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White House Releases Estimated State Opioid Treatment Funding Levels

Court Backs Rules Treating Internet as Utility, Not Luxury

Two Spirits, One Heart, Five Genders: How Europeans Tried Extinguish Native Views On Gender

A 20-pound lump of butter thought to be about 2,000 years old has been unearthed

Leasing public lands behind closed doors

American Indians Win, Feds Flee Feather Fight

NV Conservation Advocates in D.C. to Urge Protection of Ancient Sites

SAN DIEGO WOMAN GETS PROBATION FOR GRAFFITI TOUR OF NATIONAL PARKS

The Massive, Never-Built Indian Statue of Staten Island

American Indians and National Forests

President Taft and the Indians



Stanford University Graduates. Right here from Pyramid Lake. **Amos and Lena Wright** make us all proud.

On **June 16 in 1947** a US public lands subcommittee approved \$300,000 for construction of a grade and high school on the Owyhee Reservation.

On **June 17 in 1935** Indian Superintendent Alida Bowler presented to “sportsman” fish hatchery plans for Pyramid Lake.

The **Wheeler-Burton (Indian Reorganization Act)** was passed on **June 18, 1934**.



Jace Pratt

Our elders, in the past, stayed active. The definition of life is movement and we must keep moving. Being idle, sitting around all day is a good way to become depressed and unhealthy physically. Keep dancing, keep singing. Age is just a number. Keep the fires burning! Hoka! Stay fit.

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the
Press Secretary

White House Releases Estimated State Opioid Treatment Funding Levels Under President's Budget Proposal

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, as
Congress continues to consider

legislation related to the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic, the White House released the estimated amount of funding each State could qualify for under the new cooperative agreements proposed in the President's Budget to expand access to opioid treatment, particularly medication-assisted treatment. Under the President's \$1.1 billion proposal to help Americans with opioid use disorders who want treatment get the help they need, States would receive funding based on the severity of the epidemic in their communities and the strength of their strategy to respond to it. The final funding amounts will depend on these factors and Congressional action.

The President has made clear that addressing this epidemic is a priority for his Administration. Without the resources necessary to prevent opioid use disorders and increase access to treatment and recovery services, pending legislation this year would do little to help the thousands of Americans struggling with addiction get the treatment they urgently need.

The President's Budget builds on [current Administration strategies](#) to prevent drug use, pursue targeted drug enforcement activities, improve prescribing practices for pain medication, increase access to treatment, work to reduce overdose deaths, and support the millions of Americans in recovery.

For example:

- o The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released a proposed rule to expand access to opioid treatment by increasing the number of patients physicians can treat with the opioid use disorder treatment medication buprenorphine.
- o The President signed a memorandum requiring Federal Departments to provide training on appropriate opioid prescribing to Federal health care professionals and requiring Departments to develop plans to address barriers to opioid use disorder treatment in Federal programs.
- o The Health Resources and Services Administration released \$94 million in new funding to 271 Community Health Centers across the country to increase substance use disorder treatment services, with a specific focus on expanding medication-assisted treatment of opioid use disorders in underserved communities.
- o The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a new Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. Following its release, hundreds of medical, nursing and pharmacy schools have committed to prescriber training for their students.
- o CDC expanded the Prescription Drug Overdose program to support prevention efforts in 29 States to help end the prescription drug overdose epidemic.
- o The Office of National Drug Control Policy expanded its heroin initiative among regional High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) by adding Ohio and Michigan to the effort. These States join the Appalachia, New England, Philadelphia / Camden, New York / New Jersey, and Washington / Baltimore HIDTAs in accelerating local partnerships between law enforcement and their counterparts in public health to combat heroin use and overdose.
- o The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) held its 11th [National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day](#) in April, providing a safe, convenient, and responsible way of disposing of unneeded prescription drugs. Millions of pounds of medication have been collected over the last ten Take Back Days. Local communities are also establishing ongoing drug take-back programs.

The State-by-State breakdown of the President's requested funding can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/factsheets-prescription-opioid-abuse-and-heroin-use>

[The Turquoise Skies](#) with [Julia Pulliam](#).

Geronimo and warriors.

One of the
only known
photos of
Indian
combatants
still in the
field who
had not yet
surrendered
to the United
States. C.S.
Fly, 1886



Court Backs Rules Treating Internet as Utility, Not Luxury

By CECILIA KANG

An appeals court panel affirmed the Federal Communications Commission's rules about net neutrality, clearing the way for stricter oversight of broadband providers.

Two Spirits, One Heart, Five Genders: How Europeans Tried Extinguish Native Views On Gender

"The New World." This romanticized term inspired legions of Europeans to race to the places we live in... indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com

Archaeology Magazine

A 20-pound lump of butter thought to be about 2,000 years old has been unearthed from a bog in Ireland. <http://www.archaeology.org/n.../4526-160609-ireland-bog-butter> (Cavan County Museum)

Leasing public lands behind closed doors....where is the transparency? Will the BLM publicly disclose the companies and their bids? And what is the winning bid earmarked for? Everyone who participated should be proud what you accomplished today.....standing together protecting our precious life-giving water resources!!

Hector Roots

This happen in Reno Today! <https://m.youtube.com/watch...>

**American
Indians Win,
Feds Flee
Feather Fight**

Federal
government
surrenders sacred
feathers; admits
undercover
powwow raid was
illegal Published
June 15, 2016
WASHINGTON
– In a historic
settlement
agreement signed
Monday night, the
federal gov...



nativenewsonline.net|By [Native News Online](#)

NV Conservation Advocates in D.C. to Urge Protection of Ancient Sites
June 15, 2016 - Suzanne Potter, Public News Service (NV)
Play Audio in Browser Window

Bullet holes left by vandals in the rock at Gold Butte, marring ancient petroglyphs. (Christian Gerlach/Sierra Club)

RENO, Nev. -- The petroglyphs at Gold Butte and in three northern Nevada counties must be protected because they are priceless works of art, according to one argument Silver State conservation advocates are making this week in Washington, D.C. They're part of a large contingent traveling to the nation's capital in an effort organized by the nonprofit Pew Charitable Trusts.

Tygel Pinto, a Navajo musician and artist, would like to see Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon near Mesquite, declared a national monument. He said the move would benefit all Nevadans, not just the Paiute people.

"This is part of your history as well," he said. "To take away history itself is for you not to fully understand where you come from. It affects all of us. Not just one type of peoples. It hurts all of us."

Pinto said the famous red-rock formations at Gold Butte are threatened by illegal cattle grazing and some of the rock art has been shot at and scratched off by vandals. Supporters are hoping President Obama will issue an executive order to declare a national monument there before he leaves office.

Diana Miranda, whose family has owned Bertha Miranda's Mexican Restaurant in Reno for decades, is going on the trip to push for wilderness designation for parts of Douglas, Washoe and Pershing counties, saying they are the backbone of the local outdoor economy.

"My perspective is unique," she said. "I serve families that come in before they go on a trip out into the desert, and then after they come back. I always get to hear these great stories of what they saw, where they went with their family."

A bill has been introduced to give permanent wilderness designation to the Burbank Canyons Wilderness Study Area in western Nevada's Pine Nut Range. The Douglas County Conservation Act is online at govtrack.us.

Support for this reporting was provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

SAN DIEGO WOMAN GETS PROBATION FOR GRAFFITI TOUR OF NATIONAL PARKS

A San Diego woman who drew on rocks at several National Parks, including Death Valley and Zion, and posted about it on social media has pleaded guilty to seven misdemeanor counts of damaging government property.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz29276481>

The Massive, Never-Built Indian Statue of Staten Island ICTMN Staff 6/30/12

A century ago, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution authorizing the construction of a giant statue to pay tribute to American Indians. It was to be built on the grounds of Fort Wadsworth, on Staten Island, one of the boroughs of New York City, and with a height of 165 feet would have been taller than the Statue of Liberty.

In 1913, President William Howard Taft joined a delegation of 32 Indian chiefs and other dignitaries for a groundbreaking ceremony that saw the chief executive digging up dirt with an ancient axe-head made from a buffalo bone. Following a flag-raising, the chiefs then signed a "Declaration of Allegiance to the United States."

The statue was never built, but [according to a story at SILive.com](http://www.silive.com), a Native couple who live on Staten Island are trying to make it happen. The statue was a sort of premature memorial -- "to honor what was thought to be a vanishing race," says Margie Boldeagle. "Now it's taken on a different light. It would show that we are still here."

Boldeagle and her husband, Robert, are not proposing anything like the colossus planned a century ago. They would like to see a 25-foot statue built on the fort grounds. They say they have a sculptor and donors for the million-dollar project lined up. The National Parks Service (NPS), which has maintained the fort since it was closed in 1994, won't allow the Boldeagles' project, arguing that the 1911 declaration issued by Congress authorized the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy -- not the NPS -- to construct the monument.

The monument originally planned was the brainchild of Rodman Wanamaker, whose father had founded Wanamaker's department store in Philadelphia. As related in [an article in American Heritage](#), the pomp and circumstance went beyond the Presidential visit; a sort of publicity tour ensued:

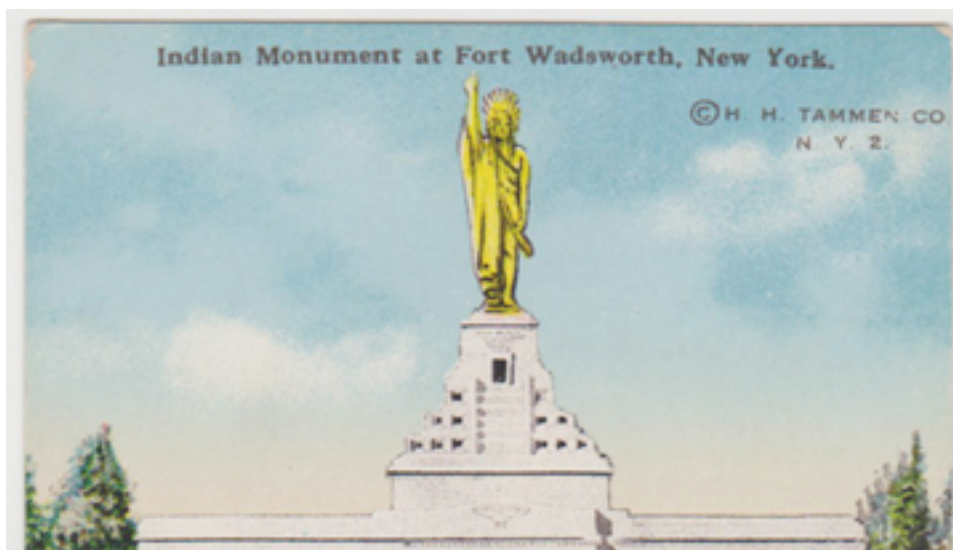
The excursion was given the cumbersome title of the "Rodman Wanamaker Expedition of Citizenship to the North American Indian," and at each stop the Fort Wadsworth flag-raising ceremony was re-enacted. Indians along the way cheerfully signed the Declaration of Allegiance, as well, then gathered around an Edison phonograph to hear a message from the Great White Father himself—Taft's successor, Woodrow Wilson: "Because you have shown in your education and in your settled way of life, staunch, manly, and worthy qualities of sound character, the nation is about to give you distinguished recognition through the erection of a monument in honor of the Indian people, in the harbor of New York."

The project was shelved with the outbreak of World War I. Whether the Boldeagles, founder of the Red Storm Drum and Dance Troupe, can make their version of it a reality remains to be seen; although they have the support of some local politicians, the agencies that control the facility seem uninterested. John Warren, public affairs specialist for Gateway National Recreation Area, which oversees Fort Wadsworth, told SILive that national parks are about preservation, and "not places where people can put up statues and memorials."

[Indian Monument Postcard](#)

A postcard showing a rendering of the proposed monument. The figure holds his arm up with two fingers raised in what was described as the 'universal peace sign of the red man.'

The photos below, from the [Library of Congress](#), were taken at the groundbreaking ceremony on February 22, 1913. In the first, President Taft reads a statement; the two images that follow are of



the Indian chiefs gathered for the occasion.

Read more at [http://](http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/06/30/massive-never-built-indian-statue-staten-island-121548)

indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/06/30/massive-never-built-indian-statue-staten-island-121548



[American Indians and National Forests - Page 49 - Google Books Result](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0816533571>

[Theodore Catton](#) - 2016 - History

forest resources, and the commissioner of *Indian* affairs established the Branch ... On February 17, 1912, *President Taft* restored those same *Indian* lands to their ...

President Taft and the Indians

Posted on [October 28, 2012](#) by [Ojibwa](#)

William Howard Taft served as President of the United States from 1909 to 1913. Like most American Presidents, Taft took office with little background in or awareness of American Indians. Yet during his term as a progressive Republican he impacted the lives Indian people.

Administration of Indian Affairs:

In the United States, the administration of Indian Affairs is under the Department of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs was appointed by the President to oversee Indian Affairs. President Taft appointed Robert Valentine as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Valentine had

originally entered the Indian Service in 1905 as the personal secretary of Commissioner of Indian Affairs Francis Leupp. He later became superintendent of Indian schools and then assistant commissioner.

In 1910, a circular from Indian Commissioner Valentine was distributed to all Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendents and agents. The circular cited section 2103 of the revised statutes of the United States and indicated that the Bureau had the power to deny individuals the power of attorney and the power of representation. In addition, they could keep individuals from speaking to Indian groups on reservations.

In 1912, Indian Commissioner Robert Valentine issued Circular 601 which prohibited teachers in government schools from wearing religious garb or displaying religious insignia. The order directly affected fifty-one people, mostly Catholic nuns. President Taft revoked the Circular and ordered Valentine not to take any further action in this matter. Taft's actions were criticized by Protestant groups and lauded by Catholics.

Allotment:

During Taft's term as President, one of the major foci of Indian policy was on the allotment of the reservations. In general, the United States has strongly opposed the idea of Indians owning land in common and has insisted that the reservations be broken up into small, individually owned parcels to free up land for non-Indians and to ensure the continued poverty of Indian people. While the data showed clearly that allotment benefitted non-Indians and was detrimental to Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Congress continued to push the idea of allotment.

In 1909, the allotment of the Coeur d'Alene reservation in Idaho was completed: 638 Indians received allotments. Of those receiving allotments, 541 were Coeur d'Alene and 97 were Spokane. President Taft ordered that all of the non-mineral and unreserved lands on the reservation be opened for settlement under the Homestead Laws.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Valentine was a staunch supporter of allotment and advocated competency commissions to speed up the transfer of Indian land into private hands. The idea of competency was based in large part on the racist idea that if Indians had any non-Indian "blood" then this somehow made them competent to manage their affairs in the non-Indian world. Congress in 1910 authorized the Bureau of Indian Affairs to create competency commissions to determine which Indians were capable of managing their own affairs. Competent Indians were to be given title to their land (which meant that they were able to then sell it) and declared citizens. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was given more authority over Indian property.

In 1910, Congress gave Indians the rights to the live timber on their reservations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs appointed J.P. Kinney, a graduate forester, to head the Bureau's forestry division. He visited 12 western reservations and objected to designating timber lands as surplus so that they could be opened for non-Indian settlement by homesteaders with no intention of farming but rather selling the timber, clear-cutting, and leaving. He argued that controlled cutting would provide sizable long-term income for the Indians. Disregarding the advice of the forester, of Commissioner Valentine, and of Gifford Pinchot of the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior declared that the program of having timber lands managed for the long-term benefit of the Indians was illegal.

In 1910, the Shoshone and Bannock of the Fort Hall Reservation in Idaho sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. Under the leadership of Shoshone leader Ralph Dixey, one of the largest cattle and farm operators on the reservation, the delegation argued that their allotments should be based on the 1889 agreement which calls for 160 acres of farmland and 160 acres of grazing land. Government officials, however, were unmoved by the arguments of the Shoshone and Bannock and replied that the government had their best interests in mind when they unilaterally changed the agreement. In addition, the government officials told them, under the Supreme Court ruling in *Lone Wolf v Hitchcock* the government was able to change any agreement if it wished.

Government actions appeared to have been based on the idea of opening the reservation up for non-Indian settlement rather than promoting an Indian livestock industry. By restricting the number of acres of grazing land which were to be allotted to the Indians, the government made sure that: (1) the Indian cattlemen could not compete economically, and (2) there would be more land available for non-Indians.

In 1912, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs asked Indian superintendents to tell him about the effects of fee patents on the Indians on their reservations. With regard to the Omaha reservation, 90% of those who had been issued fee patents by the competency commission had already sold their land, 8% had mortgaged their land, and only 2% still retained their allotments.

Indian Reservations:

While Indian reservations were often created through the treaty process or by Congressional action, during the first part of the twentieth century, Presidents had the power to create and to modify Indian reservations by executive order. During his term, President Taft utilized Presidential executive orders on several occasions.

Rainbow Bridge in northern Arizona is an area considered sacred to the Navajo people. In 1910, President Taft designated Rainbow Bridge a National Monument by executive order. The area was removed from reservation jurisdiction without tribal consent or compensation.



In Arizona, California, and Nevada, the Fort Mohave Reservation was enlarged by Presidential Executive Order in 1910. The following year, President Taft issued an executive order revoking the enlargement of the reservation.

In 1911, President Taft issued the executive order establishing small reservations (80 acres each) for the Arizona Papago (Tohono O'odham) at Indian Oasis (later renamed Sells for Commissioner of Indian Affairs Cato Sells) and San Miguel. The following year, President Taft issued a series of Executive Orders creating the Maricopa, Cockleburrr, Chi Chisch, Tat-muri-ma-kutt, and Boboquivari Peak-Santiergos Reservations for the Papago.

President Taft issued an executive order creating the 47,600 acre Ak-Chin reservation in Arizona in 1912. The reservation is created in part in gratitude to the Papago for their help in the wars against the Apache in the late 1800's. The Bureau of Indian Affairs filed for a water appropriation on behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community which called for a total of 70,000 acre-feet annually. Non-Indians in the area were upset about the size of the reservation and about the water appropriation, and within four months of the original executive order, President Taft issued a second executive order which reduced the size of the reservation to 21,840 acres.

In 1912, President Taft issued an executive order setting aside 80 acres in Utah's Skull Valley for the exclusive use of the Gosiute.

In 1912, the Hupa Reservation in California was restored by President Taft to its status prior to the 1908 proclamation by President Roosevelt which gave most of the reservation to the Trinity National Forest. Although this meant that the Hupa supposedly recovered their lands, many government employees continued to assume that the land belonged to the Forest Service which continued to administer it.

At this same time, President Taft also restored to the Mescalero, Fort Apache, Jicarilla, Navajo, San Carlos, Tule River, and Zuni reservations forest lands which had been seized to create national forests.

Peyote:

One of the concerns during the Taft administration was the growth of a new religion, one not approved by the United States, known as the Native American Church. While this movement incorporated many elements of Christianity, it was generally opposed by Christian missionary groups because it was a Native American movement and all aspects of Native American religion were illegal at this time. In their persecution of the Native American Church, the government and the missionaries focused on the fact that the church used peyote as a sacrament.

In 1909, the Bureau of Indian Affairs assigned a special agent to deal with the "peyote problem" in Oklahoma. When the agent failed to convince the courts that peyote was included in the current prohibition laws, he simply raided peyote meetings and destroyed all of the peyote buttons that he obtained.

The Board of Indian Commissioners began to lobby Congress for a law to outlaw peyote in 1912. According to their annual report:

"The danger of the rapid spread of the habit, increased by its so-called religious associations, makes the need of its early suppression doubly pressing."

Delegations from several tribes – Omaha, Cheyenne, and Arapaho – visited Washington to express their opposition to attempts to outlaw peyote. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, however, told Congress:

"I firmly believe that the use of Peyote is injurious to the health and welfare of the Indians and, therefore, shall do everything within my power to prevent its use among Indians."

<http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1394>