

Journal #5024 from sdc 9.10.21

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What Is Budget Reconciliation and How Can This Process Do More for Conservation?

An American History of Separating Families

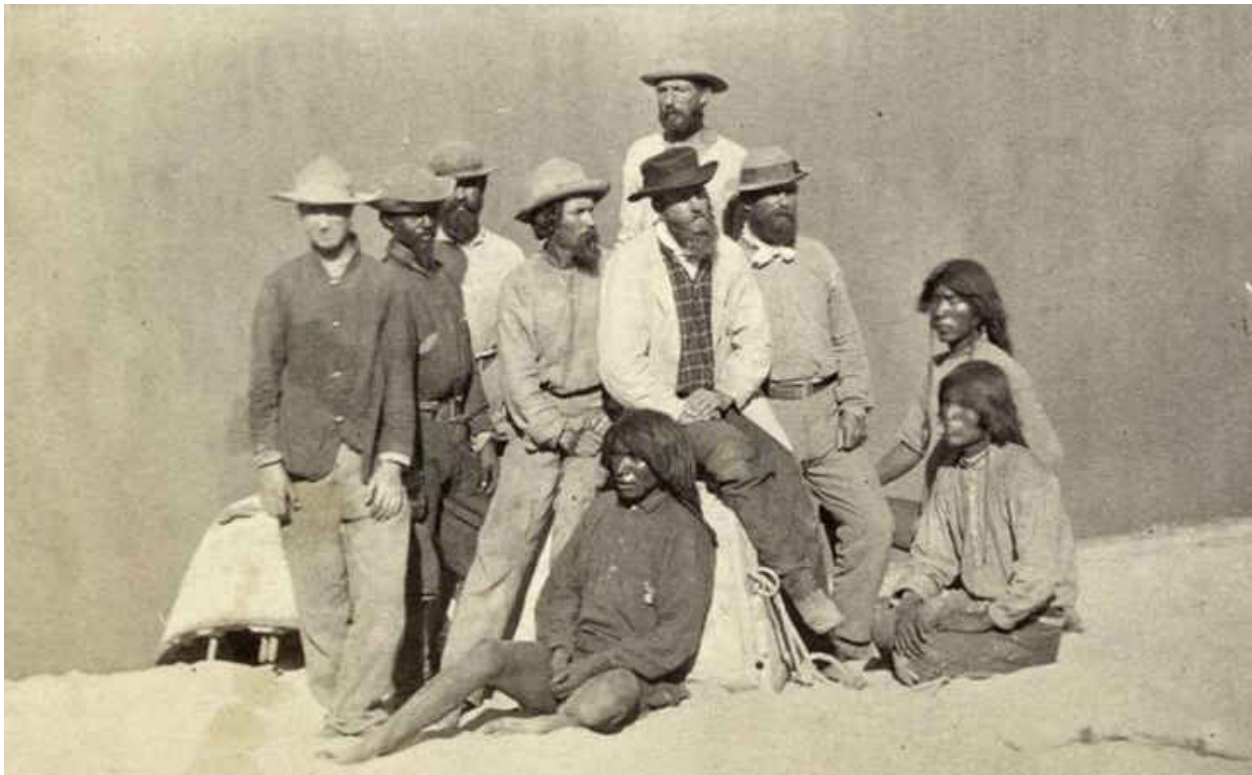
More examples from tandfonline.com using a specific tribal name (ak-chin)

HUD Announcements

Tony Katenay - #10 - The Man with the Owl Spirit



Continuing with art



In 1871, wild west photographer, Timothy O'Sullivan, photographed Lieutenant George Wheeler and his crew as they were conducting a survey of the Colorado River in Black Canyon. Timothy (the photographer) is the fourth man from the left. [Bon voyage.com](http://Bonvoyage.com)

What Is Budget Reconciliation and How Can This Process Do More for Conservation?

by: [Andrew Wilkins](#)

posted in: [Habitat and Clean Water](#)

Breaking down the budget process that will make or break the effort to secure once-in-a-generation investments in habitat

As we've shared over the past few weeks, the Senate has passed a once-in-a-generation infrastructure package [that would provide significant funding for conservation priorities](#), including wildlife crossings, national forest road repair and maintenance, drought and climate resilience, clean water, and habitat restoration.

But leading lawmakers aren't planning to advance this legislation without a budget reconciliation bill that invests in conservation and climate-smart measures at the same time. This means that hunters and anglers need to not only push Congress to carry the decade-defining infrastructure package across the finish line, but also urge decision-makers to include robust funding for conservation in this other crucial bill—which, as it stands, leaves out some essential habitat programs.

So, what is reconciliation?

Reconciliation refers to a special, Senate-driven step in the budget-making process that is typically only possible when the same party controls both Congress and the White House. When the Senate passes an annual budget resolution, it can include instructions to align—or reconcile—spending priorities with a particular objective. These instructions direct changes in spending, revenues, deficits, or the debt limit by specific amounts to pursue a specific policy agenda. In the past, this process has been used by both parties to lower taxes, adjust social safety net programs, and change health care and education law.

This time around, the intention is to significantly increase funding for conservation priorities, which is why hunters and anglers need to weigh in.

Unfortunately, though conservation funding and priorities still enjoy broad support by both Republicans and Democrats, this is not a bipartisan process. But it's still important for hunters and anglers to speak up and alert the Senate and House Democrats driving this bill to the full scope of opportunities for fish and wildlife conservation success.

Here are five major priorities we're still pushing for.

Overall Funding for the Department of the Interior

Early reports indicate that draft reconciliation instructions do not include adequate funding for the Department of the Interior. This is troubling, since the original goal of this process is to commit more funding to respond to critical conservation challenges facing our nation, many of which will be tackled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and Bureau of Reclamation—all agencies that could miss out if Congress doesn't commit more funding to Interior. Bureau of Land Management lands alone account for nearly half of the nationwide acres experiencing fire or drought, not to mention an overwhelming amount of hunting and fishing opportunities in the western United States.

If Congress is serious about making a historic investment in conservation, lawmakers must ensure that Interior's topline for funding is increased so that these funds can go to agencies that sportsmen and sportswomen rely on to restore and protect critical public lands and waters.

Wetlands Restoration Funds

Hunters and anglers will benefit from doubling funding for one key program at Interior: the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), which has successfully restored nearly 30 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the last 30 years. This program has resulted in billions of dollars being invested in wetlands conservation, and the return on investment has been proven. That's why we're encouraging budget negotiators to not only increase funding for Interior, but also to make sure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives double the annual funding for this signature conservation program.

Private Land Conservation Efforts

We also request that lawmakers double the conservation investments in the Farm Bill through the reconciliation process. Demand for conservation on 13.8 million acres of private land goes unmet each year because of inadequate funding for the Farm Bill's most popular and effective conservation programs. That means nearly 40 percent of all applications submitted for Farm Bill conservation programs cannot be enrolled. Congress should use this opportunity to double the reach of these programs and ramp up the on-the-ground technical support provided to farmers, ranchers, and forest-owners as they work to boost fish and wildlife habitat on their lands.

Support for Bedrock Conservation Policy

As I mentioned above, a decade-defining infrastructure package is tied to reconciliation, and once this legislation passes, it will kickstart a boom in necessary infrastructure upgrades and innovative new projects. This is a good thing! But with all of this activity comes a need to make sure that habitat will not be impacted by development. This can only be done through thorough and timely reviews directed by our bedrock conservation laws, which make sure that projects in and around public lands and waters don't cause undue harm to fish and wildlife.

Reconciliation funding for the Department of the Interior currently overlooks the increased investments needed to build capacity for the deluge of new projects. Without the ability to complete these studies in both a timely and thorough manner, this will slow down the construction of new infrastructure projects and could threaten our lands, waters, and wildlife. Lawmakers should support and invest in the agencies that carefully manage fish and wildlife resources in balance with essential infrastructure projects.

Conserving Water in the Colorado River Basin

Finally, Congress has the chance to help build resiliency in the Colorado River Basin in two ways. First, Congress should fund the ecosystem and water supply projects needed to comply with our treaty with Mexico, with whom we share the river. Second—not just for the Basin but across the West—Congress must boost funding for the U.S. Geological Survey so that they can continue to provide information on river flows and snowpack levels to do the modeling and scientific analysis that will help us develop more sustainable water-use strategies. The USGS is a critical, and often underfunded, conservation agency. It's important that Congress supports their mission so that they can, in turn, inform important water, wildlife, and habitat restoration efforts.

Hunters and anglers, particularly in key House districts, can make an impact by sharing these urgent asks directly with target lawmakers.



This photo of General George Crook, the Army's preeminent Indian fighter during the Indian Wars, was taken in Arizona in 1886. He is shown here with two Apache scouts, Dutchy and Alchesay, along with his favorite mule, Apache.

bonvoyage.com

An American History of Separating Families

[Anita Sinha](#) Associate Professor of Law and Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at American University, Washington College of Law November 2, 2020

<https://www.acslaw.org/expertforum/an-american-history-of-separating-families/>

Articles at tandfonline.com.

Using search term “Native American” (211,893) results.

More examples from tandfonline.com using a specific tribal name (ak-chin).

Have fun on your search! (Another lost weekend!)

AkChin—38,311 results

• [**Beyond tourism and taxes: the ecomuseum and social development in the Ak-Chin tribal community**](#)

Mustafa Doğan & Dallen J. Timothy

Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change, Volume 18, 2020 - Issue 2

Published Online: 26 Mar 2019

[**The Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement and its impact on water resource management**](#) Peter D. Rogers & Stephanie M. Edmiston

Water International, Volume 38, 2013 - Issue 3. Published Online: 10 May 2013

[**The ECOMUSEUM Preserves an Artful Way of Life**](#)

Mary Stokrocki

Art Education, Volume 49, 1996 - Issue 4.

Published Online: 30 Dec 2015

[**Welfare Reform on American Indian Reservations: Initial Experience of Service Providers and Recipients on Reservations in Arizona**](#)

Shanta Pandey PhD , Eddie F. Brown , Leslie Scheuler-Whitaker & Shannon Collier-Tenison

The Social Policy Journal, Volume 1, 2002 - Issue 1 Published Online: 20 Oct 2008

• [**Stucco as a Timestamp on Lowland Patayan Pottery in the Far-Western Southwest**](#)

Aaron M. Wright

KIVA, Volume 86, 2020 - Issue 4

Published Online: 02 Jul 2020

[**A Polluting Concept of Culture: Native Artefacts Contaminated with Toxic Preservatives**](#)

S. Jordan Simms

International Journal of Heritage Studies, Volume 11, 2005 - Issue 4

Published Online: 21 Aug 2006

• [**The Paradox of Cultural Preservation in Museums**](#)

Christina Kreps

The Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society, Volume 23, 1994 - Issue 4

Published Online: 15 Jul 2010

[**Revisiting the Exploitable Threshold Model: 14th century resource procurement and landscape dynamics on Perry Mesa, Arizona**](#)

Sophia E. Kelly, Christopher N. Watkins & David R. Abbott

Journal of Field Archaeology, Volume 36, 2011 - Issue 4

Published Online: 18 Jul 2013

[**“To Prevent Further Despoliation” A History of the Arizona Antiquities Act**](#)

Beth Grindell

KIVA, Volume 83, 2017 - Issue 3

Published Online: 30 Jun 2017

Indians and anthropologists: Whose predicament now?

Jeanne Guillemin

Reviews in Anthropology, Volume 23, 1994 - Issue 1 Published Online: 05 Jul 2010

HUD Announcements

[Save the Date – September 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EDT– Support for Native Families: Child Tax Credit Monthly Payments](#)

The White House, HUD's Office of Native American Programs and Department of Treasury will host a brief presentation to explain how housing providers can assist eligible Native American families with receiving the Child Tax Credit for 2021.

When: September 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EDT

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602224156?pwd=L1VueThRTIFxQTRvQmNjWVZhcWN4dz09>

Meeting ID: 160 222 4156 Passcode: 064623

One tap mobile +16692545252,,1602224156# US (San Jose) +16468287666,,1602224156# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)

+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

+1 551 285 1373 US

+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 160 222 4156

Find your local number: <https://www.zoomgov.com/u/aezsxVFBJO>

[View Flyer](#)

Save the Date - September 16, 2021 - Introduction to the Native American Direct Loan Product for Native American Veterans

ONAP is pleased to partner with our colleagues at Veterans Affairs to host an introduction to the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) product for Native Veterans. VA's NADL program allows eligible Native American Veterans to buy, build, or improve a home on federal trust land. NADL can also be used to refinance an existing loan to reduce your interest rate. Learn from NADL specialists and a recipient to see if you qualify and how to apply. Join us at 2:00 p.m. EDT on September 16, 2021.

To join the conference, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/840628> Follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

If you are unable to join the web conference or require a non-US phone number, [click here](#). Access Code: 5693760#

DEAR TRIBAL LEADER LETTERS

[Dear Tribal Leader Letter- Tribal Consultation on the Implementation Plan to Develop a Coordinated Environmental Review Process](#)

On May 27, 2021, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a Dear Tribal Leader letter announcing a consultation session, on June 21, 2021, to solicit input on the Implementation Plan to develop a coordinated environmental review process. As of August 25, 2021, HUD has received no verbal or written comments. To promote engagement, HUD is holding two additional consultation sessions and extending the timeframe for Tribes to submit written comments.

HUD is interested in your thoughts on the proposed action items in the Implementation Plan, as well as any ideas you have to address the Final Report recommendations and inefficiencies in the environmental review process.

Comments, which must be received by October 22, 2021, at 11:59:59 EDT, can be sent via email to

Codetalk@hud.gov. Comments and input will be considered before the Implementation Plan is finalized. The consultation sessions will be held on September 13, 2021, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM EDT and October 7, 2021, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM EDT. The call-in details are below and will also be posted on CodeTalk.

September 13, 2021, details here:

Step 1: Dial into the consultation session (you may join 10 minutes early) Dial-in: 888-251-2949 or 215-861-0694
Access Code: 1207201#

Step 2: Join the consultation session on your computer. Entry Link: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/840669>
October 7, 2021, details here:

Step 1: Dial into the consultation session (you may join 10 minutes early) Dial-in: 888-251-2949 or 215-861-0694
Access Code: 7151573#

Step 2: Join the consultation session on your computer. Entry Link: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/840670>
[View Entire DTL](#)

Vacancy Announcement- [Supervisory Native American Program Specialist, GS-15, Washington, DC](#) [Closes: September 23, 2021](#)

As a **Supervisory Native American Program Specialist**, you will:

- Supervise, monitor and evaluate subordinate positions; hear and resolve group grievances; review and approve disciplinary actions; facilitate planning, coordination and scheduling; manage work assignments, equipment resources, staff training and travel needs; and ensure that the agency's administrative procedures meet HUD requirements.
- Manage headquarters' personnel actions, including writing position descriptions, crediting plans; implementing the EPPES process; preparing paperwork for awards and any other personnel matters as needed.
- Initiate new administrative methods and procedures for requesting supplies, services, and various other forms of administrative and logistical support drawing on experience and analysis of office needs and problems, and existing Federal and Departmental policy in order to supplement standing operating procedures.
- Work closely with the PIH Administrative Services and Management Division to ensure that ONAP plans conform to the overall Federal and departmental policies and procedures.

[Apply Here](#)

Vacancy Announcement- [Supervisory Grants Management Specialist, GS-14, Albuquerque NM](#) [Closes: September 17, 2021](#)

As a **Supervisory Grants Management Specialist**, you will:

- Plan and supervise the technical functions and administrative duties of the Area Office Grants Management Specialists. Monitors and evaluates performance of AD Grants Management Division personnel.
- Supervise the technical assistance efforts to Indian tribes and TDHEs by monitoring the division's responses to questions and the development of tailored packages to address specific needs.
- Ensure consistency in the administration of applicable programs and adherence to program policies within the Area Office.
- Study problems relating to the Area Office administration of applicable programs and prepares a report on the problem areas.

[Apply Here](#)

Howard Dressler at Navajo Bridge.....No rivets! No bolts!

Meet Alexis Nikole Nelson, The Wildly Popular 'Black Forager'

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2021/09/09/173838801/meet-alexis-nikole-nelson-the-wildly-popular-black-forager>. (Copy address into search engine)



Tony Katenay - #10 - The Man with the Owl Spirit

The Tour.

I used to give small tours into the forest during the evening and into the dark night. The purpose was so people can hear the messages from the small spirits that protect the trees.

I stopped sharing this experience with other people because I was accepting money for it. Other natives were upset by that. Saying negative things about how that isn't how it works. That this is a "medicine" and it should be given freely to the people.

And I'm like, no. This money pays my cost of living. I can't pay bills with five packs of Top Tobacco at \$0.69 each. I can't devote this kind of time for free. So I stopped doing it. Then I went out and got a regular job.

The last time I went out into the forest and let the spirit protectors touch someone was decades ago. This is the story of that last encounter.

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I'm in Yosemite National Park. I like people watching. Sitting on a log near the community campfire I watch the tourists glide by with the curiosity of where they are going, where they have been and what's going on in their life right now. You know, people watching. In my daydream like state this lady and her two children come up to me and she asks,

"Are you the one that takes people on a tour into the forest to see the tree spirits?"

"No. That's not me anymore", I say.

"May I?", As she gestures to the seat next to me.

"Sure", and I scoot over to make room for her and her children and introductions are exchanged.

She goes on to explain that an older Native gentleman pointed to me and said that I was the guy that takes people to see the Tree Spirits in the forest.

This instantly captures my interest because I don't advertise what I do. But instantly I know who she is talking about. There's a local ghost that reveals himself to people who are in need of the Tree Protector Spirits. This is how people are referred to me. I just don't walk around and ask, "Hey, you wanna see the Tree Spirits? \$10 a tour." I don't even know if the word "tour" is the right one to use. It's just the only I can think of at the moment.

"Was the guy you talked to have long scraggly hair? Kind of a beat up red plaid lumberjack looking jacket?", I ask.

"Yes. That's him", I just smile. Not telling her that she just talked with a ghost.

"He's kind of an uncle to me. And if he says it's okay, then it's okay", I say this with hesitation because a part of me is asking, what's going on?

"Now is actually a good time to take that tour. It's a small hike. It's near dusk. And by the time we reach our destination it should be dark enough to see the tree protectors. The only reason this happens in the evening is because it's easier to see them when it's dark. It doesn't matter

where we go because the tree protectors are everywhere. But picking a trail that's less crowded gives us a better opportunity of not being disturbed when they show themselves",

As I give her the basics of how this works.

"Are my children allowed?", she asks.

"Of course. Those little spirits love kids", I add

"We just need to stop at the gift shop for a few things."

"What kind of things?", She asks.

"Offerings. I'm not exactly sure what just yet. But I'll get the feeling once we get there", I say as we walk into the gift shop.

Walking around I end up buying three granola bars. Don't ask me why. Like I was saying, it's just a feeling. I also bought a laser pointer. The small kind that's really a cat toy. Finally I bought four small flashlights for the walk back in the dark and a small spiral notepad with a pen.

As we start our hike I explain what to expect.

"It's only about a quarter mile into the trail. Just enough to be away from people and lights. Sometimes the little spirits don't show themselves but since my uncle sent you I'm positive they'll be there. I'm thinking they have a message for you"

"How does that work?", She asks

"The little spirits aren't actually tree spirits. But protectors of the trees. So, in turn, they'll protect the three you as well. Any messages given are meant for you. I'm only the interpreter. The messages are generally about how to protect yourself and bring peace to your heart."

I pull out the laser pointer. Take it out of its package and shine it on the ground.

"See the little light?", I ask.

"Yes", she answers as her and her kids look down and see the little red dot following us as we walk along the small trail.

"The little spirits show themselves like the dot. Only they'll be floating like fireflies. Not like this laser dot which can only be seen on the ground. And there'll be about a dozen or so flying around.", I say my practiced speech that I've said a thousand times. But this time it's different.

I can feel they are genuinely interested.

In unison the family of three say, "Oooooooh"

I stop. And we all stop.

"Did you hear that?", I ask

The mom says no but her two kids say, "We heard it"

Three owls hoot. The first one does his call in front of us. Five seconds later the second one makes his sound behind us. Five more seconds and the third one hoots to the side of us.

"I believe we are here", with the sun making its last appearance behind the trees. This leaves us not in total darkness but with the new moon tonight it will be very dark.

They look around and ask,

"Where are they?"

"First. We ask if they will show themselves. Then we say thanks. Finally, we leave an offering", I explain further

"They, in turn, give us a message. The message will be a whisper that only your subconscious can hear."

"How do we hear the message if it goes to our subconsciousness?", the mom asks.

"That's where I come in. The ceremony is designed to relax you to near subconscious. From there we can hear the whispered message", I say

I know my voice is soft. I know it can be almost hypnotic. I think that's just the way I was designed. For this purpose.

"Shall we begin?", I ask

I look at them and they are smiling so big that it brightens my heart.

I begin with the secret song that calls for the Tree Protectors. It's a simple song. One taught to me by an old spirit.

The words of the song, the sound of my voice and the vibrations from all four of our own spirits are the key to unlock the door to the spirit world. The door they come through to reveal themselves to us.

And they do.

Weaving in and out of the trees are the little lights I spoke of earlier are coming. They make their way to us. The energy they give calms us. Makes us feel safe.

About a dozen show up. Red ones. Blue ones. Green ones. Yellow ones. White ones. All while I softly sing the secret song. They fly all around us. It's amazing.

I stop singing.

"Cup your hands together and see which one will come to you", they do as I ask.

Holding out their hands, each of my guests, still smiling big, watch as the little spirits land on their hands. I know they are feeling the warmth in their hearts from these little guys. I've been there.

I watch the one the mom is holding. The little spirit floats from her hand and into her heart. I know this is the message being whispered. She closes her eyes and a tear escapes from the corner of her eye. But she smiles. Her face relaxing. I can see whatever stress she was holding leaving her body. The little spirit floats back out and into her hand. Her smile, her relief is very palpable. Message received.

They leave us the way they came to us. Weaving in and out between the trees. It's darker now. Not sure how long we've been out here but it's really dark. I give them the flashlights.

"Wow", I say. "That was awesome"

We were still standing when all this happened. I lead them over an area where we can sit.

The mom starts speaking right away,

"I felt it. I could see the answer. You're right. They told me exactly what to do"

She explains that her marriage is ending. That her husband is making a big fight if it. Very spiteful. Abusive. Just plain mean. He wants to hurt her emotionally, mentally and physically. By taking away her kids, her home, her money. He wants to leave her with nothing.

She continues, "The little spirit even told me which lawyer to make contact with. Even a counselor that will help."

I write everything down in that little notepad. The names and addresses. Little spirit was very precise. More importantly, the little spirit was healing. She sees hope where there was once despair.

I explain that's where the owls come into play. Some say they are messengers of death. Of human death. Nope. In this case, it's the death of her marriage. Little spirit helped lead her to acceptance. That led to peace in her heart. And that will lead to happiness. To live again ... to love again.

For a second, I think we both realize what the alternative would have been. Depression. Suicide. Not today ugly spirits. Not today.

I remark about how I'm usually the interpreter but her message was loud and clear. All I did was write down what was said. So yeah, my turn to be amazed.

We hear a twig snap and turn to see a deer with her two babies. "Ahhhhh ... I think this is who our offering goes to", I say looking at the deer looking at us. Not afraid at all.

I give them each a granola bar. The deer come forward and the mom and her babies feed the deer and her babies. Right out of their hands. How cool is that? Dunno if granola is good for deer but it happens. The deer even let them pet them. Wow.

I add, "I think the deer is a sign that your healing will be swift. Just like the deer is swift. Good vibes here. Now's a good time to thank the Tree Protector Spirits"
We say our thanks. Even waving in the darkness. We know they see us.
I laugh. Saying, "I think the deer stepping on the twig is their way of saying, ahem. We are here now."

They leave as quietly as they came. We also head back. Talking and laughing. The joy in their hearts is contagious. I smile with them. The heaviness is gone. The healing started. Her kids mention that it's nice to have their mom back. They tell me the little spirits told them everything is going to be ok.

They are a family again.

.....

I know the mom and her kids turned out just fine. I'm also sure my "Uncle" is still out there.

Waiting for me to return.

When I was younger I was sensitive and didn't want to step on people's toes. Now that I'm older I don't give a crap.

I think when I retire, I'll return to giving them tours. Me and uncle helping people. That's a good feeling.

And I won't care what the "Local Medicine Man Union" says.