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Earth Month

Chumash Museum to open May 15

'Serious impacts': UNLV, UNR lose \$40 million in federal funding

Nevada Governor and BLM Sign Agreement to Release Federal Lands for Development

PBS Reno and KUNR vow to maintain operations amid executive order controversy

History Bits

Ralph Burns remembered



We are pleased to inform you that the Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center will open to the public on Thursday, May 15!

Hours of operation will be 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, and tickets will be available for purchase starting at midnight tonight at sychumashmuseum.org.

Admission is \$15 for adults (18-64), \$12 for seniors (65+), \$12 for teens (13-17), \$10 for children (3-12), \$12 for military members (with ID) and free for toddlers (2 and under).

Kenneth Kahn, Tribal Chairman for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, told the media today:

“Our tribe looks forward to sharing the deep history and culture of our people with the greater community. Our museum guests are encouraged to explore this one-of-a-kind facility that has been a five-decade-long dream for our people. It holds not only artifacts and exhibits, but the spirit of our ancestors, the wisdom of those who came before us, and the richness of a culture that has withstood the test of time.”

We look forward to welcoming you on May 15 and beyond.

Sincerely, *The Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center*

Beginning May 15, 2025

Museum Hours

Thursday-Sunday
10:00am-5:00pm

Admission

Adults (18-64) - \$15
Seniors (65+) - \$12
Military Members (with ID) - \$12
Teens (13-17) - \$12
Children (3-12) - \$10
Toddlers (2 and under) - Free

Parking and exploring the Museum Gift Shop are free for all guests.



Become A Member

Memberships

We invite you to
explore our exhibits,
both temporary and
permanent, and
discover the stories of
resilience, tradition, and
community that have
shaped our heritage.

Exhibits

'Serious impacts': UNLV, UNR lose \$40 million in federal funding

Two top-tier research universities in Nevada have lost a combined nearly \$40 million in federal funding.



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Nevada Governor and BLM Sign Agreement to Release Federal Lands for Development

They're literally calling it a "disposal of public lands" as if shared wilderness, sacred ground, and national inheritance are garbage to be cleared and sold.

They signed the papers in Carson City like it was a real estate deal. The Governor. The Bureau of Land Management. Smiles for the cameras. Phrases like "economic development," and "progress." But the truth wasn't hidden in the subtext. It was front and center.

They're literally calling it a "disposal" of public lands.

And they're proud of it. *BLM Nevada acting state director Kim Prill said the quiet part out loud:*

"We look forward to working with the State of Nevada to provide accurate data as efficiently as possible to help Nevadans find public land potentially **available for disposal.**"

There it is. Out in the open. No reverence. No caution. Just a federal agency talking about public land the way you'd talk about a burned-out appliance or a pile of junk in the garage.

Not a transfer. Not a stewardship agreement. ***Disposal.***

Disposal – as if the land is garbage.

Disposal – like expired meat. Like broken furniture.

Disposal – trash to be hauled to the curb for private hands to cart away.

This isn't management. It isn't policy. **It's theft. This is betrayal.** Dressed in polo shirts and spoken through a grin. These lands do not belong to Governor Lombardo. They do not belong to the Bureau of Land Management. They are not Nevada's to toss out. They belong to everyone. To hikers and hunters. To tribal nations and schoolkids. To the quiet and the curious and the unborn.

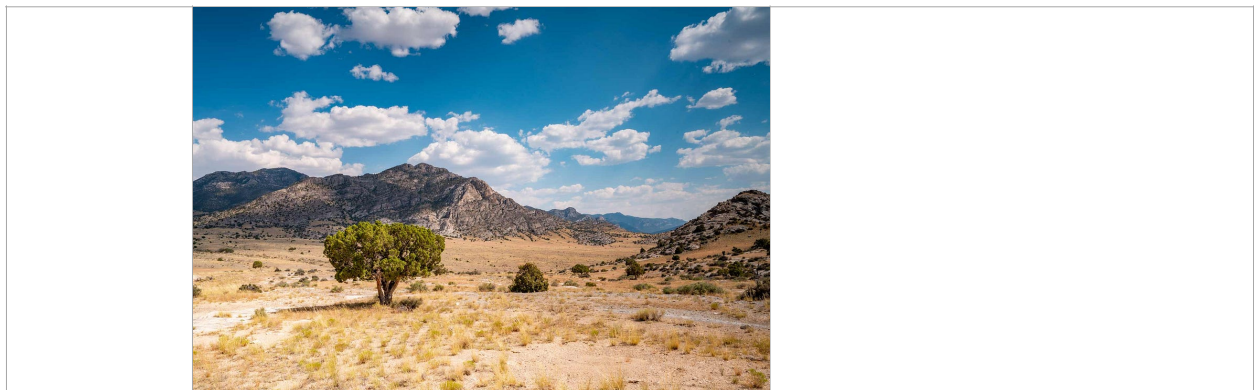
Wallace Stegner called the public lands “the geography of hope.” But hope, it turns out, doesn’t make anyone rich. So now they’ve relabeled it. Rebranded it. **They’re treating it like trash.**

This isn’t the first time they’ve tried. We’ve written about it before. The great lie of “returning lands to the states.” The scam that says local control means public good. It never did. It means fences. It means drill pads. It means no trespassing signs on what used to be yours.

And it was never theirs to begin with. The Constitution gave Congress, not the states, authority over federal lands. That was the deal. A republic bound together by shared space and shared stake. And now, they’re *disposing of it*.

Back then, they tried to do it quietly. Now they’re doing it at podiums with microphones. They’ve stopped pretending. And that is a warning shot that needs to be resisted whole-heartedly.

Mark my words, if they can get away with it in Nevada, they won’t stop there. Here’s what we’re looking at.



Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada

The Great Nevada Land Raid Is Underway

So, the governor stood at a podium without blinking and in full cahoots with the very folks who are supposed to stand in his way stated his intent plainly:

“I’m pleased to announce the State’s joint agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada today. This agreement will improve our ability to share critical data about public lands in Nevada and help inform future housing and economic development in our communities.”

Data means maps. Maps mean parcels. Parcels mean profit.

Not for us. Never for us. For the interests, of course.

This is what a land raid looks like in 2025. No barbed wire. No forced removals. Just spreadsheets and smiles. The backroom sell-off has gone public and patriotic.

Strip away the PR gloss, and what's left is simple – they're parceling out the garbage.

This is a public-private cleanup job – treating public lands like a mess to be cleared, categorized, and dumped for profit. The state maps what it wants. The Bureau labels it as “disposable.” The developers stand by, waiting to pounce.

No vote. No environmental review. No tribal consultation.

Just a list of lands to be staked out, fenced off, and auctioned like scrap at a county junk sale. Carcasses for the vultures. Sagebrush and sandstone handed over like busted filing cabinets from a government surplus lot.

And they're proud of it. They're calling it collaboration. Progress. Efficiency.

No one's even pretending to be ashamed.

The BLM is playing broker. The state is playing middleman. And the public? Left standing outside the gates, watching their inheritance head to auction.

The Betrayal Has Leeches Into the Fourth Branch

When the executive signs the order, the agencies carry it out, and congress twiddles their thumbs, there's still one institution that's supposed to step in. An extra check. One last safeguard. A final line of public defense.

The press.

But instead of sounding the alarm, it's smoothing the runway.

Last week, the *New York Times* published a feature titled **“Housing on Federal Lands Aims to Ease Affordability Crisis.”** The piece reads like a press release with punctuation. It details the Trump administration's plan to identify and release hundreds of thousands of acres of federal land for development, quoting industry executives and policy analysts praising the move as visionary and overdue.



The word “disposal” is never used. The term “public land” barely registers. What appears instead is a polished reframing: federal land as a missed opportunity. Developers as saviors. Privatization as affordability.

“Any land that we can make available would help,” said the head of the National Association of Home Builders, praising the plan’s potential to “push the suburbs out.”

Environmental objections are treated as fringe. The ecological and cultural stakes? Soft-pedaled into the fine print. The entire public estate reduced to a backdrop for the housing market’s next phase of expansion.

This is not journalism holding power to account. **This is language doing what bulldozers can’t – making theft feel inevitable.**

When the press adopts the vocabulary of the developer, the outcome is preordained. The public loses twice. First the land. Then the narrative.

Nevada Isn’t the End Game, It’s the Template

Federal officials have already estimated that 400,000 acres of public land could be released for housing. That’s just the beginning. A test batch. The opening bid.

The Department of the Interior manages more than 480 million acres of federal land. That’s one in every five acres in the United States. And with the stroke of a pen, the language of *disposal* can be applied across all of it.

What begins with cul-de-sacs and sewer lines can end with oil rigs and mining permits. Once land is categorized as *underused*, it’s already halfway out the door. Once it’s mapped for its development potential, the only thing left is to pick the highest bidder.

Nevada is not the story. Nevada is the model.

California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho – every state in the federal estate is now on notice.

This isn’t localized mismanagement.

It’s a scalable system for stripping the American commons.

And it’s already online.

There Is No Such Thing as Surplus Wilderness

The idea that any wild land is *surplus* is a lie born in a corporate backroom. It

doesn't exist in nature. It doesn't exist in history. And it sure as hell doesn't exist in the hearts of the people who walk these places and call them home.

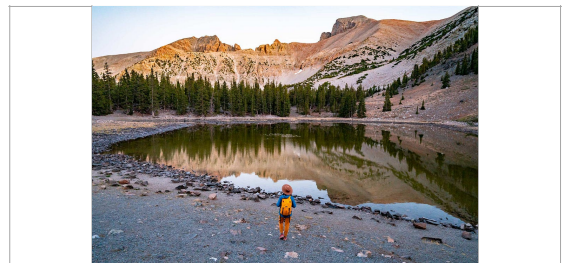
There is no such thing as surplus forest in a burning West.
There is no such thing as surplus desert when the water is vanishing.
There is no such thing as surplus habitat on a planet in collapse.

But the architects of this scheme speak in development logic. If it's not already paved, they call it idle. If it doesn't turn a profit, they call it wasted. They treat a canyon like a cost center. A valley like a liability. They don't see landscape. They see latency.

The wild isn't failing us, we're failing it. Turning it into trash because the quarterly numbers need somewhere to grow. Because lobbyists need another revenue stream. Because someone decided that a field with no houses is just space waiting to be monetized.

But that land isn't empty. It holds history. Memory. Medicine. Refuge.

It's not disposable. And it never was.



Words That Wound

Before the bulldozers arrive, before the fences go up, before the land is sold off and paved over the language gets rewritten.

Disposal. Efficiency. Optimization.

This is how it starts.

The wild becomes “available.”

The sacred becomes “surplus.”

The public gets “in the way.”

These aren't just bureaucratic terms. They're acts of erasure, disguised as planning language. They strip the land of meaning, so that when it's stripped of protection, no one flinches.

Once it's been called trash, the cleanup feels inevitable.

This is not neutral language. It's preparation. It's pre-justification for harm. A tool for manufacturing consent. And it works.

Say "disposal" enough times, and a mountainside becomes a mistake.

Say "surplus" long enough, and a watershed becomes debris.

Say "development opportunity," and no one mourns what's lost because the loss was never named.

This is the vocabulary of conquest, just made friendlier. The tone is gentler now. The suit fits better. But the outcome is the same.

The language comes first. Then the land follows.

This Can Still Be Stopped

The maps are being drawn. The parcels are being flagged. The language is already baked into agency policy.

But the land isn't gone yet. Not all of it.

This is the moment before the auction. Before the ink dries. Before "disposal" becomes precedent and every state gets handed a playbook for clearing out the commons.

Congress has the power to halt this. To demand oversight. To outlaw this language. To stop the theft before it spreads.

But only if we make them.

Because what's happening right now in Nevada isn't a local land deal. It's a test. And if no one pushes back, **this becomes federal doctrine.**

The land is not surplus.

The land is not trash.

And it damn sure isn't theirs to give away.

Below I've included a letter to send to your reps. [Here's how you can easily find yours.](#)

The land is not garbage.

And we're not letting them take out "the trash".

If you feel strongly about this please [share this post](#) and get others to write their congress people.
Until next time, Will

Call to Action: Copy This Letter and Send It to Congress
Subject: Stop the Nevada-BLM Land Disposal Agreement

Dear [Senator/Representative NAME],

I am writing to demand immediate Congressional oversight and intervention regarding the April 29 Data Sharing Agreement signed between the State of Nevada and the Bureau of Land Management.

This agreement frames federal public lands as “disposable” a term that misrepresents and devalues one of the most vital public assets held in trust for the American people.

These lands are not surplus. They are not garbage. They are critical ecosystems, cultural landscapes, and public commons protected under federal law. Releasing them for development under a framework of “disposal” sets a dangerous precedent that could impact the entire federal estate – more than 640 billion acres.

I urge you to:

- Call for a moratorium on all federal land “disposal” agreements
- Launch oversight hearings into the Nevada-BLM deal
- Introduce legislation to bar the use of “disposal” as a land management category
- Uphold the federal government’s responsibility to protect public lands for present and future generations

The American people are watching.
Do not let our inheritance be cleared, parceled, and sold without a fight.

Sincerely, [Your Full Name] [Your City, State] [Your Email Address] [Share](#)

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**PBS Reno and KUNR vow to maintain operations amid executive order controversy**  
([mynews4.com](http://mynews4.com)) — PBS Reno and KUNR are standing firm against a White House executive order challenging their operations. Despite the controversy, these stations continue to serve the **Reno** community, relying heavily on local support for funding.

## History Bits

- 1626 May 4** Often portrayed as white men besting natives, Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan for \$24 in trade goods, except Minuit bought the island from natives who were traveling through and did not own the land; he had to purchase it again from the actual occupants.
- 1859 May 9** James Simpson, leader of an exploring party wrote of Goshute Tribe: “Children at the breast are perfectly naked and this at a time when overcoats were required by us. The men wear their hair cut square in front, just above the eyes”.
- 1860 May 7** The Pyramid Lake Paiute War started when retaliating for the kidnapping of two young girls, Indians killed several whites at Williams Station.
- 1877 May 5** Tired of the harassment of forces led by Colonel Nelson Miles, Chief Sitting Bull (**Tatanka Yolanka**) led the first Lakota into Canada.
- 1886 May 4** President Cleveland withdraws lands in Idaho to be added to the Duck Valley Reservation for the use of the Paddy Cap band and other Indians “as the Secretary may see fit to settle thereon”.
- 1887 May 10** President Hayes withdrew the Carlin Farms to be a reservation for “the Northwestern Shoshone”. The order was revoked on January 16, 1879
- 1937 May 8** Walker River Paiute Tribe voted for corporate fed charter; Council sworn in on May 25.
- 1967 May 6** U.S. Rep Walter aring announced EDA had allocated \$40,000 to the Pyramid Lake Indian Tribe for an inventory of potable water sources and a land use plan for the reservation.
- 1970 May 5** **Lloyd Willner Jackson**, a 22 y-o from Austin, Nevada, was killed in action in Thua Thien (Vietnam Wall panel 11w line 124)
- 1975 May 9** A Native American employee of the Washoe County School District accused the district of missing federal funds earmarked for tribal education by “trying to eliminate us from the curriculum”.
- 1978 May 8** Surrender of the resolute American Indians who had held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for ten weeks.
- 2001 May 6** A White House photograph included George Bush and Jack Abramoff in the same frame; it became the first photo of the two men (made public by **Kickapoo leader Raul Garza** in NYT) after the White House spent weeks trying to suppress all such photos.



Ralph Burns was one the most humble and incredible people I've ever known. Below is my favorite picture of Ralph from the Nevada 150 birthday cake event in 2014 and reminds me of the great guy he was.

Ralph's unwavering dedication to his people, his language, and his culture have left an enduring impact on Nevada and around the world. Ralph was more than a historian, more than an educator—he was a living bridge between generations, ensuring that the wisdom of the past could guide the future.

His humility was as remarkable as his achievements. Ralph was literally a National Treasure and there was nothing too small he would do to share and promote his culture. From pulling weeds, to speaking to a group of tourists on the side of the road, to providing a traditional prayer in the rotunda of the US Capitol Building for Ralph, every act of service to his culture mattered.

To those who had the privilege of knowing him, Ralph was a mentor, a friend, and a guiding light. His kindness, his wisdom, and his passion left an imprint on all who crossed his path. I will never forget our talks together at the Pyramid Lake Museum and his great sense of humor. I will forever be indebted to Ralph for the many events I invited him to speak at over the years and the knowledge and stories he shared.

Ralph's legacy lives on—in the language and culture he worked so hard to preserve, in the traditional stories he told, and in the lives he touched from across the globe. Our community, our state, our nation, and the world have been enriched by the remarkable life of Ralph Burns.

My deepest condolences go out to Ralph's amazing family and all who loved this incredible man.

Scott Carey

*AB saw a young eagle on the way.*

*As the Veteran's Honor Guard started their tribute, the skies clapped  
with thunder and shed some tears.*

*The drum was strong.*

*We were all blessed.*

*Those that walk in beauty  
set the standards, encouraging us to be our best.*

*sdc*

