

Journal #5999

Welcome to the Heart of Wyoming's Sacred Landscapes

Bridging Ancestral and Contemporary Linguistic Landscapes

California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project

Water, water, water

Election of Mexico's first Indigenous Supreme Court justice in 170 years raises hope and skepticism

Maya civilizations demonstrated advanced understanding of water management and purification

CBO pegs 'big, beautiful' bill price tag at \$2.4T

Sexy Joshua Tree? Thirsty Death Valley? Nature Lovers' Spicy Bid To Save CA National Parks

New Zealand Parliament suspends 3 lawmakers who performed Māori haka in protest

July PowWows

First Klamath River descent by Tribal youth begins June 12

History Bits



atlasobscura

Wild horses, ancient carvings, and powwows bursting with color, welcome to the heart of Wyoming's sacred landscapes. 🏔️🌾

For centuries, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes have called this land home. Today, their traditions live on in every drumbeat, every dance step, and every shared story. 🌿🔥

From the sweeping peaks of the Wind River Range to the vibrant energy of the powwow circle, this is more than history, it's a living, breathing culture.

AILDI Summer Courses

Bridging Ancestral & Contemporary Linguistic Landscapes

Summer Courses

**American Indian
Language Development
Institute | West Regional
Native American
Language Resource
Center**

Summer 2025 Offerings



In-Person Courses

Monday, June 9 – Friday, July 10,
2025

LING 421/521: The Language
Learners' Journey: Re-embodying
Land, Language, and Ancestral
Oral Traditions

LING 427: Linguistics for Native
American Communities

In-Person Workshop

Friday, June 27, 2025

Planting and cultivating the next
generation of language speakers
and users: Indigenous early
childhood and language
revitalization

Online & Hybrid Courses

Monday, June 9 – Friday, July 10,
2025

LING 424/524: Language
Technology for Data Sovereignty
LING 445A/545A: Introduction to
documenting North American
Indian Sign Language

LING 392A/599: Writing about
your language

LING 497B/597B: Workshop in
Linguistics

Hybrid Workshop

Tuesday, June 17 – Wednesday,
June 18, 2025

Community Mentor-Apprentice
Program Design

[More Info & How to Register](#)

**Learn
More**

California tribe gets back 73 square miles of its ancestral lands taken nearly 200 years ago

<https://apnews.com/video/california-tribe-gets-back-73-square-miles-of-its-ancestral-lands-taken-nearly-200-years-ago-bb1c19d75fe94891b3213755f4ab601b>

WATCH: California's Yurok Tribe gets back ancestral lands

California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project

A Tribally-Guided Nonprofit Supporting the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe **To Preserve, Protect, and perpetuate Nisenan Culture**

Mission:

California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) is a Tribally-guided nonprofit dedicated to Preserving, Protecting, and Perpetuating Nisenan Culture

Due to its illegal federal termination in 1964, the Nevada City Rancheria (NCR) Nisenan Tribe is barred from accessing federal programming and services that support Tribal communities. To address the legal vacuum created by the Tribe's federal disbandment, CHIRP acts as proxy for the NCR Nisenan Tribe.

Together, CHIRP and the NCR Tribal Council work to identify, fund, and implement programs and projects to address and mitigate the ongoing social, environmental and racial injustices brought to the Tribe's Homelands in 1848, until the time when the Tribe's federal recognition and sovereignty is restored.

Reflecting on 2024: Gratitude and Growth

As we close out the year, CHIRP celebrates the successes and learning moments of 2024. From securing new land to revitalizing Cultural practices, your support has helped make incredible progress possible.

Join us in looking ahead to 2025 with hope and determination.

[Explore our 2024 Highlights](#)

Homeland Return

In the fall of 2023, CHIRP and the NCR Nisenan Tribe were presented with an opportunity to purchase 232 acres of land near Nevada City, California. This land was once part of the thriving Nisenan community and town called Yulića.

After a tremendously successful grassroots campaign, CHIRP fundraised over \$2.5 million dollars and escrow finally closed in September 2024 following a lengthy negotiation with local government, the sellers, and county code enforcement.

As with many Indigenous traditions, the Tribe's health and its culture are symbiotic with the Land - neither People nor Land can thrive without relationship to the other. As such, the purchase

and rematriation of Yulića provides a tremendous potential for stability and healing for the Tribe, the environment, and the fabric of the Sierra Nevada foothills community.

Ancestral Homelands Reciprocity Program

Ancestral Homelands Reciprocity Program's (AHRP) is a community-driven financial support initiative to cultivate Reciprocal Relationship between the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and the broader community.

This voluntary program facilitates a symbiotic relationship between settlers living on Nisenan Ancestral Homelands through monthly financial contributions. In supporting AHRP, community members contribute to the stability of CHIRP so that it may grow in its capacity to achieve its mission, including improved living standards of Tribal members, advocacy for Tribal sovereignty and Land rematriation, and Cultural preservation and revitalization.

'Uba Seo Gallery

'UBA SEO: Nisenan Arts and Culture is CHIRP's brick and mortar space in downtown Nevada City featuring gallery exhibits, art, and a custom theater.

It is a platform to story-tell through the lens of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

[Visit Uba Seo](#)

Learn, support, Take Action

Understanding the history of the Sierra Foothills and the Nisenan People who have stewarded these Lands since time immemorial is essential to honoring truth, acknowledging harms, and working toward healing.

By [Learning](#) about the history of Tribe, [Supporting](#) CHIRP through financial donations and volunteering, and [Taking Action](#) to spread visibility of the Tribe and their fight for federal recognition, our allies and advocates contribute to the healing of historic injustices, Indigenous land rematriation, and Cultural revitalization for the NCR Nisenan Tribe. [Learn + Take Action](#)

Email Announcement List

Sign-up here to receive occasional updates and announcements about the [Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan](#) community, local events, and how you can help [CHIRP](#) in its Mission to Preserve, Protect and Perpetuate Nisenan culture.

CALIFORNIA HERITAGE: INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROJECT

P.O. Box 2624, Nevada City, CA 95959 (530) 570-0846

info@chirpca.org (Must see video "We Are Still Here", co-created with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, the Yuba Water Agency, and South Yuba River Citizens League, explores the impact of the gold rush on the Nisenan People and their fight to save their Culture.

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*Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. - Frank Lloyd Wright*

### **Interior eyes Land and Water Conservation Fund for maintenance**

The Interior Department is asking Congress to use Land and Water Conservation Fund money for deferred maintenance on public lands, expanding the fund for a purpose that wasn't among those listed when lawmakers strengthened the fund in a 2020 law signed by President Donald Trump.

### **Opposition to Potter Valley decommissioning, dam removal voiced**

"Last Wednesday, at a town hall meeting in Lake County, local leaders and residents spoke about the Potter Valley Project's decommissioning and the planned removal of the Scott and Van Arsdale Dams. Members of the Lake County Board of Supervisors joined representatives from the Lake Pillsbury Alliance, Cloverdale Mayor Todd Lands, and Lake Pillsbury Fire Chief Larry Thompson in voicing their disapproval of dam removal. Nikcole Whipple, a water protector and member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and local Sierra Club chapter chair Deb Sally made their case for dam removal, a process Sally characterized as "inevitable," and said that efforts to oppose dam removal might ultimately backfire, leaving Lake County with nothing in a process designed to provide a degree of recompense to those affected by the dam removal process. Lake County and a coalition of downstream Farm Bureau branches recently sent letters to the federal government urging intervention in the dam removal process. ... " [Read more from the Eureka Times-Herald.](#)

### **Colorado River states still have no unified long-term management plan and 'are just about out of time,' experts warn**



"Concerningly low amounts of water are flowing from Rocky Mountain snowpack this spring, a summer of drought looms across swaths of the West, and the negotiators tasked with devising a sustainable long-term water plan for the 40 million people who rely on the Colorado River are running out of time. Commissioners from the seven states in the Colorado River Basin — Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, California and Nevada — must create a plan that will govern how those states divvy up the river's water after the current guidelines expire at the end of 2026. As the river shrinks due to drought and climate change, the negotiators must decide who will take less water — and they need to do so in the next few months. "The way the law of the river is set up, this is a decision that takes the seven states, and there are so many stakeholders and users who depend on that," said Jennifer Pitt, Colorado River program director at the National Audubon Society. "We are really at their mercy and we are just about out of time." ... [Read more from the Loveland Reporter-Herald.](#)



## **What the Mexican Treaty negotiations of the 1940s can tell us about 21st century Colorado River governance**

“Eric Kuhn, with some help from Anne Castle and myself, has taken a useful dive into what was known in the 1940s as Congress was considering the treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding how to share the waters of the Colorado River. Drawing on the analysis of Colorado’s Royce Tipton, Eric draws out a theme we explored in our book *Science Be Dammed* – the gap between the scientific understanding of the day and the hydrologic reality we must now face as we try to manage a shrinking river. Tipton, representing the state of Colorado, made a compelling case that there was enough water, including return flows from Lower Colorado River water use, to meet a 1.5 million acre foot allocation to Mexico without impairing US users. California, already growing accustomed to living off the surplus of other water users’ unused apportionments, opposed the deal. Any water allocated to Mexico would cut into that surplus. ... ” [Read more from the Inkstain blog](#).

## **Lake Mead warning issued: ‘On a knife’s edge’**

“A warning has been issued over low water levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell, with advocates saying the Colorado River Basin is “on a knife’s edge.” Dry conditions and disappointing runoff from winter snowpack have sharply reduced the Colorado River’s flow, straining a vital water supply for millions across the American Southwest. Lake Mead is a vital water source for millions of people across Nevada, Arizona, California, and parts of Mexico. Its declining levels could potentially jeopardize municipal water supplies, agricultural irrigation, and hydroelectric power generation. As of May 30, Lake Mead’s water level measured 1,057.43 feet mean sea level (MSL), 171.57 feet below its full pool of 1,229. Lake Powell was at 3,558.92 feet MSL, 141.08 feet below its full pool of 3,700 feet, according to Lakes Online, an online resource for lake and reservoir information. ... ” [Read more from Newsweek](#).

## **How Lake Mead slows Las Vegas from sinking, the country’s ‘invisible hazard’**

“A new study places Las Vegas on a list of 25 cities that are sinking farther into the ground every year. But it doesn’t rank as highly as it would have in the ’60s or ’70s. In fact, the water beneath our feet, and the rapid use of it, once put Las Vegas into crisis mode. During the 1960s, the city faced a different type of water crisis, years before Lake Mead became the city’s primary source of drinking water. Early residents pumped almost twice the amount of groundwater than was restored every year from Spring Mountains snowpack and rain, according to state reports. For some, that had dire consequences. As groundwater levels declined, parts of Las Vegas as they knew it began to sink as much as 3 centimeters each year, including one formerly segregated North Las Vegas neighborhood in the shadow of the Strip where floors fell, ceilings cracked and backyards began to bend. ... ” [Read more from the Las Vegas Review Journal](#).

## **Colorado River Basin has lost as much water as a full Lake Mead since 2003, study says**

“A new study has found that over the last 20 years, the Colorado River Basin has lost more than 27 million acre-feet of groundwater – roughly equivalent to a full Lake Mead. The biggest losses were in the lower basin states like Arizona. The researchers used NASA’s GRACE satellites to detect how much fresh water was in the basin. They found that since 2003, groundwater was being depleted faster than it could be restored, and that total water loss was accelerating. In the

last 10 years, the water depletion was three times faster than the decade before. The vast majority of the loss was groundwater. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ](#).

**SEE ALSO:** [New study reveals ‘quietly disappearing’ groundwater in Arizona](#), from Channel 15

### **Arizona is using triple the amount of groundwater compared to a decade ago**

“Water is a precious resource in Arizona, and many people use groundwater for their homes, businesses and fields. New research from Arizona State University shows that water is now being used faster than it can naturally refill. “There is not something to be very scared about,” said lead researcher Karem Abdelmohsen. He analyzed data from a NASA satellite that can measure the amount of groundwater in an area and found that groundwater use in Arizona has tripled in the past 10 years. “What we found actually from our research is that groundwater was being used faster than we are expecting in the whole lower basin or in Arizona.” ... ” [Read more from Arizona Public Media](#).

### **Hobbs pushes groundwater agreement with lawmakers**

“Governor Katie Hobbs spent a morning driving through western La Paz County, meeting with homeowners, business owners, and elected officials to learn more about the water situation. The water issues in La Paz County are similar to the ones found in other rural areas. Many in the county point to Fondomonte as the bad actor. The sprawling alfalfa farm is owned by a member of the Saudi royal family and has the money to sink wells to a much deeper depth than local farmers who say the excessive pumping by Fondomonte and other large corporate farms is causing aquifer levels to drop which causes local wells to go dry. Hobbs heard from local residents and business owners who had to spend more than \$100,000 each to have their wells deepened so they could still have water. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Public Media](#).

### **Alarmed by Trump cuts, scientists are talking science. For 100 hours.**

“Before he started livestreaming a presentation on the history of climate research at NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies from its New York City lab, David Rind gave viewers a small heads-up. “If you hear any noise in the background, this place is literally being torn apart with us still in it,” he said. Researchers were told to vacate the office and transition to remote work after NASA said it had ended the lease, as a result of vast federal cuts in recent months by the Trump administration. Dr. Rind’s presentation was the first of many in a planned, 100-hour-long livestream featuring hundreds of climate scientists and meteorologists from across the United States. They are protesting cuts to funding for atmospheric science and calling out potential risks to weather forecasts. The livestream started on Wednesday and is scheduled to run continuously through June 1, the first day of the Atlantic hurricane season. ... ” [Read more from the New York Times](#).

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Mixtec lawyer: Election of Mexico’s first Indigenous Supreme Court justice in 170 years raises hope and skepticism

Hugo Aguilar elected Mexico's first Indigenous Supreme Court justice in 170 years | AP
<https://apnews.com/article/hugo-aguilar-mexico-supreme-court-judicial-reform-indigenous-d7a6cfd7269128c7641f26ca5ed4191>

[Leila L'Abate](#)

"Over 2,000 years ago, the **Maya civilization**—thriving across present-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras—**demonstrated a remarkably advanced understanding of water management and purification.**

At the heart of this ingenuity was their use of zeolite, a porous volcanic mineral with a unique molecular structure capable of filtering out impurities, heavy metals, and bacteria. In the great city of Tikal, Maya engineers strategically layered zeolite within their vast stone-lined reservoirs, creating one of the earliest known water filtration systems in human history—predating similar European technologies by over a thousand years.

These reservoirs collected rainwater during the wet season, sustaining the city through long dry spells. More importantly, by purifying the stored water, the system protected the population from disease, a vital achievement in the humid, pathogen-prone jungle environment.

Archaeological studies confirm that the Maya built these systems with extraordinary precision, combining environmental knowledge with engineering skill.

This ancient innovation reveals a civilization not only attuned to nature, but far ahead of its time in environmental science—a powerful reminder that technological brilliance isn't confined to the modern world."



CBO pegs ‘big, beautiful’ bill price tag at \$2.4T

The House-passed budget reconciliation bill would increase deficits by \$2.4 trillion over a decade and ultimately result in nearly 11 million individuals losing access to health insurance, the Congressional Budget Office said Wednesday. [Read more...](#)

Record suspensions: [New Zealand Parliament suspends 3 lawmakers who performed Māori haka in protest](#)

Sexy Joshua Tree? Thirsty Death Valley? Nature Lovers' Spicy Bid To Save CA National Parks

Sensual music, imagery and sass from this unofficial TikTok fan account have spurred more interest than ever in California's National Parks.

[https://patch.com/california/rockridge/s/jd83y/nature-lovers-launch-spicy-bid-to-protect-cas-national-parks?](https://patch.com/california/rockridge/s/jd83y/nature-lovers-launch-spicy-bid-to-protect-cas-national-parks?user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8&user_email_md5=7549cf1d39576a38840bf5c6d0e50aa6&lctg=62413d809ad7660edf70913a)

[user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8&user_email_md5=7549cf1d39576a38840bf5c6d0e50aa6&lctg=62413d809ad7660edf70913a](https://patch.com/california/rockridge/s/jd83y/nature-lovers-launch-spicy-bid-to-protect-cas-national-parks?user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8&user_email_md5=7549cf1d39576a38840bf5c6d0e50aa6&lctg=62413d809ad7660edf70913a)

Extract:

The goal is to share what's beautiful and what's at stake, as seen in Tanner's Joshua Tree watchdog posts, proclaiming:

"Calling ALL Joshua Tree National Park fans, fans of the Mojave Desert and anyone else...It's go time and your time to shine! An Australian mining company, Dateline Resources, is mining in the Mojave National Preserve under **an expired permit provided by an agency that has no jurisdiction over the land**. This needs to be STOPPED before it's too late! Go to the LinkTree in my bio and click the first link to send a letter to Congress telling them that you oppose this and you want this mining company out of the Mojave National Preserve."



July Powows

Jul 4-6 [43rd Annual Baaweting Homecoming Pow Wow 2025](#) - Sault Ste. Marie MI
Baaweting pow wow grounds are off of Shunk Rd across from 11 Ice Circle Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Drum contest and many...

July 5 [Cheroenhaka \(Nottoway\) Indian Tribe 35th "Green Corn" Pow Wow 2025](#)

Experience Native foods, drumming, dancing, crafts and vendors. Grand Entry 12 Noon Gates Open: 10:00am-Sunset

Jul 12-13 [Honoring Our Traditions 1st Annual Gathering 2025](#) [Franklin PA](#)

Open to the Public. 10:00am-7:00pm Grand entry 12:00 Noon Spot dances, raffles, and give-aways!! Hand-drum competition!! **Camping is limited - ALL...

Jul 12 - 13 [Bear Mountain Pow Wow 2025](#) - [Stony Point NY](#)

2 Day contest Pow wow in the Bear Mountain area of Orange/Rockland Counties of New York - 30 minute drive from New...

Jul 18 - 20 [Midnight Sun Intertribal Pow Wow 2025](#) [Fairbanks AK](#)

The 2025 Midnight Sun Intertribal Pow Wow event will take place in beautiful Fairbanks, Alaska. The Midnight Sun Intertribal Pow Wow is...

Jul 18 - 20 [Dakota Oyate Wacipi 2025](#) [Griswold MB](#)

Jul 18 - 20 [51st Annual Little Beaver Contest Pow Wow 2025](#) [Dulce NM](#)

Grand Entries: 7pm, 1pm, 7pm, 1pm Vendor information: Dulce Community Center @ 575-759-4376 Point System Will Be Used in Contest Categories: Golden...

Jul 18 - 20 [36th Annual Seafair Indian Days Pow Wow 2025](#) [Seattle WA](#)

Join us for the United Indians 36th Annual Seafair Indian Days Powwow, a powerful celebration of Native culture, tradition, and community. Date: July 18-20, 2025...

Jul 19 - 20 [Wells Beach Pow Wow 2025](#) [Wells ME](#)

10:00am-5:00pm We are open to the public. All are welcome to attend this Native American Event. There...

Jul 26 [Wiconi 19th Annual Living Waters Pow Wow 2025](#) [Turner OR](#)

Wiconi 19th Annual Living Waters Powwow Date: Saturday, July 26th, 2025 Location: Aldersgate Conference Center & Campground 7790 Marion Rd, Turner, OR 97392 Arena Director:...

Jul 25 - 27 [Saginaw Chippewa 41st Annual Pow Wow 2025](#) [Mt Pleasant MI](#)

This lively celebration, featuring traditional dance, drumming, and authentic foods. It brings...

Jul 25 - 27 [46th Annual Thunderbird American Indian Pow Wow 2025](#) [Floral Park NY](#)

Celebrate American Indian Culture through music, dance, Native American crafts and food. This spectacular 3-day pow wow features intertribal Native American dance...

Jul 27 [Haasanamisco Pow Wow 2025](#) [Grafton MA](#)

First Klamath River descent by Tribal youth begins June 12

“The First Descent Expedition of the Klamath River by young members of Tribes living along the river will begin Thursday, June 12. Participants in the Ríos to Rivers Paddle Tribal Waters Program will lead the first-ever 30-day source-to-sea descent of the newly undammed Klamath River. An opening celebration marking the beginning of the month-long, 310-plus-miles expedition will be held June 12 at the headwaters of the Wood River, an invitation-only event. From the starting point, the kayakers will cross Upper Klamath Lake, portage around the Link River Dam, and cross Lake Ewauna to the Klamath River. For the next 30 days the kayakers will be periodically joined by participants from the international Ríos to Rivers programs, Kayakimün (Chile) and Amazonian Rivers Initiative (Bolivia), along with other individuals from around the world as a symbol of global solidarity. ... ” [Read more from the Herald & News.](#)

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## History Bits

*(been too much stuff lateley, so there was no room Monday!)*

- 1581 Jun 5** Expedition of soldiers and missionaries left Santa Barbara, Mexico, under order of the Viceroy to to to New Spain to colonize Native American pueblos.
- 1860 Jun 2** Ft. Churchill established to protect travelers on overland routes and to watch the Northern Paiutes; fort abandoned March 1870.
- 1879 Jun 1** Nevada Supreme Court rules against some white fishers who were fishing Pyramid Lake in spite of a prohibition against it and who argued that the Lake was not withing a valid Indian reservation.
- 1911 Jun 4** Two bills approved by the US House stripped title of reservation land from PLT, turning it over to white Squatters, drained another 840 acres of Piute land for benefit of the Newlands project and provided land/water rights for Te-Moaks in Ruby Valley.
- 1911 Jun 5** Two persons, believed to be from Pyramid Lake, were arrested for selling trout in Reno. Jack Macini was hit by the Overland Limited, mangled, and decapitated.
- 1933 Jun 6** Former Carnegie Museum fossil expert found a burial site of Pliocene era mammals north of Las Vegas, shipping thousand of pounds of bones to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.
- 1948 Jun 2** Stewart Indian School officials said a 16th victim of a Dresslerville Christmas Day fire had died at the Tacoma, WA, Indian medical service hospital.
- 1970 Jun 3** In the 8th month of Native American occupation of Alcatraz, Hartford Fire Insurance Company revoked coverage for the boat that had been running supplies to the island and that the occupiers had planned to use for tours.
- 1970 Jun 5** NSJ reported that state Native Americans were angry with Nevada US Senators Cannon and Bible for cosponsoring legislation that would take money earned by tribes and hold it in “trust” accounts.