

Journal #3014

from sdc

12.27.13

Indigenous Groups Win Right to Seize Chevron's Canadian Assets over \$18 Billion in Amazon Pollution

More than 150 years after brutal slaughter, a small tribe returns home

Vancouver Peace Choir

Report puts \$797M price tag on Rim fire's damage to ecosystem

Federal Water Tap

3rd Annual Two-Spirit Powwow

Exhibit at the National Archives, "Record of Rights"

Having a bad day?

System at SFCC combines raising fish, growing plants

Internships

Meals with wheels: A fresh food movement rolls into Boston

Water grab fails court test

In denial

In Loving Memory Of Robert John DeSoto Sr.

[Indigenous Groups Win Right to Seize Chevron's Canadian Assets over \\$18 Billion in Amazon Pollution](#)

democracynow.org

[A court in Canada has ruled Ecuadorean farmers and fishermen can try to seize the assets of oil giant Chevron based on a 2011 decision in an Ecuadorean court found it liable for nearly three decades of soil and water pollution near oil wells, and said it had ruined the health and livelihoods of peop...](#)

[More than 150 years after brutal slaughter, a small tribe returns home](#)

After losing much of their ancestry, the Wiyots are learning their traditions in preparation for a renewal ceremony

More Than 150 Years After Brutal Slaughter, a Small Tribe Returns Home

Bill Donahue, Al Jazeera America

Donahue reports: "When a few canoes carrying a group of Wiyot tribal members to Indian Island cross the choppy waters of Humboldt Bay in March, it will not look as if anything particularly special is happening." [READ MORE](#)

From reader TP:

Here's a more hopeful note to add to the "Voices Through History" article about the wiping out of the buffalo in the late 1800's.

In his dream on January 1, 1889, Wovoka, the Ghost Dance Prophet, prophesied that the buffalo would return. Some have questioned Wovoka's prophecies, but here are the numbers:

Estimated number of buffalo at the time of the dream in 1889 = 2,000.

Estimated number of buffalo today in 2013 = 500,000.

Something to think about. Happy New Year!

[The Rumble by Randy Wood ft. the Vancouver Peace Choir](#) [youtube.com](#)

[The Rumble by Randy Wood, arranged by Kirsten Wood and Tim Corlis. Featuring the Vancouver Peace Choir, Randy Wood and James Meger. Recorded on May 25th on u...](#)

Report puts \$797M price tag on Rim fire's damage to ecosystem

John Holland, Modesto Bee

Until they burned, oaks and pines in the Rim fire area absorbed carbon dioxide and emitted oxygen, a useful service for the planet.

[Federal Water Tap, December 23: Congress Begins Tying Loose Ends](#)

Budget Deal

The House and Senate made nice and passed a budget deal, setting total spending limits for the next two years. Now comes the quick work of doling out the money to specific programs. Appropriations committees in both chambers have a January 15 deadline for these negotiations.

When Congress reconvenes, two major bills with direct and indirect implications for water will be on the agenda. The House and Senate are reconciling their versions of a new water resources development act. Representatives from both chambers are still working on a farm bill, which affects water quality through its land conservation incentives.

Lower Rio Grande

Hotter temperatures will increase evaporation and decrease available water supplies for eight counties in Texas adjacent to the Rio Grande, according to a comprehensive Bureau of Reclamation [assessment of supply and demand](#).

The region is already expecting a 35 percent supply gap – of 592,000 acre-feet – by 2060 due to population growth, expected to increase by 135 percent. Climate change will decrease supplies by another 86,000 acre-feet.

To close the gap, the bureau selected four options for further study: saltwater desalination, brackish water desalination, wastewater reuse, and new groundwater development.

The study comes on the heels of last week's release of the [Upper Rio Grande climate change study](#).

Fire Hydrants

Fire hydrants are now exempted from a federal rule to reduce lead in drinking water, a regulation that goes into effect January 4. President Barack Obama signed the [Community Fire Safety Act of 2013](#) on Friday.

Energy Atlas

The locations of wind turbines, the density of oil and gas wells, and the paths of underground directional drilling. Those are a few of the features in [a data-rich energy atlas](#) that the U.S. Geological Survey developed for Colorado and New Mexico.

Columbia River Treaty

Representatives from the Pacific Northwest submitted their [final regional recommendations](#) for an updated Columbia River Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. Written by a group of states, tribes, and federal agencies, the document proposes a slightly different direction for the treaty's next iteration.

The Pacific Northwest group recommends that reviving salmon runs be given greater consideration in operating the large dams on the river, while still maintaining the same level of flood protection. They also feel that Canada is reaping an unfair share of the financial benefits from the 1964 treaty. The representatives suggest recalculating the formula.

The regional recommendations will be used by the State Department as a starting point for negotiations with Canada.

Clean Water Act Fine

One of the country's largest energy companies will pay a \$US 3.2 million civil penalty for clogging streams and wetlands in West Virginia when it cleared forested sites for natural gas drilling. Chesapeake Energy violated Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, according to a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department. The company also agreed to spend \$US 6.5 million to restore the damaged area.

Dam Safety

The Army Corps of Engineers will prepare an environmental assessment for improvements it will make to [an at-risk dam in the Denver metropolitan area](#). A corps analysis showed that the Cherry Creek Dam, built in the 1940s, would not be able to hold back the precipitation from a perfect storm, called a "maximum probable flood" in the lingo. The draft environmental impact statement will be published in 2015 or 2016.

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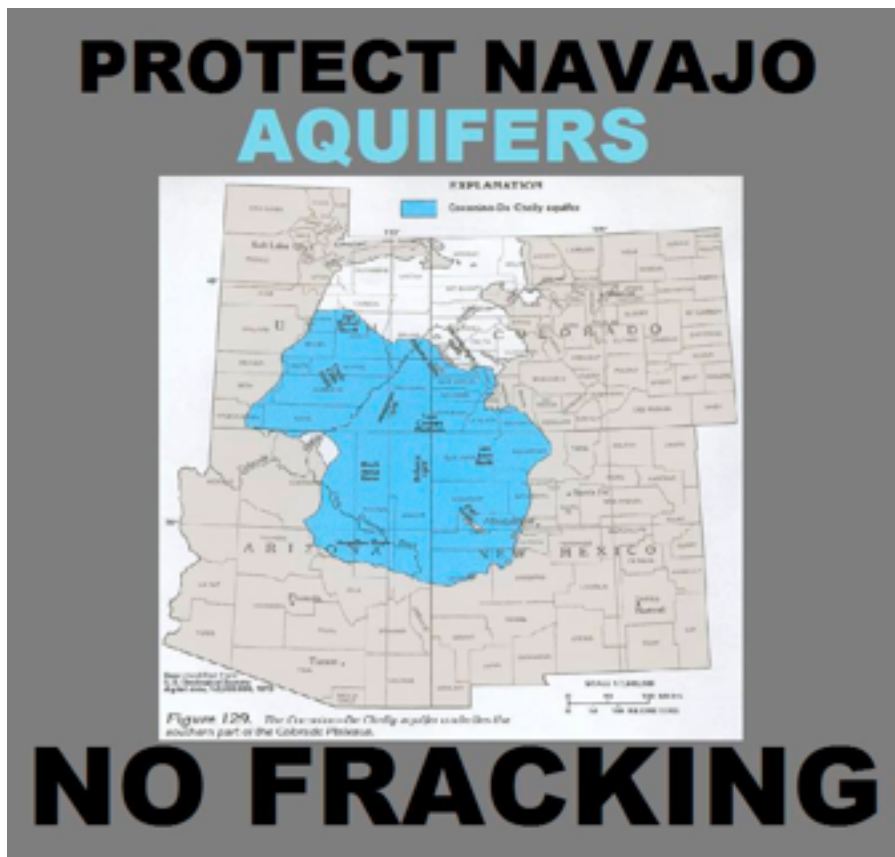
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3rd Annual Two-Spirit Powwow networkedblogs.com February 1, 2014 -

SAVE THE DATE!

[A Work Still in Progress](#)

By LINDA GREENHOUSE NUY Op=Ed

A new exhibit at the National Archives, "Record of Rights," makes clear that the Constitution is still a work in progress.

Having a bad day?

[Ramona Pierson's remarkable tale: From near-death to Silicon ...](#)

[www.mercurynews.com/.../ramona-piersons-remarkable-tale-fro...](#)

[by Bruce Newman](#)

10 hours ago - In 1984, a drunken driver ran a red light near the Marine base where *Ramona Pierson* was stationed, hitting her so hard that her body basically ...

[System at SFCC combines raising fish, growing plants](#) [abqjournal.com](#)

[Ancient agriculture of the past may point the way for the future of feeding the world. ...](#)

Internships

Yosemite sponsors a number of internships both directly and through partner organizations.

What's the difference between a volunteer internship and other internships? [Volunteer Internships](#) are full-time (40 hour/week) career-development positions with an educational component. The positions are usually 10 weeks to six months, and are open to people of all ages. They should not be confused with federal internships in the Pathways program, which may be paid positions and last for varying amounts of time. The park also recruits through [partners](#).

Special internship programs in the park include:

- [Little Yosemite Valley Internships](#) (backcountry patrol)
- [Yosemite Leadership Program internships](#) available in 2013.

Internships through Partners

[Student Conservation Association](#)

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) places interns of all ages in conservation positions throughout the United States, including dozens each year in Yosemite. Applicants apply directly through the [Student Conservation Association](#) [[search for Yosemite internships](#)] for Yosemite positions. Each year, opportunities may be offered in the fields of archival work, interpretation, [backcountry patrol](#), wildlife management, and others. Yosemite staff interview and select the interns.

[Geocorps](#)

Geocorps is a partnership between the National Park Service and the Geological Society of America. Each year, Yosemite hires a few interns into the Geoscientists-in-Parks with [Geocorps](#).

National Council for Preservation Education

Through a cooperative agreement, the [National Council for Preservation Education](#) (NCPE) places students in paid internships in Yosemite's historic preservation and historic architecture programs.

College Internships

While the park does not require that interns be students, Yosemite can sponsor students to perform internships for college credit. Your supervisor can work with your school to certify credit. Some colleges also have programs that financially support students so they can volunteer instead of finding summer jobs. Talk with your college career services department to learn more.

Park-sponsored Internships

Volunteer internships are posted alongside regular volunteer positions on <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov>. These may include positions in wildlife research, environmental education, historic preservation, and other professional and vocational career fields. International Volunteers may apply for internships, but must be able to obtain a J-1 visa and should be working or studying in a related field.

Current open volunteer positions may be designed as internships (please note that these positions are pulled from volunteer.gov, and we cannot separate out internships from other volunteer positions here). Additional opportunities could be added at any time, so keep checking. Most, but not all, positions are for the summer months. These include:

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Camp Host 2014 Crane Flat - Yosemite

Activities: Campground Hosts, Visitor Information, General Assistance
Dates: 05/01/2014-09/30/2014

Camp Host 2014 Hodgdon Meadow - Yosemite

Activities: Campground Hosts, Visitor Information, General Assistance
Dates: 05/01/2014-09/30/2014

Camp Host 2014 Porcupine/Tamarack/Yose Creek

Activities: Campground Hosts, Visitor Information, General Assistance
Dates: 06/01/2014-10/15/2014

Yosemite Volunteer Program Work Leader 2014

Activities: Construction/Maintenance, Conservation Education, Trail/Campground Maintenance, Weed/Invasive Species Control, Other
Dates: 03/01/2014-11/15/2014

Camp Host 2014 White Wolf - Yosemite

Activities: Campground Hosts, Visitor Information, General Assistance
Dates: 06/01/2014-10/15/2014

Preventive Search and Rescue Volunteers

Activities: Visitor Information, Back Country/Wilderness, General Assistance, Other
Dates: 12/31/2013-12/31/2014

Yosemite Camp Host 2014 Volunteer Campground

Activities: Campground Hosts, Conservation Education, Trail/Campground Maintenance, Visitor Information, General Assistance
Dates: 04/26/2014-11/12/2014

Yosemite 2014 General Volunteer *see notes

Activities: Archaeology, Botany, Campground Hosts, Construction/Maintenance, Computers, Conservation Education, Research/Library, Historical Preservation, Office/Clerical, Soil/Watershed, Timber/Fire Prevention, Trail/Campground Maintenance, Tour Guide/Interpretation, Visitors
Dates: 01/01/2014-12/31/2014

Camp Host 2014 Bridalveil Creek - Yosemite

Activities: Campground Hosts, Office/Clerical, Visitor Information, General Assistance
Dates: 06/30/2014-09/15/2014

To view more NPS volunteer opportunities, go to www.nps.gov/volunteer or www.volunteer.gov/gov

Did You Know?

In Yosemite Valley, dropping over 594-foot Nevada Fall and then 317-foot Vernal Fall, the Merced River creates what is known as the “Giant Staircase.” Such exemplary stair-step river morphology is characterized by a large variability in river movement and flow, from quiet pools to the dramatic drops of the waterfalls themselves

Meals with wheels: A fresh food movement rolls into Boston By **Laura Onstot**
Fresh Food Generation

Wander through Portland, Ore.’s Pearl District, SoCo in Austin, or Manhattan’s financial district and you won’t be able to spit without hitting a food truck selling poutine, Korean tacos, or barbecue in some form. The trend has hit Boston as well, unless you happen to live in the neighborhood of Roxbury.

Most Roxbury residents are black or Hispanic, according to the Census Bureau’s [American Communities Survey](#). Thirty percent of the people living there have incomes below the poverty line. A [Tufts project](#) found the obesity rate of Roxbury about 8 percent higher than the overall average in the city.

And it isn't just food trucks missing, says Cassandra Campbell, who calls Roxbury home. Grocery stores and restaurants serving healthier options aren't in high supply. "I found myself going to other neighborhoods to get good food," she says. "These food trucks [appearing in other parts of the city] weren't serving my neighborhood or other neighborhoods in Boston that are similar in demographic to mine."

So she called up her friend Jackson Renshaw with an idea for solving both the dearth of trucks and lack of access to healthy, local food in one swoop.

The two first met over lettuce and kale in the urban farms of The Food Project, a Boston-based nonprofit that gets kids involved in growing their own eats. After The Food Project, Campbell headed for Swarthmore and later M.I.T., where she earned a Masters in Urban Planning. Renshaw went to the University of Vermont to study agriculture, then returned to Boston, where he got job as truck manager for [Bon Me](#), a truck serving Vietnamese food to hungry Boston dwellers.

Now, with their powers combined, they are Captain Food. With the backing of Kickstarter fans, who put up over \$52,000, they launched a project called [Fresh Food Generation](#). Their plan is to retrofit a food truck to serve healthy, locally sourced meals at affordable prices in neighborhoods that have been missing out on the trend.

One of their biggest challenges is finding food that is in season in these chilly climes. There are places in the world where strawberries, bananas, lettuce, broccoli, and other produce grows year round. Boston is not one of those places. "It really helps having someone that has a background in farming on the team — knowing what's the most affordable and available crop at the time of year," Campbell says of her partner's ag experience.

Renshaw acknowledges that getting fresh food out of the frozen ground is not nearly as easy in winter — but there are options. There are a variety of squashes, root vegetables, and partnerships with local greenhouses to round out the offerings.

To turn the limited winter produce options into truck-worthy entrees, Campbell and Renshaw brought chef Nadine Nelson on board. Nelson has a background in haute cuisine that goes back to Paris. She makes a mean West African stew using the available meat and produce, Renshaw says. "The secret ingredient is the combination of peanut butter and tomato sauce."

"We also have an apple curry chutney that we make with local apples — the Roxbury Russet," he says. "It grows right in Roxbury. We're trying to show a lot of Boston pride and love for the neighborhood by using food that grows there."

"Trendy," "local," and "fresh" are not words typically associated with low-cost, of course. "I think one of the most common questions is how is our food going to be affordable," Campbell says.

Renshaw describes their approach to food as "gleaning," which goes back to an old testament commandment that farmers leave the edges of their crops available for the poor to pick up. Similarly, Fast Food Generation picks up seconds and overstock from local growers. "It's really

hard to sell 200 pounds of squash in a day,” Renshaw says. “If people have leftovers and beat up vegetables, we’ll use them for the truck.”

Campbell notes that the take-whatever’s-available is also helpful on the non-veg side. Rather than asking a farmer for a supply of fillets, “we’ll pick a price point and see what’s available. They’ll tell me they’re killing the cow tomorrow and they’ll see what they have,” she says.

For now, the focus is getting the truck up and running, but Campbell is already dreaming bigger. “It’s really about getting food that’s affordable, quick, and healthy to people,” she says. “It’s about creating a model that works for people and can hopefully be taken to other cities.”

Laura Onstot is a Seattle writer and political wonk whose work has appeared in [Seattle Weekly](#), [The Seattle Times](#), [High Country News](#), [MSN](#), [The Rumpus](#), and [Agence France-Presse](#). As often as possible she is away from the keyboard on a bike, boat, or mountainside.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/12/25/256579598/writing-rudolph-the-original-red-nosed-manuscript>

Water grab fails court test

By [Dennis Myers](#) dennism@newsreview.com

In scathing language, a state court judge has overturned the state water engineer's approval of the planned transfer of water in eastern Nevada and western Utah to southern Nevada to feed growth.

Judge Robert Estes of the Seventh Judicial Court of Nevada called the decision by State Engineer Jason King to approve the transfer “subjective, unscientific, arbitrary and capricious,” and “not in the public interest.”

To pass muster, the water engineer must recalculate available water to guarantee “the basin will reach equilibrium between discharge and recharge within a reasonable time.” Estes also said King must include the impact on Utah territory in his calculations.

The judge seemed to think King's approval decision was uncooked and that he had become too cozy with the Southern Nevada Water Authority, writing that the water engineer had effectively “relinquished his responsibilities” to SNWA.

“There are no objective standards to determine when mitigation will be required and implemented,” Estes wrote. “The engineer has listed what mitigation efforts can possibly be made, i.e., stop pumping, modifying pumping, change location of pumps, drill new wells ... but does not cite objective standards of when mitigation is necessary.”

“That is exactly the kind of analysis needed,” the Deseret News—owned by the Mormon Church—editorialized in Salt Lake City. “As Utah officials and environmentalists have been saying for years, the results of such pumping could be disastrous. Utah's deserts contain fragile plant species that keep the soil in place. This allows ranching to thrive while also sustaining wildlife that feed on the plants. Drain water from beneath these plants and they might die, leading to dust storms and destroying the area's economy..”

In denial

Planning Commission recommends denial of mining in Silver City By [Sage Leehey](#)

This article was published on [12.26.13](#).

To view a video made by Silver City residents and presented at the planning commission meeting, visit tinyurl.com/mrsyv25.

Silver City residents came out again in large numbers to pack the Lyon County Planning Commission meeting room in Yerington on Dec. 10 and are pleased with the decision made by the commission.

After the month long continuance of the decision about Comstock Mining Inc.'s (CMI) [application](#) for a master plan amendment and zoning changes that would allow mining in Silver City's borders, the Planning Commission has recommended denial to the County Commission.

“For Silver City, it means we won the first round, but we’ve got a long way to go,” said chair of the Silver City Citizen Advisory Board, Erich Obermayr. “The planning commission makes a recommendation. It’s up to the County Commissioners to make the final decision.”

The recommendation from the Planning Commission comes with a 5-to-1 vote denying the master plan amendment and a unanimous vote denying the zoning change.

Obermayr stated that if CMI’s application is approved, it will result in mining operations in Silver City’s borders much too close to residents’ homes—something that is unacceptable to “upwards of 90 percent of the people in Silver City.”

He said he believes mining shouldn’t be allowed within their town limits.

“A mining operation is completely incompatible with a residential area,” Obermayr said. “It’s an industrial operation. It has no place in a residential area.”

Prior to this meeting, Silver City residents had prepared a report as part of their presentation to the Planning Commission with their reasons that the application should be denied. The report addressed legal, planning, historical and real estate issues at stake in this decision. Many of the residents believe that mining will make the area unlivable because of the proximity to their homes—some as close as 250 feet to the proposed area—and are worried about several issues, including real estate values, especially because there is already a pit mine near the other end of Silver City that lies in Storey County.

“If we have a pit mine in the south end of town, we will be bookended by pits, and that is probably not attractive to potential buyers of property in Silver City,” said Silver City resident Gayle Sherman.

Lyon County has a long history of denying requests for mining in city borders, and Sherman hopes that this will [continue](#) with CMI’s current application.

The next Lyon County Commission meeting will be on Jan. 2, and residents expect that the County Commission will discuss and decide upon this issue at that meeting.

At this meeting, both the Silver City residents and Comstock Mining Inc. will present information about why they believe the application should be denied or approved. The Planning Commission's recommendation will be presented, too. There will also be time for public comment where individuals may voice their opinions on the matter as well.

In the time between the Planning Commission and County Commission meetings, the residents of Silver City will "be doing everything [they] can to persuade the County Commissioners to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation," according to Obermayr.

From TC :

The NYT alerted us to a new NASA visualization of the moment, 45 years ago yesterday, when the Apollo 8 astronauts, amid pre-planned operations, suddenly noticed the Earth "rising" over the lunar horizon. The space agency's Scientific Visualization Studio has created a seven-minute mix of animation, restored audio and photographs that shows how, while William Anders, the lunar module pilot, snapped the photographs, each astronaut contributed in some way. Frank Borman and James Lovell were the other astronauts. The Apollo 8 Mission was the first where humans journeyed to the Moon and the 1st to photograph the earth from deep space.

One of those images has become [an icon](#), both for what it reveals about human technological capabilities and the extraordinary attributes of our home planet. "Earth Rise" was named by TIME Magazine as the Best Photo of the 20th Century.

Below you can link on to a 7-minute video prepared by NASA. More clearly than ever, the sequence shows how — with all NASA's planning and precision — the prospect of witnessing, and recording, an "Earthrise", was completely unanticipated. (the critical sequence begins about the 3:35 point, albeit it is all fascinating)

[Click here: ? NASA | Earthrise: The 45th Anniversary - YouTube](#)

In Loving Memory Of Robert John DeSoto Sr. November 10, 1955—December 21, 2013

-Viewing- 5—7 PM Friday December 27, 2013
Freitas Ruprecht Funeral Home 25 Hwy 208 Yerington, NV

-Funeral- 10 AM December 28, 2013
Lovelock Paiute Tribal Gymnasium 201 Bowean St., Lovelock, NV.

-Interment- Lovelock Indian Cemetery

Potluck Dinner to follow Food Donations Appreciated [robfuneralnote.pdf](#)
