

Journal #5929 from sdc 2.28.25

Rangers dismissed at Great Basin National Park

Map of Federal Workers, State by State

Leonard Peltier vows to continue fight for Native American rights after 49 years in prison

GrantStation at USDA

How seriously should we take the sale of federal lands?

Trump's EPA wants to demolish the bedrock of US climate regulation. It won't be easy.

Introducing Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi

Christian town in Syria keeps biblical language alive but fears for its future

Executive Order 14120

Judge finds mass firing of probationary workers were likely unlawful

Follow the Chaos: Reactions to the Executive Order and OMB Memo

Harry Thompson



Five newly appointed park rangers at Great Basin National Park in Nevada were unexpectedly dismissed following the Trump administration's directive to terminate nearly all recent hires across federal agencies, potentially compromising visitor safety and affecting local communities.

[Read more...](#)

- [Where are federal jobs affected by DOGE cuts? A look at congressional districts across the US](#)

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**Biden commutation: [Leonard Peltier vows to continue fight for Native American rights after 49 years in prison](#)**

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**Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure**

[U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Rural Development's Multifamily Housing Programs](#)

USDA Rural Development's Multifamily Housing Programs offer direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to provide affordable rental housing for lower-income rural residents, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Recipients can use funds to buy and improve land and to build, preserve, or revitalize multifamily buildings. The Multifamily Housing Rental Assistance Program provides payments directly to the owners of USDA-financed rural rental or farm labor housing on behalf of eligible tenants who cannot afford to pay their full rent. Programs include:

- [Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantee](#) — The program works with qualified private-sector lenders to provide financing to qualified borrowers to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families in eligible rural areas and towns.
- [Multifamily Housing Direct Loans](#) — This program provides competitive financing for affordable multi-family rental housing for low-income, elderly, or disabled individuals and families in eligible rural areas.
- [On-Farm Labor Housing Loans](#) — This program provides affordable financing to develop or rehabilitate affordable rental housing for very-low income domestic, migrant, and seasonal farm laborers.

[Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program](#)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides funding to qualified nonprofits, including Tribally owned nonprofits, to create a revolving loan fund or to award sub-grants to homeowners for supporting access to individually owned water and wastewater services in eligible rural areas. **Application deadline: 3/3/2025**

[Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program](#)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides loan guarantee funding to assist in developing constructing and retrofitting new and emerging technologies for: [advanced biofuels](#), [renewable chemicals](#) and [biobased products](#). **Letter of intent: 3/5/2025**

[Community Connect Program](#)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides funds to establish high-speed internet networks that will foster economic growth and deliver enhanced educational, health care and public safety benefits. **Application deadline: 4/21/2025**

### [Business and Industry Loan Guarantees](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development offers loan guarantees to lenders to provide loans to rural businesses. The qualified lender may be located anywhere. **Application deadline: Open**

### [Community Facilities Programs](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides funding to develop or improve essential public services and facilities. Projects include fire and rescue stations, town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, childcare centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community-based initiatives. **Application deadline: Open**

### [Rural Housing Site Loans](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development offers specific loans to eligible entities to purchase and develop housing sites for low- and moderate-income families. **Application deadline: Open**

### [Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program \(Section 502 program\)](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development offers funding to approved lenders for 100-percent-financed, no-money-down loans to eligible low- and moderate-income households for single-family dwellings in rural areas. **Application deadline: Open**

### [Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants \(Section 504 program\)](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes, and provides grants to elderly, very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. **Application deadline: Open**

### [Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

USDA Rural Development provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. **Application deadline: Open**

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### **How seriously should we take the sale of federal lands?**

Very seriously, experts say. “At his confirmation hearing last month, incoming Interior Secretary Doug Burgum pegged the value of America’s federal land at between \$1 and \$2 trillion, and suggested that developing public land is one way to pay down the estimated \$36 trillion national debt. The former software executive and North Dakota governor told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that reconsidering America’s federal land as a balance-sheet asset to generate revenue could provide both short- and long-term economic security. Underperforming public land is a stranded asset in Burgum’s accounting. “When we restrict access, we don’t use [public land] for recreation, and we don’t develop the minerals sustainably and in a smart way, then we are getting super low return for the American people,” Burgum told the senators. “It’s our responsibility for getting a return for the American people.” ... ” [Read more from Outdoor Life.](#)

### **Trump’s EPA wants to demolish the bedrock of US climate regulation. It won’t be easy.**

“2007 was a pivotal year for climate regulation in the United States. The Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases, because they meet the Clean Air Act’s definition of air pollutants. That ruling led the EPA to find that six key greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, endanger public health and welfare. The agency then utilized this so-called endangerment finding to issue rules limiting tailpipe emissions from vehicles during the Obama and Biden administrations — a key tool for reducing the nearly 30 percent of U.S. emissions attributable to transportation. Over the years, the EPA has depended on its endangerment finding to regulate climate-warming gases from coal plants, aircraft, and other industrial sources. The finding, which underpins several major EPA rules, is now at risk. According to reporting by the Washington Post, EPA administrator Lee Zeldin has recommended that the White House strike down the endangerment finding. Trump officials do not appear to have made a decision, but the move has long been on Republicans’ wish list. ... ” [Read more from Grist.](#)





**Join Bay Nature and the Solano Land Trust at Patwino Worrntla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park for an out and back, 4-mile hike at this newly opened park on Saturday, March 8 from 9am - 11:30am.** “For the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Solano County’s new open space park is sacred land,” [writes](#) Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's tribal chairman in our Winter 2025 Issue. “We chose to name it Patwino Worrntla Kodoi Dihi, which means “Southern Rock Home of the Patwin People.” We will start our hike at the park’s welcome plaza, take the All People's Trail, cut over to the left on the Doris Klein Ridge Trail, and then cross over to the Harmonia trail. We hope to see some of the flowers which grow along the trails, including sky lupine, California golden poppies, blue dips, purple owl’s clover, seep monkey flower, and goldfields. **This event is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Tickets are limited.**

## **Introducing Patwino Worrntla Kodoi Dihi**

In California, the many Spanish and English place names tell a story of conquest, of places taken from people and names imported from elsewhere—the hometowns they pined for (Inverness, Fairfield, Newark), the saints and sisters they revered, and the stray impressions they immortalized (like comparing Mt. Tamalpais to a camel’s back). Some names stuck because they fit; others just get stuck. Most names were imposed on places once named something else.

In terms of naming, it was never ideal to have Rockville Trails Preserve across the street from Rockville Hills Regional Park, and both on Rockville Road. We wanted to be sure that these 1,500 picturesque acres of volcanically formed hills and majestic oaks received a name worthy of the wonders within it.

Now, it has one: Patwino Worrntla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park.



Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi (pronounced: Put.win.no War.klaw Kaw.doy De.he) means Southern Rock Home of the Patwin people. These words are from the Patwin language, spoken in this region for thousands of years. (The name of Suisun City also derives from Patwin, meaning where the west wind blows.)

We are grateful that this new name was thoughtfully chosen—and given—by the Council of Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the descendants of the Patwin people who were the first stewards of these lands. This name was given following dialogue between Solano Land Trust and the Council over a period of years. An official renaming ceremony has been postponed due to COVID-19.

With this new name, Solano Land Trust and the greater community honor the people who tended and loved the land long before anyone else, and the vital role their descendants play in the Solano and Yolo counties today. Because you choose to support us and preserve land, we are able to make this gesture towards preserving language and culture by putting the Patwin language front and center.



Aramaic speakers: [Christian town in Syria keeps biblical language alive but fears for its future](#)

## **Executive Order 14210 of February 11, 2025**

### **Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

**Section 1 . Purpose.** To restore accountability to the American public, this order commences a critical transformation of the Federal bureaucracy. By eliminating waste, bloat, and insularity, my Administration will empower American families, workers, taxpayers, and our system of Government itself.

**Sec. 2 . Definitions.** (a) "Agency" has the meaning given to it in [section 3502 of title 44, United States Code](#), except that such term does not include the Executive Office of the President or any components thereof.

(b) "Agency Head" means the highest-ranking official of an agency, such as the Secretary, Administrator, Chairman, or Director, unless otherwise specified in this order.

(c) "DOGE Team Lead" means the leader of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Team at each agency, as defined in [Executive Order 14158](#) of January 20, 2025 (Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency").

(d) "Employee" has the meaning given to it by [section 2105 of title 5, United States Code](#), and includes individuals who serve in the executive branch and who qualify as employees under that section for any purpose.

(e) "Immigration enforcement" means the investigation, enforcement, or assisting in the investigation or enforcement of Federal immigration law, including with respect to Federal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States, but does not include assisting individuals in applying for immigration benefits or efforts to prevent enforcement of immigration law or to prevent deportation or removal from the United States.

(f) "Law enforcement" means:

- (i) engagement in or supervision of the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law; or
- (ii) the protection of Federal, State, local, or foreign government officials against threats to personal safety.

(g) "Temporary employee" has the meaning given to it in [5 C.F.R. part 316](#).

(h) "Reemployed annuitant" has the meaning given to it in [5 C.F.R. part 837](#).

**Sec. 3 . Reforming the Federal Workforce to Maximize Efficiency and Productivity.** (a) *Hiring Ratio.* Pursuant to the Presidential Memorandum of January 20, 2025 (Hiring Freeze), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a plan to reduce the size of the Federal Government's workforce through efficiency improvements and attrition (Plan). The Plan shall require that each agency hire no more than one employee for every four employees that depart, consistent with the plan and any applicable exemptions and details provided for in the Plan. This order does not affect the standing freeze on hiring as applied to the Internal Revenue



Service. This ratio shall not apply to functions related to public safety, immigration enforcement, or law enforcement. Agency Heads shall also adhere to the Federal Hiring Plan that will be promulgated pursuant to [Executive Order 14170](#) of January 20, 2025 (Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service).

(b) *Hiring Approval*. Each Agency Head shall develop a data-driven plan, in consultation with its DOGE Team Lead, to ensure new career appointment hires are in highest-need areas.

(i) This hiring plan shall include that new career appointment hiring decisions shall be made in consultation with the agency's DOGE Team Lead, consistent with applicable law.

(ii) The agency shall not fill any vacancies for career appointments that the DOGE Team Lead assesses should not be filled, unless the Agency Head determines the positions should be filled.

(iii) Each DOGE Team Lead shall provide the United States DOGE Service (USDS) Administrator with a monthly hiring report for the agency.

(c) *Reductions in Force*. Agency Heads shall promptly undertake preparations to initiate large-scale reductions in force (RIFs), consistent with applicable law, and to separate from Federal service temporary employees and reemployed annuitants working in areas that will likely be subject to the RIFs. All offices that perform functions not mandated by statute or other law shall be prioritized in the RIFs, including all agency diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; all agency initiatives, components, or operations that my Administration suspends or closes; and all components and employees performing functions not mandated by statute or other law who are not typically designated as essential during a lapse in appropriations as provided in the Agency Contingency Plans on the Office of Management and Budget website. This subsection shall not apply to functions related to public safety, immigration enforcement, or law enforcement.

(d) *Rulemaking*. Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) shall initiate a rulemaking that proposes to revise [5 C.F.R. 731.202\(b\)](#) to include additional suitability criteria, including:

(i) failure to comply with generally applicable legal obligations, including timely filing of tax returns;

(ii) failure to comply with any provision that would preclude regular Federal service, including citizenship requirements;

(iii) refusal to certify compliance with any applicable nondisclosure obligations, consistent with [5 U.S.C. 2302\(b\)\(13\)](#), and failure to adhere to those compliance obligations in the course of Federal employment; and

(iv) theft or misuse of Government resources and equipment, or negligent loss of material Government resources and equipment.


(e) *Developing Agency Reorganization Plans*. Within 30 days of the date of this order, Agency Heads shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a report that identifies any statutes that establish the agency, or subcomponents of the agency, as statutorily required entities. The report shall discuss whether the agency or any of its subcomponents should be eliminated or consolidated.

**(f) Within 240 days of the date of this order, the USDS Administrator shall submit a report to the President regarding implementation of this order, including a recommendation as to whether any of its provisions should be extended, modified, or terminated.**

**Sec. 4 . Exclusions.** (a) This order does not apply to military personnel.

- (b) Agency Heads may exempt from this order any position they deem necessary to meet national security, homeland security, or public safety responsibilities.
- (c) The Director of OPM may grant exemptions from this order where those exemptions are otherwise necessary and shall assist in promoting workforce reduction.

**Sec. 5 . General Provisions.**

- (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof;
  - or (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person. 

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 11, 2025. Filed 2-13-25; 11:15 am]  
[\[FR Doc. 2025-02762](#)

## Judge finds mass firings of federal probationary workers were likely unlawful

A federal judge in San Francisco on Thursday found that the mass firings of probationary employees were likely unlawful, granting temporary relief to a coalition of labor unions and organizations that has sued to stop the Trump administration's massive dismantling of the federal workforce. [Read more.](#)

### Why this matters:

- U.S. District Judge William Alsup ordered the Office of Personnel Management to inform certain federal agencies that it had no authority to order the firings of probationary employees, including at the Department of Defense.
- Lawyers for the government agree that the office has no authority to hire or fire employees in other agencies. But they said the Office of Personnel Management asked agencies to review and determine whether employees on probation were fit for continued employment.
- Attorneys for the coalition cheered the order, although it does not mean that fired employees will automatically be rehired or that future firings will not occur.

## **[BREAKING: Federal Layoffs Target Indian Health Service, Threatening ...](#)**

Feb 14, 2025The Indian Health Service faces losing 2,500 employees in new federal layoffs, nearly triple initial estimates, warns the top executive of a national Native health organization.

The cuts would further strain the agency responsible for providing healthcare to 2.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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KOSU

<https://www.kosu.org> > local-news > 2025-02-17 > all-we-wanted-to-do-was-our-jobs-federal-layoffs-felt-across-indigenous-communities-in-oklahoma

'All we wanted to do was our jobs': Federal layoffs felt across ...

Feb 18, 2025Community impacts. Indian Health System workers were also supposed to be impacted by the potential wave of 950 job cuts. Still, the new Secretary of Health, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., verbally rescinded the layoffs, as ICT reported.. Though IHS workers weren't included in this round of firings, Cheyenne and Arapaho Governor Reggie Wassana explained they will still affect the surrounding community.

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**House Committee on Appropriations**

**<https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov> > news > press-releases > ranking-members-pingree-merkley-condemn-indian-affairs-hiring-freeze-firings**

**Ranking Members Pingree, Merkley Condemn Indian Affairs Hiring Freeze ...**

Feb 20, 2025Indiscriminately firing the Indian Affairs workforce unjustifiably hurts the livelihoods of Native American families, often living in remote areas of the country where unemployment is already exceptionally high. ... Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Indian Education are impacted by these actions ...

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Native News Online

<https://nativenewsonline.net> > currents > 111-members-of-congress-sign-letter-asking-trump-to-immediately-stop-harmful-impacts-to-vital-tribal-programs

111 Members of Congress Sign Letter Asking Trump to Immediately Stop ...

The letter specifically addresses recent executive orders, including EO 14210, which have disrupted services provided or funded by the **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)**, **Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)**, **Indian Health Services (IHS)**, and other Tribal-serving entities—actions that directly violate the United States' trust and treaty obligations ...

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**Please note that the USDOL Employment and Training Administration has cancelled Training and Employment Notice (TEN) No. 21-24, titled *Immediate Implementation of Executive Orders "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing" and "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.***

See [TEN 21-24, Change 1](#)

Kim Vitelli, ETA/OWI Administrator

## Judge Orders Musk's DOGE, Agency Staff to Testify in Lawsuit

Zoe Tillman Thu, February 27, 2025 at 1:04 PM PST

(Bloomberg) -- The Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency must present a representative to testify under oath at a deposition about the structure of the office, its authority and its work, a judge has ruled.

US District Judge John Bates on Thursday ordered the Trump administration to produce witnesses for depositions, as well as produce records and answer questions in a lawsuit brought by labor unions and nonprofit groups. The suit seeks to block DOGE's access to systems at three federal agencies: the Labor Department, Health and Human Service Department and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

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Federal workers react to Trump administration's new plan for restructuring, staff cuts: 'They'll have to fire me'

Extract: The memo outlines a timeline for most agencies — with exemptions for federal law enforcement, military, border security, and US Postal Service employees — to prepare and execute a layoff and reorganization strategy. Agencies must submit their restructuring plans by March 13 and "outline a positive vision for more productive, efficient agency operations" by April 14, with an implementation deadline in September.

https://currently.att.yahoo.com/news/federal-workers-react-trump-administrations-032550548.html?.tsrc=daily_mail&uh_test=1_11&.tsrc=daily_mail&segment_id&ncid=crm_-1295960-20250228-315&bt_user_id=AVE6N1Xi4He%2FEfatEc%2Fizq%2BXzrnPl3t5JO4%2FnEFUyo5Fw%2BzVUqkYIAZNTVSaauv1&bt_ts=1740731224285

Ed note: no one is publishing a full copy of memo from the Office of Budget and Management that I could find for this issue. sdc

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<https://www.theatlantic.com> > politics > archive > 2025 > 01 > omb-white-house > 681506

[\*\*The Memo That Shocked the White House - The Atlantic Jan 30, 2025\*\*](#)  
[\*\*The memo was produced by the budget office alone, which failed to get proper sign-off from the White House, according to a senior White House official and a second person familiar with the memo.\*\*](#)



**Celebration of Life**  
**Harry Thompson**

**June 1, 1958 – February 7, 2025**



**Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

**Services begin at 12:00 P.M. at  
Fort Hall Baptist Church in Fort Hall, ID.**

**Potluck to follow services.  
Food Donations greatly appreciated.**