

Journal #5944 from sdc 3.21.25

Chief Joseph's pronouncement


Bogus letters from Social Security and other scams

Here are all the ways people are disappearing from government websites

Want to learn screenwriting?

From the wonderful Maven's Notebook: water updates

*Watch Live from the White House - Dismantling Libraries & Museums
and finally, MY RANT*



The earth is the mother
of all people, and all
people should have
equal rights upon it.

~
Chief Joseph

from a reader:

Beware of bogus emails from social security administration. Have received two in the past 18 hours from different sources with different appearances. Both requesting that I click on a link to access a statement. If the email is not from ".gov" no matter how official it appears, don't click on it as it has harmful software for your device/security.

Social security scams are on the rise:

Official websites use .gov

A **.gov** website belongs to an official government organization in the United States.

An official website of the United States government

[If you need to visit an office, schedule an appointment first. Find out how.](#)
[Information about the Social Security Fairness Act \(WEP/GPO\).](#)

Secure .gov websites use HTTPS

A **lock** () or **https://** means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.

Here are all the ways people are disappearing from government websites



<https://thepublicsradio.org> > npr > [**here-are-all-the-ways-people-are-disappearing-from-government-websites**](#)

Across the federal government, agencies have been busy scrubbing photographic and written references about women, people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community from their websites.

Tara Anand for NPR

People applying for grants and certificates using the Small Business Administration's website used to see a photograph of a group of people of varying ages, genders, and skin tones smiling in front of a white board.

In mid-February, the SBA removed the image from its website, documents shared with NPR show.

A person with knowledge of the SBA's website update said the minor task of removing the photo was strangely urgent.

"If someone says stop everything, do this specifically ... it's reserved for just instances where there's like a system failure" said the person, who requested anonymity to share internal documentation fearing reprisal. "To have an immediate deployment of ... a visual change is very, very uncommon."



NSA museum covered plaques honoring women and people of color, provoking an uproar

SBA did not respond to NPR's requests for comment.

Across the federal government, agencies have been busy scrubbing photographic and written references about women, people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community from their websites.

In at least one instance, NPR's reporting shows that the Department of Veterans Affairs is aware that removing categories of people from the agency's website can affect the delivery of the services it provides.

Agencies say the removals are to comply with President Trump's [executive](#) orders [removing](#) "diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility policies." The removals aren't universal, and sometimes pages are restored as agencies figure out what compliance means.

Transgender and non-binary people, on the other hand, are explicitly targeted by a [separate executive order](#) and faced the most consistent removal from government websites.

Public Health - Judge orders restoration of federal health websites **Historians warn that this kind of systematic erasure has in the past come when governments strip rights from people, starting from the most marginalized groups.**

"If you erase the memory, we really forget the people," said Alessio Ponzio, whose research focuses on LGBTQ history and women's studies and is a visiting professor at Memorial

University of Newfoundland. "It's an act of violence that is very subtle but can really destroy the psychology of people. Basically, 'I'm telling you that I do not recognize you.'"

"Women", "girls", people of color

"Immigrant children, children with disabilities, and those who are LGBTQ+" were removed from a 2022 letter from the Biden administration to governors about supporting school-based health services in late January.

www.lafilm.edu

[Learn Screenwriting](#)

[Want to learn Screenwriting?](#)

From the wonderful Maven's Notebook: water updates

Coalition demands cancellation of Delta tunnel change petition over DWR's repeated failure to provide required water use data

"A coalition of water advocates, Tribes, environmental justice organizations, and fishing organizations [submitted a motion](#) calling on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to cancel the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Change Petition for the [Delta Conveyance Project](#) (DCP). The demand comes after DWR repeatedly failed to comply with mandatory orders to submit historical water use data necessary for evaluating the Change Petition's potential impacts. DWR's Change Petition, filed in February 2024, seeks to modify its water rights permits to facilitate the proposed 45-mile-long underground tunnel, which would divert up to 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the Sacramento River. However, the Administrative Hearing Officer (AHO) has repeatedly ruled that DWR must submit supplemental data on its historical maximum water diversions prior to 2009 — critical information for determining whether DWR's requested changes would initiate a new water right. ... " [Continue reading this press release.](#)

Webb Tract Update: Updates on wetland and rice conversion project

"The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy hosted the second public meeting for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration and Webb Tract Rice Conversion Projects. These projects, funded by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and Metropolitan and located on the central Delta island of Webb Tract, **will develop a wetland and convert existing agricultural lands to a sustainable agricultural crop. Together, both projects are designed to stop and/or reverse subsidence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and provide funding for scientific efforts. ... "** [Continue reading from the Metropolitan Water District.](#)

NASA uses advanced radar to track groundwater in California

The Friant-Kern Canal supports water management in California's San Joaquin Valley. A new airborne campaign is using NASA radar technology to understand how snowmelt replenishes groundwater in the area.

“Where California’s towering Sierra Nevada surrender to the sprawling San Joaquin Valley, a high-stakes detective story is unfolding. The culprit isn’t a person but a process: the mysterious journey of snowmelt as it travels underground to replenish depleted [groundwater](#) reserves. The investigator is a NASA jet equipped with radar technology so sensitive it can detect ground movements thinner than a nickel. The work could unlock solutions to one of the American West’s most pressing water challenges — preventing groundwater supplies from running dry. “NASA’s technology has the potential to give us unprecedented precision in measuring where snowmelt is recharging groundwater,” said Erin Urquhart, program manager for NASA’s Earth Action Water Resources program at NASA Headquarters in Washington. “This information is vital for farmers, water managers, and policymakers trying to make the best possible decisions to protect water supplies for agriculture and communities.” ... ” [Read more from NASA](#). (*but also review the cuts to NASA*)

EDWARD RING: Ignoring role of bass in salmon decline is negligence

“A March 5 “Perspective” in the *Manteca Bulletin* highlights a chronically underemphasized problem impacting every Californian. Bass, as editor Dennis Wyatt succinctly explains, are a “destructive, invasive species, that are a serious threat to the sustainability of the ecosystem.” Wyatt proposes a solution that has been implemented in Oregon, a bounty system. As he puts it, “The state would need to allow bass fishing year round with no limits. Then they would need to put in place a bounty program where authorized bait stores are contracted to serve as agents. For every bass a customer brings in, they would receive \$5. The head would be cut off and the rest of the fish returned to the angler so it doesn’t go to waste. It is a proven and effective way to protect struggling native fish populations.” Why hasn’t this happened? ... ” [Read more from Edward Ring](#).

DAN KEPPEM: Trump, courts put check on new NEPA rule

Dan Keppen, executive director of Family Farm Alliance, writes, “The new administration and recent court decisions are putting clarifying limits on how a five-decade old environmental law can be implemented by federal agencies. The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) last month issued a proposed interim final rule regarding federal agency implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CEQ’s rule is in response to one of President Trump’s first executive orders (EOs), which directs CEQ to replace Carter administration-era NEPA regulations with streamlined guidance to federal agencies on implementation of NEPA. For years, the often slow and cumbersome federal regulatory process (including NEPA implementation) has been a major obstacle to the realization of projects and actions that could enhance Western water supplies. Without new sources of water, increasing urban and environmental demands will deplete existing agricultural supplies and seriously threaten the future of Western irrigated agriculture. ... ” [Read more from the Western Farm Press](#).

Reclamation plans earlier spring refill at Truckee area reservoirs for improved water operations

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division recently approved a Bureau of Reclamation request to temporarily change operations at Prosser Creek, Stampede, and Boca dams this spring through a planned major deviation from the 1985 Truckee Basin Water Control Manual. The deviation will allow the reservoirs to begin refilling in late-March, almost a month

earlier than the 1985 Water Control Manual would allow. The reservoirs are currently operating below the required flood control levels, and the earlier refill will allow the capture of spring runoff without increasing flood risk based on current conditions. Further, Stampede Reservoir is more likely to remain at a higher elevation for longer under the deviation, with more water flowing through the powerplant, resulting in greater hydropower production. The 40-year-old Water Control Manual that guides flood control operations in the Truckee Basin prohibits reservoir refill in the spring until snowpack has decreased to a level that some reservoirs do not reach full capacity, even in large water years. In the fall, the manual requires dam operators to evacuate flood space to keep the reservoirs at low levels throughout the winter, even during low water years. This prevents carrying over water storage from wet periods to dry periods to help manage the variability in the basin. ... ” [Read more from the Bureau of Reclamation.](#)

Boxes of mud could tell a hopeful sediment story

“This March, six boxes of mud shipped to a company in England for analysis. Scraped off the marsh surface, stripped from field magnets, and scooped off silicon disks, science teams collected these 430 samples in recent months from the tidal channels and marsh flats around Eden Landing in the South Bay. The samples may contain tiny specks of neo-green, magnetized silt called “tracers.” While invisible to the naked eye in a lump of bay muck, these fluorescent tracers promise to reveal their travels under the microscope. It’s all part of an elaborate experiment in which scientists are feeding sediment to needy marshes threatened by sea level rise. “I was really excited to see so many people invest so much time and energy in testing whether this new nature-based approach could work. It’s very forward-thinking,” says USGS research ecologist Karen Thorne. ... ” [Read more from Knee Deep Times.](#)

The March 24-Month study and the myth of a “Compact Call”

“The Bureau of Reclamation released its March 24-Month study last Friday and just like last month, the forecast is for big trouble in the Colorado River Basin. Under the “Most Probable” scenario, the ten-year cumulative flow at Lee Ferry will drop below 82.5 million acre-feet (the “tripwire”) by the end of Water Year 2027. If this happens, the odds are high that the Lower Division states will trigger what they referred to in their February 13, 2025, letter to Secretary Burgum as a “compact call.” The nuance, however, is that the Colorado River Compact has no specific provision for a compact call. Under the compact, a call is just another word for interstate litigation. Although the letter is now over a month old, it just recently received attention from two of the region’s most respected water reporters, Ian James of the Los Angeles Times, and Tony Davis of the Tucson Daily Star. ... ” [Read more from the Inkstain blog.](#)

While Resolution Copper banks water for mine’s future, critics fear long-term impacts on Oak Flat

“The giant Resolution Copper mine planned east of Phoenix cannot function without lots of water. And the mining industry’s heavy water usage has come under greater scrutiny as Arizona continues grappling with historic drought. While the multinational mining company is taking a proactive approach to meet its tremendous water needs, their actions may still have a lasting and severe impact on the local hydrological landscape around Oak Flat. Resolution Copper needs

massive amounts of water – at least 250 billion gallons from the Phoenix Active Management Area over six decades. Right now, they’re busy getting rid of massive amounts of water – pumping out 1.5 million gallons a day since 2009. But all of that water isn’t being lost. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

Arizona Department of Water Resources sued over groundwater rule

“On March 10, Arizona House Speaker Steve Montenegro announced that the Arizona House of Representatives, in partnership with the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona (HBACA) and the Arizona Senate, filed a lawsuit against the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) over its Alternative Path to Designation of Assured Water Supply (ADAWS) regulation, alleging it is an “unlawful groundwater tax.” Under state law, a home developer in the Valley must prove that the project has enough water to last 100 years. This can be done through different sources, such as groundwater, [surface water](#) or reclaimed water. Tom Buschatzke, director of ADWR, explains that the groundwater model used by the agency shows that all supplies have been designated for the next 100 years. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Big Media.](#)

Why this conservation group in southern Arizona has had to pause some of its work

“A nonprofit environmental conservation group in southern Arizona has had to stop some of its work because it lost more than a million federal dollars. The Borderlands Restoration Network has had \$1.2 million frozen. That money was allocated as part of a pair of laws signed by former President Joe Biden, but was paused under an executive order signed by President Donald Trump. Wyatt Myscow, a Southwest correspondent for Inside Climate News, has [written about this](#) and joined The Show to talk about what he found, starting with what the Borderlands Restoration Network is and what kind of work they do. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

How gutting the EPA’s research team could impact clean air and water rules

“If EPA amputates its scientific arm, it would have consequences for environmental regulations for years to come, experts said. Administrator Lee Zeldin’s proposal to eliminate the Office of Research and Development — and fire hundreds of scientists — threatens to drain the agency of experts who ensure that federal rules accurately target pollution and provide remedies. The move, if approved by the White House, could also lead the agency to depend on outside researchers who risk being selected through a politicized process that jeopardizes EPA’s mission of assessing regulations without prejudice, according to experts. Reverberations from gutting the research office, known as ORD, could affect the agency long past the end of President Donald Trump’s second term. ... ” [Continue reading from Scientific American.](#)

Outlook on President Trump’s second term and stormwater

“Trying to predict the priorities and actions of a new political administration is always challenging. However, there is value in trying to prepare for what might be coming over the next few years. This forces us to be as policy ready as we can be, which helps us assume a proactive posture and take advantage of opportunities to advance priorities in our sector. First, consider who is likely to be in leadership at the Department of Water in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On February 11, President Trump nominated Jessica Kramer as EPA’s Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, which is the highest political appointment on water within EPA. Kramer was a senior counsel to David Ross, who was the OW AA during President Donald

Trump’s first term. OW priorities during the first term included the [Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\)](#) rule, the Water Quality Certification Rule, infrastructure investment spending, and water reuse. ...” [Continue reading at Stormwater Solutions](#).

Revoking EPA’s endangerment finding – the keystone of US climate policies – won’t be simple and could have unintended consequences

“Most of the United States’ major climate regulations are underpinned by one important document: It’s called the endangerment finding, and it concludes that greenhouse gas emissions are a threat to human health and welfare. The Trump administration is vowing to eliminate it. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin referred to the 2009 endangerment finding as the “holy grail of the climate religion” when he announced on March 12, 2025, that he would reconsider the finding and all U.S. climate regulations and actions that rely on it. That would include rules to control planet-warming emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane from power plants, vehicles and oil and gas operations. But revoking the endangerment finding isn’t a simple task. And doing so could have unintended consequences for the very industries Trump is trying to help. ...” [Read more from The Conversation](#).

And if you don’t want to worry about water, : you can watch a lot of this live from the White House <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live/> (applicable Executive Order published in Journal #5941)

issued by the current administration aims to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which provides critical resources to libraries and museums in all 50 states and territories. AFTA has been working with our partners to understand the new directive and wanted to share the impact the order may have on the cultural community that we advocate for, along with ways we can amplify our voices

Proposed reductions to the IMLS jeopardize the very institutions that preserve our collective history, fuel creativity, and provide critical educational resources. If these cuts proceed, countless libraries and museums across the country will struggle to sustain programs that serve millions of people throughout the country

Specifically, the Executive Order will:

Eliminate any activities or programs not explicitly required by statute.

Require the agency to submit a report to the administration detailing which functions are statutorily required

Reduce the agency's operations and staffing levels to the bare minimum, drastically cutting the agency's staff.

Slash IMLS' budget, mandating it reject any funding requests not aligned with the order, limiting its ability to support libraries and museums nationwide.

Make no mistake, these proposed cuts aren't just numbers on a budget sheet. The 35,000 museums and 123,000 libraries supported by IMLS are the bedrock of every American community—and any attempt to dismantle the federal government's support for them will impact public access to culture, education, and other essential services. Libraries provide significant benefits to communities, providing critical programs that support early childhood literacy, internet access for underserved communities, and workforce development for job seekers.

Museums safeguard our cultural heritage, inspire creativity, and fuel local economies through tourism. Museum education programs help make history, science, and the arts accessible to all. Without IMLS funding, children could lose afterschool programs, researchers could be denied entry to archives, and entire communities could lose access to important public spaces.

We will continue to work with our partners, allies on Capitol Hill, advocates, members, and more to clarify the situation and underscore the important role the IMLS plays in creating pathways to cultural access for all Americans.

Contact Your Elected Representatives: Reach out to your Senators and Representatives to express your opposition to the executive order targeting IMLS. Emphasize the critical role that museums and libraries play in your community and urge them to advocate for the preservation of IMLS funding. Find resources here from the *American Alliance of Museums https://artsusa.emlnk9.com/lt.php?x=3DZy~GDIJaSeEH780Qy4VhFuAK7VjtMfweVhYHI7KaPO6p__0Uy.zeJu1Y2ijNI~jvYyX XnH>* and the *American Library Association https://artsusa.emlnk9.com/lt.php?x=3DZy~GDIJaSeEH780Qy4VhFuAK7VjtMfweVhYHI7KaPO6p__0Uy.zeJu1Y2ijNI~jvYyX XnI>*

Raise Public Awareness: Utilize social media platforms, community forums, and local media outlets to highlight the importance of IMLS. Share stories of how museum and library programs have positively impacted individuals and organizations in your community.

Collaborate with Allied Organizations: Partner with local museums, libraries, educational institutions, and other cultural organizations to organize events, petitions, and campaigns that demonstrate widespread support for IMLS

Educate Your Community: Talk to friends, family, and colleagues about why IMLS matters and encourage them to take action. Educating others about the agency's impact can build a broader base of support.

Our collective voice is powerful. Museums and libraries are more than buildings; they are the heart of our communities. Let's ensure they remain vibrant, accessible, and well-supported for generations to come*. *Stand with us in defending the IMLS and ensuring that the arts and humanities continue to thrive for future generations.

Sincerely, Erin Harkey, CEO, Americans for the Arts

RANTING: I purposely do not editorialize in the Journal - just try to repost what is going on and leave a trail for succeeding generations - BUT to make sure you are all aware and forewarned:

Chaos. Confusion. Compromising.

So the federal government has a chain saw going through it and those that are paying attention are wondering how it will affect them.

The onslaught on the National Archives should be no surprise given the dust up at Mara Lago several years ago.

What does this mean for tribal communities?

At casual glance, it means that oral histories of critical events/rights may never be documented, disallowing restoration. It may mean that maps, accounting records, and other material that tell a story will disappear.

What to do?

Those that know me know that I am adamant about tribes establishing and maintaining their own records management and archive systems. (But few do.)

These records preserve legal rights of both individuals and the community. They recount the history and actions taken to regain and/or preserve tribal rights and resources. They are the foundation of family histories and the stories of tribal groups from pre-contact, through invasion and confrontation, through various eras of US Government policy, the Indian Reorganization Act, The Indian Claims Commission, the Indian Termination Act, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Self Determination Act, etc.

It surprises many, but until the National Archives building became operative, records created by the federal government were stored here and there, lacking stable/secure environments and not very accessible to the public.

In 1926, Congress passed the [Public Building Act](#), providing for the construction of several government buildings including a National Archives. On June 19, 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation creating the National Archives and authorizing it to collect, care for, and make available Federal Government records. Eighty staff members and the first Archivist of the USA moved into the building in the fall of 1935.

Their first task was to locate records in the DC area and then, under the aegis of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), workers surveyed records nationwide.

“Staff found records in basements, attics, carriage houses, abandoned buildings, and alcoves. The records had suffered from neglect, infestations, water damage, and theft. Records transferred to the National Archives first went to the [Document Conservation Lab](#) to be fumigated. They were then cleaned with specially designed air guns.



from the NARA site (note the gas masks)

Obviously not all records were ever located. The practice of making three copies of everything (one for the office of origin, one for the regional office and one for the central office in DC) helped in being able to track a record if it were not “where it should be”, slowly degenerated. Evolving technologies from internet to digitization have dramatically influenced the transmission and storage of information.

I had a little angst when Senator John McCain sponsored and created federal law with a set of prohibitions that kept buried POWs as classified and later removing military records, including those of Natives to a site in Illinois, away from Indian Country, but internet access theoretically makes them accessible.

But now even the Nevada Legislature has introduced AB152 to exempt state and local governments from providing access to copies of public records authorized for disposal. The sponsor says the measure would increase transparency by preventing personnel from “chasing rabbits down holes they would never catch” and “allow them to focus on real records” because there is a fiscal cost to digging up historical records. The provisions for electronic records are even more exclusionary.

I could go on and on with examples of big wins for tribes based on a single piece of paper or an entry into a journal or ledger, but this rant is getting too long.

Summarize the situation - your situation - and determine if your records management and archive system will protect you and your community. Then live with the consequences.

This article was written for the American Indian Reporter in which it will also appear. sdc