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[Congress votes to end blood quantum requirement, applies to five tribes](https://www.kfor.com/story/news/politics/2019/07/09/congress-votes-to-end-blood-quantum-requirement/1000000001/)

kfor.com

Ancient Artists of the Desert

Who Were the Creators of the Petroglyphs of the Coso Mountains?

The Coso Mountains of eastern California contain the greatest concentration of aboriginal rock art in the western hemisphere. The images represent a variety of abstract forms and patterns, naturalistic or stylized animals, prehistoric weapons and human forms (called "anthropomorphs" by rock art specialists). The most prevalent image pecked on the basalt cliffs throughout these desert canyons is the desert bighorn sheep, represented in various styles and forms, quite often being slain.

Standing in Little Petroglyph Canyon, overwhelmed by the thousands of ancient, mysterious images carved into the vertical walls, three obvious questions immediately come to mind:

- Who created these images?
- Why were they created?
- When were they created?



of the Artists

Mystery

The answer to these questions, unfortunately, is neither obvious nor certain. But in trying to determine who these ancient rock artists were, we will likely learn when and why they created these images.

They can be seen in thousands of other sites throughout the Great Basin Desert, extending eastward across Nevada, through Utah all the way to Colorado. Most anthropologists agree that the succession of different rock art styles in the Cosos represents a continuous cultural tradition that started some time after the end of the last Ice Age.

In 1970, the primary authorities on the Cosos petroglyphs were Campbell Grant, James W. Baird and J. Kenneth Pringle, who had conducted the first systematic survey of the sites in the previous decade. They theorized that the first petroglyphs were created by the ancestors of the Numic Shoshoneans at least 3,000 years ago as a form of hunting magic. The idea was that a shaman drawing the hunted animal would bring success to the hunter.

These anthropologists maintained that this Shoshonean population, which shared linguistic roots with the Hopi and Pima of the Southwest and the Aztecs of Mexico, existed in the region for thousands of years before branching off into the three distinct Shoshonean groups we know today.

Other scholars dispute this idea, suggesting instead, that Numic-speaking groups like the Shoshone didn't enter the Great Basin before 1250 AD, long after most of the Coso rock art was completed. They attribute the rock art to a much earlier culture, perhaps Pinto Basin.

Improvements in dating techniques over the past 30 years now indicate that the drawings may actually be 10,000 to 19,000 years old. If so, the petroglyphs could have been created by Paleo-Indians, perhaps **Proto-Shoshoneans**, not long after they entered North America across the Bering land bridge from Asia at the end of the last ice age. It might also mean that the prehistoric

Coso people originated the artistic style which later spread to the rest of the Great Basin



Shaman

Before the Desert

Geologists say that about 10,000 years ago, when the last ice age ended and

glaciers receded into the Sierras, constant rains created a series of lakes in four basins of eastern California -- from Owens Lake along the Sierra, to Lake Manley near Nevada (called Death Valley today).

These prehistoric lake shores can still be seen in many places that are not covered with erosional detritus, including the China Lake basin. Embedded in the eroding surface of the ancient lake shores are the fossilized remains of Pleistocene grazing animals -- horses, camels, bison and sloths, and the carnivores that hunted them -- saber-toothed tigers and jackal-like dogs.

For the next few thousand years, this region of eastern California was a broad savanna with willows and cottonwood lining its streams. Pollen evidence for early plant and tree forms indicates that the familiar pine-oak woodlands of the Sierra's western slopes once extended well into the China Lake basin.

This was a region of abundant vegetation where only arid desert remains today. Food was plentiful and the climate was mild. Archaeologists have evidence that a small population of Paleo-Indians lived along the shores of these lakes. Trails and villages of an aboriginal people who left a variety of stone tools, including a distinctive type of crescent-shaped scraper found in only a few other Great Basin sites, have been unearthed.

Between 9,000 and 7,000 years ago, the climate changed; the region became progressively hotter and drier. Eventually, the chain of inland lakes dried up, resulting in the extinction of the big game by about 6,000 years ago.

This required the earliest Indian bands living along these lake shores to move from one area to another, gradually adapting to a desert-oriented culture.



Bighorn Sheep

Artifacts and petroglyphs of the atlatl (spear thrower), milling stones and basketry indicate a culture based on seed-gathering and hunting.

For centuries, the most highly prized (and one of the most difficult) animals to hunt was the bighorn sheep. But the advent of the bow and arrow about 3,000 years ago revolutionized the killing of game, including the bighorn. As the population increased and the climate became ever drier, the once plentiful bighorn was greatly diminished.

Magic Symbols

Many of the symbols which appear in the Coso petroglyphs are common in rock art throughout the Great Basin Desert and the Southwest.

The **Sun** symbol appears in many forms, including a circle rays, as concentric circles or as a circle surrounded by dots. Variations of this common design are numerous, and common to many cultures.

The **Snake** is a symbol of water and fertility in many Native American mythologies. It sometimes appears realistically, with head and tail. It also appears as a simple wavy line, perhaps symbolizing a river.

In some cultures, a concentric spiral has special significance as the **Place Of Emergence**, symbolic of the center of the cosmos or the Mother Earth navel from which the earliest people emerged.

The **Rake or Comb** is a rain motif used from California to West Texas. Lizards, frogs, toads and turtles are all bringers of rain.

The most prevalent images throughout the Cosos are the **Bighorn Sheep**, which seem to appear everywhere and in many forms. They include sheep horns, sheep heads, sheep hooves, men spearing sheep, men killing sheep with bows and arrows, dogs attacking sheep, two-headed sheep and sheep-within-sheep (pregnant sheep).

Art and Magic

Dr. David Whitley proposed a new bighorn interpretation that is gaining favor among anthropologists: "As is quite clear in the ethnographic record, the Coso petroglyphs were made by shamans; the sites themselves were shamans' vision quest locales; and the petroglyph motifs depicted the hallucinatory images seen by shamans when in the supernatural realm."



Sun symbol

Dr. Whitley maintains that the ancient petroglyph artists believed that rain falls when a mountain sheep is killed. He says this interpretation is confirmed both in the art itself and by ethnographic studies of later cultures which revealed that "the Coso region and its inhabitants were renowned as rain shamans."

"These were a people without written language or everyday acquaintance with graphic forms of expression," writes Don Moore, long-time Cosos petroglyph guide. "To them, the image on stone must have been the embodiment of magic itself. The connection between the artist's rendering of a sheep and the objective (of invoking rain) was not trivial, and the meandering abstractions laboriously engraved on basalt must have conveyed an awesome significance to the aboriginal eye."

Other interpretations have been proposed that do not limit these ancient images to shamanistic magic. Some anthropologists suggest the rock art represents symbols associated with astronomy, origin myths or migrations of various clans. A forthcoming book, to be published by the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, California, will hopefully elaborate on these various interpretations of the Coso Mountain petroglyphs.

By A.R. Royo

<https://www.desertusa.com/desert-activity/desert-artists.html>

Philippines law would require students to plant 10 trees if they want to graduate

Legislation passed by the House of Representatives formalises existing tradition and could result in 175 million new trees each year if approved by Senate

- [Harry Cockburn](#) [The Independent](#)

A new Filipino law would require all graduating high school and college students to plant at least 10 [trees](#) each before they can graduate.

The law, which has been passed by the country's lower parliamentary house, formalises a tradition of planting trees upon graduation, which is also hoped to simultaneously combat global [climate change](#).

The proponents of the law say the legislation could result in as many as 525 billion trees planted in a generation if it is properly adhered to. It has not yet been considered by the Senate (the upper parliamentary chamber), which must approve it before it can be signed into law by the president.

The [Philippines'](#) Magdalo Party representative Gary Alejano, who was the principal author of the legislation, said: "With over 12 million students graduating from elementary and nearly five million students graduating from high school and almost 500,000 graduating from college each year, this initiative, if properly implemented, will ensure that at least 175 million new trees would be planted each year.

"In the course of one generation, no less than 525 billion can be planted under this initiative," Mr Alejano said in the bill's explanatory note.

"Even with a survival rate of only 10 per cent, this would mean an additional 525 million trees would be available for the youth to enjoy, when they assume the mantle of leadership in the future."

The trees will apparently be planted in mangroves, existing forests, some protected areas, military ranges, abandoned mining sites and selected urban areas, according to [CNN's Philippines news service](#).

The backers of the bill said the species selected for planting must be appropriate to each location, climate and topography of the area and there will also be a preference for indigenous species.

In addition to the immediate carbon-absorbing impact of the trees, it is hoped the legislation will help bring environmental understanding to future generations and lead to further ecological initiatives.

The country's Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education will implement and ensure compliance with the bill if it is ultimately enacted.

The Philippines is one of the world's most severely deforested countries with total forest cover dropping from 70 per cent to just 20 per cent during the 20th century. Illegal logging remains a

problem for the country and the lack of trees in some areas has exacerbated the risk and the impacts of floods and landslides.

Update: This article has been amended to make clear that, while the bill has been passed by the House of Representatives, it has not yet been considered or passed by the Philippines Senate (the country's upper house), nor signed into law by the president. 4/6/19

- [Couple who killed 180-year-old oak tree ordered to pay nearly £500,000](#)

Facebook Sites which you may want to review



[For the Love of Indian Baskets](#)

This group is dedicated to sharing and discussing Native American basketry from antiquity to modern. We are very proud to have gathered a large group of Native American weavers, as well as collectors and academics to our fold. This is not a selling group, however Native American weavers may post up to 2 items of their own work/month. Pricing, appraising, buying advice or other business is not discussed in this public forum. Wanting to purchase an item from a weaver will be done by PM. Please post content directly to our page, no outside links or URLs allowed.

[WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE](#)

[Information & Opinions of Pyramid Lake Tribal members](#)

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[157 Republicans Just Opposed Renewing The Violence Against Women Act](#)

[Arizona officials study 3 possible routes for future I-11](#)

Arizona transportation officials are studying three possible routes for a 280-mile highway that would run from Nogales, Arizona, near the Mexico border up to Wickenburg, Arizona.

[Face the State: Native American Issues](#)

ktvn.com

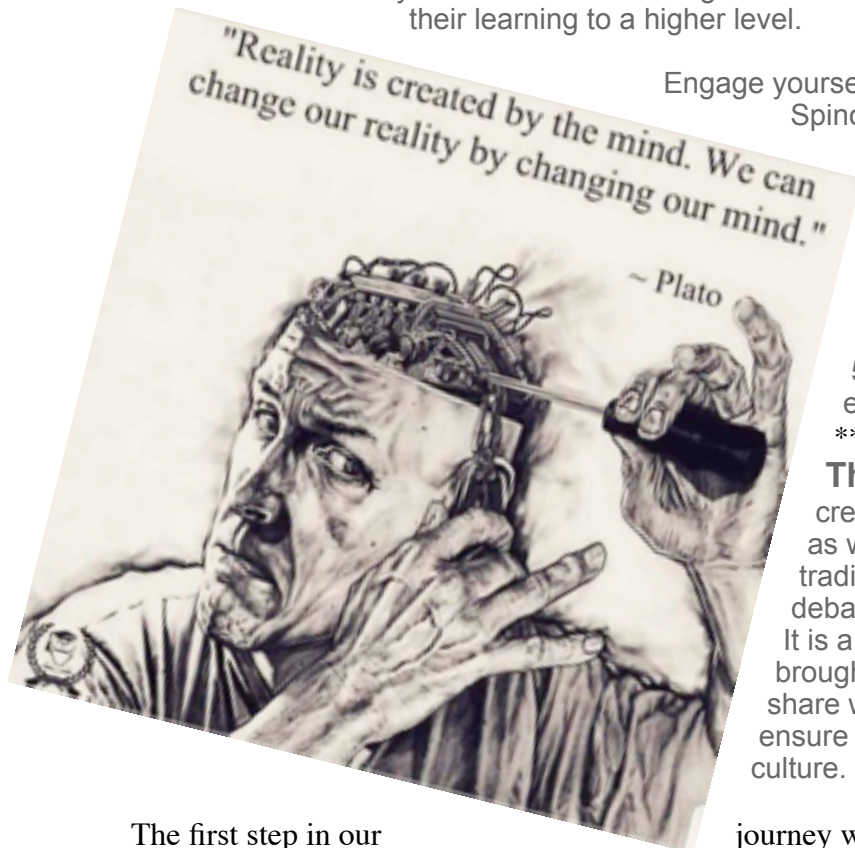
[Trump Eliminates Plastic Water Bottle Ban in National Parks, Removes White House Bikeshare Station](#)

ecowatch.com

As of June 1, 2019 American Indian/Alaska Native unidentified Person Cases in NamUs(National Missing and Unidentified Persons System): 118 unidentified AI/AN persons found in 25 states. (Male-93; Female-22; Unsure-3)

There are currently 383 unidentified AI/AN persons missing from 32 states entered into NamUs. (Male=239; Female=144)

The Hutton House Lectures at LIU Post are an award-winning, nationally acclaimed educational community dedicated to promoting continuous learning for adult students in a private university setting. This fall, LIU is launching a [Certificate in Lifelong Learning](#) taught by highly credentialed thought leaders, professors and deans as well as celebrated musicians and performers. The program is a six-course series, held September 11 to December 11, that provides students with in-depth insight into the disciplines of art, music, English literature, history, business, philosophy and science. The first of its kind in the nation, the program offers a university-level curriculum, an official LIU Certificate in Lifelong Learning, and a graduation ceremony. The certificate is designed for Hutton House students who wish to take their learning to a higher level.



Engage yourself in a discussion of the philosophy of Spinoza. Discover art as an investment!

Learn the canon of the Great American Songbook. This is just a sampling of the courses that will stimulate your mind and senses. Tuition is \$850 and includes field experiences. For a brochure or more information, contact Karen Young at 516.299.2580 or email karen.young@liu.edu. [REGISTER](#)

The Tribal Border Alliance was created to protect native-nation sovereignty as well as important tribal culture and traditions, all in the context of the ongoing debate over immigration and border security. It is a coalition of Native American tribes brought together to develop a proposal to share with federal officials in an effort to ensure unfettered access to tribal lands and culture.

The first step in our common interests and goals. On January 24-25, 2019, leaders of Indigenous Nations and tribes located on or near the international boundaries of Canada, Mexico, and Russia discussed border crossing related issues and efforts to facilitate the mobility of indigenous people, while securing tribal lands and the United States.

Leaders from 40 tribes located across the United States developed a proposal that outlined several recommendations to address some legal aspects of indigenous border crossings and the need for further training for federal border officials.

During the National Congress of the American Indian 2019 Executive Council Winter Session in February, the Tribal Border Caucus met to further consider the original proposal. Many gave their thoughts and opinions, which were evaluated to include in the proposal.

[Learn More](#) [Download Proposal](#)

Learn More About Free Brownfields Technical Assistance Available To Communities

EPA's [Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program](#) funds these [expert organizations](#) so they can support your efforts to assess, cleanup and reuse brownfield sites in your community. Learn how these organizations can help you manage a brownfields redevelopment project, incorporate equitable development and environmental job training approaches, and leverage funding and financing opportunities - for FREE!

- [New Jersey Institute of Technology \(NJIT\)](#) - Supports communities in EPA Regions 1, 3, 4.
- [Center for Creative Land Recycling \(CCLR\)](#) - Supports communities in EPA Regions 2, 9, 10.
- [Kansas State University \(KSU\)](#) - Supports communities in EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, 8 & Tribes.
- [Groundwork USA \(GW USA\)](#) - Supports brownfields and equitable development approaches.
- [Council of Development Finance Agencies \(CDFA\)](#) - Supports brownfields funding/financing.
- [Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute \(HMTRI\)](#) - Supports environmental workforce development & job training.

Join the webinar designed for your community to learn how these organizations can support your brownfields reuse efforts:

- Register at <http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/BFTA1/> for Webinar #1 - Tuesday, July 16; 11-12 pm ET. Designed for communities in AL, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, MA, MD, ME, MS, NC, NH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WV, and tribes in these areas (EPA Regions 1, 3, 4). Presenters: NJIT, CDFA, GW USA, KSU tribal TA, HMTRI.
- Register at <http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/BFTA2/> for Webinar #2 - Wednesday, July 17; 11 am-12 pm CT (10-11am MT). Designed for communities in AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, SD, TX, UT, WI, WY and tribes in these areas (EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, 8). Presenters: KSU, CDFA, GW USA, KSU tribal TA, HMTRI.
- Register at <https://clu-in.org/training/webinar/BFTA3/> for Webinar #3 - Wednesday, July 31; 2-3 pm ET (11 am-12 pm PT). Designed for communities in AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NJ, NY, NV, OR, WA, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and tribes in these areas (EPA Regions 2, 9, 10). Presenters: CCLR, CDFA, GW USA, KSU tribal TA, HMTRI.

The active version of this website has moved to: <http://people.umass.edu/derrico/shoshone/index.html>

WESTERN SHOSHONE LAND AND SOVEREIGNTY

Corbin Harney, Spiritual Leader of the Western Shoshone Nation

Will Powers photo, on cover of Corbin's book, [The Way It Is](#) (Blue Dolphin, 1995)

Full-size image: [84k jpg](#) ... [118k gif](#)

Photo used with permission of Will Powers.



Corbin Harney says:

"It's in our backyard...its in our front yard. This nuclear contamination is shortening all life. Were going to have to unite as a people and say no more! We, the people, are going to have to put our thoughts together to save our planet here. We only have One Water...One Air...One Mother Earth."

[Go to Shundahai Network, Corbin Harney's web site](#)

RAYMOND YOWELL, WESTERN SHOSHONE
NATIONAL COUNCIL CHIEF, SPEAKS ABOUT THE
TREATY OF RUBY VALLEY, FORT RUBY, NV [Camera:
[Paul Nellen](#) 1993©]

Click on picture to open Quicktime movie in a separate window.

Please be patient. Download may take several minutes on dialup connection!

