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The Trump administration is going after Native Americans now, too

The relationship between the United States and the Native American tribes within it is, to say the least, complicated. The legal foundation for relations, though, has been settled for more than a

century. Unsurprisingly, the Trump administration [wants to depart from those precepts](#) to Native Americans' detriment. The administration's latest goal? Imposing work requirements and other barriers to the benefits and services guaranteed to Native Americans by history and precedent.

Two [fundamental principles of Indian law are in play here](#). The first: Tribes are sovereign, which means the relationship between a tribe and the federal government is effectively that of one government to another.

Indian tribes are political, sovereign entities whose status stems from the inherent sovereignty they possess as self-governing people predating the founding of the United States, and since its founding the United States has recognized them as such. As the Supreme Court explained in 1876, "from the commencement of its existence [and following the practice of Great Britain before the revolution], the United States has negotiated with the Indians in their tribal condition as nations." The United States entered into the first treaty with an Indian tribe in 1778. Once the Constitution was ratified, President George Washington worked with the Senate to ratify treaties in the late 1780s, thereby establishing that treaties with Indian tribes would utilize the same political process that treaties with foreign nations must go through. ... [T]he federal government has continued to interact with Indian tribes as political entities through statutes and administrative actions. Early Supreme Court decisions also confirmed the status of Tribes as political entities operating within the confines of the United States.

The second relevant precept: Having subsumed tribes—if we're being euphemistic—while recognizing their sovereignty, the federal government is considered a "trustee" and has certain obligations to tribes.

Through treaty making and its general course of dealings, the United States took on a special and unique trust responsibility for Indians and Indian tribes. In entering into those treaties, Indian tribes as political entities had exercised their sovereignty by bargaining for what they could in exchange for portions of their land or other concessions—all with the goal of providing for their people under the circumstances they faced. *In turn, treaty promises made by the federal government helped to shape the young country's view of its responsibilities to Indians and Indian tribes. As the Supreme Court recently noted, although the federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes is not the same as a private trust enforceable under common law, "[t]he Government, following a humane and self imposed policy . . . has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust."*

What could be more obviously integral to the welfare of tribes than health care?

The United States has been committed to providing health care to Native Americans for nearly 150 years.

Congress initially provided for the health care of Indians through the ratification of treaties that specifically obligated the United States to provide care for Indians, including health care, and through discretionary appropriations. By 1871, when Congress ceased treaty making and instead dealt with Tribes through statute, at least 22 treaties had obligated the United States to provide for some type of medical service.

Congress updated provisions for tribal health care as recently as 2010. President Trump, though, [has no interest](#) in law, history or Native Americans' welfare. His administration is claiming that tribal citizens must work to receive health care supplemented by the federal government. Three states have so far been given permission to impose the Medicaid work requirement and another 10 have put in requests. That adds up to more than 600,000 Native Americans already affected or at risk of being affected.

Even Native Americans in [states that oppose Trump's measures](#) may be affected.

Some states, like Arizona, are asking HHS for permission to exempt Native Americans from their proposed work requirements. But officials at the National Indian Health Board say that may be moot, as federal officials can reject state requests.

The tribes, former officials, and legal experts have pushed back against the administration's purported rationale, that exempting tribes constitutes racial bias.

The tribes insist that any claim of "racial preference" is moot because they're constitutionally protected as separate governments, dating back to treaties hammered out by President George Washington and reaffirmed in recent decades under Republican and Democratic presidents alike, including the Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama administrations.

"The United States has a legal responsibility to provide health care to Native Americans," said Mary Smith, who was acting head of the Indian Health Service during the Obama administration and is a member of the Cherokee Nation. "It's the largest prepaid health system in the world — they've paid through land and massacres — and now you're going to take away health care and add a work requirement?"

Trump's shot across the bow has major long-term implications.

Tribal leaders and public health advocates also worry that Medicaid work rules are just the start; President Donald Trump is eyeing similar changes across the nation's welfare programs, which many of the nearly 3 million Native Americans rely on.

"It's very troublesome," said Caitrin McCarron Shuy of the National Indian Health Board, noting that Native Americans suffer from the nation's highest drug overdose death rates, among other health concerns. "There's high unemployment in Indian country, and it's going to create a barrier to accessing necessary Medicaid services.

Imposing a work requirement on Native Americans is not only unlawful, given treaties and precedent, but bad policy.

Native Americans' unemployment rate of 12 percent in 2016 was nearly three times the U.S. average, partly because jobs are scarce on reservations. Low federal spending on the Indian Health Service has also left tribes dependent on Medicaid to fill coverage gaps.

“Without supplemental Medicaid resources, the Indian health system will not survive,” W. Ron Allen — a tribal leader who chairs CMS’ Tribal Technical Advisory Group — warned Verma in a Feb. 14 letter.

Trump’s push to violate tribal sovereignty would further harm Native American communities — whether by forcing members to leave the reservation to seek work or by stripping access to health care and critical social benefits.

Of course, none of this comes as a surprise: The administration’s [been pushing for cuts and dismissing tribal input](#).

The Trump administration also targeted the Indian Health Service for significant cuts in last year’s budget, though Congress ignored those cuts in its omnibus funding package last month, H.R. 1625 (115). The White House budget this year proposed eliminating popular initiatives like the decades-old [community health representative program](#) — even though tribal health officials say it is essential.

Tribal officials noted that both HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan skipped HHS’ annual budget consultation with tribal leaders in Washington, D.C., last month. The secretary’s attendance is customary; then-HHS Secretary Tom Price joined last year. However, Azar canceled at the last minute. His scheduled replacement, Hargan, fell ill, so Associate Deputy Secretary Laura Caliguri participated in his place. That aggravated tribal leaders who were already concerned about the Trump administration’s policies.

Predictability doesn’t make Trump’s attack on tribes any less devastating. Fortunately, the war’s far from over: A [33-page memo](#) from Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker LLP shreds the administration’s arguments and provides that there’s ample legal firepower standing by to defend tribes’ rights.

[LaMalfa’s Bill to Create New Tribe in Siskiyou County Shrouded in Secrecy – YubaNet.pdf](#)

[Vote likely next week on bill to resume Yucca Mountain licensing process](#)

PAHRUMP -- Legislation that would allow the Department of Energy to resume its license application process to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain could see a House vote as early as next week -- a prospect that was met Thursday with mixed reaction in Nevada.

[An Ancient Horse Is Unearthed in a Utah Backyard](#)

By LAURA M.

HOLSON Paleontologists recently determined that a skeleton discovered during a landscaping project belonged to a horse from the Pleistocene Era.

[Minnesota's 'Sioux Chef' named one of the country's best cookbooks at James Beard awards](#) <http://strib.mn/2HHPKHf>

Humanity is waging an inexplicable war on trees. It's not going to work out for either side

By Patt Morrison, Los Angeles Times, 5/2/18

Do we ever really pause to think of a tree as its own self? Not as a picturesque forest backdrop to our vacation selfies, not as lumber for a deck, nor as the makings of a campfire — but a tree as a living thing with billions more of its kind, that, all together, undergird our human existence, and, in fact, make it possible?

Proposals Being Sought for Restoration Grant Programs By Oakdale Leader, 5/2/18

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is now accepting proposals for ecosystem restoration projects under its Proposition 1 Grant Programs.

Applicant sought for Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Projects

Up to \$1 million available for projects in 2018; Public RFP Webinar on May 8

From the Bureau of Reclamation:

The Bureau of Reclamation, PacifiCorp and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in close coordination with NOAA Fisheries, are seeking applications for funding to implement coho habitat restoration projects within the Klamath River and its tributaries downstream of Iron Gate Dam.

The joint Request for Proposals (RFP) will make available up to \$1 million in grants during 2018 through Reclamation's Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Program (up to \$500,000, contingent upon appropriations) and PacifiCorp's Klamath River Coho Enhancement Fund (\$500,000). The pre-proposal deadline is Friday, June 1. The RFP is available on NFWF's website at <http://www.nfwf.org/klamathbasin/klamathcoho/Pages/2018combinedrfp.aspx>.

Reclamation, PacifiCorp, NOAA Fisheries, and NFWF will host an RFP Webinar for the public, which will include an overview of the programs, details regarding the types of projects that will be given priority, and an overview of the proposal process and requirements. The Webinar will be held:

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 from 10 am to 12 noon PST

Register for the Webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8159851112933824514>

The program aims to fund projects that meet the requirements outlined in the 2013 Biological Opinion on Reclamation's Klamath Project Operations and to achieve conservation objectives contained in PacifiCorp's Klamath Hydroelectric Project Interim Operations Habitat Conservation Plan for Coho Salmon. Both programs enhance the survival and recovery of coho salmon in the Klamath River, where coho are listed as threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

Successful proposals will provide access to cold water habitat, create or enhance instream habitat, remove barriers or otherwise improve access, or provide water conservation. Regardless of the project type, successful proposals must demonstrate direct benefits for coho salmon. The

geographic focus of these programs is within the mainstem Klamath River and tributaries below Iron Gate Dam.

Since 2009, PacifiCorp and Reclamation have contributed a combined \$6.3 million toward habitat restoration for coho salmon in the Klamath River.

NCAI to Offer "Leaders as Legacy Builders" Leadership Training at its 2018 Mid Year Conference

The [Rockwood Leadership Institute](#) and NCAI's Partnership for Tribal Governance are pleased offer their latest joint training to NCAI members and tribal leaders on **Sunday, June 3 from 9:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m** at NCAI's [Mid Year Conference](#) in Kansas City, MO.

Leaders as Legacy Builders is a workshop designed for tribal leaders and key-decision makers who are looking to strengthen their leadership skills and mindset so that they are better equipped to forge a governance legacy that will empower their nations for generations to come. The training team will work with participants to confront the many leadership challenges they face, and will explore through person self-reflection and group discussion the proven strategies that they can employ to provide the leadership their tribal nations and communities are counting on. The training will focus on three proven leadership strategies in particular:

- **Building constructive relationships with your nation's citizens (citizen engagement)**
- **Building constructive teams with your fellow leaders**
- **Building constructive partnerships within tribal government with other governments**

Session outcomes:

- Exploration of your leadership role and purpose
- Deeper understanding of effective tools and strategies for transformational leadership
- Deeper community built with other participants
- Practice with tools for working across differences

Participants are expected to show up on time and attend the training in its entirety, as it is designed to be comprehensive experience. There are only 25 slots for this training, and individuals will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. **Register for this free training by emailing Ian Record at irecord@ncai.org with subject line "Rockwood Training" and provide your name, position title, tribe, and phone number.**

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

Groundbreaking this month for 42-unit center for homeless young American Indians

The Ain Dah Yung Center partnered with Project for Pride in Living to construct a 42-unit building near the Victoria Street Green Line station. <http://strib.mn/2wcST06>

Eco-shorts

5,453 Number of wet wipes found a 116-square-meter area of the Thames River during a clean-up last month. Environmentalists say that the wet wipe pollution, which has increased in recent years, is reshaping riverbeds and canals across Britain. [*The Guardian*](#)

Researchers have found that rising sea levels pose a direct threat to Florida's mangroves, located in the state's Everglades wetlands and nearby coastal areas. Sea levels are pushing the mangroves inland, where they have hit an impassable man-made levee. According to researchers, the trees are likely to be gone within 30 years, disrupting the state's ecosystem and increasing its vulnerability to hurricanes. [*The Guardian*](#)

Los Angeles, California, relies heavily on the San Joaquin river delta, the Sierra Nevada mountains, and the Hoover Dam for its water supply, but all three sources are declining as temperatures rise and rainfall lessens. To help preserve its tenuous water supply, the city hopes to begin recycling wastewater, capturing rainwater, and making better use of local water sources. [*Al Jazeera*](#)

Hawaii Is About to Be the First State to Ban Certain Sunscreen Sales to Protect Its Coral Reefs

Andrea Diaz, CNN

Diaz writes: "Research studies have found that chemicals found in some popular sunscreen products are harmful to ocean ecosystems. And now, after state lawmakers passed a bill Tuesday, Hawaii is set to become the first state in the US to ban the sale of sunscreens that contain oxybenzone and octinoxate." [READ MORE](#)

140 miles Distance that the arid lands of the western U.S. have expanded eastwards since the 1980s, according to two recent studies. As the soil dries, agricultural demand for water is increasing, jeopardizing the region's already-stressed water supply. [*The Guardian*](#)

Federal Judge Sides with Fish in Klamath Water Dispute **By Associated Press, U.S. News, 5/1/18**

A federal judge has denied a request from Klamath Basin farmers and ranchers to ease their water situation this spring.

Impact Conference

May 7 at 3:00 pm - May 8 at 12:00 am

[UNR, JCSU, Theatre, 3rd Floor](#)

You are invited to the Impact Conference happening May 7-8, 2018 in Reno, NV, at the University of Nevada, Reno. This conference will bring together frontline health workers and leaders from across Nevada and the...[Find out more »](#)

May 8 at 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm

[UNR, JCSU, Theatre, 3rd Floor](#)

Yes, the Drought Is Bad in California. It's Going to Be Much, Much Worse in Arizona

Last week, Lake Mead, which sits on the border of Nevada and Arizona, set a new record low — the first time since the construction of the Hoover ... [slate.com](#)



Confidentiality and HIPAA

May 7 at 4:00 pm - 11:30 pm

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Description: Classroom E

This workshop will cover federal and Nevada specific rules of confidentiality with an emphasis on practical solutions to real problems. By the end of this training, participants will: understand the proper consent for release of... [Find out more »](#)

Research Computing Hack-a-thon

May 11 at 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Hackathons provide a space for hands-on training and solution development within a Research Computing environment at the University. This is also a place to get clarification on questions/concerns regarding the HPC. Please bring problems to challenge the HPC team, the Office of Information Technology, and research colleagues. If you don't need help, we still encourage you to attend and share your time and expertise with those in need of assistance. You don't need to be an expert to attend a hackathon. Individuals at all computing skill levels are welcome!

The Kiawah People

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiawah_people The *Kiawah* were a constituent group of the Cusabo people of what became South Carolina. When English colonists arrived and settled on the Ashley River, the neighboring *Kiawah* were friendly. However, by 1682, disease and warfare had reduced *Kiawah* numbers to about 160. *Kiawah* Island, South Carolina, bears their ...

First Contact with the Kiawah - Kiawah Legends

<https://www.kiawahlegends.com/first-contact-with-the-kiawah/>

In 1670, 148 English passengers arrived onboard the ship *Carolina* to establish the first permanent European settlement in South Carolina. The coast was already home to two thousand *Indians* from nineteen different tribes. The Cassique, or chieftain, of the friendly “Keyawah” tribe welcomed the new colonists ashore and ...

South Carolina - Indians, Native Americans - Kiawah - SCIway

<https://www.sciway.net/hist/indians/kiawah.html>

Information about the *Kiawah*, including their history and current status as well as their dwellings, food, clothing, and tribal beliefs and practices. Lists of related online and printed resources are also provided.

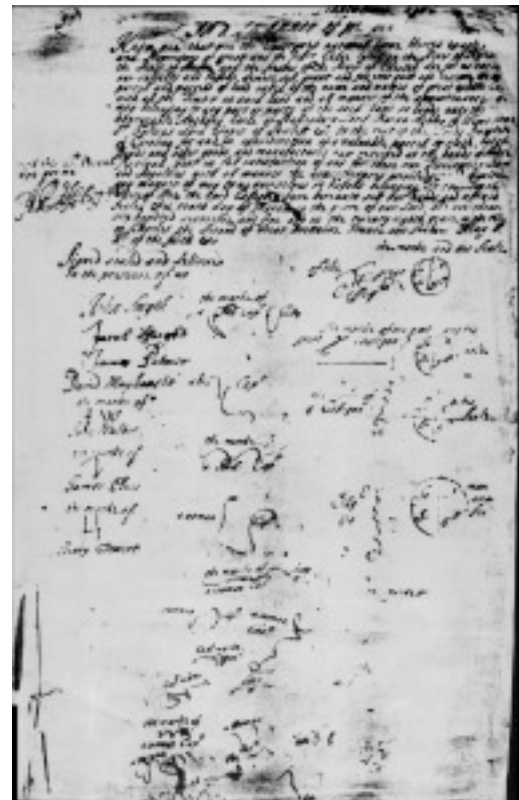
A History of Kiawah Island | Pam Harrington Exclusives

<https://www.pamharringtonexclusives.com/history-kiawah-island>

The earliest people to inhabit the island were the *Kiawah Indians*, which gives the Island its name. They lived in scattered villages on the mainland and barrier islands around Charleston. The Kiawah people were a hunter-gatherer society, using dugout canoes to travel the creeks, rivers, and marshes where they hunted and ...

1675 Deed for Kiawah Island

Charleston businessman David Maybank III showed me this deed witnessed and signed by his ancestor (David Maybank) on March 10, 1675. The deed, handwritten in old English script, states that the Indians of “Cassoe” convey the island “Kyeawah” to the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, in exchange for “a valuable parcell of cloth, hatchetts, beads and other goods and manufactures.” What a deal!



The island is, of course, Kiawah Island today, and is worth quite a bit more.

The Indian name is probably a corruption of the Cusso or Coosaw, which was among a number of native groups living along the Carolina coast when the first European settlers arrived, all part of the larger Cusabo tribe.

Among the Cusabo groups were many names still recognized in the Charleston area today, given primarily to rivers, such as Edisto, Combahee, Ashepoo, Wando, Wappoo and Stono.

The deed is signed by seven of the English settlers on one side of the paper, and on the other side are the marks of 29 Indians – the Cusso chief (cassique), three subchiefs, plus 14 women and 11 men who were of some rank



in the tribe.

The Cusabo people were a great help to the early settlers of Charles Town, and it was good initial relations and trade with the local Indians that helped the tiny original settlement of 57 people survive.

The Maybank

name is also a classic South Carolina tradition, that has been included on lists of governors of the state and mayors of Charleston.

Ironically, the Maybank family gave an island back in 1993, bequeathing the 4500-acre Jehossee Island for a natural preserve as part of the ACE Basin Wildlife Refuge.

Kusso-Natchez Indians - South Carolina Native Americans - Kusso ...

https://www.sciway.net/hist/indians/kusso_natchez.html

The Kusso-Natchez Tribe is also known as the *Edisto Indian* Organization. The *Edisto Indian* Organization differs from South Carolina's original *Edisto Indian* Tribe, which disappeared in the early 1700s. Today's *Edisto Indian* Organization adopted its name because tribal members lived near the Edisto River, which in turn ...

Native Americans: Kiowa Indian History and Culture

www.native-languages.org › Indian culture › What's new

As a complement to our Kiowa language information, here is our collection of indexed links about the Kiowa tribe and their society. Please note that Kiowas and other American *Indians* are living people with a present and a future as well as a [Image result for edisto indian](#) 560 x 446 - [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) past. Kiowa history is interesting and important, but the Kiowa *Indians* are still here ...

Scholarships

[The Laurels Fund](#) **[Application Deadline: 5/15/2017](#)** **[Amount: \\$5,000](#)**

The Laurels Fund was established in 1978 for the purpose of providing scholarships to female students who are pursuing advanced degrees in accounting.

Scholarships may be awarded to deserving Ph.D. students who have completed comprehensive exams prior to the previous fall semester.

The selection of award recipients is based on:

-Scholarship, involving academic achievements in course work [...] [More](#)

[Presbyterian U.S.A. Women of Color Grant](#) **[Deadline: 5/15/2017](#)** **[Amount: \\$3,000](#)**

The Presbyterian Women of Color Grant is for women minorities pursuing full-time post-secondary education who have been awarded the Presbyterian Study Grant and have remaining need.

Eligible applicants must be fullImage result for [A Village in Ecuador's Amazon Fights for Life as Oil Wells Move In](#)-time M.Div. or M.A.C.E. students attending a Presbyterian Church U.S.A.-related seminary at the following institutions:

-Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

-Columbia [...] [More](#)

[ZONTA Women in Science Scholarship](#) Deadline: 6/15/2017 Amount: \$1,000

Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. With more than 30,000 members belonging to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas, Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talents and support to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship programs [...] [More](#)



[A Village in Ecuador's Amazon Fights for Life as Oil Wells Move In](#)

Peter Korn, onEarth

Korn writes: "At the headwaters of the Amazon River system in eastern Ecuador, the nighttime jungle is not quiet at all. The chatter of nocturnal canopy birds and crickets, mixed with the submarine sonar-like pinging of tree frogs, is startling to the first-time visitor."

[READ MORE](#)

