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Researchers: Northern Nevada rock art is continent's oldest

By SCOTT SONNER ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYRAMID LAKE — Ancient rock etchings along a dried-up lake bed in Nevada have been confirmed to be the oldest recorded petroglyphs in North America, dating back at least 10,000 years.

The petroglyphs found on limestone boulders near Pyramid Lake in Northern Nevada's high desert are similar in design to etchings found at a lake in Oregon that are believed to be at least 7,600 years old. Unlike later drawings that sometimes depict a spear or antelope, these carvings are abstract with tightly clustered geometric designs — some are diamond patterns, others have short parallel lines on top of a longer line.

Scientists can't tell for sure who carved them, but they were found on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's reservation land.

"We initially thought people 12,000 or 10,000 years ago were primitive, but their artistic expressions and technological expertise associated with these paints a much different picture," said Eugene Hattori, the curator of anthropology at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, who co-authored a paper on the findings earlier this month in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

The petroglyphs could be as much as 14,800 years old, said Larry Benson, a geochemist who used radiocarbon testing to date the etchings and co-wrote the paper.

Radiocarbon testing dated the carbonate layer underlying the petroglyphs to roughly 14,800 years ago. Geochemical data and sediment and rock samples from adjacent Pyramid Lake show

they were exposed to air from 13,200 to 14,800 years ago, and again from 10,500 to 11,300 years ago.

“Whether they turn out to be as old as 14,800 years ago or as recent as 10,500 years ago, they are still the oldest petroglyphs that have been dated in North America,” said Benson, a former research scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey and current curator of anthropology at the University of Colorado Natural History Museum in Boulder.

Dennis Jenkins, an archaeologist with the University of Oregon’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History, called it a significant discovery. He led recent excavations of obsidian spear points near Paisley, Ore., that he dated back 13,200 years, and noted that the bigger challenge is identifying who created the petroglyphs.

“When you get back into this time period, if you speak with Native Americans they will tell you they were made there and that is obviously their people and their artwork,” Jenkins said. “But approaching it from a scientific point of view — what we can prove — at this point, it is impossible to connect these to any tribal group.”

William Cannon, a longtime archaeologist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management who discovered the similar but more recent petroglyphs at Long Lake in Oregon, brought the Nevada site to Hattori’s attention years ago.

The etchings in Nevada and Oregon both have relatively deep, carved lines dominated by linear, curved and circular geometrical designs. Some feature “tree-form designs” with a series of evenly spaced, vertically oriented V shapes bisected by a vertical line.

Researchers have suggested the etchings represent various meteorological symbols, such as clouds and lightning, perhaps the Milky Way.

“But we really have nothing to go on for these particular petroglyphs that go back 10,000 or more years,” Hattori said Wednesday.

Benson has no idea what they mean.

“When I looked at it, I said, ‘These things are incredibly beautiful.’ We have so much beautiful, old Native American stuff in the United States, but this shows it didn’t necessarily get more interesting or more pretty with time,” he said.

Ben Aleck, a co-author of the study who is the collection manager at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe’s Museum and Visitor Center in Nixon, said Wednesday he could not comment without permission from tribal leaders.

[Archaeologist Found This Huge, Beautiful Mayan Frieze Completely Intact in Guatemala](http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com)

[An incredibly well-preserved 26-by-8-foot frieze may shed light on Mayan political history around AD 590](http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com)

Paiutes' solar project highlight of National Clean Energy Summit

By HENRY BREAN

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The National Clean Energy Summit brought together elected leaders, captains of industry and even an astronaut, but no one captured the central theme quite like the Moapa Band of Paiutes.

After almost 50 years in the shadow of smokestacks, the Southern Nevada Indian tribe is about to welcome one of the world's largest solar energy developments and watch the coal-burning power plant next door close for good.

No wonder Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid chose to launch his sixth annual renewable energy conference at Mandalay Bay Tuesday with an update on the tribe's solar development 40 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Construction is expected to start this fall on the 2,000 acre solar array, which is expected to generate as many as 600 construction jobs and supply Los Angeles with 250 megawatts of power for the next 25 years. For the tribe, the deal will mean steady lease payments from K Road Power, the company building the array.

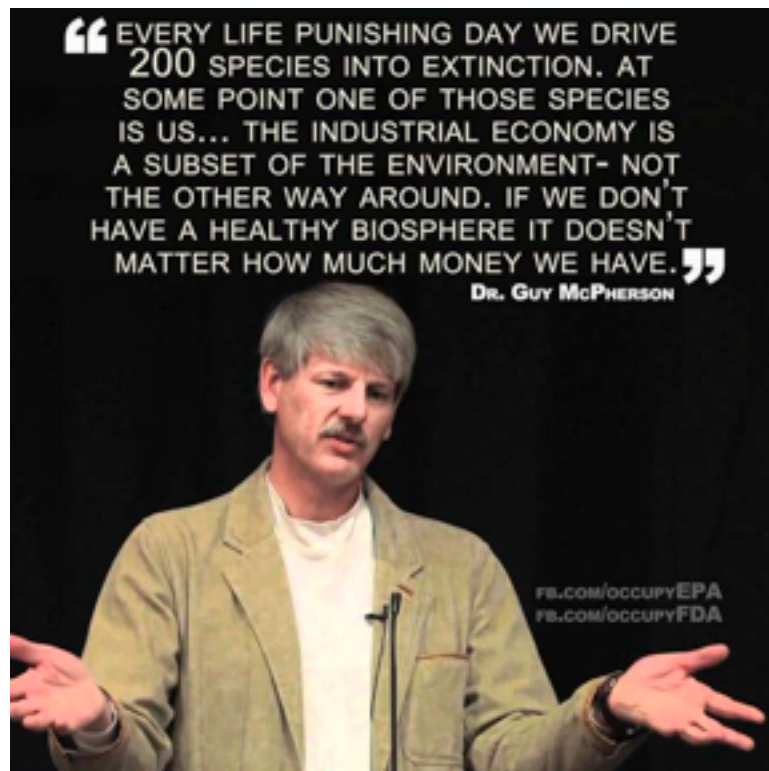
As Eric Lee, the tribe's vice chairman, put it: "Who would have thought the Moapa Band of Paiutes would be supplying clean, renewable energy to L.A.?"

The theme of Tuesday's summit was "Energizing Tomorrow," but the event touched on many of the same themes as the five previous events.

Reid described it as an opportunity to highlight the progress made in clean energy and discuss the challenges that lie ahead.

He opened the day-long conference by talking about a rising tide of natural disasters "exacerbated by climate change," including hurricanes, heat records and wildfires.

"Don't be afraid to talk about climate change," Reid urged the audience. "It's time to stop entertaining the climate change deniers and start talking about the problems we face."



CHANGE IN THE WEATHER

During an afternoon panel discussion on the impacts of extreme weather, one expert warned that what is happening to the climate “defies all the assumptions we planned upon.”

Kathryn Sullivan, an astronaut turned administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said we are in for “more frequent extremes and more intense extremes.”

Where the federal government can really help is by investing in the “science on the ground” that will lead to a better understanding of our changing climate, said Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy.

“Who has a better computer than NASA?” she said. “We in the water business need, more than anything else, better predictive tools.”

But Mulroy isn’t just looking for federal investment in climate research.

She also met privately with Reid Tuesday afternoon to discuss whether the government can help fund efforts to keep as much water in shrinking Lake Mead as possible.

Specifically, Mulroy is hoping federal money can be used to help pay for so-called “dry-year options” on farmland irrigated by the drought-stricken Colorado River. That water would then be left in Lake Mead to slow the decline of the reservoir and keep it above the two intake pipes that supply the Las Vegas Valley with 90 percent of its drinking water.

Mulroy said there is both “a federal nexus” for such assistance and a national interest in keeping water flowing to the more than 30 million people who rely on the Colorado.

The water authority is rushing to complete a third straw into Lake Mead before the agency loses access to one of the two existing straws. Mulroy said the \$817 million project should be done by the end of 2014, just months before projections call for the lake to fall low enough to shut down intake No. 1.

“Southern Nevada is not here with its tin cup out waiting,” Mulroy said of the request for federal funds. “This community has already done some real heavy lifting.”

Eventually, Mulroy wants to see a larger discussion about including drought with other natural disasters that receive federal emergency aid, but she said “that’s a discussion for another day.”

“I’m worried about the next 24 months,” Mulroy said.

POWERFUL DISPLAYS

Other speakers included Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, NV Energy CEO Michael Yackira and Lisa Jackson, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency and now a vice president at Apple.

For Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the summit marked her second visit to Southern Nevada in as many months.

In July, she toured two solar power plants along the Nevada-California border near Primm, including the first such array permitted and built on federal land.

Many more projects like that will be needed to reach President Barack Obama's stated goal of approving at least 20 gigawatts of renewable energy on public land by 2020. Jewell expects the Silver State to continue to play a major role in that.

"Nevada is at the forefront of clean energy," she said. "There's no better place to be holding this than Nevada."

In the small exhibit hall, there were electric- and natural gas-powered vehicles, displays by companies specializing in solar panels and energy-efficient air conditioners and booths from University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the Desert Research Institute and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. One environmental consulting firm brought along a terrarium with a live desert tortoise in it.

More than 600 people attended the summit.

The \$225 general admission price included a gourmet lunch featuring mostly organic, eco-friendly fare served with a lecture from Mandalay Bay executive chef Susan Wolfla about the resort's efforts to fill its kitchens and restaurants with sustainable food.

The summit was held in a convention center that by next year will be partially powered by what is being called the nation's second-largest rooftop solar array.

MGM's chief sustainability officer, Cindy Ortega, described the project to the summit crowd, noting that the resort will be able to generate 6.2 megawatts of power by covering all 20 acres of the convention center roof with photovoltaic panels.

"Isn't that cool?" Ortega said to a round of applause.

[Meaning of the Power Animals](http://nativeamericanencyclopedia.com)

[Definition of Power Animals: What are Power Animals? Power Animals are strongly associated with the Native American Indian belief in Animism that is a belief based on the spiritual idea that the universe](#)

[Patricia Spottedcrow paroled early in 12-year sentence for \\$31 bag of marijuana](http://www.tulsaworld.com)

[Learn more about the incarceration of women: Read previous stories, find resources and see graphics regarding women in prison. KINGFISHER - The four reasons ...](#)

Yucca Mountain Waste Site: Court Orders Nuclear Agency Back to Work

Pete Spotts, Christian Science Monitor

Spotts reports: "A federal appeals court has ordered the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to resume its review of a Department of Energy license application to operate the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site in Nevada." [READ MORE](#)

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20130814/NEWS01/308140034/Blackfoot-Tribal-Council-says-energy-leases-religious-site-canceled>

Blackfoot Tribal Council says energy leases on religious site canceled

Aug. 14, 2013

The Blackfoot Tribal Business Council issued a news release Wednesday stating proposed oil and gas leases near Chief Mountain have been canceled. The mountain, located near the Canadian border and on the boundary between the Blackfoot Indian Reservation and Glacier National Park, is considered sacred by many of the Blackfoot people.

"The current proposed leases by Nations Energy, which are the subject of so much misinformation, were canceled on July 24, 2013 due to nonpayment by the company," the tribal council news release states. "The intention of such leases was to explore an area of the reservation which is at least two miles from Chief Mountain and at least one half mile from the mandated buffer zone."

The tribal council's announcement comes three days prior to a planned protest in opposition to oil and gas development at the site. Reports that the council had approved exploration leases at Chief Mountain became public last week after a conservation activist posted lease documents purportedly obtained from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on his web site.

Included within those documents is a resolution signed by council chairman Willie Sharp, Jr. and acting council secretary Roger "Sassy" Running Crane reaffirming a prior resolution from January 3, 2013. The resolution approves the mineral lease development of 4,000 acres of tribal land by Nations Energy, LLC, with three wells to be developed within a five year primary term, the first to be drilled within 18-months of the lease signing.

Publication of these documents prompted a petition drive in opposition to the development, which had gathered more than 2,200 signatures by Wednesday afternoon.

The Blackfoot Tribal Business Council's news release notes that as far back as 1982, nontribal people were prohibited from making incursions into a one mile buffer zone around the base of Chief Mountain, and that this protection was reaffirmed by tribal council action in 1992.

"The Blackfoot Tribal Business Council has always considered Chief Mountain as one of the most sacred sites on the Blackfoot Reservation," the news release states. "This area was for spiritual use of the Blackfoot people only. This protection continues to this day and nothing has or will disturb this area, including any oil and gas development."

It continues on to state that even if the agreement with Nations Energy had advanced to the drilling of wells, the tribe would have first had to complete an environmental and cultural resources study to see if the proposed wells would impact any Blackfoot cultural resources.

"However, since the leases no longer exist, this is not an issue," the news release concludes.

The tribal council goes on to reassert its "absolute right to develop its own resources on its own land."

"The council is clear in its purpose to create a better economic environment for its people who currently suffer some of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the United States," the news release

states. "With that responsibility to better the lives of its people, however, comes the absolute mandate to do no harm to the tribe's cultural sites, traditions and resources, including water. The two duties go hand-in-hand and this council will follow its oath and the Blackfeet Constitution to protect and defend its land and to responsibly develop its many and valuable resources."

VIDEO: A Chiapas Medicine Man

Crowded hospitals and clinics in the Chiapas region of Mexico cannot absorb many poor patients. Sergio Castro taught himself how to treat those in need. [Related Article](#)

NEVADA LAUNCHES GREEN ZONE WEBSITE TO HELP VETERANS

The Green Zone website got off the ground Wednesday with a promise to carry on the safe-haven tradition for Nevada's 300,000 veterans by providing a cyberspace place for them to find jobs by connecting with employers and tap education and health care benefits.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz18053263>

Water or Coke?

WATER

1. 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
2. In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger.
3. Even MILD dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 30%.
4. One glass of water will shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a University of Washington study.
5. Lack of water, the #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.
6. Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.
7. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.
8. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

And now for the properties of COKE

1. In many states (in the USA) the highway patrol carries two gallons of Coke in the truck to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of coke and it will be gone in two days.

3. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl and let the “real thing” sit for one hour, then flush clean. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous china.
4. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a rumpled-up piece of aluminum foil dipped in Coca-Cola.
5. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.
6. To loosen a rusted bolt: Applying a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.
7. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of coke into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains. It will also clean road haze from your windshield.

IMPORTANT INFO

1. The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. Its pH is 2.8. It will dissolve a nail in about 4 days. Phosphoric acid also leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase in osteoporosis.
2. To carry Coca-Cola syrup (the concentrate) the commercial truck must use the Hazardous material placards reserved for Highly corrosive materials.
3. The distributors of coke have been using it to clean the engines of their trucks for about 20 years!

Now the question is, would you like a glass of water or coke?

[50,000 Expected to Attend 95th Crow Fair - Reservation Becomes Teepee Capital](http://www.nativenewsnetwork.com)

www.nativenewsnetwork.com

[CROW AGENCY, MONTANA 95th Crow Fair kicks off today with Grand Entry. From today until Thursday some 50,000 people will come to Crow Agency to transform the reservation into](#)

[Insulin Inhaler For Diabetes Succeeds In Studies](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)

www.huffingtonpost.com

[Aug 14 \(Reuters\) - MannKind Corp said results of two late-stage studies showed that its experimental diabetes therapy was more effective than injected insulin and oral treatments, sending its shares up 30 percent in premarket trading. The drug-device combination, called Afrezza, consists of insulin...](#)

[Native Artists Grant Programs at Evergreen](http://www.evergreen.edu)

www.evergreen.edu

[The Evergreen State College is a public liberal arts and sciences college in the Pacific Northwest, offering award-winning interdisciplinary, collaborative and team-taught academic programs.](#)

Feds asked to block sale, slaughter of wild horses in Nevada

Wild horses run around in a fenced field in 2011 at the Stewart Conservation Camp in Carson City. Wild horse advocates are seeking a court order to prevent the sale of horses by the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe.

By SCOTT SONNER ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO — Wild horse advocates are seeking an emergency court order to block the sale of what they say are federally protected mustangs rounded up illegally by a Nevada tribe and headed for an auction that could send them to slaughter.

Under pressure from critics, the U.S. Forest Service earlier this week abandoned plans for a \$120,000 government roundup of hundreds of horses in collaboration with the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe near the Oregon border.

But the agency agreed to let the tribe proceed gathering up to 700 horses on its own and sell them at a livestock auction Saturday in Fallon.

Lawyers for Wild Horse Education said the U.S. agencies themselves are responsible for ensuring the protection of the horses. They want DNA testing before any animals are sold.

This is a developing story. Check back for updates.

From Native Seed Search

Unsolved Mysteries

People love to speculate about what happened to the inhabitants of Chaco Canyon. But what we want to know is: *what did they eat?* Did the ancient Chacoans grow their own food? As a special warm-up and sneak preview to our exciting [tour of the majestic ceremonial city ruins](#), **Gwinn Vivian** will share his thoughts on these and other intriguing questions surrounding this incredible lost culture.

"The Mystery of Chaco" with Gwinn Vivian

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

6 - 8 pm

FREE

Location:

NS/S Conservation Center

3584 E. River Road, just east of the Alvernon intersection opposite the Waldorf school. Look for our marquee sign.

Journey into the Past

Chaco Canyon is a true mystery of the ancient world. Explore this remarkable, inspiring place on a 6-day adventure with Native Seeds/SEARCH Directors Bill McDorman and Belle Starr. Join us

as we delve into the captivating culture of Chaco Canyon hosted by Piet and Mary Van de Mark of Baja's Frontier Tours and guided by second-generation Chaco archaeologist Gwinn Vivian.

October 10 – 15, 2013

Visit [Baja's Frontier Tours](#) for more details and registration.

Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

[Cooperative Agreements](#)

[Offer Packet Documents](#)

[Whereabouts Unknown](#)

[Initial Implementation Plan](#)

[Media Announcements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

The Secretary of the Interior established the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) to implement the land consolidation provisions of the [Cobell Settlement Agreement](#). The Settlement provided for a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund (Fund) to consolidate fractional land interests across Indian Country.

The Buy-Back Program allows interested individual owners to receive payments for voluntarily selling their land. All lands sold will immediately be held in trust for the tribe with jurisdiction. This effort will strengthen tribal sovereignty and put decision-making in the hands of the tribal government, freeing up resources that have been locked-up as land interests have fractionated over time.

In addition to consolidating ownership of these acres for the beneficial use of tribal nations, up to \$60 million from sales will be designated for the Education Scholarship Fund for American Indians and Alaska Natives, allowing future generations to benefit from the Program.

There are approximately [150 unique reservations](#) that have fractional interests. Tribal leadership, participation, and facilitation are crucial to the success of the Program. The Department of the Interior looks forward to working cooperatively with [tribal leaders](#) and [individual landowners](#) to reduce the number of fractional interests through voluntary land sales.

"And over the next four years, as long as I have the privilege of serving as your President we're going to keep working together to make sure the promise of America is fully realized for every Native American."
– President Barack Obama –

Please stop by the U.S. Dept. Of the Interior,
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST)
Outreach Meetings

Location: [Native American Health Center \(NAHC\)](#)
3124 International Blvd Oakland, California 94601 510.434.5481

Date: **August 26, 2013 (Monday)** Time: **1:30 pm**

"Indian Land Buy Back Presentation"

There will be an informative presentation concerning Indian Fractional Land Interest.

Have Questions? Come and join us!!

The OST Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll free 1-888-678-6836.

www.doi.gov/ost

Location: Friendship House Assoc. of American Indians
56 Julian Avenue (16th & Mission Bart Stop)
San Francisco, California 94103

Date: **August 27, 2013 (Tuesday)** Time: **08:30 am**

“Financial Empowerment Training”

There will be an informative presentation on tips for Managing personal finances

Time: **1:30 pm** “Indian Land Buy Back Presentation
Information on how Beneficiaries can learn more about their Fractional Land Interest

Have questions? Come and join us!!

The OST Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll free 1-888-678-6836.

And from Colorado:

