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Earth art:

The 230-foot-long orca is etched into a desert hillside.

[\[Full Story: 2,000-Year-Old Killer Whale Geoglyph Found in Peru Desert\]](#)

President Trump's Bears Ears Order Is An Illegal Attack On Tribal Sovereignty **The action fits a long pattern of discrimination and disrespect.**

By John Echohawk, NARF Executive Director

The following op-ed was originally published by [Huffington Post](#) .

A year ago, the Obama administration took the extraordinary and long-aited step to designate Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Bears Ears has been home to Native peoples since time immemorial, and we cherish it for its cultural, spiritual, and archaeological importance.

Indigenous people have been caring for Bears Ears for countless generations, but formal protections under American law for the entirety of the area were made permanent only with the creation of Bears Ears National Monument. Five tribes (Hopi, Navajo, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and Zuni) worked with the U.S. Government to protect our sacred ancestral lands at Bears Ears, and it was an example of our government-to-government relationship in action. Last year's announcement brought some closure, as well as a powerful sense of justice after decades-long goals had finally been met. But all of this changed in an instant.

Today, President Trump made history by undoing all of this, walking back the progress that had been made with the federal government. Never before has a U.S. president tried to reduce a national monument to such a degree for so little reason.

President Trump does not have the authority to take the action he took today. Under the Antiquities Act, the president may create national monuments. That is all. He or she may not modify or revoke existing monuments — only Congress has that ability. Trump's actions are illegal, unwarranted, and deeply unpopular. And they are a blatant attack on tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Until the designation of Bears Ears, our sacred lands were under constant threat. Those unfamiliar with our cultures and our traditions contributed to the steady destruction of our sacred sites by looting, grave robbing, and indiscriminately drilling for oil and mining uranium at the expense of our heritage.

In a remarkable display of tribal unity, the five tribes joined together to protect Bears Ears National Monument. These five tribes worked tirelessly with the previous administration to voice our concerns, and to offer a detailed plan for preserving Bears Ears. These efforts led to planned visits by the administration, numerous consultations with Native community members, tribal and local governments, and businesses. While the tribes did not get everything they desired, the national monument designation (and protection) was a major and long-awaited victory. Trump's executive order today dishonors the agreement reached between tribes and the federal government.

In true government-to-government fashion, Representative Reuben Gallego (D-Ariz.) introduced legislation that would expand the boundaries of the national monument. In fact, it sets new and proper boundaries that the five tribes originally proposed to the Obama administration. Rep. Gallego's bill also offers an important footnote on how the federal government should engage in government-to-government relations: a member of Congress approaches the tribes, and in open and transparent dialogue, we discuss our shared priorities and interests.

It is clear that Trump's attack on Bears Ears is motivated by his desire to undo decisions made by his predecessor, but also to grant political favors to the Utah politicians who would see our sacred lands plundered for short-term economic gain that could come from drilling for oil and mining for uranium. In the hollow and politically-motivated national monuments review, spearheaded by the Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Trump administration failed to meaningfully consult tribal governments, despite claims to the contrary. In the lead up to Secretary Zinke's visit to Utah this spring, tribes offered to meet with the Secretary, government-to-government. The hastily arranged hour-long meeting that was finally taken was an insult, and it confirmed the tribes' doubts of the administration's sincerity.

Bears Ears signaled progress in preserving and perpetuating our thriving indigenous cultures, and advancing tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Sadly, Trump's actions today fit a growing pattern of discrimination that dishonors Native people, our ancestors, and all those who have fought and sacrificed in service of this sacred land.

The Native American Rights Fund, among others, is prepared to fight for the tribes and for Bears Ears. In the coming days, we will take that fight to the courts. For many years we have fought to protect our ancestral lands, and millions of people have supported us in this. We will not allow the rights of tribes and tribal members to be willfully pushed aside for petty politics and the interest of greed.

We will stand firm for justice.

President Trump's action to revoke and replace the Bears Ears National Monument is not only an attack on the five sovereign nations with deep ties to the Bears Ears region, it is a complete violation of the separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution. No president has ever revoked and replaced a national monument before because **it is not legal to do so**. Only Congress may alter a monument. In light of this blatant violation of law, [the Native American Rights Fund](#), representing the Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe filed a lawsuit today to protect Bears Ears.

Five tribes—Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, Ute Indian Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe—led the effort to establish the Bears Ears National Monument, an area still used for cultural and religious purposes. Increased looting of the estimated 100,000 plus structures, sites, and objects within every reach of the monument dictated the need for protections in the form of a monument designation.

According to NARF [Staff Attorney Matthew Campbell](#), "Bears Ears is one of the most important places for Indian Country, and that is why Indian Country came together to advocate for this

important place. Trump's attack on Bears Ears is an attack on all of us, and we will fight to protect it."

NARF [Staff Attorney Natalie Landreth](#) said "The Administration is not telling the truth. The Bears Ears monument as created by President Obama preserved hunting, fishing, gathering and grazing rights, and protected these incredible lands from widespread looting and oil, gas and mineral development." No matter what the President said today, his action does the opposite: by its own terms, in 60 days the revoked lands are open to "entry, location, selection, sale" and "disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing" and "location, entry and patent under mining laws." Landreth continued, "this is taking public lands that belong to the American people and selling to the highest bidder, there is just no other way to understand it."

This latest action follows on the heels of the Administration's other actions against Tribes: (1) issuing the permit to the Dakota Access Pipeline, (2) issuing the permit to the Keystone XL, and (3) revoking the Executive Order to protect the Bering Sea on April 28th. Tribes vigorously opposed all of these efforts. The Administration uses the term "tribal sovereignty" but clearly does not understand what that means.

Read more about [NARF's work to protect Bears Ears National Monument](#).

[Judge Orders Dakota Access Pipeline Spill Response Plan, with Tribe's Input](#) **[by Phil McKenna](#)**

The controversial pipeline carries oil under the Standing Rock tribe's water supply. In his ruling, the judge noted the recent Keystone spill as cause for concern.

Six months after oil began flowing through the Dakota Access Pipeline, a federal judge has ordered the pipeline's owner to develop a final spill response plan for the section that crosses beneath the Missouri River half a mile upstream of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation —and to work with the tribe to write the plan.

[Click here to read more on our site](#)

[A feminist primer: How Native American women paved the way for women's rights in the U.S.](#)

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2017/11/24/1716629/-A-feminist-primer-How-Native-American-women-paved-the-way-for-women-s-rights-in-the-U-S>

RCAC seeks Yoneo Ono Award nominees

RCAC seeks nominations for the Yoneo Ono Rural Volunteer Award. The award honors rural people who have made significant lifelong contributions to their community in volunteer capacities. RCAC hopes to encourage further rural volunteer activities by acknowledging the accomplishments of a select few.

[Read more](#)

from Carla Messinger (Lenape)

I was interviewed for *The Man Who Told the Truth*, a television documentary, from *Imagine Media Productions Ltd* by BBC Northern Ireland and the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund/ Northern Ireland Screen. The subject of the film is the Founding Father, Charles Thomson, who became part of the revolutionary struggle, and the first Secretary of the Continental Congress. Author and journalist, Bruce Clark, visited many sites in Philadelphia and along the Walking Purchase trail. The Lenape names Thompson, "*The Man Who Tells the Truth*" and that truth was often *unpleasant*.

Nothing to do with anything: just interesting:

World's biggest snake Anaconda found in Africa's Amazon river. It has ...
<https://br.pinterest.com/pin/785948572440006111/>

World's biggest snake Anaconda found in Africa's Amazon river. It has killed 257 human beings and 2325 animals. It is 134 feet long and 2067 kgs. Africa's Royal British commandos took 37 days to get it killed.



***I refuse to condemn your generation
and future generations to a planet
that's beyond fixing.***

~ Barack Obama

1824 Presidential Election goes to the House

John Quincy Adams Courtesy: A+E Networks

As no presidential candidate had received a majority of the total electoral votes in the election of 1824, Congress decides to turn over the presidential election to the House of Representatives, as dictated by the 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In the November 1824 election, 131 electoral votes, just over half of the 261 total, were necessary to elect a candidate president. Although it had no bearing on the outcome of the election, popular votes were counted for the first time in this election. On December 1, 1824, the

results were announced. Andrew Jackson of Tennessee won 99 electoral and 153,544 popular votes; John Quincy Adams—the son of John Adams, the second president of the United States—received 84 electoral and 108,740 popular votes; Secretary of State William H. Crawford, who had suffered a stroke before the election, received 41 electoral votes; and Representative Henry Clay of Virginia won 37 electoral votes.

As dictated by the Constitution, the election was then turned over to the House of Representatives. The 12th Amendment states that if no electoral majority is won, only the three candidates who receive the most popular votes will be considered in the House. Representative Henry Clay, who was disqualified from the House vote as a fourth-place candidate, agreed to use his influence to have John Quincy Adams elected. Clay and Adams were both members of a loose coalition in Congress that by 1828 became known as the National Republicans, while Jackson's supporters were later organized into the Democratic Party.

Thanks to Clay's backing, on February 9, 1825, the House elected Adams as president of the United States. When Adams then appointed Clay to the top cabinet post of secretary of state, Jackson and his supporters derided the appointment as the fulfillment of a corrupt agreement.

With little popular support, Adams' time in the White House was largely ineffectual, and the so-called Corrupt Bargain haunted his administration. In 1828, he was defeated in his reelection bid by Andrew Jackson, who received more than twice as many electoral votes than Adams.

Courtesy: [History.com Staff](#), [A+E Networks](#)



Scientists say recycled car batteries are good source for cobalt

Almost 9,000 miles from the dusty Congo savanna, miners have hit on an entirely new source of cobalt -- the rare mineral at the heart of the electric-car boom. And not only can they take coffee breaks, when they take a break, they can grab a donut at Tim Hortons.

Rare toad, fish benefit from land purchase near Beatty

By Henry Brean / RJ



Pioneering spirit lives on in rural Esmeralda County [By John M. Glionna Special / RJ](#)

Now on Oracle's Campus, a \$43 Million Public High School

By NATASHA SINGER

Putting a publicly funded charter school on the campus of a Silicon Valley giant is a new twist on the evolving relationship between big tech companies and schools.

Recovering Voices Endangered Languages Initiative

Internship in Archival Practices - Joint Internship with Recovering Voices and the National Anthropological Archives

Recovering Voices and the National Anthropological Archives are looking for an intern to help create culture-specific subject guides. Check out the attached description if you're interested!

Applications will be accepted until December 25, 2017.

Attachments: [Internship in Archival Practices Spring 2018 Description.pdf](#)

Best, Sarah Baburi, Recovering Voices Program Assistant, Department of Anthropology
w 202.633.5039 | BaburiSK@si.edu

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY | [Instagram](#)

'Fish in the fields' study to monitor effects of methane emissions

Jake Abbott, Appeal Democrat

A team of researchers and Marysville rice farmers initiated a study this week in Yuba County to see if introducing fish to a flooded rice field could both reduce methane emissions and allow for a new reliable protein source.

<http://deathvalleyjim.com/squaw-spring-petroglyphs-kawaiisu-village-81812/>

<http://www.douglasfoundation.org/>

NCAI Releases New Workforce Development Case Study: Gila River Indian Community

This week, NCAI's [Partnership for Tribal Governance](#) (PTG) released its in-depth [case study](#) of the Gila River Indian Community's approach to workforce development, the fourth of five "Innovation Spotlight" case studies it is producing as part of its ongoing project "[Workforce Development: Building the Human Capacity to Rebuild Tribal Nations](#)."

To view the case study and related resources, please click [here](#).

To read PTG's "Empowering Tribal Workforce Development" brief for federal policy makers, click [here](#).

NCAI PTG Seeking Other Innovative Approaches to Tribal Workforce Development

Part of - or know of - an innovative approach to workforce development by a tribal government, Native organization, or tribal college or university? NCAI PTG is developing a workforce development toolkit for tribal decision-makers and may be interested in featuring it in the toolkit. Please send a short summary of the innovative approach to PTG Director Ian Record at the email address below.

NCAI Contact Information: Ian Record, *Partnership for Tribal Governance Director*,
irecord@ncai.org

'A Terrible Violation of America's Public Lands and Heritage': Lawsuit Targets Trump's Slashing of Protections at Grand Staircase-Escalante

<https://www.ecowatch.com/lawsuit-grand-staircase-escalante-2515039216.html>

Earthjustice Files Lawsuit Against Federal Agencies for Withholding Information on National Monuments From the Public

"Earthjustice filed a lawsuit on behalf of six organizations whose requests for information on national monuments have been met with radio silence."

[READ MORE](#)



Bemidji man helps fuel lacrosse revival with traditional stick

"It's beautiful, isn't it?" says the woodworker, holding up a freshly carved stick. "I'm peeling back

history with every draw of that knife."

<http://strib.mn/2BxK9QA>

Gallery: Maxwell Kelsey uses a piece of ash that he split from a log and a draw knife to shape the wood into a lacrosse stick Monday, March 27, 2017, in Bemidji, MN.

Ghost Dance Calendar

About the calendar:

In the late 1800s, the Ghost Dance religion promised hope and resurrection at a time when Native American nations across America faced destruction. Misunderstood by authorities, the Ghost Dance sparked the savage attack on Sioux men, women, and children at Wounded Knee in 1890. Through his paintings, in **Ghost Dance**, JD Challenger renews the bonds of strength and dignity linking Native Americans to their history.

[READ MORE](#)





Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.
~ Theodore Roosevelt

[Photo by Jeff Sullivan, www.jeffsullivanphotography.com](http://www.jeffsullivanphotography.com) | Valley of the Gods, Bears Ears National Monument, Utah

[For more information on this image, to view a larger version, and to leave a comment.](#)

Hands Off Our Public Lands

Today, Interior Secretary Zinke finally released [full recommendations](#) for the future of the country's national monuments. The recommendations follow a sham review by Secretary Zinke and call for reductions to Gold Butte and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monuments, while recommending a rollback of protections for six of other monuments, opening them to destructive resource extraction. The recommendations come despite the vast majority of the of 2.8 million public comments received insisting that national monuments be left alone.

Yesterday, President Trump issued proclamations that unlawfully revoke protections for 85 percent of Bears Ears National Monument and nearly half of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, both in Utah. The groundwork for both proclamations can be found in Secretary Zinke's recommendations released today.

[Tell Congress to protect our public lands and reject any attempts to weaken the Antiquities Act.](#)

'What no country can withstand is the loss of its soil.'

Without soil, there is no food. And soil stripped of its organic, microbial life produces food stripped of the [nutrients and microbes](#) we require for good health.

Today is [World Soil Day](#). A good day to recall the wisdom of Franklin D. Roosevelt:

“The Nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.”

For decades, we’ve been on the wrong path when it comes to caring for the soil. According to a [recent report](#), the UK is only 30-40 years away from the “total eradication of soil fertility.”

That warning is even more dire that the United Nations’ prediction of just [60 years](#) of farming left, unless we do something to restore the world’s soils.

Closer to home? A [recent article](#) on [GreenBiz.com](#) put it this way:

“To the extent that America’s agricultural soil is a national treasure — and a buried treasure at that — industrial ag has been squandering it for decades.”

The article notes that 96 percent of North America’s soil erosion comes from our current methods of food production.

Fortunately, you know that the way to end industrial ag and “regenerate” our food and farming system (not to mention restore climate stability) is by supporting the farmers and producers who are “just saying no” to Monsanto and transitioning to organic, regenerative farming and ranching.

And thankfully, the notion that we need to reverse course, quickly, is going mainstream.

This week, the New York Times [featured](#) a piece on soil. And even [McDonald’s](#) is rethinking its business model.

We have three suggestions for celebrating World Soil Day:

- [Watch this video](#) produced by [Regeneration International](#) (RI). Our favorite quote from the video comes from Michael Gove, the UK’s Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: “What no country can withstand is the loss of its soil.” (RI is an independent nonprofit for which OCA [provides](#) significant funding).
- [Watch this livestream](#) of Ronnie Cummins, Vandana Shiva and Andre Leu on

Friday, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m. EST. Ronnie, Vandana and Andre speak at the Acres USA conference on how to move from an agriculture that is degenerating our soils, health, communities, environment and farm viability to an agriculture that will regenerate our soils, health, climate and environment, nourish the world and very importantly will increase the profitability of farms and regenerate our communities. More on the Acres USA conference [here](#).

- **[Join the Citizens Regeneration Lobby](#)**. In January, OCA will launch a new platform to engage consumers in cities, counties, states—and even at the federal level—in campaigns to regenerate their communities by building local alliances capable of influencing local elections and local policy. We can't wait for a top-down solution to our broken food and farming system. Corporations are focused exclusively on pleasing shareholders. Federal politicians are focused exclusively on pleasing their donors—who are corporations and wealthy shareholders. To regenerate our local food systems and economies, we'll need to repopulate our local governing bodies with leaders who answer to local alliances that demand better solutions for local farmers, and better protections for local ecosystems.

Soil is life. It takes about one thousand years to develop one inch of healthy, organic, nutrient-rich soil.

We better get going.

Happy World Soil Day!

- Katherine, for the OCA team