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[#WeAreNotInvisible](#)

Any discussion about racism in the United States, has got to include American Indian people. I just reviewed an online diversity course from a major university in Illinois, and it completely leaves out the history of American Indian people before and during invasion/colonization. Friends, when you see this occurring and read or hear that we are left out of papers, articles, films, talk shows, discussions concerning racism in our own country, call or write and ask where are the American Indian people, the American Indian histories, the American Indian data, the American Indian stories? We have suffered far too long to be silent. We are not and will not be invisible. STOMP OUT RACISM!

"Our nation was born in genocide when it embraced the doctrine that the original American, the Indian, was an inferior race. Even before there were large numbers of Negroes on our shore, the scar of racial hatred had already disfigured colonial society. From the sixteenth century forward, blood flowed in battles over racial supremacy. We are perhaps the only nation which tried as a matter of national policy to wipe out its indigenous population. Moreover, we elevated that tragic experience into a noble crusade. Indeed, even today we have not permitted ourselves to reject or feel remorse for this shameful episode. Our literature, our films, our drama, our folklore all exalt it. Our children are still taught to respect the violence which reduced a red-skinned people of an earlier culture into a few fragmented groups herded into impoverished reservations."

Martin Luther King

SAA Statement on UC NAGPRA Policy Revisions

NATHPO opposes and condemns the Society for American Archaeology's ([SAA](#)) [egregious statement](#) sent on June 19, 2020 to the University of California Office of the President and [email to California SAA members](#) on June 22, 2020 enlisting their support to undermine the University of California's (UC) efforts to revise and modernize its Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation Policy. The [Indigenous Archaeology Collective](#) (IAC) has prepared [this response letter](#), and wants to share it with you. Please review the action items they request of SAA, and proceed as you see fit. On July 6, members of the IAC met with SAA leadership, and report initiating productive dialogue.

The NATHPO Board and staff are disheartened to see SAA's continued use of the tired trope of science/archaeology vs. Native Americans; archaeologists and SAA are not sole stewards of the archaeological record. The positions espoused in this letter demonstrate insensitivity and a failure to recognize the human rights of indigenous peoples to ownership of their ancestral remains and cultural items. In recent years, SAA has taken a number of positive steps on these issues and bridge building with indigenous communities, but statements like this inflict so much damage and cast doubt on the cognizance and intentions of the organization and its leadership. We hope SAA will formally retract this statement and take actions to reverse its position, and we look forward to engaging in dialogue with SAA leadership. We also extend our gratitude to the IAC for their leadership on this

And in case you missed it:

In as many days, two controversial pipeline projects have been canceled: the **Atlantic Coast Pipeline** and the **Dakota Access Pipeline!!** During a time when victories for truth, decency, and indigenous people are sparse, we will celebrate these high-profile wins for political, social, and environmental justice. Both of which demonstrate that efforts to defend natural and cultural resources, and the rule of law, are effective and worth the fight! According to the Washington Post:

On July 5, the two companies behind the 600-mile [Atlantic Coast Pipeline](#) abandoned their six-year bid to build it, saying the project has become too costly and the regulatory environment too uncertain to justify further investment. Virginia-based Dominion Energy and North Carolina-

based Duke Energy spent \$3.4 billion on the project, fighting regulatory battles that went all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled favorably for the companies last month.

Dominion and Duke cited a May 28 ruling by a U.S. District judge in the Keystone XL case as a death knell to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. The ruling threw into question the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' permitting program, known as Nationwide 12, which allowed gas and oil pipelines to traverse wetlands and bodies of water.

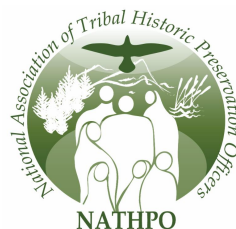
And on July 6, a federal judge ruled that the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#) must be shut down by Aug. 5, saying federal officials failed to do a complete analysis of its environmental impacts. U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg wrote that the federal government had not met all the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Dakota Access pipeline, which opened in 2017, carries about half a million barrels of crude oil a day from North Dakota's Bakken shale basin to Illinois. The ruling means the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must conduct a more thorough analysis of how a leak in the Dakota pipeline could affect Lake Oahe, which collects water from the Missouri River and lies half a mile from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Like the [Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association](#), [NCAI](#) and [NARF](#), "We hope that this decision helps pave the way for full and proper environmental impact studies as well as meaningful consultation with tribal nations that have direct or indirect stewardship over the lands under review. Our organizations will continue to work to ensure that every time tribal lands and resources are at stake, the environmental review processes meet all legal standards and respect the federal government's trust obligations to tribes set forth in federal laws.

Please contact me at valerie@nathpo.org or 202-628-8476 for additional information. Thank you for all you do to protect culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance, and to empower tribal preservation leaders.

Valerie J. Grussing, PhD
NATHPO Executive Director



Environmental Shorts

Minnesota Mine

The Bureau of Reclamation will [prepare an environmental impact statement](#) for a contested copper-nickel mine in northern Minnesota.

The [Twin Metals mine](#) would operate within Superior National Forest for about 25 years.

The Obama administration, in 2016, decided not to renew mineral leases in about 234,000 acres of the national forest because of its proximity to Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The mine would be located about five miles from the wilderness area.

The Trump administration [reversed that decision](#) in 2018.

Minnesota announced that it will conduct its own environmental review.

Louisiana Land-Building

The Army Corps of Engineers will prepare an environmental impact statement for a project that aims to prevent land erosion along Louisiana's coast.

The [Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion](#) will shunt water — and the sediment it carries — away from the Mississippi River and into the Breton Sound basin, where, it is hoped, the sediment will sustain coastal wetlands that are eroding.

Meetings to determine the scope of the review will be held virtually. They have not yet been scheduled.

UC Berkeley epidemiologist on how California's coronavirus plan went awry: "**People began to fixate on individual liberties** without understanding that one of the most fundamental civil liberties in the U.S. is the right to health — the right to stay alive." [The Guardian](#)

Harvard epidemiologist: "You'd think from the moral outrage about these beach photos that fun, in itself, transmits the virus. But **when people find lower-risk ways to enjoy their lives, that's actually a public-health win.**" [The Atlantic](#)

Great Plains Tribes Win Important Legal Fight to Protect Tribal Water and Treaty Resources

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association (GPTCA), the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), and the National Congress of American Indians Fund (NCAI Fund) applaud the [D.C. District Court's decision](#) today to vacate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Oahe easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline, and to require the removal of all oil flowing through the pipeline by August 5, 2020. This decision ensures that the treaty-reserved rights of the plaintiff tribes — the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe — are adequately addressed, along with any other land and natural resource considerations, in a full-fledged and well-documented environmental review process.

GPTCA, NARF, and NCAI Fund participated in a coalition of Native organizations submitting an [amicus brief](#) in support of the plaintiff tribes during the latest proceedings in the D.C. District Court and are encouraged by this outcome. We hope that this decision helps pave the way for full and proper environmental impact studies as well as meaningful consultation with tribal

nations that have direct or indirect stewardship over the lands under review. Our organizations will continue to work to ensure that every time tribal lands and resources are at stake, the environmental review processes meet all legal standards and respect the federal government's trust obligations to tribes set forth in federal laws.

About the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association:

Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association is made up of the 16 Tribal Chairmen, Presidents, and Chairpersons in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Their purpose is to provide a forum for sharing information on matters of interest to its member Tribes, develop consensus on matters of mutual importance, assist member Tribes in their governmental and programmatic development consistent with their goals for self-determination, and self-sufficiency and provide for effective public relations and education program with non-Indian communities. For more information, please visit <http://gptca.net/index.html>



Bob Tregilus

How hard is it to be responsible and treat our fabulous public lands with respect? Almost no where in the world, but in the American West, can a person throw down a bedroll and camp wherever they like. It is a privilege. Treasure it. Respect it. Leave. No. Trace. Really, it's so easy to do.

Schools in Nevada Can Begin Reopening With Restrictions

Gov. Steve Sisolak signed a directive, which will allow K-12 schools and facilities to reopen, with restrictions, for summer activities, effective immediately; however, those facilities are not required to reopen. KUNR's Michelle Billman spoke with reporter Lucia Starbuck to break down what is known at this point.

What chocolate drinking jars tell indigenous potters

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2020/07/07/what-chocolate-drinking-jars-tell-indigenous-potters-now/?](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2020/07/07/what-chocolate-drinking-jars-tell-indigenous-potters-now/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20200707-daily-responsive&spMailingID=42898165&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1800542143&spReportId=MTgwMDU0MjE0MwS2)

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[New technology can sense the presence of toxic metals in the water supply](#)

By News Medical Life Sciences, 7/7/20

The new platform uses cell-free synthetic biology to test for 17 contaminants, including lead, copper, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics Tests cost pennies to make and minutes to work Researchers tested the platform in Paradise, California, where wildfires caused toxins to enter the water supply A new platform technology can assess water safety and quality with just a single drop and a few minutes. Likened to a pregnancy test, the handheld platform uses one sample to provide an easy-to-read positive or negative result. When the test detects a contaminant exceeding the EPA's standards, it glows green.

Indigenous communities in the Amazon—long threatened by introduced diseases—may face their biggest challenge in generations with COVID-19. [Read a Q&A](#) with Isidoro Hazbun on how Amazon Conservation Team is responding and [listen to an audio feature](#) of the multilingual radio broadcasts ACT has been co-creating with indigenous communities to spread health safety information faster than the virus

[How Amazon Conservation Team Supports Indigenous Communities in a Pandemic](#)

Indigenous communities in the Amazon—long threatened by introduced diseases—may face their biggest challenge in generations with COVID-19. [Read a Q&A](#) with Isidoro Hazbun on how Amazon Conservation Team is responding and [listen to an audio feature](#) of the multilingual radio broadcasts ACT has been co-creating with indigenous communities to spread health safety information faster than the virus

Our Contact Information

Note-Able Music Therapy Services
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Reno, NV 89503
775-324-5521
<http://www.nmtsreno.org>

[Note-Able Music Therapy Services](#) is offering [FREE online songwriting camps for teens aged 11-14 and 15+](#).

What: Daily songwriting camp for musicians and non-musicians alike!

When: July 20 - 24th, 10am - Noon every day

Who: Teens ages 11-14 and teens ages 15+

Where: Online live with professional musicians

[Native Americans and Polynesians Met Around 1200 A.D.](#)

Commuting, and Confronting History, on a Remote Canadian Railway

...Since 2005, it has been run by the three First Nations that it connects: Uashat Mak Mani-utenam, Kawawachikamach and Matimekush-Lac John. With a mandated 85 percent Indigenous work force, Tshuuetin is now a symbol of reclamation and defiance for those it serves....

The Smithsonian was built to serve the nation. In these times, our mission to educate and inspire is more important than ever – [and your support is essential to achieving that mission.](#)

The Smithsonian has always been dedicated to providing accessible educational resources for lifelong learners of all ages. Over the past few months, we have increased our already expansive suite of digital learning resources to better serve teachers, students, parents and caregivers learning from home, many for the first time.

Smithsonian curators, scientists and educators continue to offer their knowledge and expertise through a wide array of virtual assets, educational tools and digital platforms, including:

- **Smithsonian Open Access**, a broadening of our digital reach with nearly 3 million collection objects and data now accessible online for learners hungry for content to download, remix and share, whether for educational, creative or personal use.

[Christopher Columbus: How The Explorer's Legend Grew—and Then Drew I](#)

Columbus's famed voyage to the New World was celebrated by Italian-Americans, in particular, as a pathway to the

- **Smithsonian's Distance Learning hub**, featuring more than 5 million resources curated into an easy-to-use toolkit accessible from anywhere. The hub is updated every weekday; is organized by a wide range of ages and grade levels; includes high, low and no-tech resources; and offers a rapidly growing selection of Spanish language translations.
- **The Smithsonian Learning Lab**, which already includes more than 30,000 collections created by more than 90,000 users, is added to all the time to meet schools' digital needs as they transition to distance learning.
- **Live webinars, educator discussions and class drop-ins** to answer questions and offer guidance on Smithsonian resources.
- **"Summer Road Trip,"** a 40-page print activity guide in collaboration with USA TODAY which will take learners on a "road trip" of discovery.

Elevated Voices: Listening In The Mountain West (from KUNR)

This story was powered by America Amplified , a public radio initiative. With protesters taking to the streets nationwide to demand justice for George Floyd and confront police brutality and systemic racism, Mountain West News Bureau reporters are gathering perspectives of people of color from around the region.

[Click here to read more](#) or share on Social Media

Kenneth Tuffy Helgeson, Allen Matt Coomsta, and Robert Upham in Missoula, Montana

Listen

Listening...



"Some people think I'm co-opting a Black movement. They don't know how much we're related. We're related because we are equally oppressed. They keep saying on the news the original sin is slavery. I'm sorry but I'm an Indian man and I'm still alive and I'm evidence of who once had title to this land and the original sin is the theft of our land." —Robert Upham



"What we are listening to is the heart of our people screaming out in any way they can for peace. That's the right thing. That's all we can do maybe. Us old guys, we pray."

—Allen Matt Coomsta

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

— Frederick Douglass



Bob Tregilus

How hard is it to be responsible and treat our fabulous public lands with respect? Almost no where in the world, but in the American West, can a person throw down a bedroll and camp wherever they like. It is a privilege. Treasure it. Respect it. Leave. No. Trace. Really, it's so easy to do

Tuff Country ·

Share the crap out of this until everyone gets the message
(And then mail them their crap C.O.D. sdc)



[Karen Mason](#)

THE DREAM THAT MANY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND:

My horse is my personal dream.

One day when I am very old and when I can not walk anymore, it will be in my heart as a trophy of my memories.

I met people who taught me something and have the same spirit and I met others that I'm glad I forgot.

I got wet,

I felt cold,

And I felt warm,

I was afraid,

I fell,

And I stood up,

I even hurt myself, I have been broken,

But also, I laughed out loud inside .

I spoke a thousand times with myself.

I sang and shouted with joy like a madman,

And yes ... sometimes I cried.

I have seen wonderful places and lived unforgettable experiences.

I often made unplanned jumps that even Oliver Skeete would be proud of; other times I made jumps full of terror.

I stopped a thousand times to see a landscape.

I spoke with perfect strangers, and I forgot people I see every day.

I went out with my demons inside and returned home with a feeling of absolute peace in my heart.

I always thought how dangerous it is, knowing that the meaning of courage is to advance even feeling fear.

Every time I go up to my horse I think about how wonderful he is.

I stopped talking about it to those who do not understand, and I learned to communicate with other riders.

I have met some amazing people I now call friends because of my horse.

I spent money that I did not have, giving up many things, but all these things are not worth even one special moment with my horse.

He is not a means of transport or a piece of iron with wheels, it is the lost part of my soul and my spirit.

And when someone says to me: "You have to sell the horse and you have to be a more sensible", ... I do not answer. I just swing my head and smile,

A horse..... only the person who loves them understands it.

May God bless my friends and all their horses...

And the adventure continues. .

Historic Win in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*

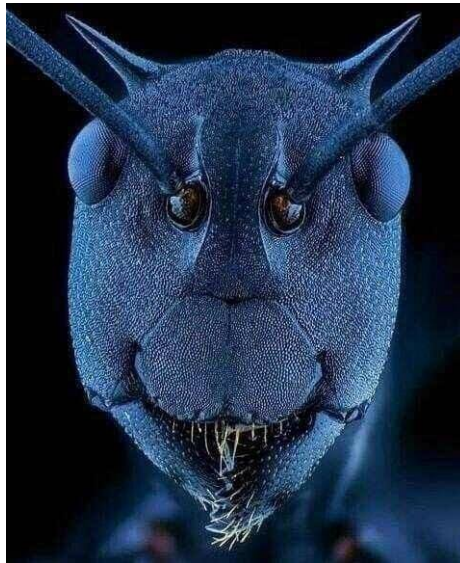
The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the nation's oldest, largest, and most representative organization comprised of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal nations and their citizens, along with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the oldest and largest legal organization devoted to protecting the rights of Native American tribes and people, applauded this morning's decision in the U.S. Supreme Court case, which confirmed that the treaty-defined boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation still remain in full force today.

Through treaty, the United States "solemnly guaranteed" the Muscogee (Creek) Nation their reservation as a "permanent home" in exchange for leaving their eastern homelands (*Treaty with the Creeks (1832)* and *Treaty with the Creeks (1833)*). In a later treaty, the United States reaffirmed that the reservation was "forever set apart as a home for said Creek Nation" (*Treaty with the Creeks (1866)*).


Today's historic decision by the United States Supreme Court reaffirms that understanding. In issuing the opinion of the Court, Justice Neil Gorsuch said, "Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law. Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word."

"Through two terms of the United States Supreme Court, and as many cases and fact patterns, this question has loomed over federal Indian law. This morning, NCAI joins the rest of Indian Country in congratulating the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and proudly asserting that its lands remain, and will forever be considered, Indian country – as guaranteed in their treaty relationship with the United States," said NCAI President Fawn Sharp.

NARF Executive Director John Echohawk responded to the decision, "In this case, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation had to fight long and hard to protect their homelands, which were promised in their treaty agreements with the United States. In holding the federal government to its treaty obligations, the U.S. Supreme Court put to rest what never should have been at question. We congratulate the Nation on its success."



[Earth](#) ·

This is the face of an ant under electronic microscope...  (This has nothing to do with anything; just (wow) "interesting". Click to enlarge for full effect.)