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We Are the Lorax. We Speak for the Trees

American Indian Reporter August Edition



**Bixi Nibi: My favorite
Water IS Life Post!**

Water is a necessity for survival, but in San Cristobal De Las Casa, Mexico, it is a luxury. Though the city is located in one of Mexico's rainiest regions, many households are lucky to have running water once or twice a week, and most residents have resorted to drinking Coca Cola, which is just as cheap as water and more bountiful. [Residents reportedly drink an average of almost half a gallon of soda a day, which has caused a 30 percent increase in deaths caused by diabetes between 2013 and 2016.](#) (NYT)

[Business](#) 489369771

Cultural survey by tribes for Enbridge pipeline could be largest effort of its kind

By **[Mike Hughlett](#)** Star Tribune

Enbridge's hotly contested new oil pipeline is slated to cross land claimed by indigenous people for thousands of years.

But not before Indian tribes have completed an archaeological survey of the pipeline route, the largest effort of its kind in Minnesota and maybe the country.

Surveyors, hailing from several Upper Midwest tribes, may have already found the remnants of a long lost tribal village. They are documenting everything from traditional wild ricing spots to buried artifacts.

"We're helping to preserve what's ours," Rob King, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and an electrician by trade, said as he used a screen to sift dirt at an archaeological dig. "If we find something, we make an impact."

Minnesota's Ojibwe bands have fiercely opposed the \$2.6 billion pipeline, fearing environmental havoc from oil spills. The tribal cultural survey won't stop the pipeline. But it could result in small route changes that would forestall the disturbance of sacred tribal sites during pipeline construction, as has happened on state highway projects in recent years.

The approved route of Enbridge's new pipeline — a replacement for its current Line 3 that will carry Canadian oil to the company's terminal in Superior, Wis. — runs through a pastiche of prairie, woods and wetlands in northern Minnesota. While state regulators have approved the project, Enbridge must get water-crossing permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the pipeline.

Connecting bands to their history

Under federal law, the Corps must consult tribes on historic-preservation issues. In those talks, the tribes pushed for the cultural survey. They weren't satisfied with an earlier archaeological survey done by an Enbridge contractor, saying it lacked the bands' participation. The current survey — funded by Enbridge — is being coordinated by the Fond du Lac band.

"Our history has been erased," said Wayne Dupuis, Fond du Lac's environmental program manager. "Much of the history taught in the United States begins with the landing of Columbus, but there was much more before that."

About 60,000 American Indians live in Minnesota; the Ojibwe, dominant in northern Minnesota, are the largest tribe, followed by the Dakota. But many tribes have ancestral ties to the state, including the Cheyenne and Arapaho, both of which now reside farther west.

The Ojibwe, originally from the Atlantic coast, migrated here in the 1600s, eventually displacing the Dakota in northern Minnesota. The state's Ojibwe and Dakota bands are among 40 tribal groups participating in the survey.

"A tribal survey of this magnitude, with so many tribes involved — this is the first time it has occurred," said Jill Hoppe, the Fond du Lac band's tribal historic preservation officer.

More than a job

On a recent day, the survey crew of 26 Indians included members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe from South Dakota and the Santee Sioux Nation in Nebraska, as well as members of several Ojibwe bands in Minnesota. They all gathered in a hotel parking lot to start the morning, forming a circle.

The crew's leader explained the day's objectives while workers passed around a conch shell filled with burning sage — a purifying and cleansing ritual. As the shell traveled the circle, Hattie Dunham sang a cappella in her native Lakota language.

The crew then split into four groups and headed to different locations on the pipeline route. Dunham, who works for the Rosebud tribe, spent the day at a site near Bagley digging amid wildflowers and wild raspberry bushes.

"To me, [the work] is a blessing," she said, shovel in hand. "I know it sounds hokey to some people, but it's been spiritual to me."

Other crew members concurred. "It re-centered me and put me back in touch with the native community," said Todd Defoe, a member of the Fond du Lac band. Defoe had worked for years in marketing for casinos, both in the Midwest and in Las Vegas, before tiring of the business.

Now he runs a fishing-guide operation, allowing him time to work on the survey.

"It's more than a job," he said. "When you hold a piece of pottery in your hand, for a split second, you are in the space of someone who held it two or three or 10 thousand years ago."

Surveyors have found pottery shards, as well as points from spears or arrows, possible stone tools and bison bones that have been broken to scoop out marrow. What appear to be human-made mounds have been discovered, though it's not clear yet if they are burial grounds.

Perhaps the most exciting find, so far: possible evidence of a "hidden" Dakota village. Ojibwe oral histories describe a Dakota village obscured by an earthen berm, said Jim Jones, a lead project manager for the cultural survey. The Ojibwe took the village in a long-ago battle.

A spot along the pipeline route — complete with earthen berm — matched the location and lore of the hidden village.

"It's pretty amazing," said Jones, a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Using the results

When surveyors find a significant site, they aim to get it listed on the National Register of

Historic Places. Enbridge will work to avoid such sites during pipeline construction, including tweaking the route if necessary, said Bobby Hahn, the company's Line 3 environmental supervisor.

Enbridge's new Line 3, unlike its six pipelines currently intersecting Minnesota, will not traverse Indian reservations.

But the new Line 3 crosses plenty of land ceded under duress by the Ojibwe in the 19th century. The tribes claim treaty rights to hunt, gather and fish on those lands.

Enbridge needs permits from the Army Corps to cross hundreds of waterways and wetlands with the new pipeline.

The Corps, after meetings with the tribes last year, ordered that a tribal cultural survey be done on 66 miles along the route. At the tribes' behest, the Corps later increased that requirement to 201 miles, and Enbridge eventually opened the entire 340-mile route to surveyors.

Enbridge is paying for the study. The company said it will cost \$5 million to \$6 million, much of which will cover survey workers' wages.

"We have not done something of this magnitude with the tribes," Hahn said.

Enbridge wants the study completed by September, though Hoppe said it's not likely to be done until October. About 140 miles has been surveyed so far.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which approved the pipeline in June, has ruled that the cultural survey must be done before Enbridge can start construction.

It's Enbridge's job to get permission from landowners to accommodate the survey. So far, while some property owners have objected, surveyors have been "pretty well received," Jones said.

Jones is on leave from his job as cultural resources director for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. He has spent the past 20 years with the council protecting Indian burial grounds, including trying to prevent incidents like the one that occurred last year near Duluth.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation unearthed part of a Fond du Lac grave site while doing an improvement project on Hwy. 23. The graveyard had been documented, and the Fond du Lac band had not been consulted before the state began digging.

The Hwy. 23 incident shows that "the standard interpretation of the archaeological record usually does not recognize sites of cultural and religious significance to the tribes," the Fond du Lac band said in a PUC filing.

A similar incident occurred in 2015 when Indian burial grounds were breached during a road construction project in Minnetonka.

A 'living connection'

Through a tribal lens, the cultural survey takes a broader view than traditional archaeology.

Historically significant places can be directly tied to the present: for instance, wild rice waters and maple-sugaring spots that have been used by generations of tribes. The same goes for a field dotted with traditional medicinal plants.

“There is a living connection to the history,” Jones said.

To survey the route, Jones uses everything from global positioning devices to oral histories from tribal elders. He’s particularly searching for “cultural corridors” — waterways and trails that tribes have used for hundreds if not thousands of years. Insight into these places is best found within the tribes themselves, Jones said.

“We need to hear the voices of traditional people when we start talking about archaeology,” he said. “That’s what makes this project unique.” mike.hughlett@startribune.com 612-673-7003

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***My remarks (by request)***

Reminds me of working with Ak Chin.....after years of being told this and that by anthropologists, politicians, etc, the research done because of the Central Arizona Project confirmed the oral history - such retribution and a surge of pride after a 100 years of being told their oral history wasn't true.

*Also reminds me of the ANC fight to delay the Alaska Pipeline.....which turned out to engender a better ecological design.....and the delay precipitated the Six Companies ordering/staging construction material, etc in such a way that the project came in under calendar and underbudget. Needless to say the flora and fauna have adapted well. I am fond of saying it would be hard to get lost in the AK wilderness if one were within a mile of the pipeline. Not only could you follow it to "civilization" but berries grow alongside it and you wouldn't starve.*

*The one thing the public has forgotten is the clause in the settlement that said if oil ever stopped being pumped, the line had to be taken down.....leading to a lot of politics regarding the US finding new fields to exploit and the option of Russian oil.....*

*Personally I think taking it out by conventional methods would cause more environmental damage and be a waste of money.....best to clean it out and let Mama Nature take over.*

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**Wildfires have ignited inside the Arctic Circle** Vox

In Sweden, Latvia, and Greece, wildfires are spreading amid a brutal heat wave. [Read the full story](#)

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[Extensive flood damage hits tribal land near Grand Canyon](#)

SUPAI, Ariz. -- An American Indian tribe whose land lies deep in a gorge off the Grand Canyon has issued a disaster declaration after extensive flooding forced the evacuation of tourists.

– New research published in the journal [Current Biology](#) finds that just 13% of all the world’s oceans remain undamaged by human impact. Only 5% of the remaining ocean wilderness is within existing marine protection areas. Scientists say the remaining wildernesses, mostly in the remote Pacific and at the North and South poles, urgently need passage of [a high seas conservation treaty](#) to protect them from fishing and pollution. Kendall Jones, at the University of Queensland, Australia, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, who led the new research, said “We were astonished by just how little marine wilderness remains. The ocean is immense, covering over 70% of our planet, but we’ve managed to significantly impact almost all of this vast ecosystem.” (Guardian)

– The Solomon Islands are comprised of around 900 islands and about 570,000 people. They’re also [a global hotspot](#) . In the past 25 years, the seas surrounding these South Pacific islands have risen 7 to 10 millimeters per year, roughly three times today’s global average. In the past few years five reef islands, which supported dense tropical vegetation at least 300 years old, were completely lost due to sea-level rise. A further six islands have seen severe coastal erosion. Long-time residents of many small villages on various islands [have been forced to pick up and move](#) . It is what scientists expect will happen across much of the Pacific by the second half of this century. (NYT)

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## **'Giant Wind-and-Wave-Powered Pac Man' to Gobble Up Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

[The Ocean Cleanup](#) is preparing to launch its highly anticipated cleanup system in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. But the contraption's final design looks slightly different from the original vision.

The non-profit organization, founded by 23-year-old Dutch inventor and entrepreneur [Boyan Slat](#), aims to rid the world's [oceans](#) of [plastic](#).

Five years ago, the then-teenager made headlines and inspired folks around the world for his ocean plastic-capturing concept.

Earlier prototypes, [for instance](#), featured an anchored platform and a V-shaped floating barrier that passively corrals plastics with wind and ocean currents. But during testing, they realized they underestimated the impact of wind, waves and currents on the system.

After years of research and development, the Ocean Cleanup team announced a [redesign](#) of the system that features a 600-meter-long floating pipe with a tapered 3-meter skirt attached underneath to catch debris. The sea anchors were also eliminated entirely.

Slat described the new anchor-free system, set for deployment into the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in two months, as "a giant wind-and-wave-powered Pac Man."

### ***The Ocean Cleanup***

"Both the plastic and system are being carried by the current," the nonprofit [explains](#). "However, wind and waves propel only the system, as the floater sits just above the water surface, while the

plastic is primarily just beneath it. The system thus moves faster than the plastic, allowing the plastic to be captured."

The contraption is also fitted with solar-powered lights, anti-collision systems, sensors and cameras and satellite antennas, meaning it can communicate its position at all times.

The captured plastic will be collected by a vessel every few months. The debris will then be sorted for recycling or up-cycled to create new products.

"Although there is a fair chance this won't be the last iteration of our ocean cleanup technology, we have high confidence that it addresses the stability issues and that this will be the design responsible for collecting the first plastic from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch later this year," Slat [wrote](#).

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*“For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it.” – Jacques-Yves Cousteau*

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### **106 salmon counted in Salmon River; groups worried about potential fish kill**

By Will Houston, Eureka Times-Standard, 7/26/18

“Devastating” was how Karuk Tribe Executive Director Josh Saxon described the news that only 106 adult spring-run Chinook salmon were found on the Salmon River this year — believed to be the second lowest count on record.

### **Judge denies preliminary injunction in Klamath Tribes suit**

By George Plaven, Capital Press, 7/26/18

District Judge William Orrick has denied a preliminary injunction sought by the Klamath Tribes to hold more water in Upper Klamath Lake for endangered shortnose and Lost River suckers.

### **Era of 'Biological Annihilation' Is Underway, Scientists Warn**

Tatiana Schlossberg, *The New York Times*

Schlossberg writes: "From the common barn swallow to the exotic giraffe, thousands of animal species are in precipitous decline, a sign that an irreversible era of mass extinction is underway, new research finds." [READ MORE](#)



**ATTN:** shared a [video](#).

**We Need This** This bike is made out of recycled cardboard!

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An analysis on “**Why Are Young Billionaires So Boring?**” reveals that “Where earlier generations’ formative experiences revolved around paper routes and pathos, today’s prototypical founding story involves an upper-middle-class childhood, early access to a computer, and an elite education—even if that education was abandoned .” (Bloomberg)

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– Don’t take a walk on the wild side instead “ **Take a Walk in the Woods. Doctor’s Orders.: “Forest bathing,” or immersing yourself in nature, is being embraced by doctors and others as a way to combat stress and improve health .”** (NYT)

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**Grow with Google Brings National Workshop to Reno on August 6**

Free, open-to-the-public event will be at the Nevada Museum of Art from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grow with Google comes to Reno on Aug. 6 as part of Google’s initiative to help [...] [Read more](#)

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**From Your Farm to Your Table**

Agrihoods: Farm Life Taking Root in a Neighborhood Near You Part of the Fourth Annual Nevada Economic Development Conference, Aug. 20-22, 2018 Will community gardens supplant the clubhouse? Will fairway views fade into [...] [Read more](#)

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**West Nile Virus Found in South Meadows**

Washoe County Health District announced today that the first positive samples in 2018 of West Nile virus were detected in the Reno area. [...] [Read more](#)

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**The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?**

*Something special to the first correct response.....sdc*

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***From the Mountain West Digital Library***

**Frank Beckwith Collection**

Published by **Delta (UT) City Library**

Photographs and scrapbooks by Frank Asahel Beckwith, editor and publisher of the Millard County Chronicle from 1919-1951. Mr. Beckwith was an amateur geologist and anthropologist and his photographs depict Utah landscapes and Native Americans.

**[Browse all record in Frank Beckwith Collection](#)**

**Karl Bodmer Aquatint Collection**

Published by **University of Utah - J. Willard Marriott Library** Karl Bodmer created over 150 watercolors during the 1832 -1834 expedition through the American west by Prince Maximilian zu Wied. For more than a century, Bodmer's aquatints have remained a major source of information regarding Plains Indian culture. These works of art were also instrumental in creating the romantic perceptions and misconceptions of these peoples, which endure to this day in art, film, and literature.

**[Browse all record](#)**

**[in Karl Bodmer Aquatint Collection](#)**

**Western Waters: Book Collection**

Published by **University of Utah - J. Willard**

**Marriott Library** The Western Waters Digital Library (WWDL) provides free public access to

digital collections of significant primary and secondary resources on water in the western United States. These collections have been made available by research libraries belonging to the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) and other academic library partners. The WWDL is a valuable resource for researchers, policy makers, scholars, Native American tribes, professionals working in various fields, and others interested in contemporary and historic water issues. [Browse all record in Western Waters: Book Collection](#)

### **William Ottogary Collection**

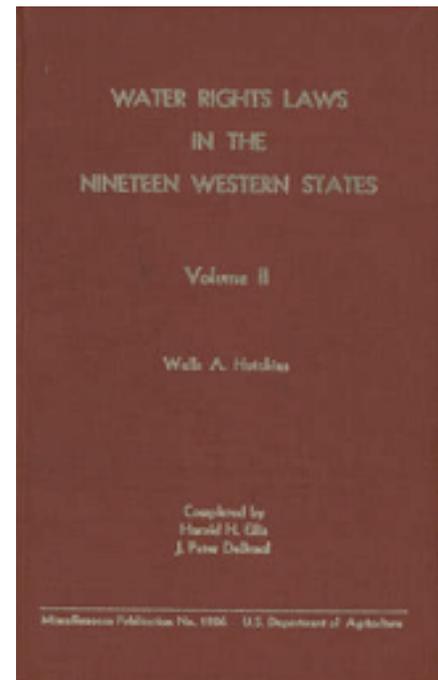
**Published by Utah State University - Merrill-Cazier Library**

"Willie Ottogary was a farmer and performed many duties as a Shoshone chief, but he is most well known in the "white world" for his letters which appeared regularly in The Journal (a Logan, Utah Newspaper) from 1909-1929. According to historian Matthew Kreitzer:

"He [Ottogary] wrote over 400 letters during a literary career spanning 23 years. His letters appeared most often in The Journal, but he also was published in the Tremont Times, Oneida County Enterprise, and the Box Elder Journal. Willie's columns reflected a wide range of topics such as agriculture, the LDS Church [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints], his travels, the comings and goings of his people, land issues, hunting and gathering, Sun Dances, social activities, sports, special occasions, economic development, life-cycle events, and new technological innovations. He kept the pulse of Washakie and accurately reported his perceptions of the things that, he believed, mattered most. (Kreitzer 57)"

Willie was the son of O-Ti-Cot-i, who later changed his name to Peter Otahgary after his conversion to the LDS Church. Though his birth date is uncertain, he was baptized a member of the LDS Church on August 1, 1875. He married twice and fathered three children who survived to adulthood. Beginning as early as 1915, Ottogary was chief of the Shoshone at Washakie, the name of the land in Box Elder County, Utah, allotted by the LDS Church for the settling of the converted Shoshone. Ottogary died in March of 1929.

The Willie Ottogary Collection includes copies of newspaper articles from the The Journal (1909-1929), Box Elder Journal (1925), and the Oneida County Enterprise (1924). These articles are letters written by Willie Ottogary to the various newspapers describing the events and well-being of the Shoshone people in Washakie. Also included in this collection are some copies of later correspondence (1929-1959) dealing with efforts to establish a reservation for the Shoshone in Idaho.



## **Grieving Orca Carries Dead Calf for More Than 3 Days: 'She's Just Not Letting Go'** By MIHIR ZAVERI

The calf, part of a declining population of orca whales in the Pacific Northwest, was the first born in the area since 2015.

## **Pruitt's Successor Wants Rollbacks, Too. And He Wants Them to Stick.**

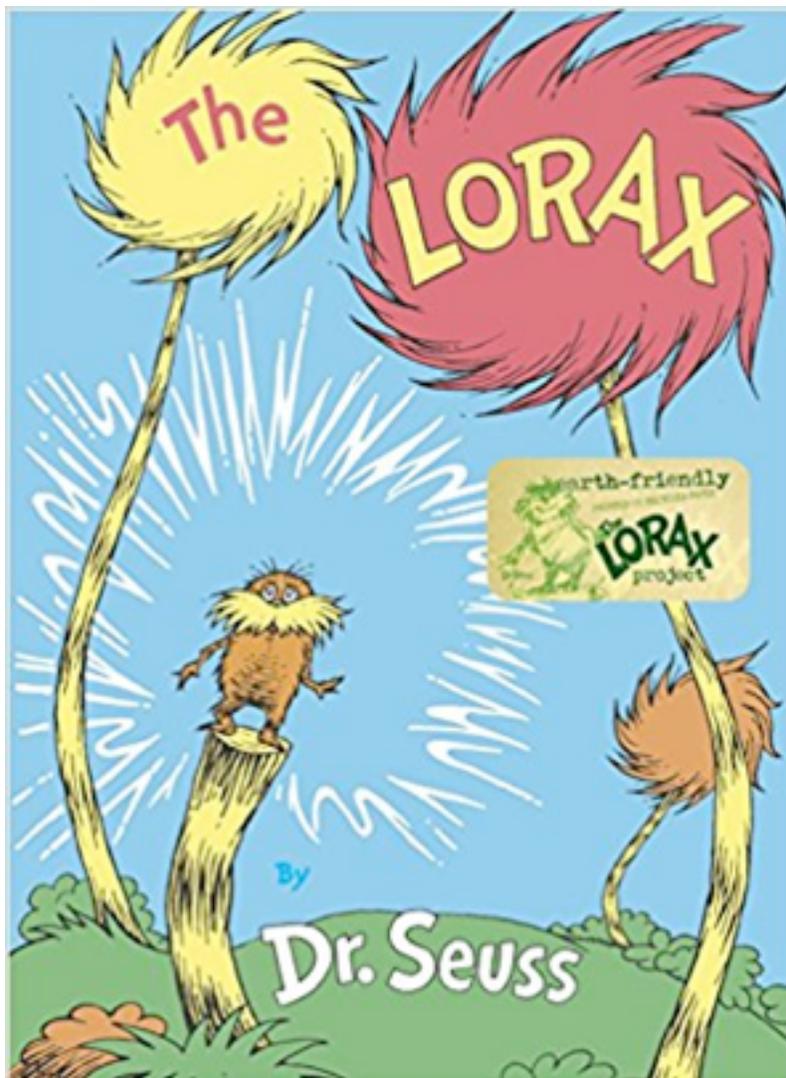
By CORAL DAVENPORT

Andrew Wheeler, the acting head of the E.P.A., is taking a more disciplined approach to dismantling environmental regulations.

## **Lawmakers Just Stripped Anti-Environment Riders from the Defense Bill**

Mother Jones

In a rare victory for environmentalists in the Trump era, the latest draft of a major defense spending bill has been stripped of provisions that targeted environmental protections, according to documents from the House-Senate Conference Committee released early this week. The policy riders would have been devastating for several imperiled species across the country, including the Western greater sage-grouse,... [Read the full story](#)



## **We Are the Lorax. We Speak for the Trees.**

William Rivers Pitt,

**Truthout:** For a long time now, standard interpretations of the Dr. Seuss book *The Lorax* hold the story's main character to be something of an angry pest. According to a Dartmouth professor, however, the irascible furry speaker for the trees was not merely a livid environmentalist, but a living part of the ecosystem he sought to defend. The Lorax was fighting for his life, as are we all. [Read the Article](#)

*"Unless someone like you...cares a whole awful lot...nothing is going to get better...It's not."*

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<http://www.americanindianreporter.com/AIR-CurrentIssue.pdf>