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Groups Push for Votes on NV Renewable-Energy, Public-Lands Bills

April 10, 2019 - Suzanne Potter, Public News Service (NV)

CARSON CITY, Nev. - Friday is the deadline for bills to make it out of committee at the state Capitol, so conservation groups are drumming up support for those that address renewable energy and protection for wildlife habitat.

[Senate Bill 358](#) would require power companies to get 50 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2030. Brian Beffort, director of the Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter, said the state now spends \$4 billion a year importing electricity from fossil fuels, when it could be relying on renewable power generated in Nevada.

"We have such abundant solar and geothermal, and even some wind resources," he said. "And by developing these resources, we'll be able to keep those billions of dollars here in the state working for our economy, and cleaning up the air and the water in our communities in the process."

The bill currently is before the Senate Government and Infrastructure Committee, but is expected to get a floor vote soon. Opponents say it could unfairly tie the hands of utilities and might lead to higher rates. Supporters say renewable energy is key to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions linked to climate change.

The Sierra Club also is supporting two Assembly Joint Resolutions, [opposing military expansions on public land near Naval Air Station Fallon](#) and [at the Nellis Training and Test Range](#). Beffort said that project would hurt bighorn sheep in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

"It just seems like a whole lot of overreach and a massive military land grab," he said, "and if the military gets their way, it will turn into a bombing range. To me, habitat and wildlife and bombing ranges don't go well together."

The Navy has said the current site near Fallon is too small for its training needs.

Conservation groups also want the Legislature to pass resolutions opposing plans by the Interior Department to [fold the Nevada office of the Bureau of Land Management into a larger, regional office](#), and to [reopen negotiations on sage-grouse protections](#).



More Grants and Resources

[ReConnect Program](#)

Telecommunications companies, rural electric cooperatives and utilities, internet service providers and municipalities may apply for funding through USDA's [ReConnect Program](#) to connect rural areas that currently have insufficient broadband service. [Specific requirements apply](#). **Application Deadline: (Varies) No earlier than May 31, 2019.**

[Rural Health Care Telecommunications Program](#)

Universal Service Administrative Company offers assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity based on the urban-rural price difference in an area. **Application Deadline: May 31, 2019.**

[USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants](#)

Supports the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. Lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches to agricultural producers, into NRCS technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector. **Application Deadline: May 20, 2019.**

[HRSA: Enhancing Oral Health Infrastructure in Health Centers](#)

The Oral Health Infrastructure supplemental funding will support one-time infrastructure enhancements that enhance new or existing high quality, integrated oral health services in health centers. **Application Deadline: May 21, 2019.**

[Conservation Innovation Grants](#)

Funds to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. Supports programs that lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches to agricultural producers, into NRCS technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector. **Application Deadline: May 27, 2019.**

[Region 7 FY19 and FY20 Wetland Program Development Grants](#)

Assistance to state, tribal, local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in developing or refining state/tribal/local programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands. Projects must be performed within one or more of the states of EPA Region 7 specifically Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and/or Nebraska to be eligible to apply for funding. **Application Deadline: May 29, 2019.**

[HRSA: Enhancing Oral Health Infrastructure in Health Centers](#)

The Health Resources and Services Administration offers funding to support existing health centers to increase access to new or enhanced high-quality, integrated oral health services, including those provided via telehealth and virtual dentistry. **Application Deadline: May 21, 2019.**

[Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program \(RMOMS\)](#)

Funding to improve access to and continuity of maternal and obstetrics care in rural communities through service aggregation, coordination of a continuum of care, use of telehealth, and the implementation of financial sustainability strategies. **Application Deadline: May 24, 2019.**

2019 Household Water Well Systems (HWWS) and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant programs

Provides grants funds to nonprofit organizations to initiate a relending program to private well owners who need financial assistance in repairing or replacing their existing wells. The RLF program ultimately assists communities with predevelopment costs associated with future water and wastewater projects. Both programs provide an important function in improving the lives of rural communities. [HWWS](#) and [RLF](#). **Application Deadline: May 27, 2019.**

Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program

Grants to national training and technical assistance (TTA) providers that will work collaboratively within the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) Network and support the delivery of TTA to current and future site-based COAP grantees, prescription drug monitoring programs, and their partner agencies. **Application Deadline: May 28, 2019.**

Youth Engagement in Sports: Collaboration to Improve Adolescent Physical Activity and Nutrition

Grants to develop and implement sports fitness programs based on successful evidenced-based strategies of youth engagement for racial/ethnic minority and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged 6th, 7th, and/or 8th graders, particularly those who reside in communities where no or few youth sports programs exist. The YES Initiative intends to identify characteristics of effective collaborations that improve physical activity and nutrition through increased participation in sports. **Application Deadline: May 31, 2019.**

Conservation Through Destruction: American Rivers Provides Huge Boost to Nature By Removing Defunct Dams [By Lori Balster, Environmental Monitor, 4/5/19](#)

“There are hundreds of dams all over the country that are no longer serving a purpose. These obsolete dams have no useful function, they damage rivers and can be dangerous for people,” says Laura Craig, Director of the River Restoration Program at American Rivers. “That’s where American Rivers comes in. Along with our partners, we identify dam removals that would provide the most ecological benefit and take them down in the safest way possible. We then use our collective knowledge and expertise to restore the area to its natural state.” Craig has extensive expertise in dam removal. She has been managing and facilitating dam removals at American Rivers for eight and a half years. She also has a Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Maryland at College Park.



Western Bird Species Are Struggling In Face Of Rapidly Changing Climate

By Erik Anderson, KPBS, 4/8/19

New research finds that climate change is putting stress on wetlands in the West's Great Basin and that is putting pressure on bird populations navigating the Pacific Flyway. Changing water conditions linked to climate change are

impacting the wetland habitats that waterbirds rely on. The basin includes most of Nevada and parts of Utah, Arizona, Oregon and the eastern edge of California. Warmer temperatures and less rain are affecting wetland habitats.

OPINION: Saving the Salton Sea isn't just California's problem, says Sen. Dianne Feinstein **By Los Angeles Times, 4/6/19**

To the editor: I agree with the March 29 editorial that projects to cover the shrinking Salton Sea's exposed shoreline are desperately needed to prevent an environmental and public health crisis. In the recent farm bill, I secured provisions that made the Salton Sea eligible for Department of Agriculture conservation funding for the first time. We're now working with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to make additional funds available as quickly as possible to support conservation efforts at the Salton Sea.

Standing in the Fire With Young Climate Activists **BARBARA CECIL, TRUTHOUT**

There is a global uprising of youth demanding action from adults on the climate crisis. These young people, exhausted from being overworked and pressured to succeed by society's standards, are confused about their pathways into the future and angry at their planetary inheritance. Rather than cross their fire, older generations have a moral obligation to listen and support younger generations amid the climate catastrophe. [Read the Article →](#)



Study: Kids Who Grow Up Surrounded By Nature Become Happier Adults

returntonow.net

Water Shorts

“Our military does not have the luxury of an academic debate about climate change. They must respond to the reality that we face today, and so should the United States Congress. History will judge harshly my Republican colleagues who deny the science of climate change. Similarly, those Democrats who would use climate change as a basis to regulate out of existence the American experience, will face the harsh reality that their ideas will fail. Today, along with other members of Congress, I will be filing a Green Real Deal, a common-sense rebuttal to the Green New Deal. The Green Real Deal rejects regulation as the driving force of reform, and instead unlocks the unlimited potential of American innovation and ingenuity.”

— Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) introducing a carbon-cutting resolution to compete with the Democrats’ Green New Deal.

14 to 6: Margin by which a Senate committee approved David Bernhardt to lead the Interior Department. The full Senate will vote on the nomination, which it is expected to approve. (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee)

11 million acre-feet: March runoff on the Missouri River, measured at Sioux City, Iowa. It was a record-breaker, nearly four times the March average. (For comparison, total annual runoff in the Colorado River basin in 2017 was 16.4 million acre-feet.) Last month, floods in the Missouri River watershed overtopped levees and inundated towns and farmland. ([Army Corps](#))

Real Green Deal

The New Green Deal may be more a set of principles than a detailed policy, but it’s starting to shape debate in Washington.

Last week, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) introduced a resolution that he called the [Green Real Deal](#). The resolution acknowledges climate change as a national security risk and a threat to the country’s economy and public health. It calls clean energy a “historic opportunity” to create high-wage jobs.

How to achieve it? The resolution pulls from more traditional Republican responses: innovation and new technology. Gaetz lists carbon capture and storage, modular nuclear reactors, modernizing the electric grid, cutting regulations, and giving “fair and equal access” to federal public lands for energy development.

Colorado River Bill Introduced

Members of the House and Senate [introduced a bill](#) that authorizes the Interior secretary to carry out state-developed plans to keep more water in the Colorado River’s big reservoirs.

The bill says that the plans are not exempt from federal environmental review laws, a stipulation that was applauded by green groups and the Imperial Irrigation District, which wants more attention (and money) paid to the toxic dust problems at the Salton Sea.

Mountaintop Mining Ban Bill

Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY) [reintroduced a bill](#) to place a moratorium on new permits for mountaintop removal coal mining until a completion of federal study on the health impacts in nearby communities.

The bill directs mining companies to pay a fee that would cover the cost of the health study, which would be conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and assess the effects of polluted air, soil, and water.

The Trump administration, in 2017, [halted a similar study](#) that the Obama administration had commissioned. Yarmuth's previous bill did not make it out of committee.

The House Natural Resources Committee [will hold a hearing](#) on the bill on April 9.

FDA Proposes Fluoride Limits in Bottled Water

The Food and Drug Administration [proposed limiting](#) the amount of fluoride in bottled water to 0.7 milligrams per liter, a figure that matches the standard for tap water.

Current FDA rules allow for roughly twice that level of fluoride.

Comments are being accepted through June 3 and can be submitted via www.regulations.gov using docket number FDA-2018-N-1815.

Education for a Sustainable Future

Arizona State University's [Master of Sustainability Leadership](#) degree is focused on preparing professionals to lead cultural and organizational change. You can study 100% online and learn to drive transformative results for your company, community, and career. The program allows you to build a skill set suited to your future objectives in green energy, urban planning, nonprofit, and more. **Learn to Thrive with ASU Online**

ASU is ranked the #1 university for innovation by *U.S. News & World Report*, ahead of both Stanford and MIT

The Center for New Mexico Archaeology

Purpose

The Center for New Mexico Archaeology (CNMA) is a central facility for archaeological research, curation, and education in the state of New Mexico.

The CNMA has created a safe and secure curation environment for New Mexico's unique and irreplaceable archaeological heritage, including nearly 10 million artifacts from all time periods and cultures. The Archaeological Research Collection (ARC) is actively used for research and education. Growth (300-600 cubic feet per year) matches the pace of economic development in the state. Almost 50 percent of the collections are from federal or tribal lands, and the collections are managed by ARC on behalf of the client agencies.

The CNMA also houses the offices and labs of the OAS, which has provided not-for-profit cultural preservation services to state, federal, municipal, and private clients since 1952. Our highly qualified staff provides a full range of archaeological services.

Location

The CNMA is the initial development on a new 25-acre campus for museum collections and services. The campus is in Santa Fe County off of Caja del Rio Road, near the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. A lease-transfer agreement has been approved by the Bureau of Land Management, and the land has been patented to the state at the completion of construction. The campus will be the site of museum-collections care, conservation, exhibit fabrication, and education programs for the next 100 years. It will allow existing museums to focus their facility missions on exhibitions and public programs.

Constituencies

Ancestral Native American artifacts constitute the majority of the ARC collections, including sacred and ceremonial materials and human remains. In the past these materials have been stored under substandard conditions with inadequate consultation and visitation facilities. It is now possible to move spiritually significant archaeological materials from the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture to CNMA, decreasing tribal concerns over visiting and participating in MIAC programs.

ARC collections remain accessible to Indian religious leaders and artists who use the collections for the maintenance of cultural beliefs and practices. Native American representatives have been closely involved in the planning and design of the facility.

ARC works with dozens of agencies and tribes in cooperative collection management. ARC and OAS have collaborated to support federal agency responsibilities under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. A special sensitive-materials area of CNMA has been designed with tribal consultants to respectfully hold collections awaiting tribal repatriation decisions.

Students and archaeologists from New Mexico and across the nation access ARC collections for research and training. Few archaeological sites are excavated for purely research purposes today, and previously excavated collections in ARC are regularly reexamined for new insights into the past.

The campus is being developed in collaboration with Santa Fe County. CNMA is compatible with existing land use along the Caja del Rio Road corridor. County roads through the campus will be the utility corridor for the Buckman Diversion water systems, and the campus will be a buffer and entrance for expected residential communities.

Archaeologists from throughout the state now have access to the expertise and specialty labs of the OAS, one of the oldest archaeological research organizations in the country. Animal bone identification, archaeomagnetic dating, plant-material identification, pottery analysis, and technology labs provide specialized services to clients and archaeologists throughout the Southwest. An architectural preservation laboratory will be reestablished in collaboration with the National Park Service, extending a program that was initiated in the 1980s.

The OAS education outreach program, Roads to the Past, has existed since 1991 and was recognized in 2005 with the Excellence in Public Education Award by the Society for American Archaeology. More than 65,000 adults and students have been served by the program, including

Native American communities. A privately funded education center is planned for the campus, which will allow OAS staff to conduct teacher training in the social sciences as well math and science enrichment courses.

Planning History

The CNMA has been planned for nearly twenty years. Programming and schematic design for construction on the Museum Hill campus was undertaken in 1997. However, future expansion prospects were poor, and the development would have constrained the expansion potential of the existing museums.

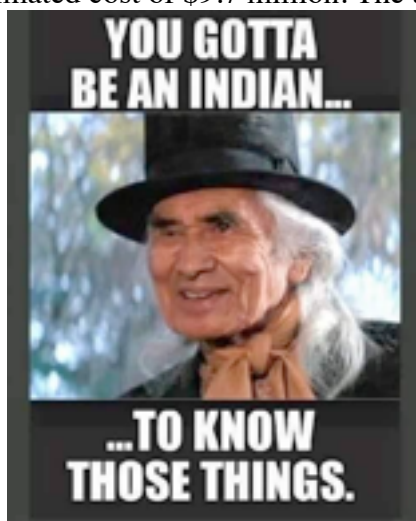
Planning resumed in 2003 with a search for a suitable new campus. BLM land was available through the Federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act, and BLM has been supportive of the CNMA concept from the beginning. In 2004, land evaluation was begun, and both CNMA and the campus were programmed.

An architect's contract was awarded in 2005, and a schematic design was developed for the campus and the building. Construction has achieved LEED Silver certification and accommodates phased growth over the next century. Due to the reality of incremental funding, the construction plans accommodate phased construction, if necessary. The ARC will be given priority, since existing storage space cannot accommodate more than a few years' growth.

Construction of the campus infrastructure started with state funding in 2009. As money becomes available, subsequent construction phases will follow.

Funding History

Funding for CNMA began in 2005 with a \$25,000 appropriation sponsored by Senator Shannon Robinson. Subsequent capital outlay appropriations in 2005, 2006, and 2008 raised the total to \$5.95 million, toward a total estimated cost of \$9.7 million. The additional funding was received



from federal and private sources.

<http://www.nmarchaeology.org/about-us/cnma.html>

Judge tosses Cliven Bundy's claim that state owns all public lands

A judge on Tuesday dismissed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's lawsuit that sought to declare all public lands a part of the state.

Colorado River Drought Plan Headed To Trump After Years Of Negotiation

By Colorado Public Radio, 4/9/19

A plan to address a shrinking supply of water on a river that serves 40 million people in the U.S. West is headed to President Donald Trump. The U.S. House and Senate approved the Colorado River drought contingency plan on Monday. Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming spent years negotiating the drought plan. They aim to keep two key reservoirs from falling so low they cannot deliver water or produce hydropower. Mexico has promised to store water in Lake Mead on the Arizona-Nevada border if the U.S. legislation is approved by April 22.

Walker River Irrigation District hosting centennial celebration

By Amy Alonzo, Reno Gazette Journal, 4/9/19

Walker River Irrigation District is celebrating its 100th year of overseeing water resources in Northern California and Nevada. A centennial celebration will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 19 at the district office, 410 N. Main St. in Yerington, and is open to the public. The event will feature a barbeque, slide show and raffle. Walker River Irrigation District was formed in April 1919 under the Nevada Irrigation District Act to protect property within the district from damage by floods or overflows. The district covers 235,000 acres in two states and five counties – 80,000 of those acres are irrigated.

A Night at the Museum With Beer and Skulls **By COREY KILGANNON**

For two researchers at the American Museum of Natural History, closing time means the start of an anthropological happy hour that has yielded 10 books and scores of scientific articles and papers.

Bones discovered in an island cave may be a new human species

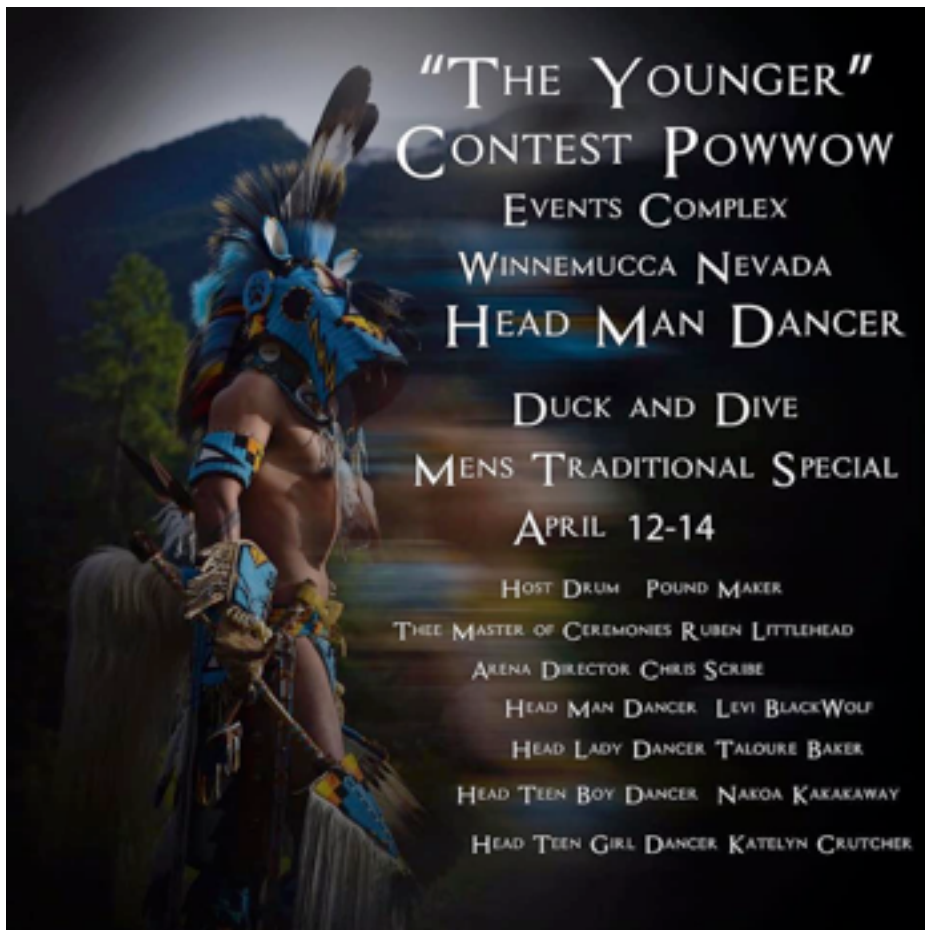
Scientists found what they say are the remains of three relatives of modern humans in a cave in the Philippines. The bones and teeth represent a new species, they conclude, which they named *Homo luzonensis*. These newfound humans, who lived 67,000 years ago, had a mix of modern and primitive features. Together with other *Homo* species, they show that human evolution was highly versatile.

[Read more »](#)

Voting is now open in our **22nd annual Best of Nevada** readers' poll! You have until Friday, April 19, 2019 at 5 p.m. PST to vote! This year, three lucky people will win a Northern Nevada getaway packages! All you have to do is cast your vote. [Vote now →](#)

Still Without Federal Aid After Massive Flooding, Pine Ridge Braces for Another Storm

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2019/4/10/1849336/-Still-Without-Federal-Aid-After-Massive-Flooding-Pine-Ridge-Braces-for-Another-Storm>



<https://www.newsreview.com/reno/youth-be-told/content?oid=27996688>