### Journal #5887 from sdc 5.21.25

Owyhee Veterans PowWow

Tribal colleges face uncertain future amid federal funding cuts

Ovarian cancer blood test misses some Black and Native American patients, study finds

Collective knowledge of native plant ecology in the Great Basin

Delta Tribes/statewide organizations urge legislators: eject Newsom's Delta tunnel/Bay-Delta Plan News from NATHPO

Libraries are cutting back on staff and services after Trump's order to dismantle small agency Donald Trump's Library of Congress fight is really about the separation of powers North America Indigenous Histories Pro s

**Indian Trust Setlement** 

T's Bureau of Reclamation is not a reliable partner, pushing the Bay's endangered fish to extinction Klamath irrigators applaud new guidance on Endangered Species Act

PFAS regulatory landscape update — the message? Stay tuned.

Scientists stunned by rare shift in state's 'unrestorable' mountains

This Nevada fish is the 1st species slated for protection in new Trump term

Collaborative solutions to Nevada's water needs

Native turtles return to Yosemite after removal of invasive bullfrogs

Mark Trahant honors Jeanne Givens.



from Denise Henry at Owyhee Veterans PowWow

### Tribal colleges face uncertain future amid federal funding cuts

Tribal colleges and universities have endured decades of chronic underfunding, relying heavily on federal support to stay afloat. Now, the Trump administration's broad cuts to federal programs are hitting Indian Country hard, posing a serious threat to the future of these vital institutions. Stephanie Sy reports for our series, Rethinking College.

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/tribal-colleges-face-uncertain-future-amid-federal-funding-cuts

Ovarian cancer blood test misses some Black and Native American patients, study finds A common blood test may miss ovarian cancer in some Black and Native American patients, delaying their treatment, a new study finds. It's the latest example of medical tests that contribute to health care disparities.

Researchers have been working to uncover these kinds of biases in medicine. Recently, the Trump administration's crackdown on diversity, equity and inclusion has jeopardized such research as universities react to political pressure and federal agencies comb through grants looking for projects that violate the president's orders.

Native American women have the highest rate of ovarian cancer. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/ovarian-cancer-blood-test-misses-some-black-and-native-american-patients-study-finds

### Elizabeth Leger named 2025 Outstanding Researcher in STEM

(people you might like to know/collaborate)

#### **Extract:**

Director of the Museum of Natural History and Foundation Professor in the Department of Biology Elizabeth Leger was named the Outstanding Researcher in STEM at the University in 2025."Nevada has a way of telling you what it needs, and you just need to listen and step up." - Leger

"Dr. Leger's record of research excellence is truly exceptional," Leonard said. "Throughout her career, she has exhibited a remarkable commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of native plant ecology, restoration and conservation in the Great Basin and beyond."

You've worked at the University of Nevada, Reno for 19 years. How have your research interests evolved over the years?

I have always studied plants, and I have always been interested in doing science with real-world applications, but my work has become even more applied over time. I also used to spend a lot of time trying to understand major weeds like cheatgrass, and then one day I realized that cheatgrass gets too much of my time and I switched to mostly studying native plants. They are

much harder to grow, and it takes more patience, but getting them to grow is much more rewarding!

Your work at the University has resulted in the creation of the Museum of Natural History and the Nevada Native Seed Bank. How have you linked your research to such valuable outreach and community service activities? How have those experiences informed your research interests?

Both of those things happened in very organic ways. Like, I didn't come to the University planning to build a museum. But Nevada has a way of telling you what it needs, and you just need to listen and step up. I became involved with the museum collections in 2008, during the last major economic downturn, which resulted in people losing their jobs and the collection becoming orphaned. Over time, more responsibility came to myself and my collaborator Chris Feldman, and creating the museum was a natural outcome of that. It has been great. I would say the same with the seed bank! We started out needing these seed cleaning and storage services, and then realized well, if we wanted them, we were going to probably have to build it ourselves. It has been very fun and I hope that both the Museum of Natural History and the seed bank continue well beyond my time at the University!

## Your work has vastly increased the collective knowledge of native plant ecology in the Great Basin. What made you want to study this region?

My husband Matt Forister and I did our Ph.Ds. at UC Davis. My first visits to the Great Basin were during that time, when we did a road trip through northern Nevada looking for some butterflies that have been collected in Denio in the 1970s. We had so much fun driving Nevada's wild roads, and it was so different from California. We both fell in love with the desert. When this job for me came open at the University, we were living in New York but new knew that we had to jump at it! Fascinatingly, the butterfly that we found back on that trip is now quite rare and hard to find, which was not the case back in the early 2000s. So, we are unfortunately witnessing a lot of change in the Great Basin, even over the course of our short time here.

## Delta Tribes and statewide organizations urge legislators to reject Governor Newsom's Delta tunnel and Bay-Delta Plan trailer bills

"The Delta Tribal Environmental Coalition (DTEC) and a coalition of statewide organizations dedicated to the equitable stewardship of California's water resources sent letters to legislative leaders urging them to reject Governor Newsom's proposed budget trailer bills, which would accelerate the Delta Conveyance Project (otherwise known as the Delta Tunnel) and eliminate critical environmental reviews for the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The Governor's proposal to fast-track the Delta Tunnel and circumvent legal protections is also facing unanimous opposition from the California Legislative Delta Caucus. Governor Newsom's trailer bill language seeks to bypass decades of established water laws, environmental protections, and public processes in order to fast-track one of California's most controversial and costly infrastructure projects—The Delta Tunnel. The legislation also threatens water quality standards for the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary. ... "Continue reading this press release.

### News from NATHPO

### Register Today for NATHPO's Annual Conference!

Registration is now open for NATHPO's 25th Annual Conference, happening **September 8-12, 2025**! We would like to thank Reno-Sparks Indian Colony for hosting us in 2025! We look forward to seeing everyone in Reno at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino!!! You can find more details about the conference and register HERE. If you or your organization are interested in becoming a sponsor, you can access our sponsorship deck HERE.

### NATHPO Community Calendar & Job Board & Grant Opportunities

Stay current on important happenings using our new <u>Calendar of Events</u>, and post your own to share! And let us know if you have a job posting you would like to share and we'll post it on our <u>Community Job Board</u>. AND don't forget to browse our listing of relevant <u>Grant Opportunities</u>.

**DUE JULY 15 | EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Last week, the National Park Service (NPS) announced <u>a grant opportunity</u> through the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF). \$48,000,000 will be awarded under the ESHPF grant program for necessary expenses related to the consequences of natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match. There are separate funding announcements for capacity and survey grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and physical preservation projects. **Applications are due July 15, 2025.** You can find more information about the grants, how to apply, and whom to contact if you have difficulty accessing the announcement <u>HERE</u>. Additionally, **NPS will host an optional, informal Q&A session for THPO staff on Thursday, May 29 from 4-5 pm Eastern using Microsoft Teams.** There will not be a formal presentation, and attendees are welcome to stay for some or all of the time allotted. Attendees are encouraged to watch the recorded webinar in advance of the session and to bring any follow-up questions. You can find more details and register for the Q&A session HERE.

HAPPENING JUNE 17 | VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT CONSULTATION: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is consulting to develop a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for the Major Leasing Program. The session for Federally recognized Indian Tribes, Indigenous people of the Hawaiian Islands, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and Alaska Native Corporations will take place June 17, 2025, at 2:30 PM ET. You can find more information about the sessions and how to register HERE.

HAPPENING IN MAY AND JUNE | BIA WORKFORCE CONSULTATION SESSIONS: Over the next several weeks, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs will hold a series of Tribal consultation sessions to discuss ways in which they can best implement the President's Executive Order (EO) 14210 establishing the "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative and "to streamline operations while minimizing any potential impact on the quality of services provided to Tribes." Details and sign-up information can be found HERE.

NATHPO regularly submits comment letters to federal agencies advocating on behalf of Tribal communities and their THPOs. You can find several of our most recent letters <u>HERE</u>, and if you know of an upcoming deadline and want NATHPO to consider submitting comment, please contact Melissa Madrigal at <u>melissa@nathpo.org</u>.

### THPO APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

As you know, the apportionments for both THPOs and SHPOs for Fiscal Year 2025 have not yet been made available by the Administration, despite the fact those funds were passed by the Congress and signed into law in March of this year. NATHPO has been urging Administration officials and Members of Congress in both chambers to make these funds available as quickly as possible.

Today, during a hearing of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Ranking Member Chellie Pingree (D-ME), pressed Interior Secretary Doug Burgum about this very subject. Ranking Member Pingree reminded Secretary Burgum Congress appropriated these funds and the law explicitly requires the Department of the Interior (DOI) to make those funds available within 60 days of enactment - and that those 60 days have passed. Secretary Burgum assured Ranking Member Pingree and the Subcommittee he is pushing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to release those funds as quickly as possible, and as a former Governor of North Dakota he recognizes the importance of THPOs and SHPOs having the funds they needed to do their jobs.

We thank Ranking Member Pingree for raising this critical subject in the hearing and Secretary Burgum for his assurances that he is working to release the THPO apportionments. We will continue to advocate to DOI, OMB, and Congress to not only release those funds as quickly as possible, but also to protect funding for THPOs and SHPOs in the years to come.

You can watch the exchange between Ranking Member Pingree and Secretary Burgum HERE.

### **NATHPO HAPPENINGS**

**NATHPO On The Hill |** Last week, NATHPO Executive Director Dr. Valerie Grussing <u>was on Capitol Hill</u> to take part in a Congressional briefing as part of Preservation Month. Valerie talked about the need for THPOs to receive their Fiscal Year 2025 funding, which Congress passed and the President signed into law two months ago. She also stressed the need for THPO funding to keep pace with the growing number of THPOs and for federal agencies to engage in meaningful nation-to-nation consultation with THPOs

**UPDATE On CTIA'S FCC Petition Process** | Late last month, CTIA The Wireless Association (CTIA) petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a rulemaking that would effectively eliminate NEPA and NHPA Section 106 Review for the vast majority of cell towers. There would be serious implications to such a rulemaking, which is why NATHPO and so many other Tribal Nations and organizations fought a very similar effort back in 2018. The D.C. Circuit Court vacated this part of that ruling in 2019. NATHPO submitted comment last month and signed onto a separate comment letter by the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty, of which we are a member. Last week, NATHPO joined the National Congress of American Indians in filing a reply to several of the comments other entities submitted. Thanks to everyone who has joined us in calling on the FCC to oppose this effort to sideline Tribes and THPOs who want to ensure these broadband projects occurs while still safeguarding their sacred places and cultural resources.

Advocating For Improved Consultation | On Monday, NATHPO and other members of the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty sent a letter to Secretary Doug Burgum providing him with recommendations for improving the effectiveness of Tribal consultation at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The recommendations include 1) reducing the scope and increasing the number of consultations to ensure a more thorough and robust discussion; 2) providing full information and transparency on the federal government's current plans with respect to the Tribal consultation topics of interest; and 3) ensuring key federal decision-makers are in attendance at all Tribal consultation session

### INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE NATHPO CONFERENCE?

Please help up make this year's annual NATHPO 2025 Conference & Sacred Places
Summit the most exceptional one to date. By becoming a sponsor, you directly contribute to the success of the conference, enabling the provision of nourishing meals, educational sessions, impactful site visits, and community building. Your support goes beyond financial contributions; it plays a pivotal role in uniting the nationwide family of THPOs, fostering connections, and rejuvenating individuals dedicated to the critical work of preserving Tribal heritage. Most sponsorship levels also include registration for at least one conference attendee. You can find more details, access our sponsorship deck, and register to become a Sponsor HERE.

### **CALLING ALL CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**

Are you attending NATHPO's 25th Annual Conference and interested in presenting? If so, NATHPO invites you to share your knowledge and experiences in Tribal historic and cultural preservation by presenting at our annual conference. As always, sessions and presentations on all relevant topics are welcome. This year's theme is "Upholding Tribal Sovereignty: Protecting Native Places in a Shifting Landscape." We encourage you to think about how your proposed topic is related to the conference theme. You can find more details about submitting a presentation proposal on our website and in the attached form. Proposals are due no later than June 6, 2025.

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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, valerie@nathpo.org | 202-628-8476

- Libraries are cutting back on staff and services after Trump's order to dismantle small agency
- Donald Trump's Library of Congress fight is really about the separation of powers https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-library-of-congress-capitol-hill-cd401629dbec487f778a8beb13761f65? user\_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8

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### Marvn Klbp Johnson -North America Indigenous Histories Pro s

This collection has a major collection of Osage portraits, mostly early 1900's, some Nez Perce and is rumored to hold a pic of Mokeeta with his son in Nixon, Nevada - Northern Paiute - 1907



## Conservation, tribal groups notify State Water Board: Trump's Bureau of Reclamation is not a reliable partner, and is pushing the Bay's endangered fish to extinction

"A coalition of eight organizations today <u>aler</u>ted the California Water Resources Control Board that the federal Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)—an agency under the Department of the Interior—has repeatedly exceeded water diversion limits set by recent federal and state endangered species act permits. Some of these provisions are intended to implement voluntary water use agreements that Governor Newsom has negotiated with water districts that serve cities, as well as massive industrial agricultural operations in the Central Valley (Voluntary Agreements). These Voluntary Agreements are roundly opposed by environmental, Tribal, fishing, and human rights advocates. "There's no scientific basis to suggest that Governor Newsom's Voluntary Agreements would work in the first place," said Baykeeper managing attorney Eric Buescher. "The Water Board is currently faced with a flawed water management plan that's made worse by an unreliable partner federal agency that serially refuses to obey the legal requirements it previously agreed were necessary to avoid harming endangered species." ...
"Continue reading this press release from SF Baykeeper.

**SEE ALSO**: On Endangered Species Day, Groups Tell CA Water Board Feds Are 'Unreliable Partners', from Dan Bacher at the Daily Kos

## INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

# Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

\$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS.
THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.

### What is this about?

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government.

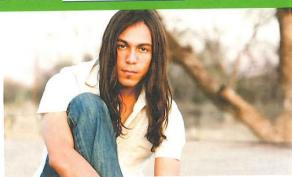
### Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by June 30, 2025. More details are available on the website.

### Here is what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or
- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.



A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate's Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds can be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

### LEARN MORE CobellSettlement.com 800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement c/o Kroll Settlement Administration P.O. Box 5324 New York, NY 10150-5324

### Klamath irrigators applaud new guidance on Endangered Species Act

"The U.S. Department of the Interior updated its legal guidance regarding the Endangered Species Act in the Klamath Project, saying federal actions regarding the storage, diversion and delivery of water for irrigation are mandatory, not discretionary. The guidance represents a significant change in policy in favor of irrigators. The ESA only applies to discretionary matters and the Bureau of Reclamation can't alter its performance to the detriment of those with water contracts such as local farmers, according to a May 14 memo from Gregory Zerzan, the department's acting solicitor. ... "Read more from the Capital Press.

### PFAS regulatory landscape update — the message? Stay tuned.

"The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced several actions in recent weeks that shed light on the Trump administration's approach to PFAS regulation. Despite EPA's significant deregulatory agenda, the "Major EPA Actions to Combat PFAS Contamination" action plan released on April 28, 2025, stops short of fully rolling back Biden-era PFAS policies. In fact, the new action plan makes clear that EPA intends to continue advancing PFAS regulation but perhaps with a more measured approach on timing and attention to the evolving science, remedial technologies and analytical methods, and partnerships with state and local governments and the regulated community. To that end, as indicated by EPA's actions in recent days, the agency is proposing to extend compliance deadlines to give both EPA and the regulated community more time to adapt, as well as give the agency more time to evaluate the implications on the regulated community. ... "Read more from the Environmental Law Monitor.

## Scientists stunned by rare shift in state's 'unrestorable' mountains: 'It's what you don't want to have happen'

https://currently.att.yahoo.com/news/scientists-stunned-rare-shift-states-110044355.html?.tsrc=daily\_mail&uh\_test=1\_11&.tsrc=daily\_mail&segment\_id&ncid=cr\_m\_-1295960-20250521-399--

A&bt\_user\_id=xGg65riaR6yk%2FZ7tjL4lxwyZeKqev6OPRF%2BTKLNUS6WVxbXguY7uwN9jZ0GO6vFX&bt\_ts=1747816278389

### This Nevada fish is the 1st species slated for protection in new Trump term

"A lithium mine could contribute to the extinction of a fish species in southwestern Nevada, the federal government acknowledged Tuesday in a document recommending its protection. The Fish Lake Valley tui chub is the first species to get a positive recommendation for Endangered Species Act listing under the second Trump administration. "Water use for lithium mining will likely exacerbate the already over-allocated Fish Lake Valley groundwater basin that supplies water for tui chub habitat," the proposal said, pointing to geothermal energy development and farming as additional water stressors in the region. ... "Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal.



### Collaborative solutions to Nevada's water needs https://www.unr.edu/nwii

Through innovative research and strategic partnerships, the Nevada Water Innovation Institute solves water problems and promotes economic growth in the Truckee Meadows.

### **Introducing the Nevada Center for Water Reuse**

The Nevada Water Innovation Institute has a new center: the Nevada Center for Water Reuse (NCWR), led by Associate Professor Sage Hiibel and Professor Eric Marchand. <u>Learn more about the grant that established the NCWR</u> and visit the <u>NCWR website</u>.

### For more information

**Krishna Pagilla,** NWII Director, Ralph E. & Rose A. Hoeper Engineering Professor Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno pagilla@unr.edu (775) 682-7918

**John A. Martini,** Chair, NWII Board of Advisors, Assistant City Manager, City of Sparks <a href="mailto:jmartini@cityofsparks.us">jmartini@cityofsparks.us</a>

**Dwayne Smith,** Vice-chair, NWII Board of Advisors
Director of Engineering and Capital Projects at Washoe County desmith@washoecounty.us

### Native turtles return to Yosemite after removal of invasive bullfrogs

"The call of American bullfrogs was deafening when scientists from the University of California, Davis, first began researching the impact of invasive bullfrogs on native northwestern pond turtles at Yosemite National Park. "At night, you could look out over the pond and see a constellation of eyes blinking back at you," said UC Davis Ph.D. candidate Sidney Woodruff, lead author of a study chronicling the effects of removal. "Their honking noise is iconic, and it drowns out native species' calls." But the ponds of Yosemite sound different today, with a chorus of native species making themselves heard. The researchers' study, published in the May issue of the journal Biological Conservation, found that as the park was depopulated of bullfrogs, northwestern pond turtles began to return. ... "Read more from UC Davis.

### Mark Trahant is with Teresa Iyall-Williams and Maria Givens.

Sad to see the obituary for Jeanne Givens. She should be remembered for many things (including serving on ICT's board) but especially her landmark run for Congress. Like her Uncle, Joe Garry, she gave Idaho a chance to be better than its scenery. My favorite story is when she served in the Idaho legislature the state was considering adding creation stories to school curriculum.

The idea was to use the Bible as a counterweight to science. "I will vote for this bill on one condition. I want the creation story of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. I want the creation story of the Kootenai, the Nez Perce, the Shoshone-Paiute and the Shoshone-Bannock." She told the story from her people about the Great Flood and the little beavers and otter that dug down and got the sand to create this island. "They were shocked," she said. "I helped defeat the bill."