

Journal #3945 from sdc 7.24.17

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HUD News
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Floating Solar Farms Crop Up in California
Check Out This Amazing Eco-Pooch Working to Clean Up China's Rivers***



**[Louisiana won't
give the security
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**NIKHIL
SWAMINATHAN**

[Join the people's hearing on the importance of the EPA | View in Browser](#)

What if the air was no longer safe to breathe? What if toxins seeped into our drinking water? **We expect the EPA to protect us, but the agency is being dismantled this summer** with a sham of a public process.



Thanks to an executive order from President Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is working to propose a series of changes to environmental regulations by the deadline of July 26th! He will try to move forward, or more accurately backward, as quickly and with as little public comment as possible—**no public hearings on proposed changes are scheduled in Nevada, so we are organizing our own.**

We can make our voices heard at the Reno EPA People's Hearing. Our public comment will be recorded and sent to the EPA, Senators Heller and Cortez Masto, and congressman Amodei. Join the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and Nevada Conservation League on **Monday July 24th in Reno to participate in the hearing.** Doors open at 5:30pm

Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada, 780 Del Monte Ln, Reno

[Sign up for the Reno EPA People's Hearing now!](#)

The hearing will feature policy **experts and scientists speaking about the work the EPA does in Nevada**, followed by an opportunity to give public comment. Come learn, meet local organizations working to defend our federal environmental protections, and take action.

The Trump administration and the Republican-controlled Congress are leading an unprecedented attack on the health and safety of American families, aimed at

nothing less than gutting the Clean Air Act and **risking kids' health to side with big corporations and polluters** by blocking limits against dangerous pollutants like smog, mercury, arsenic, carbon pollution and methane.

I get so angry thinking about the cruelty of this deregulation. **Making it easier to pollute makes our kids sick and our hospitals swell** with people suffering from everything from asthma to strange rashes and mysterious illness. **We can defend our clean air and water** by speaking up in every public venue possible and letting our elected leaders know we are watching.

[RSVP for the hearing.](#)

See you there, and thank you for all you do, Morgan Goodwin, National Wildlife Federation



FINDING OUR BALANCE
CULTURE CAMP

CAMPING EVENT: OPEN TO ALL

TRADITIONS | COMMUNITY | CULTURE

AUGUST 5TH & 6TH: WEBER RESERVOIR

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(SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)

MEALS PROVIDED

50/50 DRAWING
JULY 30

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PRESENTATIONS
TULE BOATS
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NATIVE PLANT USES
NATIVE ART
PREVENTION

"Teachers and coaches in the Wolf Point, Mont., schools have called Native students "dirty Indians" and "rez kids," performed "war whoops," told a concerned Native parent "fuck your daughter," and informed the mother of a special-needs five-year-old that he has to change his behavior if he wants his non-Native classmates to stop biting, hitting and sexually touching him."



"We are at a do-or-die moment for our tribe's children," says Roxanne Gourneau, a Fort Peck tribal executive board member. "I don't want any more of our youngsters to end up in the cemetery or prison."

Civil-Rights Complaint Details Horrific—Even Deadly—Discrimination Against Native Kids - Rural America

Thursday, Jul 20, 2017, 6:00 am Civil-Rights Complaint Details Horrific—Even Deadly—Discrimination Against Native Kids By Stephanie Woodard Share TweetReddit0

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Carolyn Harry

I am so excited about this young up and coming professional journalist Jarrette Werk. Background on him: UNR Student, President of Native Student Organization, staunch support/activist for Native Social justice issues- a very dynamic young man :) and a great article in Derrick  

Pro rodeo athlete Derrick Begay (Navajo) looks to inspire youth | NevadaAppeal.com

RENO, Nev. — Fresh of his latest appearance at the 2017 Reno Rodeo, Derrick Begay is a hopeful Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world champion team roper this year.Begay, a nevadaappeal.com

A Florida town requires solar on new homes.

South Miami became [the first U.S. city](#) outside of California to [require solar panels on new residential construction and some home renovations](#).

The city passed the law after high school student Delaney Reynolds, inspired by the laws in California, [wrote to mayors in the area](#). "We made history [Tuesday] night," South Miami Mayor Philip Stoddard said. "It's not going to save the world by itself, but it's going to get people thinking about [solar]." The 2.3-square-mile city receives an [average of 5–10 building permits](#) per year.

Meanwhile, [Miami's mayor asked for \\$192 million](#) in his proposed budget to help keep Florida above the (ever-rising) water. [Abigail Bechtel](#)

Government scientist to Trump admin: 'Abuse of power cannot go unanswered.'

Joel Clement, former director of the [Interior Department's Office of Policy Analysis](#), published a [scathing opinion piece in the Washington Post](#) on Wednesday. Clement writes that the

administration has chosen “silence over science” and its climate denial endangers communities, like the Alaska Native villages that he used to work with.

The piece was prompted in part because of Clement’s reassignment to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, a [branch of the department](#) that collects royalty payments from fossil fuel companies who operate leases on public land. Clement’s bizarre job switch — for which he says he has no expertise — was [one of dozens](#) Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke implemented in June.

“It looks like an attempt to make the agency so it doesn’t work very well or [so] that the powers that be exercise their will more easily on the agency,” Senator Tom Udall, a New Mexico Democrat, [told Politico after the reorganization](#).

Clement believes reassignments are meant to compel people to quit as an effort to cut the department’s staff. Now, he’s calling himself a whistleblower. “Silencing civil servants, stifling science, squandering taxpayer money, and spurning communities in the face of imminent danger have never made America great,” Clement writes. [Emma Foehringer Merchant](#)

Is it a lazy, hazy day of summer? Here’s something to read for an hour.....

←[1872](#)

Report of the Secretary of the Interior (1873)

by Columbus Delano

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Report_of_the_Secretary_of_the_Interior/1873

also available are 1871, 1872 & 1874.



Eddie Gray is a Native American from the Cheyenne Tribe in Montana and a proud United States Marine. He is walking across the United States to honor out fallen Heroes and to bring to light the issues facing our Nation’s Veterans. He has walked over 9,000 miles and counting with a 100 pound military pack on his back.

Please show your support as Eddie Gray makes his way across our beautiful Nash County.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gMyYA6V8v0>

**3rd Annual Lesson Plan Writing
Retreat sponsored by the Nevada
Department of Education/Indian
Education Programs Professional
[Dena Drye Romero](#)**



New Film "Little Warriors"
**Features Youth Climate Fight in
Unlikely Place: Indiana** | DeSmogBlog
[https://www.desmogblog.com/
2017/07/16/documentary-little-
warriors-youth-climate-indiana?
utm_source=dsb%20newsletter](https://www.desmogblog.com/2017/07/16/documentary-little-warriors-youth-climate-indiana?utm_source=dsb%20newsletter)

Here's Who's Getting Paid to Destroy the Endangered Species Act
[https://www.ecowatch.com/endangered-species-act-2462536171.html?
utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=4b3e4a9c47-
EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-4b3e4a9c47-85895
669](https://www.ecowatch.com/endangered-species-act-2462536171.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=4b3e4a9c47-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-4b3e4a9c47-85895669)

**Thawing Permafrost Poses Even Greater Climate Threat Than Previously Thought,
Study Finds**
[https://www.ecowatch.com/permafrost-methane-2462485783.html?
utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=4b3e4a9c47-
EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-4b3e4a9c47-85895669](https://www.ecowatch.com/permafrost-methane-2462485783.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=4b3e4a9c47-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-4b3e4a9c47-85895669)

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Watch This! Glow in the Dark Hoop Dancing

I'm a sucker for all things glow-in-the-dark and dayglo, so when I saw this hoop dancing video by Tony Duncan I had to share with you guys! Here's Tony Duncan Hoop Dancing to Nelly Furtado's song "Big Hoops".

[Tony Duncan GLOW-IN-THE-DARK HOOP DANCE](#)

[Advocates Plan Solar Installations Along Keystone XL Route](#)

Ron Johnson, Earth Island Journal: As Nebraska ponders approval for the Keystone XL pipeline, activists are working to block the pipeline's path and promote renewable energy. Earlier this month, a coalition of advocacy groups announced Solar XL, a campaign that features a

series of solar panel arrays installed directly on the Keystone XL pipeline route as it passes through Nebraska. [Read the Article](#)

[Nuns Are Suing to Stop a Pipeline - Because They Believe the Earth Is Sacred](#)

Jack Jenkins, ThinkProgress

Jenkins writes: "A group of Pennsylvania Catholic nuns are suing to protect their land from potential pipeline construction using an unusual legal argument: religious liberty, specifically a version popularized by right-wing Christians." [READ MORE](#)

Thousands of Miles of Pipelines Enrage Landowners, Threaten the Future of Our Planet

https://www.ecowatch.com/pipelines-ferc-2460729377.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=8da7c13b0e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-8da7c13b0e-85895669

Taking the President (and politics) out of pipeline approval decisions Hot Air Well... most of the politics anyway [Read the full story](#) Shared from [Apple News](#)

Brazil to Open Up 860,000 Acres of Protected Amazon Rainforest to Logging, Mining and Farming

[Read the Article at the Independent](#)



[Dismantling Power: The Zapatista Indigenous Presidential Candidate's Vision to Transform Mexico From Below](#)

Benjamin Dangl, Toward Freedom: The Zapatistas and National Indigenous Congress held an assembly in May in which they chose María de Jesús Patricio Martínez, an Indigenous healer, as their spokesperson and presidential candidate for the 2018 elections in Mexico. Patricio's candidacy and radical vision for Mexico challenges conventional politics and marks a new phase for the Zapatista and Indigenous struggle in the country. [Read the Article](#)

10 Best Environmental Records in the Senate

https://www.ecowatch.com/senator-environmental-record-2457453790.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=22c6f18494-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-22c6f18494-85895669

46 House Republicans Side With Science

https://www.ecowatch.com/house-republicans-climate-2460740442.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=22c6f18494-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-22c6f18494-85895669

The Road Ahead for Electric Vehicles to Create a Sustainable, Equitable Future

https://www.ecowatch.com/future-electric-cars-2457903804.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=22c6f18494-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-22c6f18494-85895669

Western Values Project

What We Do

The Western Values Project gives voice to the majority of Westerners who support a balanced approach to energy development on public lands. We fight to make sure elected leaders put Western values first through research, public education, and by working together with small businesses, farmers, ranchers, and sportsmen and sportswomen.

<http://westernvaluesproject.org/>

Greetings! The HUD Southwest Office of Native American Programs' Administrator vacancy announcement is available on USAJOBS.

The open period is: July 22, 2017 – August 5, 2017
External (DEU) 17-HUD-722-P
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/475084200>

Internal (MP) 17-HUD-722
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/475083800>

Dear Tribal Leader Letter announcing the expansion of the ConnectHome Program

The attached Dear Tribal Leader letter and enclosures announces expansion of the ConnectHome program, and invites tribes to apply. Over the next three years, HUD has plans to expand ConnectHome Nation by including 100 new communities, 25 of which will be rural or tribal. ConnectHome Nation is HUD's program to connect low-income households to the Internet. To Apply visit, www.connecthomenation.org.

Respectfully, Debbie Broermann, HUD/SWONAP

FERC Paves Way for Atlantic Coast Pipeline

https://www.ecowatch.com/atlantic-coast-pipeline-2463100313.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=8da7c13b0e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-8da7c13b0e-85895669

Floating Solar Farms Crop Up in California By Corey Binns

In Sonoma, California, the most important renewable resource will always be grapes. Sonoma's vineyards, framed by picturesque rolling green hills, produce some of the best wines on the planet; tourists flock to the region to sample the latest pinots and admire the scenery. "People like the rolling, grassy hills," said local resident Dale Roberts. But as principal engineer at the [Sonoma County Water Agency](#), Roberts is focused on another homegrown renewable: [clean energy](#). So behind the scenes in Sonoma, he's been busy "juicing" the landscape in a way that's quite different from the neighboring vintners' activities.

To be specific, Roberts and his colleagues have begun to launch floating [solar](#) panels on six of the agency's ponds, which hold recycled water saved for irrigation during drought years. When all panels are up and running, by the end of 2018, the project is expected to generate 13 megawatts—or 23,000 megawatt-hours of energy in a year, enough to power 3,500 homes in the area.

A similar project has begun on San Diego's 200-acre Olivenhain Reservoir. There, 24,000 solar panels will cover a sliver of the reservoir's surface and make 144,000 megawatt-hours of power annually, enough to run 21,500 homes. These floating solar fields operate more efficiently than those in the Mojave Desert at Ivanpah—the world's biggest solar-thermal power plant, which was [nearly shut down](#) last year because of poor performance. The water on which they float can easily clean them. They run cooler. What's more, they are often located near power transmission lines.

The panels sit atop floating plastic, and in addition to their contributions to the power grid, they offer some benefits to the ponds they cover. For one, they slow down water evaporation into the atmosphere—a particular boon to drought-prone California. Even more important, said Troy Helming of Pristine Sun, the solar company installing panels in Sonoma, they reduce the growth of algae, which can clog up filters and pumps at water treatment facilities and spoil water quality. (The panels limit the amount of direct sunlight striking the water, slowing the algae's photosynthesis).

That said, what's good for a water treatment plant isn't necessarily right for natural waterways. [Vignesh Gowrishankar](#), who researches clean energy technologies for the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), sees a bright future for floating solar farms at man-made sites, such as lakes that are formed in mining quarries and irrigation reservoirs similar to those in Sonoma. But he cautions that vibrant lakes and ecologically sensitive waterways should be off-limits to this burgeoning industry.

Even with that caveat, a surprising amount of water is suitable for solar. In California alone, more than 20 gigawatts of floating solar could be added to otherwise unused bodies of water, according to an analysis by Pristine Sun. That figure excludes recreational areas and the expanse of the Pacific Ocean. "We're not suggesting putting it on Lake Tahoe," said Roberts.

But if done properly, panels on water could power 20 to 30 percent of the state's total energy needs, by Helming's estimates. "It's a huge amount of potential," he said, particularly in California, which has passed some of the most [ambitious climate policies](#) in the world.

Outside the Golden State, floating solar has surfaced on a campus pond at the University of Central Florida in [Orlando](#), and another installation bedecks a reservoir on the outskirts of [London](#), where it powers one of the city's key water treatment plants. [China](#) recently announced the largest array to date, a farm made of 160,000 panels on a lake in Anhui province that rose after the collapse of a coal mine. And in Japan, where land is especially scarce, the Kyocera Corporation has already built three floating solar farms, with plans to develop more, including a 13.7-megawatt plant on the [Yamakura Dam reservoir](#) in Chiba prefecture, scheduled to launch in early 2018. Its 51,000 panels will generate enough electricity to power almost 5,000 local households and offset about 8,170 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. That's equal to saving 19,000 barrels of oil per year.

Kyocera has taken precautions to ensure its equipment will not become an environmental concern, said Hina Morioka, a company spokesperson. "That is one reason why we have chosen floating platforms that are 100 percent recyclable and made of high-density polyethylene that can withstand ultraviolet rays and corrosion."

Although Gowrishankar cites limited aquatic space and the potential for weather damage as hindrances to how far floating solar can take us, it is an important addition, particularly at the community level, he said. He envisions solar panels on rooftops of homes surrounding a lake that is also covered in panels. Harnessed together, electricity from such an array could run a community solar plant that feeds a small group of homes.

As the world faces new urgency to amp up climate action in the face of President Trump's abandonment of the [Paris agreement](#), initiatives like these represent increasingly crucial components in the shift away from fossil fuels. "The consensus and the expert analysis is that we should be slashing our greenhouse emissions by four-fifths between now and 2050," Gowrishankar said, and we have many hundreds of gigawatts of renewable energy to build to make up the difference.

[Corey Binnsorey Binns](#) is a science and health writer based in Northern California.

Check Out This Amazing Eco-Pooch Working to Clean Up China's Rivers

<https://www.ecowatch.com/dog-retrieves-plastic-bottles-2457397009.html>

Photo: [David Syzdek](#)



“Look deeply into Nature. Then you will understand everything better.”
-Albert Einstein