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Harming Nature; Harming Ourselves

Protecting the Grand Canyon

Elon Musk/Boring Company plans LV underground transportation system featuring 81 stations

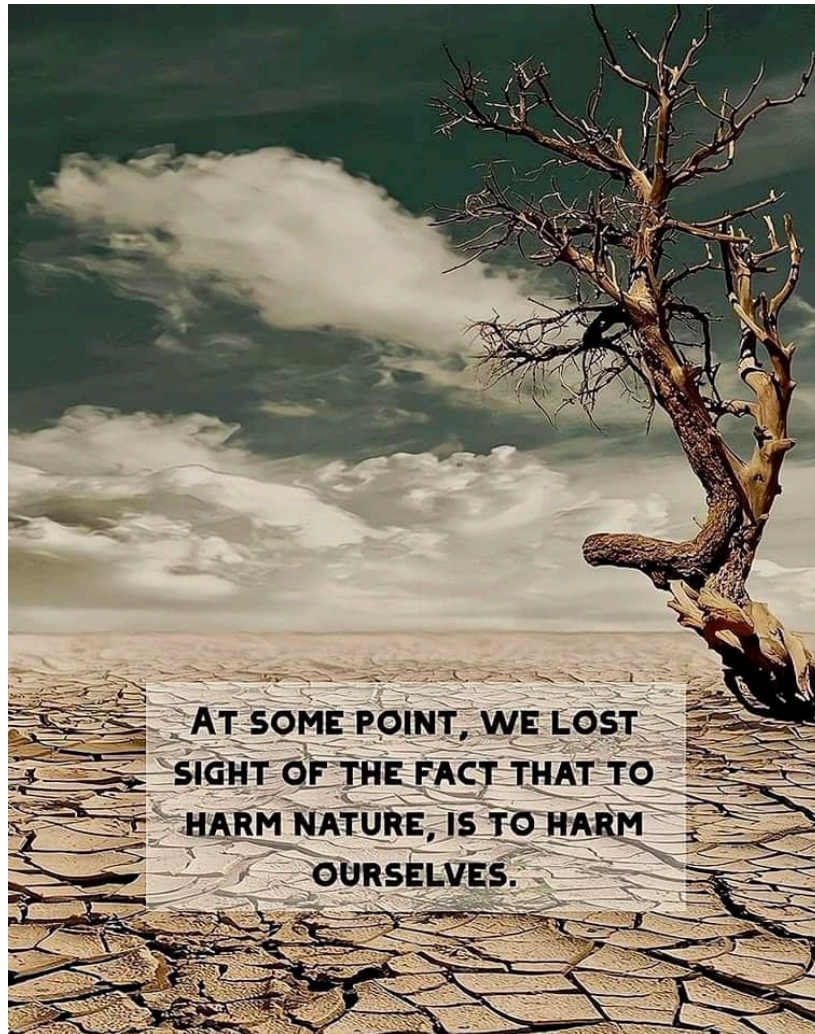
The Tagish people of the Yukon

Historian Rubellite "Ruby" Kawena Kinney Johnson

Bringing Back Beavers

AI Updates

The Story of the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister



**Tell President Biden:
Protect the Grand Canyon**



Grand Canyon National Park is a magical place. But mining could ruin up to a million acres around the park for generations.

Among these million acres, you find seeps and springs that feed the waters that carved the Grand Canyon out of ancient rock. You see old-growth ponderosa pines and Douglas firs reaching for the sky, where California condors and Mexican spotted owls soar. You may discover sites that have been sacred to the Hopi, Navajo and other tribes for millennia.¹

It's hard to imagine a worse place on Earth for toxic uranium mining than this Grand Canyon watershed.

Yet with a few strokes of his pen, President Biden can declare these million acres off-limits forever to industrial mining. [Join us in urging the president to declare a new Grand Canyon National Monument.](#)

New mining in the Grand Canyon watershed would have ripple effects on the park and the canyon itself. The watershed's seeps, springs and creeks flow into the Colorado River, whose waters created the Grand Canyon some 6 million years ago.²

Now imagine this watershed pockmarked by dirty drilling equipment, toxic tailing pipes and wastewater ponds.

Much of the dust, chemical waste and uranium-contaminated water generated by new mining wouldn't go away. It wouldn't even stay in place. It would migrate, carried by ground and surface waters, into the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon itself -- poisoning the water and land for generations.

How can we be sure? Because older mining sites here already have polluted springs, endangered wildlife and threatened people's health.³ And the mining industry wants more.

Today, there are nearly 600 active mining claims on land surrounding the Grand Canyon.⁴

The president can stop them.

Under the 1906 Antiquities Act, President Biden can establish a new national monument -- a move that would declare 1.1 million acres around the Grand Canyon off-limits to toxic uranium mining forever.⁵

Proposed by the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, the idea has the support of the Havasupai, Hopi, Navajo and other tribes, members of the Arizona congressional delegation, and a majority of Arizona residents.⁶

Yet mining companies are powerful. Some local officials and residents call the proposal a "land grab" (even though the land is already federal land).

That's why we need to tell the president that toxic uranium mining doesn't belong here. [Urge President Biden to declare a new national monument protecting the Grand Canyon watershed now.](#)

Thank you, as always, for standing up for the places we love and the values we share,

The team at Environment California Research & Policy Center

1. Wolf Gumerman, "[Urge President Biden to preserve beautiful area surrounding Grand Canyon](#)," Arizona Capitol Times, June 2, 2023.
2. "[13 Things You Didn't Know About Grand Canyon National Park](#)," U.S. Department of the Interior, February 23, 2017.
3. "[Grand Canyon at Risk: Uranium Mining Threatens a National Treasure](#)," Environment America Research & Policy Center, June 6, 2018.
4. Ellen Montgomery, "[Protect the Grand Canyon](#)," Environment America Research & Policy Center, June 13, 2023.
5. Jake Frederico, "[Tribes, lawmakers urge Biden to protect Grand Canyon region with a new national monument](#)," Arizona Republic, April 12, 2023.
6. "[2023 Conservation in the West Poll](#)," Colorado College, February 15, 2023.

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**[Dragonfly Energy completes U.S. lithium battery cell pilot line \(sponsored\)](#)**  
[Dragonfly Energy has completed its U.S. lithium battery cell pilot line at its facility in Reno and expects to have American made battery cells in 2023.](#) [Read on](#)

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**When nothing else worked, the conservation biologist Tim Shields devised an unorthodox strategy to stop ravens from killing desert tortoises in the Mojave Desert.** He and his colleagues 3-D printed fake tortoises that explode with grape flavoring, which the birds evidently hate, and planted them on the dirt. "The idea is just to make the haunted landscape where there's just no relief from the surprises, and all the surprises are bad." Their work is profiled in a short documentary. [New Yorker/YouTube \(~16 mins\)](#)

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The Elon Musk-owned Boring Company plans to build out an underground transportation system in Las Vegas featuring 81 stations and 68 miles of tunnels, after an expansion approval.

Canadian History Ehx

I am sharing the pre-colonial history of the Indigenous people of each province, west to east. Today I am looking at the Tagish people of the Yukon!

The traditional territory of the Tagish was around the lakes formed by the Yukon River headwaters.

Tagish society is matrilineal, following a female line of descent. Within the society there are six clans, two of the six are part of the Wolf and four come from the Crow.

The Tagish were traditionally boreal forest hunters and fishers, and practiced intertribal trade. The language of the Tagish is a dialect of the of Tagish-Tahltan-Kaska, itself part of the Dene language family.

While there are a few Tagish speakers, Angela Sidney was the last fluent Tagish speaker and she died in 1991. The language is now extinct.

The Tagish people intermarried heavily with the Tlingit people.

The word Tagish means "it is breaking up", referring to the breaking up of spring ice.

It is from the Tagish we have the name for Tagish Lake, which is 100 km long and stretches into B.C.

After Europeans arrived in the area, the Tagish became the middleperson for the fur trade with the Dene inland.

Keish, known as Skookum Jim, was a Tagish man who discovered the gold that launched the Klondike Gold Rush.

The Gold Rush altered Tagish society forever.

The Tagish people have maintained the traditional heritage into the 21st century. The Tagish also helped develop the Council for Yukon Indians, now the Council for Yukon First Nations.

Since 2006, the Tagish people have been self-governing.



What's Happening on Kaua'i is in Kauai County, Hawaii.

Historian Rubellite “Ruby” Kawena Kinney Johnson (born in 1933), daughter of Ernest Kaipoleimanu Kinney (1906-87) and Esther Kauikeaulani Kaulili (1913-79), was born and raised on Kaua‘i and educated at Kaua‘i High School, the University of Hawai‘i and Indiana University.

Upon her return to Hawai‘i, she joined Bishop Museum under the direction of anthropologist Dr. Kenneth Emory.

Her first field job at Bishop Museum, completed in 1955, was to record oral histories of Hawaiian kupuna.

She, along with Dr. Emory, made five reels of tape recordings of Hawai‘i Island kupuna, who told them of previously undocumented traditions, legends and music, some dating back many decades, which were later transcribed and translated into English at Bishop Museum.

In 1957, Ruby continued her search for fast disappearing folklore, literature and history of the Hawaiian race.

She said at that time, “I have walked miles through the Kohala district of Hawai‘i and remote places on Kaua‘i to find people who still have priceless knowledge.”

Once again, she tape recorded Hawaiian kupuna, many nearly 100 years old, who allowed her to record their knowledge of early Hawaiiana, one of whom was Lopaka Hoomana of Anahola, then in his 90s.

Lopaka had been her father’s “kilo” or lookout man, when Mr. Kinney was a hukilau fisherman on Kaua‘i.

“In those days,” said Ruby, “when Lopaka sighted a school of fish, his whistle could be heard for three miles.”

In 1981, she published her highly regarded “Kumulipo, Hawaiian Hymn of Creation.”

Although, King Kalakaua had already printed in 1889 a 60-page pamphlet of the Kumulipo, the 2,102 lines long Polynesian creation chant — and Queen Liliuokalani had described the chant as a prayer of the development of the universe and the ancestry of the Hawaiians, and Martha W.



1957 - Ruby Kinney tape recording Kaleohano Kalili's ancient Hawaiian chants

Beckwith had published “T Chant” in 1951

he Kumulipo: A Hawaiian Creation

— it was Ruby’s fresh interpretation that further revealed Polynesians as having a sophisticated knowledge of evolution and a belief system linking humans, gods and the physical universe. Ruby Johnson was also a professor in the University of Hawai‘i’s Department of Indo-Pacific Languages.

Her other works include translations of 19th century Hawaiian newspapers.

By Hank Soboleski, Island History | Saturday, July 22, 2023

<https://www.thegardenisland.com/.../island-history-kauai.../>

[Bringing back beavers: Ecologists on mission to save species that once ruled in California](#)
by **[Lydia Sidhom, Bay City News](#)** July 20, 2023

A North American beaver is photographed along the Calaveras River in Stockton on Feb. 26, 2015. With a population once estimated around 200 million nationwide, the beaver's popularity among fur traders and equal lack of popularity among farmers and river managers has led to the species nearly vanishing in the wild. A coalition of state ecology groups hopes to reestablish California as a prime beaver habitat. (Eric Sonstroem/Flickr, CC BY)

California agencies are taking a new approach to beaver management in the state to prioritize conservation of the ecologically important species as they call upon Californians to be “beaver believers.”

To support beaver conservation and enable California’s ecosystem to benefit from their activity, the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) is partnering with native tribes, non-governmental organizations, private landowners and other state and federal agencies.

At a panel discussion this month, beaver researchers and members of the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife spoke about the history of beavers in California and their beaver restoration project.



Damage to a tree caused by beaver activity is photographed at Cosumnes River Preserve near Elk Grove on July 4, 2023.

Once prevalent throughout California waterways, the beaver population has declined precipitously over the past century and a half. (Glenn Gehlke/Bay City News)

At the center of the state’s approach is helping public and private landowners meet their resource management goals through implementing beaver coexistence measures, mimicking habitats in places where beavers had not yet returned and relocating in cases where coexistence failed, said [Occidental Arts and Ecology Center WATER Institute](#) director Kate Lundquist, who works on the project.

Nearly wiped out

Beavers once ruled California. Providing support for the state's ecosystems, beavers once lived in nearly every stream in North America at an estimated population of 100 to 200 million.

Although beavers play a key role in the health of watersheds, as they provide erosion control and maintenance of stream flows during a dry summer period by building dams, they were not always appreciated in California.

The industrial fur trade saw beavers as a commodity and contributed to them being wiped out of California waters at high rates, according to Ben Goldfarb, conservation journalist and author of "[Eager: The Surprising Secret Life of Beavers.](#)"

This caused ecological damage that "permanently shaped North American landscapes" as streams suffered catastrophic erosion, wetlands dried up and rivers disconnected from their floodplains, Goldfarb said.

Today, the beaver population has reduced to approximately 10 to 15 million in North America.

A hat-tip to history

While the fur trade spread across the country, it had distinct and long-lasting impacts in California. Before fur trappers from across the Sierra Nevada — who were largely responsible for the industrial fur trade — came to California, beavers were already being captured and made into hats by other settlers. This caused scientists to incorrectly conclude that beavers had never been present or native to California, including in places like the Bay Area.



A group of men are photographed wearing beaver hats in 1886.

Beaver pelts were historically valued for being soft and resilient and easily shaped into garments. (Wikipedia image, CC0)

The historical record has since been corrected, as research has revealed just how important beavers are to the state, especially because they contribute to fighting wildfires as they create fire breaks by spreading water across the landscape.

"Few states need beavers more than California," Goldfarb said.

The Tule River Indian Tribe of California is one tribe that is striving to get its beavers back. They are hoping to revive the watershed on their reservation that has suffered since the drought in 2014.

"Our beaver culture and history go back a long way," said Kenneth McDarment, a member of the Tule River Indian Tribe of California who added that the tribe's pictographs featuring beavers date back to 500 to 1,000 years.

"Elders that we still have on the reservation talk about beavers that were on different locations of the reservation when they were kids," McDarment said.

AI Updates

Salesforce CEO shares his predictions for AI and the future of work

Salesforce founder and CEO Marc Benioff has become something of a vanishing breed during the nearly quarter century he has been running the company that pioneered the concept of selling software as an online subscription. While Benioff remains in charge at Salesforce, other billionaire founder/CEOs such as Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Google's Larry Page and Netflix's Reed Hastings have all stepped away from groundbreaking companies born during the 1990s. Benioff, 58, isn't ready to leave Salesforce yet, even though he has amassed an \$8 billion fortune and just went through a challenging stretch that might have caused many CEOs to head for the exit.

[Business Insider](#)

[Not everyone thinks AI is the enemy — it is an 'ally' to children ...](#)

"The AI that my 8-year-old is gonna have by the time he's 20, it's gonna have had 12 years of experience with him," Marc Andreessen said.

How Marc Andreessen uses ChatGPT to prepare his son for the A.I. future: 'It will have grown up with him'

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/marc-andreessen-uses-chatgpt-prepare-204424514.html>

Futurism

A team of researchers just got a \$600,000 grant from Australia's Office of National Intelligence to study ways of merging human brain cells with artificial intelligence. In collaboration with Melbourne-based startup Cortical Labs, the team has already successfully demonstrated how a cluster of roughly 800,000 brain cells in a Petri dish are capable of playing [...]

Who Should Write This?

Google is developing an AI model that can write news stories. It has pitched it to *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*'s owner, the [New York Times \(NYT\)](#) reports

- Per the *NYT*, the model, called Genesis, can be fed information and generate news content based on it
- Google says the tools will help journalists save time: "These tools are not intended to, and cannot, replace the essential role journalists have in reporting, creating and fact-checking their articles"
- News Corp., which owns the *WSJ*, praised Google's efforts. Other media execs were less enthusiastic

Dig Deeper

- Several news outlets have already [begun using AI](#) to write articles. The [Associated Press uses it](#) to generate stories about earnings reports; *NYT*, *Insider*, and *NPR* have told journalists they are experimenting with it

Phil Lane Jr

The Story of the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister-Dedicated to my beloved grandchildren, Ella and Nahtayu

Under a beautiful cedar tree, Grandfather Phil sat with his beloved grandchildren, Ella and Nahtayu. The air was filled with love and spirituality, and the setting was perfect for the mystical and heart-touching tale he was about to share with them - "The Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister."

With great reverence, Phil began to recount the ancient story.

"Once upon a time, in a land where the wilderness stretched far and wide, there lived a majestic and mighty creature known as the Great Wolf. He was a proud and powerful being, but he grew selfish, arrogant, and foolish over time. As a consequence of his actions, he lost sight, leaving him blind, in despair, and unable to hunt or survive.

In the same land, a little mouse lived with a heart filled with compassion and love for all living beings. Despite her tiny size, she felt a deep connection with the wounded Wolf and felt called to help him. Fearlessly, she approached the Great Wolf with curiosity and love, asking him why he was crying.

The Wolf replied, "I lost my eyes, and now I cannot see." The little mouse, without hesitation, offered her help. "Don't cry," she said. "I will help you. I will give you my eyes."

Surprised and doubtful, the Great Wolf asked, "You? What can you do? You're just a little mouse." But the mouse remembered her mother's teachings always to give her best, and with unwavering determination, she popped out her own eyes and gently placed them in the sockets where Wolf's eyes had been.

In an instant, a miracle happened. The Great Wolf leaped into the air and danced with joy, his sight restored through the selfless act of the little mouse sister.

United by this act of kindness and bound by a newfound friendship, the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister embarked on a journey together to the Sacred Lake of Healing. Along the way, they encountered various characters, some who doubted their quest and others who tried to sow mistrust between them. But the little mouse's heart was strong, and she remained steadfast in her resolve.

Together, they journeyed through the mountains until they stumbled upon the most breathtakingly beautiful lake they had ever seen, its waters shimmering with a brilliant turquoise hue in the morning sun. The Wolf described the scene to his Sister, but she replied, "I can see it with my heart."

Filled with gratitude and reverence, the Wolf offered a prayer of thanks to the Creator, thanking him for guiding them to this sacred place and protecting his beloved Little Mouse Sister.

But then, the mouse surprised the Wolf by asking him to leave her there. She said, "The rest I must do myself." Tearfully, the Wolf placed his Little Sister gently at the water's edge, bidding her goodbye, and set out down the mountain.

Alone by the Sacred Lake, the little mouse began to pray for healing. She felt a strange peace, yet uncertain about what to do next. Suddenly, a booming voice resonated from the sky, instructing her to jump and reach for the heavens. Obediently, she jumped, and the voice urged her to jump higher and higher.

With each leap, she felt herself soaring, floating, and flying. She could see a vast distance, and the beauty of the land and the Sacred Lake below filled her heart with awe. From her vantage point, she saw her Wolf Brother descending the mountain.

Once again, the voice spoke to her like a gentle whisper within her. It praised her for giving her best to help another life and seeking the Sacred Lake with unwavering determination. Recognizing her selflessness and love, the voice declared her the Sacred Eagle, destined to guide and inspire the people.

And so, under the cedar tree, Grandfather Phil concluded the beautiful, spiritual, and heart-touching tale of "The Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister."

Ella and Nahtayu were deeply moved by the story, feeling the magic and wisdom that flowed through their grandfather's words. They sat in silent awe, contemplating the profound lessons of compassion, selflessness, and the power of love.

From that day on, whenever they saw a majestic eagle soaring across the sky, they would remember the tale of the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister and

As Grandfather Phil's tale of "The Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister" ended, the atmosphere under the beautiful cedar tree was filled with a sense of wonder and awe. Ella and Nahtayu sat in silence, absorbing the profound lessons of the story, feeling the magic and wisdom that flowed through their grandfather's words.

Over time, the story became a cherished memory for the grandchildren and held a special place in their hearts. They often asked their grandfather to retell it, finding comfort and inspiration in its timeless message.

As the years passed, Ella and Nahtayu grew older and wiser, carrying the lessons of compassion, selflessness, and the power of love with them in their hearts. They embodied the values passed down by their grandfather, treating others with kindness and seeking to impact the world around them positively.

Ella developed a strong passion for wildlife conservation and dedicated her time to protecting endangered species and their habitats. She remembered the little mouse's fearlessness and compassion towards the Great Wolf, which constantly reminded her that even the smallest acts of kindness could have a significant impact.

Nahtayu, on the other hand, became a storyteller and artist, using his talents to share tales of love, unity, and the importance of preserving nature. He often referenced the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister in his works, touching the hearts of those who listened or admired his art.

Throughout their journeys, both Ella and Nahtayu encountered challenges and adversity. But they always drew strength and inspiration from the story of the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister. It reminded them that no matter how difficult the circumstances, love, determination, and selflessness could overcome any obstacle.

Grandfather Phil's health began to decline as time passed, and his time under the cedar tree with Ella and Nahtayu became more limited. Yet, their bond remained strong, and the wisdom he imparted continued to shape their lives.

One day, as the sun set over the horizon, Grandfather Phil gathered his beloved grandchildren under the cedar tree again. His eyes, now filled with the wisdom of many years, sparkled with love and pride as he looked at Ella and Nahtayu.

"My dear grandchildren," he began, "I have lived a long and fulfilling life, and it warms my heart to see the remarkable human beings you have become. Always remember the tale of the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister and the values it holds. As I prepare to leave this world, know that my love for you will forever soar like the Sacred Eagle, guiding and protecting you on your journey."

Ella and Nahtayu listened with tears in their eyes, knowing they would carry their grandfather's love and wisdom with them, just like the lessons from the ancient tale.

After Grandfather Phil's passing, Ella and Nahtayu continued to honor his memory and the story that had shaped their lives. They shared the tale with their own children and grandchildren, passing down the legacy of compassion and love for generations to come.

And so, the tale of the Great Wolf and Little Mouse Sister lived on, touching the hearts of those who heard it, inspiring acts of kindness, and reminding people of the sacred bond that connects all living beings.

Under the great cedar tree, the spirit of Grandfather Phil lingered as his love and wisdom became a part of the land, carried on through the winds, and echoed in the hearts of those who cherished his memory and the enduring power of his storytelling.



Shunkmanu He Me Yedo! Chanupa Sapa He Me Yedo!