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Dano Grayson captured this incredible photo of a Greater Roadrunner with its next meal: a rattlesnake! 😱 While roadrunners exceed speeds of 20 mph and serve as formidable opponents, the quick-striking, highly venomous rattlesnakes of the southwest are an even match for them. Roadrunners and rattlesnakes readily prey upon each other, so in a confrontation, there's no guarantee one or the other will... See More

6 Food and Farming Success Stories From Native Communities

Native American communities are connecting to their roots through food, farming, and education.

By Laura Fieselman
First, the bad news: Native American children face approximately twice the levels of food insecurity, obesity, and Type 2 diabetes relative to all children in the United States.

The good news is that many communities are working to shift these statistics using traditional food, agriculture, and education. As Alena Paisano, a member of the Laguna Pueblo community who works with Farm to Table New Mexico, puts it: "These lessons go back hundreds of thousands of years. This is in harmony with our creation stories."

Here are a few examples of what's working, recorded at a gathering of the Native Communities Cohort of the National Farm to School Network this summer.

1. **Community Farms**

Clayton Harvey, farm manager of Ndèe Bikiyaa, the People's Farm, in White River, Arizona, is growing carrots, beets, radishes, and kale in service of restoring personal and cultural health among his White Mountain Apache people. The farm has a community center on site and hosts an annual Apache harvest festival in addition to making organic produce available in the community.

"Ladies leave with armfuls of squash," says Harvey of his market stand. The farm also runs a summer internship program for young people focused on entrepreneurship and fostering new farmers. "Life on the reservation is not that great, we're just exposed to so many negative things," he says. Harvey's own teenage years included drugs and alcohol, but, he adds, "farming brought me back to life."

Elder Eric Whyte from Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Southwestern Colorado offers another model for community farming. He's focused on opening a multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art mill to process the white, red, and blue corn the tribe grows on its diversified 7,700 acre farm. They market the corn under the label Bow & Arrow Brand. Others raise cattle and grow alfalfa and wheat. With years on the farm under his belt and now as a community elder, Whyte is eager to position farming and ranching as attractive to young people.

2. **Preventative Health at School**

Sherry Allard, Cindy Dinonne, and Lise Erdrich, a can-do team from the Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton, North Dakota, are revitalizing the school's gardens and orchards and cooking with kale the students grow. Kale pizza, kale chips, and kale yogurt smoothies have been recently been tested.

"The kids say, 'I'll eat the vegetables as long as they're really chopped small,'" says Erdrich. Theirs is an intertribal boarding school established in 1904 and affiliated with the Turtle Mountain Chippewa. Serving traditional tastes alongside the yogurt smoothies is an important part of their programming; the school grows indigenous potatoes and Dakota corn in the garden and serves bison grown by the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, a partner committed to "re-establishing buffalo herds on Indian lands in a manner that promotes cultural enhancement, spiritual revitalization [and] ecological restoration."

3. **Focus on Vegetables**

Lacey Phifer from FoodCorps Hawai'i is connecting the island of Molokai's *keiki* (children) with real food, healthier eating habits, and the land itself. Phifer works with Sust'āina ble Molokai, an organization weaving the island's legacy of *'aina pomona* (abundant land) with "responsible, modern sustainability strategies."

She runs taste tests as schools incorporate more vegetables into their cafeterias; kids respond on a scale that includes "yuck is my new yum" and "I'll eat it everyday." Sust'āina ble Molokai also manages a food forest at the local high school, providing access to bananas, taro roots, and sweet potatoes to their community, over 73 percent of which identifies as Native Hawaiian.

4. **Taxing Unhealthy Choices**

Gloria Begay is a teacher-turned-activist. In response to the high rates of obesity and diabetes in her Navajo community, she and a number of others worked to create a trailblazing "junk food tax." Officially called the Healthy Dine Nation Act and signed into law in April 2015 by Navaho President Ben Shelley, the law requires consumers to pay an additional two percent tax on top of Arizona's five percent sales tax for high-fat and high-sugar foods they buy on the Navajo reservation.

The revenues will support health and wellness initiatives like farmers' markets. More than 80 percent of food sold in Navajo stores is junk food, Begay says, and she and her team, the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance, are working to change that fact. The group also runs a food literacy program with high school students. "There is so much cultural knowledge around food that needs to be restored," Begay says. "We want kids to re-appreciate who they are and where they come from."

5. **Empowering Young People**

A "veggie bucks" program in Cherokee Nation gives kids six dollars to take to farmers' markets where they can buy their own produce. Pam Kingfisher says that strawberries and eggs are the most popular items and that the young people tend to their purchases carefully. "Twelve dozen eggs make it home on the bus, nothing broken," she adds. The veggie bucks program is accompanied by taste tests and school gardens; the gardens integrate math and science curriculum and introduce young people to traditional Cherokee crops with plantings from the tribal seed bank.

6. **Exploring Traditions with Food**

David Bender of Chicago's American Indian Center describes a three sisters garden wedged between sidewalk squares out in front of the building. The three sisters are corn, beans, and squash; inter-planting has been a traditional practice in many native communities. "We've been growing like this for 7,000 years," says Bender, who is Anishanabe. "There's a lot to learn from the three sisters."

The center serves people from over 200 tribes around the Chicago area and runs educational programming. In addition to exploring traditions via the garden, youth tend ceremonial sage and juniper plants, tap the maple trees on their urban block, practice archery on the third floor of the center, and take fieldtrips "up north" to harvest wild rice.

With 7,000 years of tradition behind them, leaders like these take future generations into account. "My vision is for my children to grow up proud of their culture," Paisano says. Or, as Begay puts it: "We have a lot of work to do. But it's good work."

WALTER PRESENTS

RETHINKING NATIVE HEALTH:
THE POWER OF DATA AND STORY

Most of the treaties between the United States and tribes include a provision to send a doctor and a nurse to a reservation. That's become the Indian Health Service. How does that work? And what are the prospects going forward? Join us as award-winning investigative journalist Mark Trahant discusses the state of health care in America as part of the library's Native Voices project.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH | 7:00 PM

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WALTER W. STIERN LIBRARY

MARK TRAHANT is a former Kaiser Family Foundation fellow who looks at the Indian health system and its potential. Mark Trahant is also a faculty member at the University of North Dakota as the Charles R. Johnson Endowed Professor of Journalism. He was recently elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Trahant is a member of Idaho's Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and former president of the Native American Journalists Association

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NATIVE VOICES

NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) developed and produced Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness. The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, in partnership with NLM, tours the exhibition to America's libraries.

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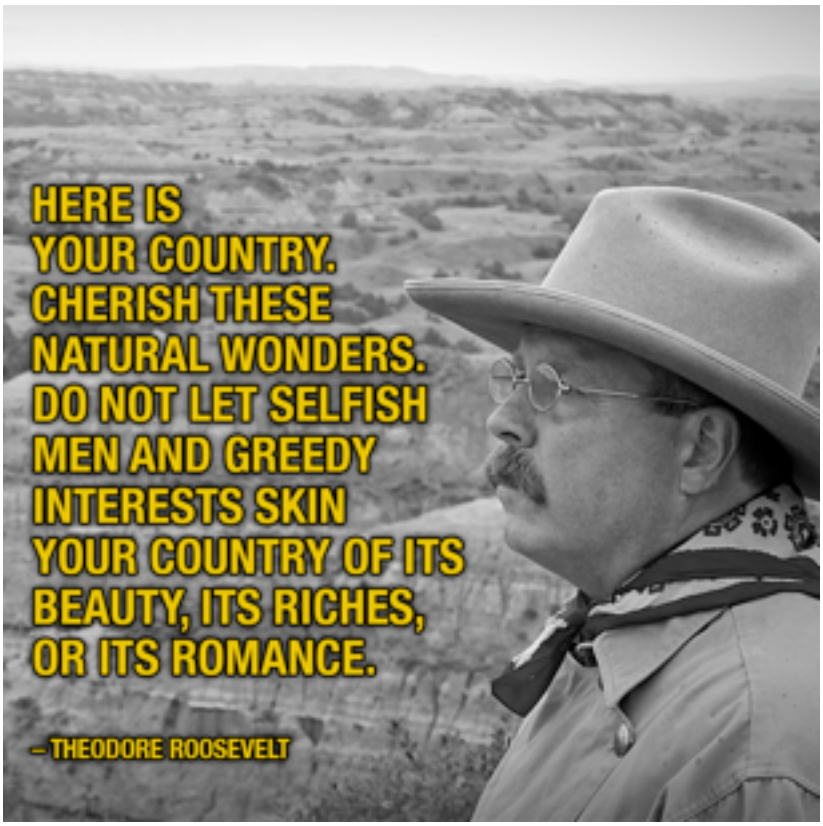

Unique archives

In Napa Valley, Future Landscapes Are Viewed in the Past
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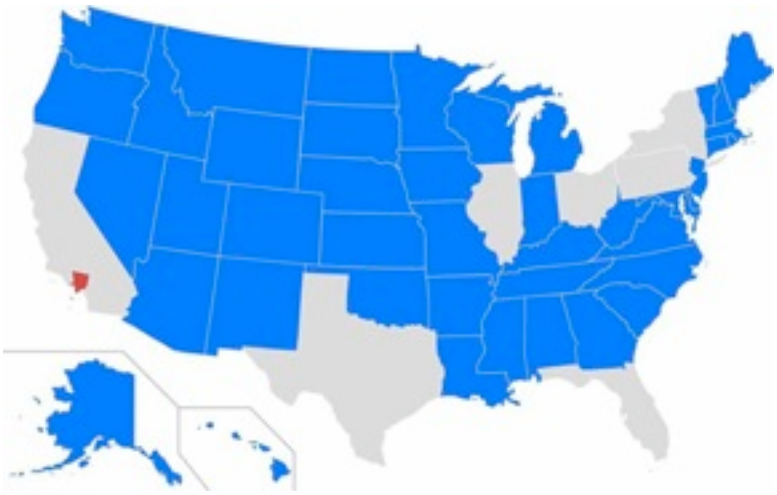
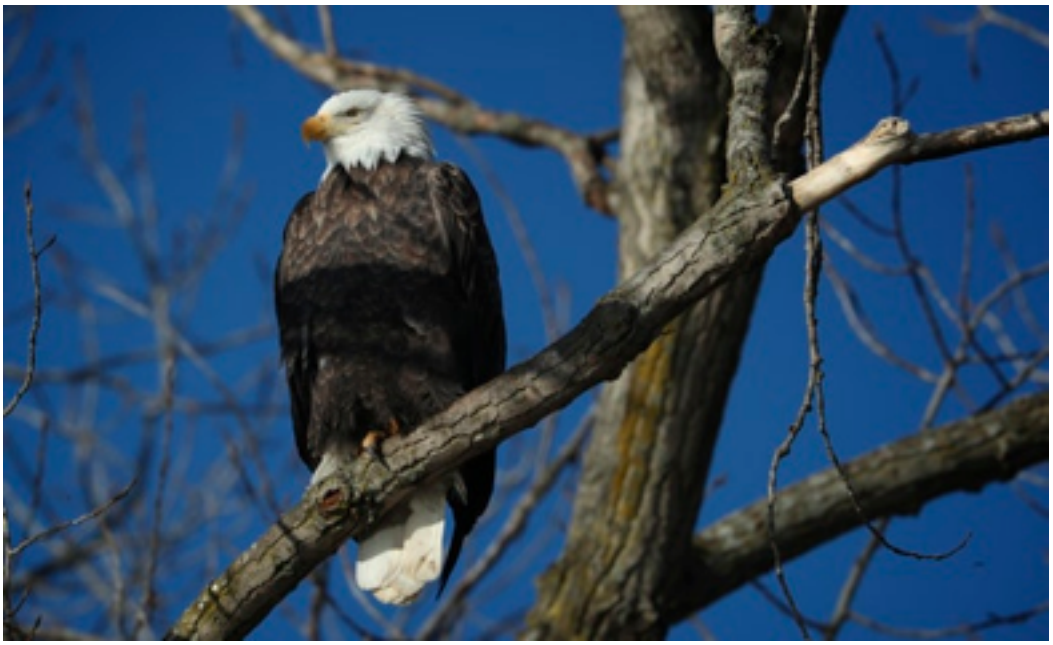


Amazing Maps
November 25, 2017 ·
States with a smaller population than Los Angeles County

Eagles are healthy, even thriving.

A bald eagle perched in a tree on the Mississippi River near Le Claire, Iowa.

We at the National Eagle Center beg to differ with the rather alarmist conclusion by Terrence Ingram, founder of the Eagle Nature Foundation, that bald eagle populations are declining ("Worrying signs for bald eagles," Jan. 21). As the nation's leading education center connecting people to eagles in nature, history and cultures, we know from our own observations and reading of the professional literature that bald eagle populations are healthy and even thriving. From our strategic location on the Upper Mississippi River, we observe bald eagles every day. From our weekly winter counts over the last 10 years at seven specific sites, we know that the numbers of eagles in a given area along the Mississippi River can vary widely, even by the hundreds, from week to week as these opportunistic predators range widely in search of available food. To draw conclusions about the overall health of the population from such observations would be misleading at best.



This is not to say that we aren't concerned about the ongoing health of and current threats to bald eagles. For example, lead hunting ammunition has been shown to cause significant mortality in these birds. Collisions with automobiles are the most common human-made cause of death or injury. We share the concern about the unknown effects of many pesticides in the environment. Minnesota is fortunate to be the home not only to a thriving bald eagle population, but to a robust group of nonprofit organizations, research institutions and government agencies that are working to assure this population's continued health and are committed to studying and teaching about threats so that we may never have to repeat the devastating decline of our national symbol.

Rolf Thompson, Wabasha, Minn.

The writer is executive director of the National Eagle Center.

Himalaya Bound

For centuries, the Van Gujjars, a forest-dwelling nomadic tribe in northern India, have migrated into the Himalayas every spring with their beloved water buffalo. Now their culture and livelihood is at risk as some of the jungles and meadows they call home have become national parks.

As he recounts in his new book, *Himalaya Bound: One Family's Quest to Save Their Animals—And an Ancient Way of Life*, author and photographer Michael Benanav traveled with the Van Gujjars for 44 days, during which park officials threatened to block the families from their ancestral summer pastures. Himalaya Bound offers an intimate glimpse into a rarely seen world and raises important questions about the relationship between humankind and wildlands: Can humans be a natural part of ecosystems, or are they simply invasive species?

Does removing native people pull one thread of a natural tapestry, pulling others along in a dangerous chain reaction?

Read the full article and view more photos

Photo courtesy of Michael Benanav

BLM and Forest Service Announce 2018 Grazing Fees by Steven Field

The Federal grazing fee for 2018 will be $1.41 per animal unit month (AUM) for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and $1.41 per head month (HM) for lands managed by the USDA Forest Service. The 2017 public land grazing fee was $1.87. An AUM or HM—treated as equivalent measures for fee […] Read more of this post

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Interior plans to move thousands of workers in the biggest reorganization in its history

Ryan Zinke launched a plan Wednesday to undertake the biggest reorganization in the Interior Department's history, changing how the government manages 500 million acres of land and water. washingtonpost.com

Suzan Shown Harjo: 'Hostiles' film depicts Native people as humans

People need to see Hostiles because it is a demarcation point in the evolution of the western. indianz.com

"It's definitely a historic day for the tribe and for the commonwealth," said Wayne Adkins, first assistant chief for the Chickahominy, based in Charles City County. "We're really looking forward to planning the future of our tribe."

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Spring 2018 Turkey Applications Now Open by Steven Field

Attention turkey hunters, it's that time of year. Submit your Spring 2018 turkey application on the updated Nevada Department of Wildlife website ndowlicensing.com. New features include an interactive map that will make filling out your application easier than ever. All bonus points, eligibilities, and client status have been uploaded to the new system. Right now you […]

Read more of this post

Trump signs bill giving federal recognition to Virginia Indian tribes
President Donald Trump has signed legislation to grant federal recognition of six Virginia Indian tribes, opening opportunities for them to receive benefits such… richmond.com

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Warren Harding: Wanted Assimilation By Way of Citizenship - Indian ...
https://indiancountrymedianetwork.com/.../warren-harding-wanted-assimilation-by-wa...
Jul 19, 2016 - 29th President *Warren Harding* promised *Indians* he would look out for their indigenous rights, but did little to advance the rights of *Native Americans*.

Executive Order 3759—Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona
www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=76551
Citation: *Warren* G. *Harding*: "Executive Order 3759—Navajo *Indian* Reservation, Arizona," December 1, 1922. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project. http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=76551.

Executive Order 3464—Uintah Indian Reservation, Utah
www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=76554
59, A.G.O., September 3, 1887), from lands within the limits of the Uintah *Indian* Reservation (created by Executive order dated October 3, 1861, and act of Congress approved May 5, 1864), being no longer needed for ... Citation: *Warren* G. *Harding*: "Executive Order 3464—Uintah *Indian* Reservation, Utah," May 17, 1921.

Warren G. Harding | Indians, Insanity, and American History Blog
cantonasylumforinsaneindians.com/history_blog/tag/warren-g-harding/

May 20, 2012 - President *Warren* G. *Harding*, 1921-1923. The world changed rapidly in the early 20th century, and the Roaring Twenties seemed to kick up the excitement. Movies had enhanced America's entertainment options (see last post), but more serious achievements also promised to push boundaries.

Indians visit Mrs. Harding | Library of Congress
https://www.loc.gov/item/96509626/
Title: *Indians* visit Mrs. *Harding*; Summary: President and Mrs. *Harding* with two *Native Americans*. Contributor Names: Underwood & Underwood. Created / Published: [1923(?)] Subject Headings: - *Harding*, Florence Kling,--1860-1924--Public appearances: - *Harding*, *Warren* G.--(*Warren* Gamaliel),--1865-1923--Public ...

The Troubling Reassessment of President Warren G. Harding - The ...
https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/warren-g-harding.../401288/
Aug 14, 2015 - *Warren* G. *Harding's* Terrible Tenure. The 29th president's extramarital affairs were perhaps the least of his disqualifications for the office he held. Library of Congress ...

Amazon.com: Warren G. Harding & Native American Indians 11x14 ...
https://www.amazon.com/Warren-Harding-American-Indians-Photo/.../B004GNDXG...
Photo of President *Warren Harding* and *Indian* delegation who called to present the President a tobacco pouch - these *Indians* represented their culture at the burial of the Unknown Soldier. PHOTOGRAPHER / CREDIT: RMP Archive, Photographer Unknown. ABOUT OUR PHOTOGRAPHS. If you're looking for the highest ...

Native Americans - A Companion to Warren G. Harding, Calvin ...
onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118834510.ch13/summary
by M Stockwell - Related articles
Aug 1, 2014 - Federal officials in the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of *Indian* Affairs during the *Harding*, Coolidge, and Hoover administrations continued implementation of the allotment and assimilation policies in place since the 1880s. However, they came under increasing pressure from *Native Americans* ...

A Companion to Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover
https://books.google.com/books?isbn=111883447X
Katherine A.S. Sibley - 2014 - History
Women's clubs across the nation were especially touched by the plightof thePueblo and through them all American *Indians*. Stella Atwood, thepresident of the General Federationof Women's Clubs, organized a nationwide protest againstthe *Harding* Administration's policies. Catholic missionaries whoworked among the ...

President Harding's Voyage of Understanding, June 1923 | Alaska ...
alaskahistoricalsociety.org/president-hardings-voyage-of-understanding-june-1923/

They visited the grave of the world famous Anglican missionary, Father William Duncan. (Future president) *Herbert Hoover*, Harding's Secretary of Commerce, was personally interested in the call at Metlakatla. Hoover's uncle, the man who had raised him after the death of both his parents, had been an Oregon *Indian* agent ...