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No intelligent species would destroy their own environment

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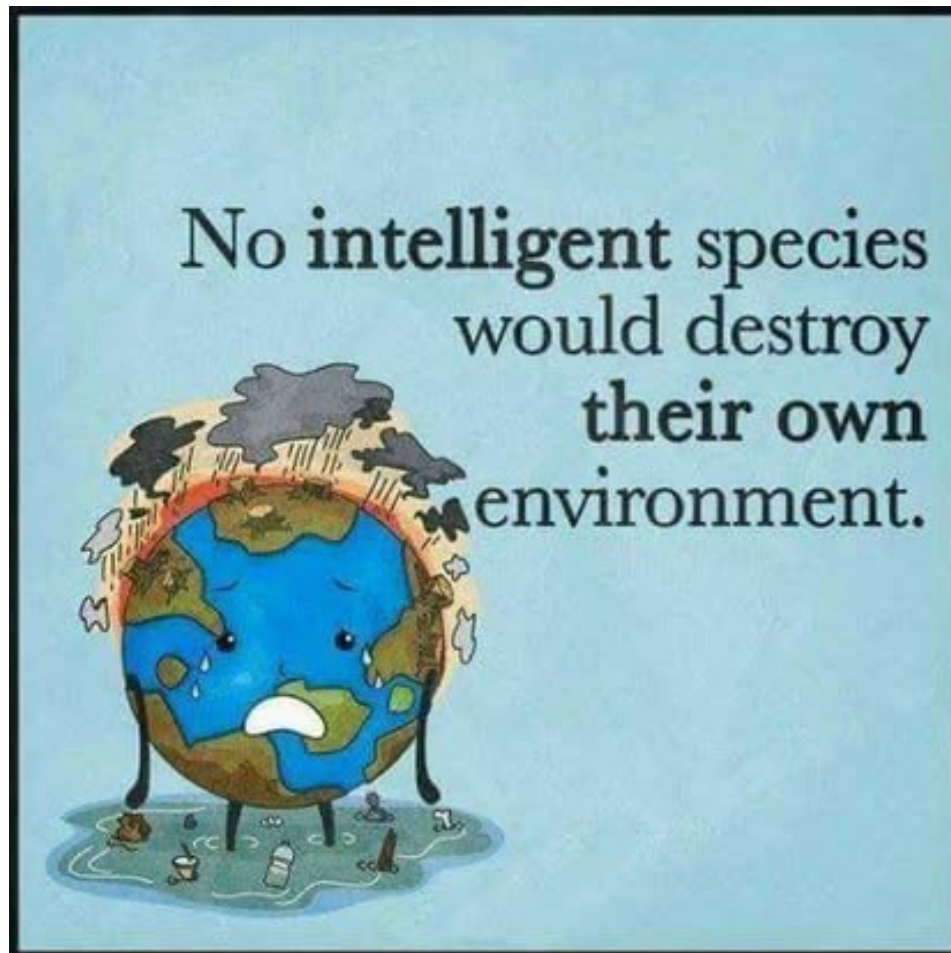
Arizona ranchers appeal water rights case involving Gila River Indian Community

Commentary: Arizona's new water politics: Force action, retaliate, repeat

Water experts: Crisis on Colorado River affects all Coloradans

Sparks, Washoe County law enforcement using AI, with a human oversight

Deb Haaland Makes It Official





The Art of Judith Lowry: Opening Celebration

Celebrate this major exhibition of Judith Lowry's paintings alongside the debut of the Lowry Croul Collection of Contemporary Native Art. Meet the artist in the galleries and attend a traditional and cultural presentation by the Maidu Dancers and Traditionalists honoring Lowry at 7pm in the Nightingale Sky Room.

Special Events March 21, 2025 5 – 8 pm [Register](#)

Also for your calendar

Threads of Tradition: Community Day April 26, 2025 10 am-4pm

The general public is invited to a day of demonstrations, talks and performances related to the traditions of basket weaving. Shop at vendor booths featuring unique Indigenous art, baskets, jewelry and specialty items.

This FREE community event celebrates Indigenous heritage and basket weaving traditions of the Great Basin.

*If you are a GBNBA Member or part of the Tribal Community and want to register for workshops, learn more about *Threads of Tradition: Tribal Member Day* [here](#).



WONDERFUL INVENTION

This revolutionary breakthrough transforms rainwater into a solid resource using potassium acrylate, a biodegradable polymer. Developed by Mexican engineer Sergio Jesus Rico Velasco, this powdered polymer turns 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 regions with extreme climates, where water availability is scarce and unpredictable. Additionally, it ensures that this method can reduce water usage in agriculture by up to 92%, lowering costs and dependence on expensive irrigation systems.

I hope we support these types of projects that will help us protect water.

Credits: Mundo Galático

[#didyouknow](#) [#didyouknowfacts](#) [#didyouknowfacts](#)



These new materials could help solve drought in the Western US

“Advances in a field of research known as reticular chemistry could provide a breakthrough solution to the growing water scarcity crisis in the western United States. Material science researchers have developed highly porous crystalline materials, known as metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and covalent organic frameworks (COFs), capable of efficiently capturing water vapor from the atmosphere—even in extremely dry conditions. These novel materials could transform the way water is sourced, offering an alternative to reliance on dwindling natural reservoirs. The development comes at a critical time, as water shortages intensify across the western U.S. and globally. ... ” [Read more from Newsweek.](#)

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## STEM Action Grants

**The STEM Action Grant program provides small grants of up to \$5,000 to innovative nonprofit organizations led by social entrepreneurs**

The STEM Action Grant program aims to bolster and support community-driven nonprofit organizations that are working to enhance the public’s understanding of science and to increase participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields. Since its launch in 2016, the STEM Action Grants program has awarded a total of **\$1.15 million to 144 impactful organizations.**

Grantees may apply for up to \$5,000 in funding and may apply to renew for up to three years. Organizations that receive funding for three years are also eligible to apply for a \$10,000 capacity-building grant.

View past STEM Action Grantees: [2019](#) • [2020](#) • [2022](#) • [2023](#) • [2024](#)

[Apply by March 5, 2025.](#)

## STEM Research Grants

**STEM Research Grants provide support to middle and high school teachers engaging their students in authentic scientific research. Since 2017, \$775,000 has been awarded to 367 teachers. Priority consideration is given to schools that support students from low-income communities and demographics underrepresented in STEM fields.**

Teachers can apply for up to \$5,000 to purchase specialized equipment or \$1,000 in preselected equipment to support many students in STEM research.

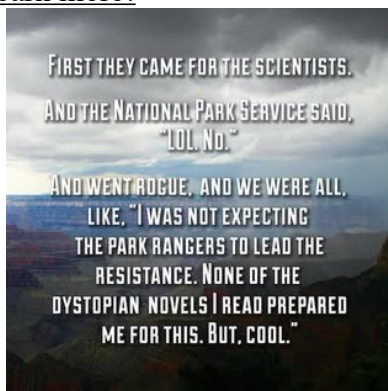
For the purposes of this grant, a research project is defined as an independent investigation by a student involving experimentation, engineering design, or invention. The grant is not intended to support whole class sets of materials for traditional classroom instruction. Independent research projects are frequently entered into science fairs and other competitions.

[Sign up to be notified when the application opens in 2025.](#)

Have questions? [Check out our FAQ's here.](#)

## 2023 - 2024 STEM Research Grant Recipients

The Society for Science provided STEM research equipment kits and funding to 41 [middle and high school educators](#) to help their students conduct research outside the classroom. The teachers come from 24 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Priority consideration is given to teachers at schools that support students from low-income communities and demographics traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. [Click here to learn more!](#)



## American Indian Movement of Ohio

Raymond Yellow Thunder, 1972

“The man who caused the American Indian Movement to gain national and worldwide attention was an Indian cowboy from Pine Ridge. His name was Raymond Yellow Thunder and we should never forget his name or the abuses his murder revealed.

Native American rancher, Raymond Yellow Thunder, in 1972 was attacked by racists, stripped from the waste down, and forced into an American Legion bar where people made fun of him, forced him to dance, and put cigarettes out on him.

ON A COLD WINTER EVENING in 1972, four young, restless white men and one woman were drinking beer and cruising the streets of Gordon, Nebraska, when they came upon an intoxicated Oglala Lakota ranch hand named Raymond Yellow Thunder.

They grabbed him by the hair, punched him in the face, stripped him from the waist down, and forced him into the trunk of their car. They thought it would be a great joke to shove him half-naked into the American Legion Hall, where a benefit dance was underway.

The townspeople stared in shock as the bruised Indian cowboy in the doorway pulled his shirttail down to cover himself and hid his face in shame. They took him outside to beat him to death. They put him in a trunk of their car and drove around. Then they put him into the cab of a pickup truck in a used car lot where he died. Two little boys found his body a week later. He had died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

His death became notable as an example of a racial assault, as he was murdered by four white men who had bragged earlier that evening about beating an Indian.

Melvin and Leslie were initially charged with assault and battery and released without bail. After AIM protested, the charges were upgraded to second-degree manslaughter. One of the five was never charged with anything. Three of them were charged with manslaughter and the fourth was charged with false imprisonment. But it was two months after the murder, in May of 1972, before any charges were made.

Raymond Yellow Thunder was castrated, his skull was crushed with a tire iron and he was tortured with lit cigarettes.

The murders received a light sentence. Leslie and Melvin Hare were eventually convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to six years with a \$500 fine, and two years with a \$500 fine, respectively.

The authorities were not going to charge anybody at first. But after a protest by a caravan of AIM people and people from Pine Ridge, the Hare brothers were charged. They were convicted and sentenced to a year in prison. The local Indian leaders called on AIM to come in to help protect them. The AIM protests over Raymond's killing and the killing of Wesley Bad Heart Bull led

directly to the Indian occupation of Wounded Knee in February 1973. AIM later established the Yellow Thunder Camp in Raymond's honor.

Murders of Indians had been going on in South Dakota for a hundred years by that time. Before the Hares, allegedly, no white man had ever been arrested, tried, or convicted for killing an Indian. It was as hard to convict a white man of killing an Indian in South Dakota as it was to convict a KKK member for lynching a Black man in Alabama.

The signs in stores, bars, and restaurants that said "No Dogs or Indians Allowed" had started to come down by then.

Raymond Yellow Thunder was born near Kyle on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He was a direct descendant of American Horse, a so-called progressive chief who believed strongly that education and hard work was the best way for the Lakota peoples to advance. Raymond's parents, Andrew and Jennie felt the same, and they maintained a farm and a small herd of horses.

His life was in many ways typical of that era.



Tennessee Lookout

[A funny thing happened on the way to closing the U.S. Department of Education](#)

The Trump administration continued its head-scratching appointments by anointing billionaire Linda McMahon as Secretary of Education — even though he had campaigned on a pledge to abolish the department. The president has expressed his hope that McMahon would eventually “put herself out of a job.” She has been part of the president’s inner political circle, [...]

[LeAndra Bitsie](#) updated her status.

*Today's lesson on ceremonial accountability:*

*One time I was told, "If you believe in these ceremonies, act like it." This statement changed my life. Not only did it scold me, but it also molded me. It allowed me to take a serious look at the difference between personal belief and personal behavior.*

*These days, our ceremonies are more serious and scarce than ever. It's alarming to realize we are raising generations of many young people who only look at the top layer of ceremonies. But it's not only the youth. Many adults are just as guilty. Some people use ceremonial gatherings to be well known, show off, judge others, or even show up just to spy on one another. Some even go so far as to use ceremonies as dating scenes. This kind of behavior is disappointing and embarrassing because it offers a huge slap in the face to those elders who actually fought, prayed and sacrificed themselves for its true purpose.*

*Today ask yourself, "Am I behaving in a manner that respects my belief? Do I bring humility to ceremonial settings? Or am I in it to show off?"*

*Ceremonies hold immense responsibilities. They teach us ultimate accountability thru our daily lives. Ceremonies teach us humble appreciation for life. They also teach us how to be absolutely loyal to our spouses, family and nature.*

*Let us take a moment to adjust our behavior and line it up with our beliefs. We can't be humble with positive expressions during a ceremony, yet go home and be rude to our spouses or families. This disconnection compromises the sacredness of our intentions.*

*I've been fortunate enough to be raised around some strict spiritual people. They were not from this generation. They weren't concerned with ceremonial selfies, infidelity, jealousy, or even the need to be seen. These old folks were simple and powerful because all they had was prayer and truthful purpose.*

*As we enter our ceremonies this spring and summer, let us straighten up our attitudes and behavior. We know better. And if you're not willing to straighten up, then step aside and let the accountable ones handle it.*

*The lesson: Don't explain your philosophy. Embody it.*

Mary Gibson :

Nananewenee, do you realize that if \*\*\*\*\* gets his way, how this EO will impact our religious and spiritual beliefs?

(iv) solicit information and ideas from a broad range of individuals and groups, including Americans affected by anti-Christian conduct, faith-based organizations, and State, local, and Tribal governments, in order to ensure that its work is informed by a broad spectrum of ideas and experiences;

Rebecca Solnit :

And here we go, another step toward white Christian nationalism as state religion, in violation of the First Amendment, if this leads to protecting and promoting Christianity and excusing extremist acts in the name of that religion while leaving other religions unprotected. And more DARVO (the acronym for deny, accuse, reverse victim and offender, used mostly for gender violence and coercive control abusers). This is a statement full of distortions, lies, and hate. Including attacks on the devout Catholic Biden as somehow anti-Christian, because that fits with the newish cult of Christian nationalism that also encompasses hate of the Episcopal bishop who asked for mercy toward the vulnerable and in some cases. There're news stories about right-wingers with Christian identity politics turning away from Jesus for being a liberal softie. There's been some interesting stuff about their rejection of the Sermon on the Mount and other be-kind messages.

**Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/.../eradicating-anti.../>

Antoinette Cavanaugh

Going back to pre-1978 where Indigenous people were legally prohibited from practicing their religion. SMH

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*“Gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson put it well: “Buy the ticket, take the ride.”*  
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**Advocate Program** <https://www.societyforscience.org/outreach-and-equity/advocate-program/>  
**Providing training, stipends, and year-round support to mentors supporting students from historically underrepresented races/ethnicities, low-income households, underrepresented groups in entering science research competitions.**

The Advocate Program is a year-long professional development program that supports teachers and mentors who are working to increase the number of students from historically underrepresented race/ethnicities, low-income households, and other underrepresented groups who enter STEM research competitions. The Advocates receive training and support from Society staff, mentorship from Lead Advocate, a \$3,000 stipend, and an all-expense-paid trip to attend the Advocate Training Institute in Washington, D.C

The 2025/2026 Advocate Program application is now open, [apply here](#) by March 2, 2025.



### **What data-driven science reveals about the twisted saga of Western water rights**

“In the American West, water is a sacred and scarce resource plagued by pollution, shortages, and contentious fights over legal rights, often between Indigenous peoples and business groups. At Caltech, Laura Taylor, a postdoctoral instructor in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, conducts data-driven research that combines satellite imagery with historical and economic analysis to point to policy solutions for fairer resource allocation and cleaner water. Through her work, Taylor has demonstrated that the processes tribes must go through to have their long-established legal rights to water quantified and enforced may actually be contributing to the degradation of this resource. Water shapes life, economy, and power, Taylor notes. But decades of overuse, drought, and inequitable allocation have made water a fiercely contested resource, particularly in the West. ... ” [Read more from Pasadena Now.](#)

### **\$1 million grant aids in acquiring land near River Lodge**

“A \$1 million grant from the California Coastal Conservancy was awarded to the city of Fortuna and the Wiyot Tribe for land acquisition along the Eel River near the Fortuna River Lodge and Conference Center. For several years, there have been ongoing negotiations with the private property owner. “Now we have the money in place, so this is most exciting,” Fortuna City Manager Amy Nilsen said. Nilsen said an appraisal needs to be completed and negotiations with the property owner need to be resolved so acquisition of the property can occur. ... ” [Read more from the Eureka Times-Standard.](#)

### **Feds ask Colorado River official to resign, leaving another leadership gap during “existential time” for the river**

“Anne Castle expected to be asked to leave her position representing the federal government in Colorado River policy planning. She just didn’t know how long it would take to be shown the door. The answer? Seven days from President Donald Trump’s inauguration to her official resignation. Castle has helped guide Colorado River policy alongside four state officials on an interstate commission representing the Upper Basin — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Former President Joe Biden appointed her to the position in 2022. The request for her resignation came as the Trump administration makes broad moves to replace key leaders and reshape the federal government. “This is an existential time for the river,” Castle wrote in her resignation letter. “We are on the brink of putting in place an operating regime that will govern our lives and our economies for decades.” ... ” [Read more from the Colorado Sun.](#)

### **Lake Mead: Colorado snowpack adds to water woes**

“Lake Mead and Lake Powell could be in for a tough year, with the latest estimates of Colorado’s snowpack providing underwhelming reading. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Water and Climate Center, the snowpack in Upper Colorado River Basin — the primary source of flows into [Mead](#) and [Powell](#) — is presently sitting at just 83 percent of the historic median for this time of year. This is a significant decrease since January, when numbers were closer to 95 percent, and a drop of 2 percent in the last week alone. ... ” [Read more from Newsweek.](#)

### **Arizona ranchers appeal water rights case involving Gila River Indian Community**

“Arizona ranchers typically use a series of wells for domestic purposes and irrigation. However,

a lawsuit has prevented some from using wells due to water rights claimed by the Gila River Indian Community. The tribe says the ranchers pumped water in violation of a decree. However, the ranchers argued that water pumped from the wells is groundwater rather than subflow from the Gila River. The United States District Court ruled in favor of the Gila River Indian Community. Director Tim Berg of Fennemore Craig, P.C. says the law being used to seal the wells is too broad in scope and reaches beyond what it was intended to cover. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

**Commentary: Arizona’s new water politics: Force action, retaliate, repeat**

“The Home Builders Association of Central Arizona is suing the state over its decision to stop allowing subdivisions to build on groundwater. The problem, homebuilders contend, is that the state water department made that rule unilaterally, without putting it through a formal vetting and public comment process. They are asking a judge to throw out the rule and keep it from being enforced. Which could have wide-reaching implications for Arizona. But that’s not what troubles me most about this case. It’s that this case even exists. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central.](#)

**Water experts: Crisis on Colorado River affects all Coloradans**

“Three of Colorado’s top water experts hammered home the idea that Colorado’s water situation is precarious, at best, and almost always on the brink of crisis. The day-long Voices of Rural Colorado symposium in Denver was the setting for an hour-long discussion of Colorado water. Attendees heard from, and interacted with, Rebecca Mitchell, former executive director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and now Colorado’s representative on the Upper Colorado River Commission; Zane Kessler, director of government relations for the Colorado River District; and Jim Yahn, Logan County Commissioner and manager of the North Sterling Irrigation District. ... ” [Read more from the Journal Advocate.](#)

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Sparks, Washoe County law enforcement using AI, with a human oversight ([mynews4.com](#)) — Washoe County law enforcement agencies are integrating AI technology to enhance efficiency, focusing on Reno and Sparks. The AI assists in drafting police reports and tracking suspects, with plans to utilize public cameras for real-time crime monitoring.
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**Deb Haaland Makes It Official**

Today, I’m launching my campaign for Governor of the great state of New Mexico — my home — to bring our state together and build a bright future for all who live here.

(Edit Donation)

The amount you give doesn’t matter. What matters is building a campaign with the support of real people. That’s who I am and who I came from. That’s who I am running to serve.

My roots in New Mexico run 35 generations deep. The Pueblo people were the first farmers in the high deserts of New Mexico, an agriculture tradition that still continues today.

I am here because of my grandfather, who worked for decades as a diesel mechanic on the railroad. Somehow he also kept a field — picking worms off the corn as it grew, like the generations before him.

I am here because of my grandmother, a survivor and a caretaker who woke up every day before the sun. She was the one who gave me my true love of cooking New Mexican cuisine. (She wouldn't let us in the kitchen while she cooked, but I'd perch myself outside and watch her through the window for hours.)

I am here because of my parents and their sacrifice. My mother, a Pueblo woman, served in the Navy. My father, a Marine, received a Silver Star for his service in Vietnam. He now lies in honor at Arlington.

I am here because of my beloved child, who I raised on my own. I started a small business to pay the bills, but it still wasn't always enough. We relied on food stamps to get on our feet. I sometimes had to decide between paying rent and buying groceries to feed our family. I will never forget how that felt or the kindness of those who helped us — strangers who became community. When I look at my Somah, I see perseverance, strength and hope.

These are my stories.

These are stories of New Mexico.

These days, our differences are blown so far out of proportion. We lose sight of a simple fact: we all live in the same state, together. All of us in New Mexico come from love, survival, and sacrifice. We all want to live good lives — and we want even more for our children.

The current president and his billionaire friends look at the lands and the people of this country and think: what can I exploit?

I am running to ask: if we come together in New Mexico, what good can we do for each other and for the next generation?

We have our work cut out for us. The cost of living is crushing our families. Our economy is growing, but we need to make sure *everyone* shares in our progress. Our families need more. Our farmers and ranchers need more. New Mexico's children need so much more. And we must be good stewards of the Earth, and preserve the rivers, mesas, farmlands, and forests whose beauty sustains our communities.

I am running to do all this and more. I am running to serve all New Mexicans and make sure we're leaving a better future for our children.

[\(Edit\)](#) I would be honored to have your support.

Be fierce,

Deb