** to plan and design the Santa Ynez Valley Active Transportation Regional Connector, an 8.7 mile active transportation spine that will fill gaps in the Valley’s active transportation network, adapt the region to expanding bike-tourism, and provide residents with safe access to schools, grocery stores, medical facilities, transit and other vital destinations.

<https://highways.dot.gov/newsroom/investing-america-biden-harris-administration-announces-nearly-45-million-grant-awards>

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**ACHP Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation**

March 21, 2024

The field of historic preservation should ensure that the archaeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes, sacred sites, and other sites of religious and cultural importance to Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs), and other Indigenous Peoples are equitably considered in decision making. This policy statement provides a set of principles to support the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge in historic preservation contexts.

The ACHP voted unanimously to adopt this policy statement on March 21, 2024. The policy statement establishes a set of standards and guidelines that federal and state agencies, contractors, and other relevant entities should, at a minimum, seek to implement in order to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in the Section 106 review process.

The full text of the policy statement is available in [PDF format](#).



<https://bibliolifestyle.com/books-by-indigenous-authors/>

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5 Minutes: Daphne DeLeon, Nevada State Railroad Museum director

<https://renonr.com/2025/01/14/15-minutes-daphne-deleon-nevada-state-railroad-museum-director/>

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has jurisdiction to study the unique problems of American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native peoples and to propose legislation to alleviate these difficulties. These issues include, but are not limited to, Indian education, economic development, land management, trust responsibilities, health care, and claims against the United States. Additionally, all legislation proposed by Members of the Senate that specifically pertains to American Indians, Native Hawaiians, or Alaska Natives is under the jurisdiction of the Committee. ([source](#))

Links <http://www.indian.senate.gov/>

The membership of this committee is not yet available.

Bills There are 2 bills referred to this committee:

- [S. 107: A bill to amend the Lumbee Act of 1956.](#)
Sponsor: Sen. Thom Tillis [R-NC]
Status: Introduced
- [S. 105: A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.](#)
Sponsor: Sen. Mike Rounds [R-SD]
Status: Introduced

Westerman Announces House Subcommittee Chairs

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 9, 2025 | Committee Press Office (202-225-2761)

Today, House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) announced the subcommittee chairs for the 119th Congress.

Full Committee Vice Chairman Rob Wittman (R-Va.)

"As a lifelong outdoorsman, conservationist, and former marine scientist, I am deeply honored to serve as vice chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and use my leadership role to advocate for a cleaner, safer, and healthier Chesapeake Bay. America – and particularly Virginia – is home to an abundance of natural resources that we have a responsibility to properly steward for future generations. I look forward to serving alongside my friend Chairman Westerman, who has done a phenomenal job leading our committee, and I thank him for putting his trust in me."

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.)

"With President Trump at our nation's helm and a unified Congress ready to work, I know we can finally undo the damage committed by the Biden Administration and unleash our nation's vast energy and mineral resources. I am incredibly grateful to lead the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee at this pivotal time in American history, and I thank Chairman Westerman for entrusting me with this incredible platform."

Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.)

"I'm honored to be returning as the Chairman of the Federal Lands Subcommittee. We have a fantastic opportunity to build off the great work we accomplished the past two years, and with the new landscape of D.C., there is a real opportunity for us to get our initiatives over the finish line and into statute. The Federal Lands Subcommittee will continue to advocate for better forest management, increased local control, and common-sense policies that protect public access while defending the multiple use heritage that adds value for people and conserves our natural resources."

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Chairman Jeff Hurd (R-Colo.)

"I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Indian and Insular Affairs subcommittee, and to build upon the great work of past chairwoman Rep Hageman. This chairmanship will give the people of the Third District, Colorado and the west a voice on issues that are pivotal to our country. I thank Chairman Westerman for this opportunity to serve at a higher level."

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.)

"I am honored to be appointed by Chairman Westerman to once again serve as Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and also serve on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. I look forward to working with every member of this committee to protect our natural heritage, manage our resources and advance conservative conservation policies while ensuring transparency and accountability within the federal government."

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Chairwoman Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.)

"I am honored to serve as Chair of the Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee and as a member of Energy and Mineral Resources. I spent my legal career protecting Wyoming's industries from federal overreach and promoting local autonomy in resource management, and as a member of the Natural Resources Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to empower local expertise, reduce burdensome regulations, and deliver real solutions for hardworking Americans."

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**Lake Mead projections improve by 14 feet compared to a year ago**

“Projections released on Wednesday for Lake Mead are far more optimistic than a year ago, showing the lake level rising almost 14 feet higher than models suggested as 2024 began. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation posted its January 24-month study, showing anticipated levels at the nation’s largest reservoir through December 2026. It’s a crucial 2-year span for water managers in the West as the government writes new rules for Colorado River water that has diminished because of climate change. When 2027 arrives, those new rules are expected to be in place as previous rules established in 2007 expire. ... ” [Read more from KLAS.](#)

BUT

**Colorado River snowpack offers little hope to end water cutbacks in Arizona in 2026**

“Snowpack in the upper Colorado River basin is slightly less than normal for this time of year, meaning Arizona could see sustained water cuts through 2026. Though trends could change through the rest of the winter, the snowpack in the basin is about [94%](#) of the median for mid-January. While Arizona’s share of Colorado River water in 2025 is already set, the snowpack numbers are early indicators of how much river water the state could get next year. Even with an

average snow year, water managers say dry conditions and warming temperatures could create below-average runoff, keeping Arizona water users in shortage. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central](#).

**Phoenix isn't running out of water yet, but the future could depend on a culture of conservation**

“It’s dry out there. Really dry. The last time it rained in Phoenix was Aug. 22. That was 145 days ago, which means we are in the third longest dry streak in our city’s history. The National Weather Service says a few more weeks and we’ll break the record. And it’s not just Phoenix. Across Maricopa County, we’re seeing severe to extreme drought. But, Cynthia Campbell, water resources management advisor for the City of Phoenix, says when it comes to our city’s water supply, it doesn’t really matter — at least not yet. Campbell said while one dry winter isn’t dire for our city’s water supply, but a few more and we could be looking at a big problem. And it’s today’s Deep Dive.” [Listen to podcast or read transcript from KJZZ](#).

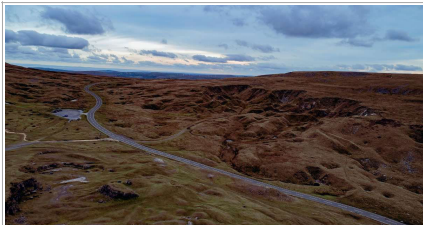
**Biden-Harris Administration announces over \$282 Million for long-term Colorado River conservation projects in Arizona**

“The Bureau of Reclamation today announced a \$257.6 million investment through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda for long-term conservation projects in collaboration with the City of Tucson, the Town of Gilbert, Salt River Project and Central Arizona Project. “These investments are a prime example of how strong partnerships coupled with the implementation of innovative solutions can ensure a sustainable future for the Colorado River,” Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton said during visits to Tucson and the Salt River Project. “These long-term investments support the resiliency of communities across the State of Arizona for the benefit of generations to come.” ... ” [Read more from the Bureau of Reclamation](#).

**How Land Reshuffling Made the American West’s Racial Divide (7 minute read)**

(focuses on the Agua Calient Band of Cauhilla)

[https://time.com/7205319/land-reshuffling-racial-divide-essayutm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://time.com/7205319/land-reshuffling-racial-divide-essayutm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)



**[Archeologists Stumble Upon a 1000-Year-Old 'White Road' Built by a Ruthless Maya Warrior Queen, Unclear of Its Purpose - MSN](#)**

Archeologists Stumble Upon a 1000-Year-Old 'White Road' Built by a Ruthless Maya Warrior Queen, Unclear of Its Purpose With the aid of breakthrough technology, researchers discovered and ... [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com)

**Read More: [Without Indigenous History, There Is No U.S. History](#)**

**1960: The Las Vegas population was 64,405.**

**Nevada State Government Tribal Liasons**

<https://dnaa.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/NV-State-Departments-and-Tribal-Liaisons-1-12.pdf>

*Celebration of Life*  
*Trenton Dale Paddy*



*08/24/1988 - 01/13/2025*  
*Walton's funeral home*  
*2155 Kietzke ln 12pm - 4pm*  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31st**