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Trump halts support for Yucca Mountain, Nevada nuclear waste dump

Native American Voices

International Exchange Opportunities

Saugeen Ojibway Nation Has Saved Lake Huron From a Nuclear Waste Dump

George Moose



Nevada nuclear waste dump

[Reuters](#)•February 7, 2020

WASHINGTON, Feb 6 (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday said he opposes the long-delayed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada, reversing his policy on a project on which the United States has spent billions of dollars over decades but never opened.

Trump halts support for Yucca Mountain,

By Timothy Gardner

Republican Trump's past three budgets have called for the licensing process of Yucca to restart with \$116 million proposed last year in the 2020 budget, and \$120 million in each of the previous years.

On Thursday, however, Trump wrote on Twitter: "Nevada, I hear you on Yucca Mountain and my Administration will RESPECT you!" The administration is committed to exploring innovative approaches, he wrote, adding "I'm confident we can get it done."

In addition, a senior administration official said, "The President's 2021 budget will not have funding for the licensing of Yucca Mountain in it."

Yucca Mountain has been pending since Ronald Reagan was president and the government has spent money on initial construction and design, despite staunch opposition to the project from lawmakers in Nevada, who have said that the federal government has tried to pressure a sparsely-populated state.

Trump's administration has tried to support nuclear power plants which are suffering from high security costs and competition from power plants that burn natural gas, which analysts expect to fall to lowest price in more than 20 years.

Tensions between Nevada lawmakers and Washington over nuclear waste flared when the administration revealed that the government secretly shipped to Nevada deadly plutonium from a South Carolina site that produced it for nuclear bombs during the Cold War. The shipment occurred sometime before November 2018.

U.S. Representative Dina Titus, a Democrat from Nevada, said on Twitter: "President Trump tried to shove nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain down our throats for three years. We beat him badly and he knows it."

Nuclear waste from electricity generation is currently stored at nuclear power plants, first at spent fuel pools and then dry storage casks.

Other sites being considered for the waste are in rural Texas and New Mexico. (Reporting by Timothy Gardner; editing by Grant McCool)

Congratulations and thanks, Ian Zabarte

[DC>LV Iowa Edition](#) (different spin)

But first, SCOOP!

President **Donald Trump** says he has listened to Nevadans and he wants alternatives to Yucca Mountain....



Native American Voices

Meet with community and tribal leaders and seek insight and understanding into some of the pressing political issues, passionate activism, and rich diversity of Native American cultures.

The idea for a Native American-focused educational tour came to us from our previous *Nation* travelers, people who had joined us on our Civil Rights program. They asked us if we could, working with tribal leaders, create a thoughtful, respectful, and stimulating program that would begin to look at some of the current community initiatives, energetic activist work, legal challenges and cultural engagement of Native peoples in the U.S. A journey where we could hear firsthand from the community about their past struggles, their current lives and their aspirations for the future.

Our goal for this program is to listen and to learn: to hear directly from Native Americans without the questionable filters of history writers, mainstream media representations, even well-intentioned progressive journalists. We reached out to tribal leaders and learned that many in the community are anxious to be heard, to challenge misconceptions, and to share their good work and promising programs.

Our itinerary focuses on just a few geographical areas: **the Dakotas, Colorado, and New Mexico**, where we hope to gain insight into important aspects of the Hidatsa, Mandan, Lakota, Dakota, Ute, Navajo, Apache and Kiowa Nations.

It's a rich nine-day program that just begins to scratch the surface of these complex cultures. We'll travel through dramatic Western landscapes peppered with rich historical sites as we meet with community and tribal leaders, story-tellers, artists, musicians and activists – focusing on listening to what they want to tell us, on understanding their hopes for the future, and facing the shameful legacy of the U.S.'s brutal history of eradication and oppression. We hope to have the privilege of hearing singular voices that have been silenced for too long.

Accompanying you throughout the journey is Linda Baker, Director of the Southern Ute Cultural Center.

Highlights:

- Join a pre-trip conference call with reporter and editor of *High Country News* tribal affairs desk, **Tristan Ahtone**, who will lead a discussion about the topics we'll address on the program. Tristan will provide a recommended readings list and has chosen a group of essential Native American-made films that we will screen on our bus trips.
- Travel with historian **Dakota Wind Goodhouse** through North Dakota, learning about tribal culture as he shares his personal stories and unique insights into the area.
- Visit the **Standing Rock Reservation** and meet with **Phyllis Young**, a legendary Lakota activist and one of the founders of the #NoDAPL movement.
- Enjoy intimate performances of native songs on flute, guitar, and drum with musician **Sequoia Crosswhite**, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux and descendent of Chief of War Eagle and Chief Swift Cloud.
- Visit unique geographic wonders like **Wind Cave National Park**, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**, and **Chimney Rock**, places important in Native American history and several emergence stories.
- Meet with staff at the **Native American Rights Fund**, who provide vital legal assistance to tribes, fighting all the way to the Supreme Court to secure vital treaty rights and protect Native interests.
- Take a behind the scenes tour with **Linda Baker** at the beautiful **Southern Ute Cultural Center** and learn about the economy of the modern Ute and their experience with casino gaming.
- Participate in an optional post-tour extension to **Santa Fe**.
- See the itinerary for complete details

TRIP DATES

May 10 - 18, 2020: **SOLD OUT**

MAY 10: FORT YATES D

- Independent arrivals into Bismarck. Meet at the Bismarck Airport at 2:30pm and begin the program with a visit to the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum.
- We will be joined by Dakota Wind Goodhouse, from Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation. He is currently

a Native American Studies instructor at United Tribes Technical College, which is owned and operated by five federally recognized tribes in North Dakota.

- Afternoon meeting with Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn. An acclaimed activist and artist, Danielle is the External Affairs Director for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and an associate judge for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.
- Check-in to the Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, located in the Standing Rock Reservation.
- Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner with fellow travelers.

MAY 11: FORT YATES B, L, D

- Depart in the morning and drive along Highway 1806, the Standing Rock National Native American Scenic Byway, an 86-mile route that climbs up and down the Missouri River breaks, past buffalo herds and eagle's nests. History comes alive on this journey: the great Lakota spiritual leader Sitting Bull lived and died here; Meriwether Lewis and William Clark stopped 14 times along this trail, and it is the final resting place of Sakakawea.
- Accompanied by Dakota Goodhouse stop at the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The reconstructed 'On-A-Slant Indian Village' provides an excellent introduction to the earthlodges of the Mandan Indians who occupied this site from about 1575-1781.
- Driving towards Bismarck stop, at the Double Ditch Indian Village, a large earth-lodge community inhabited by the Mandan Indians for nearly 300 years (AD 1490 – 1785) and once a center of trade between the Mandans, their nomadic neighbors, and later, Euro-American traders.
- After lunch in Mandan, meet with Holly Doll, a Native American who set up the Five Nations Arts Organization. Founded in 1992, they are a resource to artists and collectors of Native American art. In addition to talking about the art project, Holly will provide a presentation on cultural sensitivity.
- Also meeting the group will be Cheryl Kary, co-founder of the Sacred Pipe Resource Center (SPRC) which was founded by a group of residents of the Bismarck-Mandan area who are committed to the mission of maintaining a home-away-from-home for off-reservation Native Americans living in the area.
- Meet with Scott Davis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, who serves as a cabinet level liaison between North Dakota's state and tribal governments.
- Dinner at a local restaurant

MAY 12: KEYSTONE B, L, D

- Begin the morning with visits on the Standing Rock Reservation, home to the Lakota and Dakota people. The reservation consists of a land base of 2.8 million acres spread over North and South Dakota. Meet with Phyllis Young, a former council member for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, was one of the principal coordinator/organizers for Central Ogeton camp, the main camp of Water Protectors at Standing Rock.
- Nearby is the community of Cannon Ball where we will meet with Rev. John Floberg, who, for 25 years, headed congregations in Cannon Ball, Fort Yates and Selfridge. Floberg is deeply committed to the DAPL protests and, with the endorsement of the national Episcopal Church, Floberg provided supplies to campers and hosted protestors in his church.
- Drive to Fort Yates, the main town of Standing Rock and enjoy a locally cooked lunch at the Community Center.
- After lunch visit the original burial site of Sitting Bull who was assassinated on the western part of the reservation on December 15, 1890. Sitting Bull was a strong advocate for maintaining the land, rights and ways of the Lakota people.
- Close by is the Standing Rock Monument overlooking Oahe Reservoir. The name of Standing Rock derives from a stone held sacred by the Dakota/Lakota people. There are many stories about the revered stone but all speak of it as a woman or woman and child who turned to stone.

- End the afternoon with a meeting of the Standing Rock Tribal Council in their offices, designed following authentic Native American architectural elements. The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of their current initiatives and challenges.
- Visit Sitting Bull College and Library. Founded in 1973, it is one of 34 tribal controlled-colleges nationwide.
- Drive about 3 hours to Keystone and the K Bar S Lodge, tucked deep in the Black Hills. Rooms have been reserved each with balconies offering views over Mt. Rushmore, an iconic symbol to many but a painful reminder to the Lakota Sioux of sacred land illegally annexed and as a celebration of presidents involved in the destruction of tribal life.
- Dinner at the hotel.

MAY 13: KEYSTONE B, L, D

- This morning meet with Sequoia Crosswhite, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a descendant of Chief War Eagle and Chief Swift Cloud. He is an accomplished musician, grass dancer and historian, and his handmade flutes and musical recordings uphold the traditions of his Lakota ancestors.
- Drive just over an hour to Kyle, stopping at the inspiring Thunder Valley Community Center, which began 10 years ago when Jerome and Nick Tilsen decided they wanted to “create models of change that will overpower intergenerational poverty and build momentum towards regional equity.”
- Head towards the town of Pine Ridge stopping at the site of the Massacre of Wounded Knee in 1890. The “battle” was actually a massacre where hundreds of unarmed Lakota women, children, and men, including Big Foot, were shot and killed by U.S. troops. The history of Wounded Knee would spur American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) activists to occupy the site in 1973.
- In Pine Ridge we have requested a meeting with Julian Bear Runner, who in 2018 became President of one of the largest tribes in the nation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Bear Runner ran on a platform promoting new generation leadership and a concerted effort to tackle corruption.
- Stop in at the Oglala Tribe Justice Center which opened in 2015 to house new courtrooms, a short term correctional holding facility, offices for law enforcement and justice officials, and a “peacemaking” room for family and group disputes. Chief Judge Charles Abourezk and Bette Goings, the Tribal Court Administrator, will join us for a meeting.
- Meet with artist Joe Pulliam Buffalo Dreamer whose work is in the permanent collection of the National Museum of the American Indian. Pulliam has dedicated his art to preserving Lakota culture and his pieces are very similar to the earliest depictions of ledger art.
- Return to Keystone in the late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel.

MAY 14: DENVER B, L

- Accompanied by Sequoia Crosswhite spend the morning visiting the Badlands National Park, or “makosica” as it is known to the Lakota people. This is a place of mystery, spirituality and natural beauty.
- Stop at the Wind Cave National Park, an important spot in the Emergence Story. In Lakota culture, history is passed down to new generations through the spoken word. There are many different versions of the Emergence Story, varying from band to band and family to family.
- Continue by road to Denver making a stop in Boulder to meet with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). Since 1971, NARF has provided legal assistance to Indian tribes, organizations, and individuals nationwide who might otherwise have gone without adequate representation, prevailing in hundreds of major cases involving tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, natural resource protection, and Indian education.
- Continue on to Denver and the Downtown Renaissance Hotel, which features a series of murals focusing on early Indigenous history and painted by Allen True, commissioned in 1923.
- Dinner at leisure.

MAY 15: DEL NORTE B, L, D

- We have requested a meeting with Ernest House Jr. former executive director of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) who created educational resource guides, organized a dramatic apology for a centuries-old massacre and led politicians through tours of his tribal home as he worked to address the wounds of colonization.
- Attend panel discussion hosted by Rose McGuire, formerly of the Indian Education Program in the Denver Public School system, on the life of young Native Americans off the reservation.
- After lunch, drive through spectacular landscapes stopping at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, home to the highest sand dunes in North America. The mountains, forests, and dunes in the park are sacred to the Apache, Navajo, Ute, and Pueblo Indians.
- Continue on to Del Norte and the Windsor Hotel, one of Colorado's oldest hotels. Its construction started soon after the town was founded in 1871.
- Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

MAY 16: IGNACIO B, L

- This morning drive about two hours to Chimney Rock, an intimate, off-the-beaten path archaeological site located at the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains. The site was home to the ancestors of the modern Pueblo Indians 1,000 years ago and is of great spiritual significance to these tribes.
- Continue on to Bayfield and lunch at the Bottom Shelf Brewery which is located in the heart of the Pine River Valley, nestled in the quaint downtown area of Bayfield.
- After lunch drive to Durango and the Native American Center (NAC). The center provides academic, cultural, social, and transitional support for undergraduate Native American students.
- Drive to Ignacio and the Sky Ute Casino Resort, located on the Southern Ute Reservation. The oldest continuous residents of Colorado are the Ute Indians, who came into the present day United States along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.
- Late afternoon discussion focusing on the social and economic impact of Indian gaming. Of the 567 federally recognized tribes, 238 tribes operate 474 gaming facilities in 28 states. Gaming has had a significant positive economic impact on the Native American community, yet is not without its detractors. We'll hear from tribal experts on the economic and political realities.
- Dinner at leisure this evening.

MAY 17: IGNACIO B, L, D

- This morning visit the Southern Ute Cultural Center led by your subject expert, Linda Baker, who is also the director of the Southern Ute Cultural Center. Owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, it was established in 1971 to preserve and promote Ute culture. The group will also meet with Edward Box III who is the culture director of the Southern UTE Cultural Preservation Department.
- Lunch at Fox Fire Farm, a winery and nine hundred acre ranch.
- Proposed meeting with the staff at the Southern Ute Drum, the tribe's biweekly community newspaper.
- Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

MAY 18: IGNACIO B

- Independent transfers for return flights home from Durango.

POST-TOUR OPTIONAL EXTENSION IN SANTA FE MAY 18–20, 2020

- See the Aztec Ruins National Monument; meet with woman at Tewa Women United, a multicultural and multiracial organization founded and led by Native women; visit the Pojoaque Pueblo, the Poeh Cultural Center, Institute of American Indian Arts, Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, and the Indigenous Language Institute. Hotel Santa Fe

**Dinner Hosting Opportunities/Requests
More Women Political Leaders from All Over**

A delegation of eight women elections experts and journalists from Australia, Burma, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Thailand are looking for a diplomacy dinner on March 6, 7, or 8.

Jordanian Delegation of Advocates to Combat Gender Violence

A delegation of six Jordanian officials who combat gender based violence are looking for a diplomacy dinner on March 20, 21, or 22.

Journalists Talking about Dis-Information

A delegation of 26 journalists from 26 countries are looking for a diplomacy dinner on May 6 or 7.

Contact Carina Black at cblack@unr.edu if you are interested in hosting!

Interested in Hosting Women Leaders from Russia for Overnight Stays?

NNIC is hosting another Open World Exchange Program, and we are welcoming six participants from Russia In March 2020. Thus, we need your help!

Open World is an arm of the U.S. Congress. Program delegates are successful women entrepreneurs in Russia who are visiting Reno, Nevada as part of the Open World Program to participate in Women Entrepreneurship Symposium and meet with their American counterparts.

We are looking for families to host program participants between March 6th-14th, 2020, eight nights that they are in Reno. Could you, or do you know a family who could host one or two (separate bedrooms) participants? We have five female and one male delegates.

Please contact Nilufer Leuthold at nleuthold@nnic.org for more information or if you'd like to sign up!



[Saugeen Ojibway Nation Has Saved Lake Huron From a Nuclear Waste Dump - CounterPunch.org](http://CounterPunch.org)

[A major victory for Canada’s First Nations has just been won in Ontario. On January 31, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation \(SON\) overwhelmingly voted down the proposed deep geological repository \(DGR\) for storage of low- and intermediate-level radioactive nuclear waste next to Lake Huron. The DGR had long...](http://CounterPunch.org)

The Creator gathered all of creation and said, 'I want to hide something from the humans until they are ready for it. It is the realization that they create their own reality.' The eagle said, 'Give it to me, I will take it to the moon.' The Creator said, 'No one day they will go there and find it.' The salmon said, 'I will hide it on the bottom of the ocean.' 'No, they will go there too.' The buffalo said, 'I will bury it on the great plains.' The Creator said, 'They will cut into the skin of the earth and find it.' Then Grandmother Mole, who lives in the breast of Mother Earth, and who has no physical eyes but sees with spiritual eyes, said: 'Put it inside them.' And the Creator said, 'It is done'



George Moose

George, as many knew him, was a happy outdoor yet keen about tradish cultural kind of guy. George was one of very few Paiute speakers left who spoke his Numu language. He spoke his language everyday, wherever and whenever people would ask him to, at tribal functions, out in the pine nut hills, at ceremonies, and in conversation with those who understood. He enjoyed many things, from playing traditional stick game, picking pine nuts, to watching movies and eating popcorn. Any help from you is appreciated.



Nathan Whistler