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'They're killing us': world's most endangered tribe cries for help

Indigenous Leaders & Delegates from Global South Stage Dramatic Walkout at COP25 in Madrid

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Nevada Commission for Women Meeting

Study: How bilingualism supercharges a baby's brain



[How often you hold your baby actually affects their DNA, study finds](#)

[Whether or not you caress your baby enough can leave measurable effects on their genes, a study from the University of British Columbia found.](#) miamiherald.com

No More Reindeer Games

- For generations in Sweden's Arctic region, indigenous people called the Sami have moved reindeer herds in summer to traditional grazing grounds in the high mountains bordering Norway, then in winter to the forests farther east. But [climate change is rapidly altering arctic weather patterns, and affecting food supplies for a herd of about 8,000 starving reindeer](#).
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- Elder Sami herders recall that bad winters occurred every decade or so, but now extreme and strange weather is becoming normal. The arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the globe. Snowfall is common, but as temperatures increase, occasional rainfall occurs — and “rain-on-snow” events have devastating effects.
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- The food is still there, but the reindeer can't reach it. The animals grow weaker, and females sometimes abort their calves while the survivors struggle to make it through the winter. One Sami said: “If we don't find better areas for them where they can graze and find food, then the reindeer will starve to death.” (NBCNews)

Indian Land Forever": The 50th anniversary of the Alcatraz Island takeover



Alcatraz didn't become "Indian Land Forever," as the occupiers had hoped. But these brave activists did open America's eyes to the rank poverty, alcoholism, and high infant mortality rate on Native reservation

Internet Historians Mourn Loss Of Cultural Record As Yahoo Prepares To Delete Groups

At one time, there were 10 million Yahoo Groups with more than 100 million users - from neighborhood organizations to amateur astronomers. On Saturday, the archives disappeared.

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Water Shorts

[Humboldt County: Trinity River salmon could face ‘irreversible harm’](#)

By Redwood Times, 12/10/19

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved two letters on Tuesday threatening to yank back support for a reservoir project that would divert more water from the Trinity River and pose further harm to its fishery. The board's vote was met with widespread public support as tribal members and water rights advocates called on the county to stand against the latest environmental impact report for the Sites Reservoir project, an off-stream storage of water that partly diverts Trinity River water to the Sacramento Basin.

[Water cutbacks set to begin under deal designed to ‘buy down risk’ on Colorado](#)

River **By AZCentral, 12/10/19**

Arizona, Nevada and Mexico will start taking less water from the Colorado River in January as a hard-fought set of agreements kicks in to reduce the risk of reservoirs falling to critically low levels. The two U.S. states agreed to leave a portion of their water allotments in Lake Mead under a deal with California called the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, or DCP, which the states' representatives signed at Hoover Dam in May. California agreed to contribute water at a lower trigger point if reservoir levels continue to fall. And Mexico agreed under a separate accord to take steps to help prop up Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir near Las Vegas, which now sits 40% full after a nearly 20-year run of mostly dry years.

[Amid the wasteland of the Salton Sea, a miraculous but challenging oasis is born](#)

By Los Angeles Times, 12/9/19

It came as a bittersweet surprise to biologists and government agencies monitoring the steadily shrinking Salton Sea's slide toward death by choking dust storms and salt. Thousands of acres of exposed lake bed have become, of all things, the unintended beneficiaries of lush marshlands that are homes for endangered birds and fish at the outlets of agricultural and urban runoff that used to flow directly into the Salton Sea. These unmanaged flows, scientists say, are flushing salinity out of the soil and forming freshwater ponds on the lake's margins, which are attracting cattails and grasses. They, in turn, are attracting insects, which are enticing federally endangered desert pupfish and birds such as the Yuma Ridgway's rail.

[Supreme Court Won't Review States' Rights for Water Permits](#)

By Bloomberg Environment, 12/9/19

The Supreme Court won't review a long-running legal debate over the extent of states' water permitting authority for major pipelines, hydroelectric dams, and other projects. The justices on Dec. 9 declined to take up California Trout v. Hoopa Valley Tribe, a case focused on Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which calls on states to ensure that proposals that require federal permits meet water quality standards within their borders. The court also said that Justice Brett Kavanaugh didn't take part in the decision on the petition. Kavanaugh ruled on several motions in this case when he...

[Addressing Quality, Affordability, and Climate Change Issues in US Water Policy](#)

By Resources Magazine, 11/26/19

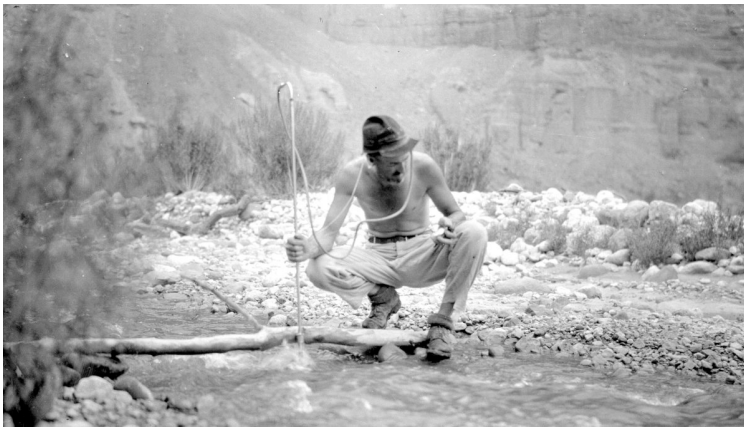
Americans have come to expect clean, abundant fresh water for a variety of needs: drinking, industry, healthy ecosystems, recreation, and tourism, just to name a few. As the number of Americans living in urban areas continues to grow, domestic and industrial demand for water will increase and compete with other uses of water, such as irrigation for agriculture, one of the

largest destinations for fresh water in the United States. These changes are contributing to a pressing issue: the quality of freshwater available in America is becoming increasingly problematic.

Water Board Approves Grasslands Permit Despite Testimony by Fishing, Tribal and Conservation Groups

By Daily Kos, 12/5/19

Rancho Cordova -- The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board today voted 4-1 to issue a 25-year permit to continue discharges of selenium and other toxins from commingled agricultural and stormwater runoff into the San Joaquin River and the San Francisco Bay Delta, despite testimony from dozens of representatives of fishing, tribal, environmental justice and conservation groups challenging the permit.



Politicians knew the inconvenient truth about the Colorado River 100 years ago — and ignored it

NAVEENA SADASIVAM

Minnesota Appeals Court rejects water pollution permit for Minntac

Jennifer Bjorhus, Star Tribune

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has ordered state regulators to rework a long-awaited pollution permit related to a leaking 1960s-era Iron Range taconite tailings basin, saying it might need tougher standards to protect local waters.

The decision, issued Monday, kicks the contentious permit back to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), which issued the updated version last year after allowing the facility to operate for more than two decades with an expired, temporary permit.

The basin holds mining waste from Minntac's mine in Mountain Iron, which is owned by Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel Corp. and is the country's largest taconite operation.

At issue are pollutants — primarily the mining byproduct sulfate — leaking into nearby waters from Minntac's 13-square-mile, unlined basin.

The updated water quality permit called for U.S. Steel to reduce sulfate in the basin within 10 years and install a collection system to capture and return contaminants leaking out of the western side of the basin.

U.S. Steel appealed the permit because the MPCA denied its request for a variance from groundwater-quality standards, and also denied its request to hold a contested-case hearing.

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the environmental group WaterLegacy separately appealed, arguing that the contaminants seeping out into surface water — directly and through groundwater — were violating water quality standards, decimating downstream wild rice and worsening mercury contamination of fish.

The appeals were bundled. And in a complicated decision, state Appeals Court Judge Jeanne M. Cochran found that the MPCA did not err when it concluded that the federal Clean Water Act doesn't govern industrial discharges into groundwater. The law is ambiguous, and the agency's interpretation was reasonable, she said.

However, she said the MPCA did err by applying so-called Class 1 water-quality standards — standards set for human drinking water — to determine groundwater conditions for the permit. Because of that, she said, she couldn't make a decision on U.S. Steel's challenge for a variance and an administrative hearing.

Cochran also agreed with the tribe and WaterLegacy that the MPCA failed "to take the requisite 'hard look'" at including certain stringent water effluent standards in the permit. The standards, called water-quality-based effluent limits, or WQBELs, are clear, numerical standards for pollutants such as sulfate. Cochran instructed the MPCA "to make substantiated findings" regarding whether the WQBELs are required in the permit. The MPCA has said that the state's wild rice sulfate water quality standard would apply if the WQBEL standards are required, she said.

The absence of these WQBELs is also at the heart of ongoing disputes over the water quality permit the agency issued last year to PolyMet Mining for the state's first copper-nickel mine on the Iron Range.

Rita Aspinwall, a spokeswoman for the Fond du Lac Band, issued a statement saying, "After nearly 15 years of urging the MPCA to enforce state water quality standards in updating the Minntac permit, which expired in 1992, the Band is cautiously optimistic that tailings basin pollutants will finally be reduced."

Minntac's tailings basin has been polluting surrounding waters such as Twin Lakes for decades, it said.

The band noted that the affected area includes "wild rice waters that lie within the western border of the 1854 Ceded Territory, where the Band retains off-reservation treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather."

U.S. Steel did not respond to a request for comment. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, which filed a friend of the court brief, said the Appeals Court decision underscores its view that the MPCA doesn't effectively regulate the mining industry. "We've been waiting almost three decades now for a modern permit to regulate Minntac's water pollution and again, it's failed," the center's spokesman Aaron Klemz said.

MPCA spokesman Darin Broton said the agency is assessing its next steps and "will continue engaging with stakeholders to ensure the state's groundwater and surface water are protected."

WaterLegacy lawyer Paula Maccabee called the decision a "first step" in setting meaningful limits on sulfate. The Minntac tailings basin is one of "a few huge discharges of sulfate pollution" in the state, she said.

Parties have 30 days to file an appeal with the Supreme Court.
Jennifer Bjorhus • 612-673-4683

Bohemian Waxwing





Senate passes bill to protect, promote Native American languages

The program provides funding opportunities to projects that ensure the survival and continuance of Native languages. daily-times.com

CSN to offer bachelor's degree in environmental management

The college, which already has an associate's degree program, will launch the new offering in August 2020 to help students prepare for environmental management careers.

Books May Be Dead in 2039, but Stories Live On By ALIX E. HARROW

On the **600th anniversary** of the Gutenberg press, we can still celebrate how stories are shared.

From blankets to phone cases, this Minnesota designer creates

'Ojibwe contemporary art for all' <http://strib.mn/2s3rmwM>

For many modern travelers, the Indigenous history in national parks is simply unknown—but modern tribes still have ancestral connections to these lands.

Next time you visit a national park, take time to learn and honor its Indigenous history
For many modern travelers, the Indigenous history in national parks is simply unknown—but
modern tribes still have ancestral connections to these lands. roadtrippers.com

Kim Townsend

These two opened society's door for native right activism at home. Proud to be family. Two of our people's greatest leaders. Not of the mock government we've been boxed into, but real leaders who challenged the real oppressors.



On This Day (December 9) : In 1993 the Dann Sisters received the Right Livelihood Award (Nobel Peace Prize). Mary Dann and her sister, Carrie were Western Shoshone ranchers, ... [See More](#)

Pipelines

Pipelines are popping up everywhere — the East Coast, the Gulf Coast, Appalachia. Protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline made national headlines in 2016; the Keystone XL expansion seems to perpetually toggle between being on and off. Grist wanted to illustrate the enormous scale of these projects by taking you, our readers, to the communities they actually impact. Last week, Grist published a [months-long project](#) made possible by the support of readers like you.

In the case of our recent project, Lyndsey Gilpin traveled the length of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, slated to carry natural gas from West Virginia into North Carolina. She visited Appalachian streams, rural towns, and quiet hollers. She met Virginia farmers who discovered an endangered bumblebee that could help reroute the pipeline and spoke to diverse North Carolina communities who hoped their health concerns would do the same. <https://grist.org/justice/tracing-the-path-of-dominion-energys-atlantic-coast-natural-gas-pipeline/>

Then, thanks to your generosity, Grist sent senior video producer Daniel Penner to profile one of those North Carolina regions. His short documentary film about rural, predominantly black residents a county over from where the environmental justice movement started nearly 40 years ago — and their fight against the pipeline — is out today. You can watch it [here](#).

These pieces illustrate how complex an undertaking building a pipeline is — and how people are fighting to keep one out of their backyard. The project also stokes a conversation about whether now, a time of climate emergency, is the time to be building new fossil fuel infrastructure.

[Alaska Is Already Irreparably Changed by Climate Disruption](#)

DAHR JAMAIL, TOMDISPATCH

Vast numbers of climate scientists are now grieving for the planet and humanity's future, with some even describing their symptoms as a climate-change version of post-traumatic stress disorder. And it's not just climate scientists. Others living near areas where the changes are happening most dramatically seem to be experiencing such symptoms as well.

[Read the Article →](#)

[UN Chief Warns "Point of No Return" on Climate Change "Is in Sight"](#)

Daniel Politi, Slate

Politi writes: "U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres isn't mincing words when it comes to issuing a dire warning about the global climate crisis, saying that the effort to stop climate change has been 'utterly inadequate.'" [READ MORE](#)



Juvenile Crested Owl (*Lophotrix cristata*)
by Christain Nunes

[Berta Cáceres Murder: Seven Convicted Men Sentenced to Up to 50 years](#)

Nina Lakhani, Guardian UK

Lakhani writes: "The seven men found guilty of killing the Honduran indigenous environmentalist Berta Cáceres have been sentenced to 30 to 50 years." [READ MORE](#)

"This land is mine, it is ours. They can go away to the city, but we Indians live in the forest. They are going to kill everything. Everything is dying. We are all going to go hungry, the children will be hungry, my daughter will be hungry, and I'll be hungry too."

[Logging companies keen to exploit Brazil's rainforest have been accused by human rights organisations of using gunmen to wipe out the Awá, a...](#)



whitewolfpack.com

['They're killing us': world's most endangered tribe cries for help](#)

[Logging companies keen to exploit Brazil's rainforest have been accused by human rights organisations of using gunmen to wipe out the Awá, a...](#)

["Shame!" Indigenous Leaders & Delegates from Global South Stage Dramatic Walkout at COP25 in Madrid](#) democracynow.org

[Democracy Now! was broadcasting live from the United Nations climate summit in Madrid, Spain, when hundreds of climate advocates and people's movements at the U.N. climate action summit staged a protest inside the conference venue. As the demonstration unfolds, we speak with Tom Goldtooth, executi...](#)

Nevada Commission for Women Meeting

December 17, 2019

9:00 a.m

If you would like to keep informed about the Nevada Commission for Women, join us December 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m

Where:

State Public Works Division Conference Room 515 E. Musser St., First Floor Carson City, NV 89701

and

State Public Works Division Conference Room 2300 McLeod St. Las Vegas, NV 89104

Agenda will be posted on our website: http://admin.nv.gov/Boards/Women/Home_Page/.



[Study: How bilingualism supercharges a baby's brain](#) bigthink.com | By [Big Think](#)
[Just hearing two languages helps babies develop cognitive skills before they even speak. Here's how - and how you can help them develop those skills.](#)