

Journal #4710 from sdc 6.29.20

Nuclear tests and the Shoshone people

NCAI Statement on the Negative Decision in Chehalis v. Mnuchin

Smithsonians Digital Catalogue of Journeys

From the National League of Women Voters: this was voted on Saturday

Written Comments/Action Needed on Robinson Mine Expansion

A Discussion with Sen. Tina Smith, Lt. Governor Flanagan & Tribal and Urban Indian Leaders

Why Native Seeds/SEARCH Is In Higher Demand Than Ever

From the Phoebe Hearst Anthropology Library

Indigenous History in the Bay Area webinar series

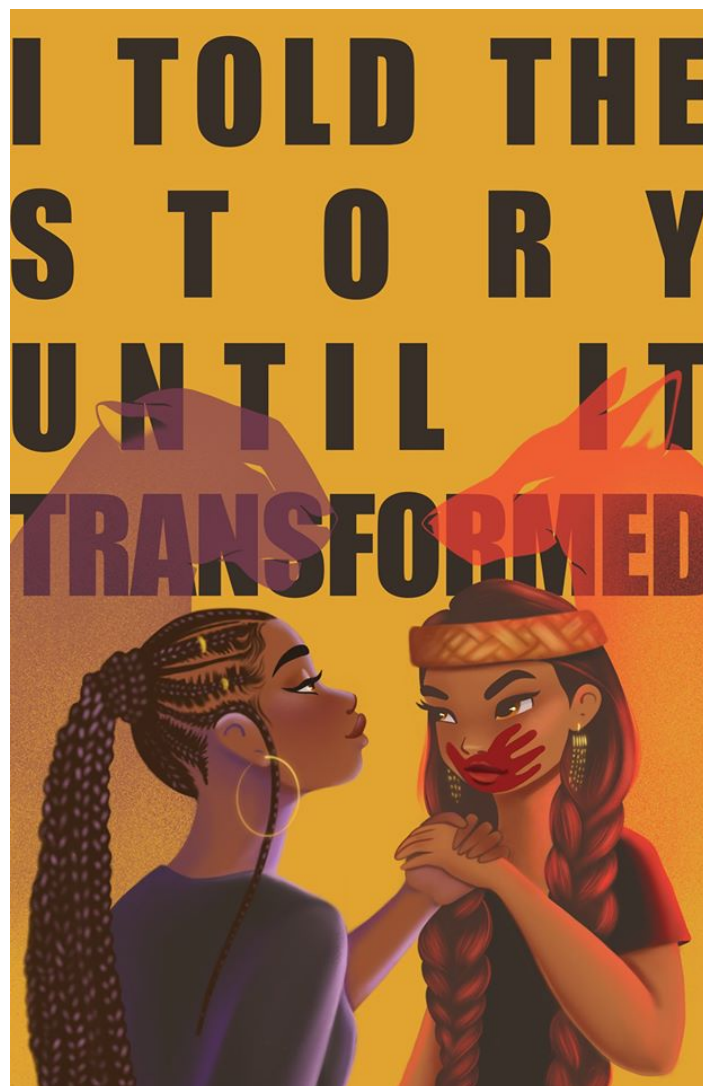
2020-2021 Running Strong DREAMSTARTER TEACHER

How a Journalist Came to Cover the Brutal Murder of Honduran Activist Berta Cáceres

Disgraced Lobbyist Jack Abramoff Headed Back to Jail

What do Covid19, Ebola, Lyme and AIDs all have in common?

A White Buffalo is Born



NEVADA VIEWS: Nuclear tests and the Shoshone people

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/nevada-views-nuclear-tests-and-the-shoshone-people-2063105/>

Photo Courtesy of Nevada State Museum (*pic won't copy but certainly worth a look*)

By Ian Zabarte Special to the Review-Journal June 27, 2020 - 9:00 pm

REGARDING Gary Martin's June 15 Review-Journal article, "Nuke test rumors spur Nevada lawmakers": As a Shoshone, we always had horses. My grandfather always told me, "Stop kicking up dust." Now I understand that it was because of the radioactive fallout.

To hide the impacts from nuclear weapons testing, Congress defined Shoshone Indian ponies as "wild horses." There is no such thing as a wild horse. They are feral horses, but the Wild Horse and Burrow Acts of 1971 gave the Bureau of Land Management the affirmative act to take Shoshone livestock while blaming the Shoshone ranchers for destruction of the range caused by nuclear weapons testing. My livelihood was taken and the Shoshone economy destroyed by the BLM. On the land, radioactive fallout destroyed the delicate high desert flora and fauna, creating huge vulnerabilities where noxious and invasive plant species took hold.

Nuclear weapons testing at the Nevada National Security Site has left a dark legacy of radiation exposure to Americans downwind from the battlefield of the Cold War. Among the victims are the Shoshone people, whom, by no fault of our own, were exposed to radiation in fallout from more than 924 nuclear tests. The Shoshone people never consented to the nuclear weapons testing.

Nuclear testing is a violation of the peace treaty with the Shoshone, the Treaty of Ruby Valley, and the U.S. Constitution, Article 6 Section 2, the treaty supremacy clause. Nothing in the treaty contemplated the secret massacre of Shoshone people with radioactive poison from nuclear weapons testing within our own homelands. My tribe and family are the victims.

The enduring purpose of nuclear technology is the creation of weapons of mass destruction. Their tests within the Shoshone homelands are deliberate acts that destroy the Shoshone people. No Shoshone, not one person, should be sacrificed for the benefit of some Americans and the profit of the military industrial complex.

Nuclear weapons development in Shoshone homelands violates humanitarian law, human rights law and environmental law and is racist. Racism is a crime. It is called genocide, "a crime against humanity."

To prove intent to commit genocide, we have only to look at the culture of secrecy of the military occupation of Shoshone homelands during and since the Cold War at the test site. The acts

committed in nuclear weapons development and testing against the Shoshone people benefit other Americans. The Shoshone people suffer without relief or acknowledgement of our silent sacrifice. Secrecy is not transparent. Secrecy is not democratic and is unconstitutional when the acts are conducted in and upon the Shoshone land and people.

Nothing in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended in 1987, considered the fact of Shoshone ownership of the proposed Yucca Mountain high-level nuclear waste repository. Almost \$15 billion was spent to characterize the site, giving it the label as, “the most studied piece of real estate in the world.” The Nuclear Regulatory Commission admitted in the licensing proceedings that the Department of Energy has not proven ownership.

Nevada took hundreds of millions of dollars for characterization studies from the federal government in grants equal to taxes from Shoshone property and gave nothing to the Shoshone. A clear case of taxation without representation to defraud the Shoshone people of our property interests.

What is needed now are hearings on and support for the extension and funding of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 2019. The Shoshone people need DNA testing and funding for tribal community health education on radiation basics and information on appropriate protective behavior to mitigate radiation exposure.

The Shoshone people are committed to the enforcement of law in the service of justice and human dignity. That is human growth and development, not nuclear weapons.

Ian Zabarte is Principal Man for the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians.

NCAI Statement on the Negative Decision in *Chehalis v. Mnuchin*

WASHINGTON, D.C. | The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is extremely disappointed in today’s decision by the D.C. District Court in [Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation v. Mnuchin](#).

Although the Court acknowledged that Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) “are not federally recognized Indian tribes but are for-profit corporations established by Congress under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act”, and explicitly limited its decision to “the status of ANCs under [the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act] and the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act]”, today’s decision would result in critical congressional funding intended for Indian tribal governments being diverted to state chartered corporate entities with no governance authority and no governmental duties to tribal citizens in Alaska.

NCAI continues to believe that Congress intended for Title V CARES Act funding to be distributed to Indian tribal governments.

[View the New Smithsonian Journeys Digital Catalog to Find Inspiration for Your Next Journey](#)

[From the National League of Women Voters: this was voted on Saturday](#)

The National LWV adopted the Federal Transfer of Lands position 76% for and 24% against.

Montana LWV and New Mexico LWV spoke in favor of it. Opposed were Los Gatos CA and an east coast League concerned that this should not be national position because states should determine their own position.

Transfer of Federal Public Lands

(Adopted NM 2019)

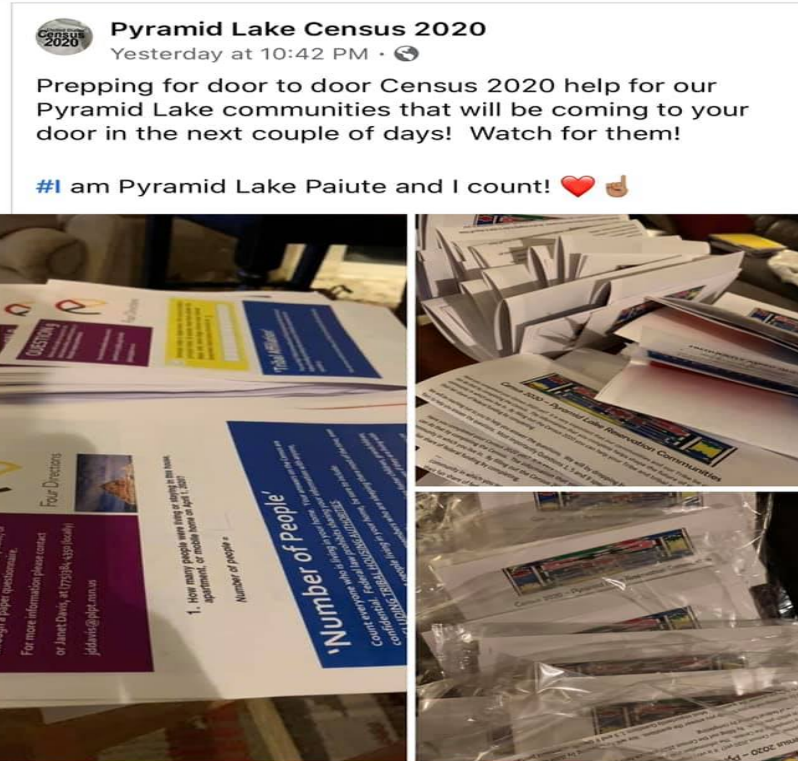
The League believes that federal public lands should benefit all Americans. The lands should remain under the jurisdiction of the federal government with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands managed according to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield policy. We support improvements in management and regulation.

Federal law allows for the sale or exchange of federal lands if it is in the public interest. Prior to any transfer, a comprehensive assessment that covers the following issues should be performed:

1. environmental analysis, including air and water quality, biodiversity, endangered and threatened species
2. health impacts
3. environmental justice
4. suitability of proposed land use
5. subsurface resources
6. financial/economic impacts
7. cultural resources
8. public access
9. management for fire and other natural disasters
10. tribal consultation.

The League is opposed to the sale of federal lands to private entities except for small tracts surrounded by nonfederal lands.

The League is opposed to the transfer of subsurface rights to the state or other entities. Any development of subsurface rights on federal land should benefit all Americans.



**ACTION NEEDED ON ROBINSON MINE EXPANSION:
Written comments due by midnight Monday, June 29th, 2020**

GBRW would like to encourage your submission of written scoping comments on the Robinson mine expansion, which is a problematic mine next to Ely, Nevada whose expansion would likely exacerbate already existing problems and require hundreds of years of on site management to treat water pollution. Comments on the expansion are being accepted by the BLM until the scoping period ends on Monday, June 29th. This is an important opportunity to ask that communities, water resources, and ecosystems be adequately considered with the expansion and at the mine generally.

How to Take Action:

A template comment letter, with GBRW's main concerns, is below. Feel free to copy and paste our template letter, as well as personalize it! Submit your comments by emailing them to blm_nv_eydo_robinson_eis@blm.gov

TEMPLATE COMMENT LETTER

Tiera Arbogast, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office
702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301

Re: Scoping comments on Proposed Robinson Mine Expansion

I am very concerned about the trajectory of the Robinson Mine with the proposed expansion, particularly its potential to pollute water inter-generationally (hundreds of years) — and whether the company and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has adequately informed the surrounding community of the likely need for long-term management. Is there a robust and transparent plan for treatment if the site does become polluted to this extent?

Since there knowingly exists significant acid mine drainage at this mine, the Bureau of Land Management needs to carefully assess whether this project may require treatment inter-generationally. The BLM needs to directly address the possibility of Robinson becoming a treatment in perpetuity site. Furthermore, with all of the various mining open pits entailed with the project (and their possible flow through nature), I am very concerned about the evolution of these open pits and their potential to degrade groundwater.

With such large and long-standing consequences at stake, it is even more vital that the company be transparent about these possibilities for perpetual treatment and degradation of surrounding groundwater and that they adequately inform the community that would be affected. They must ensure that the surrounding community is made aware of these possible long-term impacts before the expansion occurs. There also needs to be a thorough assessment of how the various communities in the region will be affected in terms of lifestyle, economics, and overall quality of life. Furthermore, there is a need to specifically address and disclose the effects the future expansion plans will have on the community of Ruth.

In addition, there needs to be a detailed discussion of how the site is to be closed including this potential for long-term treatment. This includes providing in the environmental analysis a timeline for closure that shows the volumes of contaminated water that will need to be treated over time. There must be honest disclosure of what it could require to properly close this mine site, and there needs to be an adequate funding mechanism in place to pay for this clean up.

Along with proper funding and closure plans, there should be a contingency plan of how to deal with an unexpected increase in acid generation in the waste rock piles and the heap leach pad as mining proceeds. There must also be a reclamation plan that includes how the operator will manage the occurrence of leaks in the waste water containment system; storage ponds, heap/leach, and waste rock.

Reclamation plans must also include a clear strategy for restoring Murray springs, which has already been affected by the project's dewatering. The full affects of dewatering on the area from the project and its expansion, including both affects to Murray springs and other water users, should be thoroughly studied. It should be understood and recognized how groundwater pumping for the project has affected and could further affect other wells. The EIS must catalogue each potentially affected water right and the ongoing and potential impacts from the proposed project plus reasonably foreseeable future activities/projects in the region.

Lastly, I am very concerned about the possibility for further pollution from the tailings facility. Since the expansion will include sending additional tailings to the same tailings facility that has been leaking, this issue should certainly be addressed prior to expansion. BLM needs to require an assessment of the current status of the contamination plume from the tailings facility and how

long it is expected to require pumping to remove the contaminated water from the groundwater system.

I really appreciate all of your time in reading my comments and considering these concerns.

Thank you so much,
****insert your name

More details on the Robinson mine and concerns brought up in the template letter can be found in the following links to GBRW's formal comments submitted in the past:

<http://gbrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/GBRW-comments-Robinson-EA-11-2018.pdf>

<http://www.gbrw.org/ftpgbrw/Robinson/GBRW-scoping-Robinson%20Mine%20Expansion%20-%20Robinson%20Keystone%20Overdump%20Project.pdf>

If you would like any additional details or clarifications before commenting, or have any questions about the expansion, we are happy to help! Just send us an email at chelsey@gbrw.org or john@gbrw.org

A Discussion with Sen. Tina Smith, Lt. Governor Flanagan & Tribal and Urban Indian Leaders

While COVID-19 has affected everyone in Minnesota, it has disproportionately affected people of color, including our local indigenous communities across the state. On Wednesday, the Minnesota DFL hosted a virtual roundtable forum to discuss how the pandemic has impacted those in our Tribal & Urban Indian Community here in Minnesota. The roundtable included U.S. Senator Tina Smith, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, DFL Chairman Ken Martin, and local tribal leaders including Chairman Kevin DuPuis (Fond Du Lac), President Shelley Buck (Prairie Island), Robert Lilligren of the NACDI, Autumn Dillie of the AICDC, and Secretary Sam Strong of Red Lake.

On the call, Senator Smith discussed her fight to get \$8 billion in the Cares Act for Native American communities suffering from COVID-19, and how she will continue to fight for more federal money to help local tribes being affected by this pandemic through her position on the Indian Affairs Committee.

Senator Smith and others heard concerns from local tribal leaders on how money and other resources are dispersed, and how more funding is needed to address the economic and health care inequalities experienced by Native American communities that have been highlighted by COVID-19. These disparities include a disproportionate loss of jobs among the Native American communities, as well as disparities in the health care system. Senator Smith also addressed concerns by saying she would continue to fight in Washington for Native American communities

and to highlight the obstacles they face with her colleagues so real change can be made to address those injustices.

You can watch the entire forum with the DFL, Senator Smith, and local Tribal & Urban Indian Community leaders in Minnesota [[HERE](#)] *Laura Gilger KJZZ*



Romanian People Spotted Dior Copying Their Traditional Clothing, So They Decided To Fight Back In A Genius Way.

[Dior Copies Romanian Traditional Clothing And Sell It For ...](#)

Last year *Dior* launched their pre-fall collection featuring traditional motifs. Soon *people* began to see that many of them looked very similar to those of traditional .

Why The Nonprofit Seed Conservation Group Native Seeds/SEARCH Is In Higher Demand Than Ever *by*

"As we've seen Native American communities get hit hard by COVID-19, the pandemic has also highlighted other issues in terms of food supply and availability for indigenous people across the country." [listen to interview>>](#)

From the Phoebe Hearst Anthropology Library

Are you curious about how archaeologists got their start? Wonder how they make discoveries with new technology and tools? What about the ways in which their research intersects with other fields like chemistry, art, literature, and more? If so, bring your questions and tune in to an episode of Ask an Archaeologist next week. This series of live-streamed interviews is co-hosted features UC Berkeley archaeologists and affiliates. You can also [check out past episodes here](#). [Watch now](#)

On behalf of all of us at [Peninsula Open Space Trust \(POST\)](#), [California State Parks](#), and [Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District \(Midpen\)](#) we want to thank you for attending our **Indigenous History in the Bay Area webinar series** and hope you found the last three weeks of lectures educational and eye-opening. We work to provide permanent open spaces for all. We hope this series has inspired you to help protect and steward the land we live on for future generations.

In case you missed it, here's the [link to our Youtube Channel](#) where you can view all three lectures now and other virtual events we've recorded.

As our webinar series was a discussion of history, we want to provide more information to our audiences about how to learn about contemporary Tribes and current issues. To educate yourself about local Tribes and Indigenous organizations in our area and to support these causes please see the resource section of our [event page](#).

We want to find the best way to bring our community together through an online platform and we appreciate feedback. [This 3-minute survey](#) will help us find ways to improve our events! Thank you in advance.

Viewer Note:

This was a very interesting lecture series, and free(!). They are discovering so much native history right here in our own back yard going back millenniums before Europeans even knew this New World existed, that has been lost or deliberately covered over. It is truly amazing. If you missed it and are interested, click through below to view it at your leisure.

2020-2021 Running Strong DREAMSTARTER TEACHER

<https://runningstrong.wufoo.com/forms/20202021-running-strong-dreamstarter-teacher/>

Thank you for your interest in applying to be a Running Strong Dreamstarter Teacher!

- This year, Running Strong will donate up to \$25,000 in Dreamstarter Teacher (DST) grants to teachers or other educators to meet an unmet classroom or school need and encourage Native students to FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS.

- **HOW IT WORKS:**
 - Teachers or other educators (librarians, counselors, etc.) can apply for up to \$1,000 to meet a need or project in their school or classroom.

 - DST Projects may be one school-year long project or two different projects for the fall and spring semesters.
 - If selected, Dreamstarter Teachers will receive their grants in two installments:
 - (1) up to \$500 (depending on \$ requested) in August for the fall semester
 - (2) up to \$500 (depending on \$ requested) in January for the spring semester.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Dreamstarter Teacher grants may be awarded to individual applicants OR the school. Please identify whether the individual applicant or the school will be receiving the grant.

- **HOW TO APPLY: (see website above)**
 - Think of a need or project in your classroom which could benefit from up to \$500 this fall and \$500 next spring from Running Strong.
- Use this online form to apply by the deadlines below. Applicants must use this form.
- A red * means this field is required.
- **YOU CANNOT SAVE A DRAFT SO PLEASE READ THROUGH THE FORM FIRST SO THAT YOU ARE READY TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT IT ALL AT ONCE.**
- You can cut and paste or print a blank version of this form to use as a draft.

- **DEADLINES**

July 3, 2020: Online applications using this form are DUE by 11:59 pm EST. You must hit "submit" and ensure that there are no errors before the deadline in order for your application to be considered.

- By August 4, 2020: Successful applicants are notified and receive 1st \$500 grant for the fall semester! **Work on your project! Keep your receipts!**

Calling all post high school inventors and entrepreneurs looking for a unique gap year.

Create a patent-pending invention, pitch deck, and business plan. mastery.avenues.org

[Intensive STEM Gap Year](#)

Create a patent-pending invention, pitch deck, and...

[Learn More](#)

When you the only Native in the room and you accidentally bust out some Rez slang followed by a loud EEE and everyone looks at you





The Common Potoo is a nocturnal bird which breeds in tropical Central and South America

How a Journalist Came to Cover the Brutal Murder of Honduran Activist Berta Cáceres

Audrey Wilson, Foreign Policy

Wilson writes: "In March 2016, gunmen stormed into the home of Honduran environmental activist Berta Cáceres and murdered her in her bedroom." [READ MORE](#)



-0:34

[Bitterroot Bison](#)

Big Medicine to Bitterroot Bison and for the people of the world. The birth of the white bison is an indication of hope and good things to come. We are proud to announce the birth of the female white bison and we named her Faith. God has truly blessed us. We're hoping to have tours soon.