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# McDermitt COMMUNITY GATHERING

**Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Fort McDermitt Tribal Administration Building**  
111 North Road - McDermitt, Nevada

**Doors Open @ 5:30pm**

**Presentation/Conversations 6:00-7:30pm**

Please join us as we return for an open community educational and listening session to discuss incoming lithium projects in the McDermitt Caldera. We will also be introducing the new addition to our coalition.

It's an honor to share with the community that *Western Shoshone Defense Project* has joined the Protect McDermitt Caldera Coalition.

Our groups have expertise on the negative impacts of mining including effects to water, wildlife, the environment, cultural resources, and communities. We are coming as an educational resource for the community and to help answer questions folks may have!

**Help Protect the McDermitt Caldera from Lithium Mining!**

**All are welcome!**

**Dinner and free raffle provided.**



Questions - [klisenbee@earthworksaction.org](mailto:klisenbee@earthworksaction.org)

**EARTHWORKS**



**Great Basin  
Resource Watch**

**People of  
Red Mountain**



**OREGON  
NATURAL  
DESERT  
ASSOCIATION**

## [NV considers changes to DUI laws, harsher penalties](#)

May 27, 2025 - Alex Gonzalez, Public News Service (NV)

With less than a week in the legislative session, Nevada lawmakers are considering a bill which would change the state's laws for driving under the influence.

[Senate Bill 304](#) would eliminate the threshold of offenses for driving under the influence prosecutors need to charge someone with vehicular homicide. [Current law](#) mandates a person have three prior DUI offenses within a seven-year period before they can be charged with vehicular homicide on a fourth offense that results in death.

According to state data, [half of deadly crashes](#) on Nevada roads are caused by drunken drivers.

Sandy Heverly, cofounder and executive director of the nonprofit Stop DUI, said she believes the bill could help save lives.

"Why are we giving these people three chances to kill us?," Heverly asked. "We've reached a point where the penalty for the crime should, and must, outweigh the risks these drunken fools are willing to take."

The bill would not only allow charges on the first deadly DUI offense but the person could face more time behind bars. Some public defenders oppose the legislation, saying state law is already tough enough on people charged with DUI. They want more training for alcohol servers and providers to prevent incidents in the first place. The bill was heard in committee last week.

Alyssa Belle Yabut is the eldest daughter of Nevada State Police Trooper Alberto Felix. Felix and Nevada Highway Patrol Sergeant Michael Abbate were killed by an impaired driver while they assisted another driver in 2023. Yabut said DUIs not only take lives, they shatter families.

"Every holiday, every birthday and every ordinary day, we feel his absence," Yabut explained. "Unjustly, under the current Nevada law, that driver could not be charged with vehicular homicide because he didn't have three prior DUIs."

Yabut said she wants the bill to be a turning point for Nevada. Critics warned the bill could lead to steep financial implications for the state and perhaps significantly increase the state's prison population.

## **Supreme Court clears way for massive copper mine on Apache sacred land**

The Supreme Court declined Monday to hear an Apache religious challenge to a copper mine that could turn the tribe's sacred site into a 1,000-foot-deep industrial crater.

Read in Los Angeles Times: <https://apple.news/A9Feik2RdQ5GpXWvQ8Eg6fQ>

## From the [newscientist.com](http://newscientist.com) Earth Edition

### COP30 will be held in Belém, Brazil, this November

Thousands of people will flood to the Brazilian city of Belém later this year for UN climate talks. But hopes the summit will deliver a reset for global climate action are fading amid complaints the Brazilian hosts are dodging the trickiest issues on the table, including fossil fuel use. [Read more.](#)

### Could a \$125 billion investment fund halt global deforestation?

The Tropical Forests Forever Facility is a fund set to be launched at the COP30 summit in Brazil that will raise money from investments to protect the world's tropical forests. Countries with these forests will be paid to keep them standing, a plan the fund's creators say is a simple and scalable approach for securing global tree cover. [Read more.](#)

### Robert Macfarlane is wrong to cast rivers as life forms in new book

Nature writer Robert Macfarlane has Rowan Hooper torn over his new book about the life of rivers. On the one hand, it is a beautiful, poetic piece of writing. On the other, is it credible to believe that rivers are genuinely alive, in the same way an animal is? [Read more.](#)

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### 20 billion water battle: Delta lawmakers and Tribes push back on Newsom's tunnel project

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“I want to be crystal clear. Fast-tracking the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is a direct attack on our region's environmental integrity, economic stability and public trust,” Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) warned Gov. Newsom. Wilson, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), was speaking at a press conference on May 20 at the State Capitol organized to push back against the Governor's plans to speed up \$20 billion worth of improvements to the State Water Project (SWP), a tunnel that delivers water from Northern California to areas in the south of the state. Wilson, who is also co-chair of the legislative Delta Caucus, was joined at the press conference by Sen. Jerry McNerney, the other co-chair of the caucus, and Assemblymember Rhodesia Ranson (D-Tracy), also a member of the CLBC. ... ”  
[Read more from the Sacramento Observer.](#)

### Heli-Hydrants may revolutionize wildfire response in Southern California

“According to the Associated Press, Mark Whaling's innovative Heli-Hydrant is transforming wildfire response efforts in Southern California. The invention, a small, open tank that rapidly fills with water, allows helicopters to quickly access water for firefighting, reducing the need for long flights to distant lakes or ponds. “When we brought helicopters into the wildland urban interface to fight fire, we didn't think initially of making permanent hydrants for helicopters,” Whaling said. The Heli-Hydrant concept emerged from the former firefighter's experience battling a wildfire in northern Los Angeles County in the early 2000s. He noticed a sealed, million-gallon water tank nearby that firefighters couldn't access, sparking the idea for a more efficient water source. ... ” [Read more from KRCR.](#)



## **Youth kayak group preps for Klamath River expedition**

“Next month, 13 youths from the Klamath River Basin will participate in a kayaking expedition that’s been generations in the making. The 310-mile journey will begin on June 12 and will continue through July 11. The 13 kayakers will conduct the First Source to Sea Descent of the undammed Klamath River, with four of the six dams on the Klamath River, the hydroelectric dams, having been removed over the past three years, the largest dam removal project ever in the country. Tribes along the Klamath River have been calling for the removal of the dams for decades because of the effects on the fish that inhabit the river, especially in harming the salmon runs from the coast up to Klamath Falls and the wetland areas. The expedition is sponsored by the Paddle Tribal Waters Academy, which is a collaboration of the Rios to Rivers’ Paddle Tribal Waters program launched in 2022, and the World Class Academy, an accredited private high school. ... ” [Read more from the Eureka Times-Standard.](#)

## **Groundwater is rapidly declining in the Colorado River Basin, satellite data show**

“As the Colorado River’s giant reservoirs have declined during the last two decades, even larger amounts of water have been pumped and drained from underground, according to new research based on data from NASA satellites. Scientists at Arizona State University examined more than two decades of satellite measurements and found that since 2003 the quantity of groundwater depleted in the Colorado River Basin is comparable to the total capacity of Lake Mead, the nation’s largest reservoir. The researchers estimated that pumping from wells has drained about 34 cubic kilometers, or 28 million acre-feet, of groundwater in the watershed since 2003 — more than twice the amount of water that has been depleted from the river’s reservoirs during that time. “The Colorado River Basin is losing groundwater at an alarming rate,” said Karem Abdelmohsen, the lead author and a researcher at ASU’s School of Sustainability. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times.](#)

## **Podcast: The Colorado River’s water-sharing treaty is expiring next year. How close is a new deal?**

“The western U.S. has been in the midst of a megadrought for more than 20 years. Higher temperatures and less precipitation are becoming the norm as humans continue to burn fossil fuels, causing the entire globe to warm up year after year. A 2022 UCLA study found that human-caused climate change is responsible for 42 percent of the deficit in soil moisture over the last 25 years. And that’s a problem for the Colorado River Basin. The river starts in central Colorado, flows through Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and ends up crossing the border into Mexico. More than 40 million people rely on the river along the way. When so many people rely on the Colorado River, water-sharing agreements are highly political. With the current treaty expiring next year, how close is a new deal? And what do water conditions this spring mean for western wildfires this year?” [Listen at NPR via WAMU.](#)

## **Instead of cuts, federal officials are extending agreements to conserve Colorado River water**

“Federal funding for the Colorado River has largely been on pause since Donald Trump returned to the White House. But now, some is coming back. The Bureau of Reclamation is extending some contracts to conserve water. It’s the kind of spending that was common under the Biden administration, but stands out now. Sarah Porter directs the Kyl Center for water policy at

Arizona State University. She says we shouldn't read into it too much. "It does indicate, I think, that the bureau and maybe the Interior Department, understand that the Colorado River is in pretty precarious shape, and that, you know, something needs to be done," Porter said. ... " [Read more from KJZZ](#).

### **The May USBR Colorado River 24-month study confirms what we feared**

"The Bureau of Reclamation has released its May 24-Month Study. It **confirms that 2025 will be another very dry year and the consequences will be significant**. Under the minimum probable forecast, active storage in Lake Powell will fall to an elevation of 3530' (5.8 maf), only about 9 feet higher than the February 2023 low of 3521' (5.3maf). Just as alarming, under the "most probable" scenario, 2027 is projected to be another year for a 7.48 maf release from Glen Canyon Dam. This means that the ten-year flows at Lee Ferry are projected to fall well below the 82.0 maf tripwire – the point at which the basin states' disagreement over interpreting the Colorado River Compact's Lee Ferry delivery/non-depletion requirement could trigger interstate litigation. The May 1st "most probable" forecast for unregulated April to July inflow to Lake Powell was 3.5 maf, down from an April 1 st forecast of 4.3 maf. Since May 1st. However, the runoff forecast has continued to decline, down another ~400kaf as we write this (May 26, 2025). No one should be surprised if we end up with an actual inflow closer to the May 1st "minimum probable" forecast of 2.6 maf. ... " [Read more from the Inkstain blog](#).

### **Memorandum could end federal water efficiency standards**

"On May 9th, the White House issued a memorandum to the Secretaries of Energy and the Interior, and the Deputy Assistant to the President and the Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs directing them to rescind — or, as appropriate, amend to revert to the standards required by statute—a host of energy and water regulations for faucets, showerheads, water closets, urinals and dishwashers. The memorandum, titled "Rescission of Useless Water Pressure Standards," accuses water efficiency standards with creating a class of products that are more expensive, more breakable and less useful, all of which works to create a burden for American consumers. The memorandum refers to the legislation and regulation behind such standards as, "unnecessary radical green agenda policies." Lastly, the memorandum requests recommendations to submit legislation before Congress that would rescind a wide swath of federal energy conservation standards, even going so far as to repeal the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in its entirety. ... " [Read more from Contractor Magazine](#).

### **US faces another summer of extreme heat as fears rise over Trump cuts**

"This year's summer months promise to be among the hottest on record across the United States, continuing a worsening trend of extreme weather, and amid concern over the impacts of Trump administration cuts to key agencies. The extreme heat could be widespread and unrelenting: only far northern Alaska may escape unusually warm temperatures from June through August, according to the latest seasonal forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa). Indeed, summer-like weather has already begun for many parts of the country. In International Falls, Minnesota – the self-proclaimed "icebox of the nation" – temperatures in the 90s arrived in early May, more than a month before the earliest previously known occurrence. A hundred miles south, the hot and dry weather helped fanned early-season

wildfires burn out of control, forcing Governor Tim Walz to call in the national guard. ... ” [Read more from The Guardian](#).

### **US coasts face a crisis as land sinks and seas rise**

“A slow-moving crisis of sinking land and rising water is playing out along America’s coastline. In the past 100 years, sea levels have climbed about a foot or more in some U.S. cities – 11 inches in New York and Boston, 12 in Charleston, S.C., 16 in Atlantic City, 18 in Norfolk, Virginia, and 25 in Galveston, Texas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Seas are forecast to rise from 8 inches to 23 inches along the nation’s coasts by 2050, with the higher increases along the northern Gulf Coast and mid-Atlantic. Every inch of additional water is expected to move farther inland making flood events worse and putting more properties at risk. Meanwhile, in many coastal areas, the land is sinking, making flooding an even greater issue. ... ” [Read more from USA Today](#).

### **Trump orders major revamp of agencies’ handling of scientific research**

“President Donald Trump on Friday ordered a sweeping overhaul of federal agencies’ handling of scientific research, coupled with a requirement to revisit all Biden-era regulations to ensure that they mesh with the new policy. In an executive order titled “Restoring Gold Standard Science,” Trump wrote that federal agencies have contributed to a loss of trust in science in recent years through their handling of various aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic, fisheries management and climate change. Within 30 days, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy must issue guidance to agencies to revamp their management of science to ensure that it is reproducible and transparent, among a lengthy list of requirements, the order says. Agencies must then review all regulations and other actions issued during President Joe Biden’s term from 2021 to 2025 “to ensure alignment with the policies and requirements of this order.” ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

### **If you want to understand Trump’s environmental policy, read Project 2025**

“Throughout his 2024 campaign for president, Donald Trump strongly and repeatedly denied any connection to Project 2025, the political platform document authored by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C. “I have nothing to do with Project 2025,” Trump said during a debate with former Vice President Kamala Harris last September. He said he had not read the document, nor did he intend to. Yet less than six months into his second stay in the White House, the president and his administration have initiated or completed 42% of Project 2025’s agenda, according to a tracking project that identified more than 300 specific action items in the 922-page document. The Project 2025 Tracker is run by two volunteers who “believe in the importance of transparent, detailed analysis,” according to its website. Of all the action items, nearly a quarter are related to the environment through agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, and the departments of the Interior, Commerce, and Energy. Further, it seems the environment is a high priority for the Trump administration, which has initiated or completed about 70% of Project 2025’s environmental agenda — or roughly two-thirds — according to a Times analysis of the tracked items. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times](#).



*The largest pre-Columbian city north of Mexico, Cahokia mingled art, spirituality and celebration (Credit: Carver Mostardi/Alamy)*

### **The US' Lost, Ancient Megacity**

In the ancient Mississippian settlement of Cahokia, vast social events – not trade or the economy – were the founding principle.

**[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-us-lost-ancient-megacity?  
utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-us-lost-ancient-megacity?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)**



## **POPULAR SCIENCE**

**The Biggest Ancient City You've Probably Never Heard of Is in Illinois**

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### **[This Man Rebuilds the Last Inca Rope Bridge Yearly](#)**

High above a roaring river, a man perilously hand-weaves the Q'eswachaka suspension bridge as part of a 500-year tradition. What happens when he retires?

**[https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/last-inca-bridge-qeswachaka-tradition?  
\\_kx=7f1X\\_QqLbWXEK-WrshkdW1JpNQrdL7kJxHOciLDFDSE.UUnqkC](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/last-inca-bridge-qeswachaka-tradition?_kx=7f1X_QqLbWXEK-WrshkdW1JpNQrdL7kJxHOciLDFDSE.UUnqkC)**



## 10 Places That No Longer Exist

Not even a compass could help you get to these lost places.

There are places that are hard to get to, places that are [less explored](#) than others, and places you're [forbidden from visiting](#)—and then there are places that you might *want* to go to, but they no longer exist. From land masses wiped out by changing climates to waterfalls erased by human action, here are 10 spots you won't be able to put on your vacation bucket list.

### 2. The Pink and White Terraces



The Pink and White Terraces circa 1880. / General Photographic Agency/GettyImages

New Zealand was once home to what was widely called the Eighth Wonder of the World: the Pink and White Terraces. Geothermal springs sent water full of silica flowing downward near Lake Rotomahana, on the country's North Island. As the minerals hardened, they formed terraces brimming with warm water.

The Māori had long valued the Pink and White Terraces; they viewed them as [taonga](#), meaning “a treasure.” After Europeans colonized New Zealand, people came from [around the world](#) to admire their beauty and soak in the pools, which were said to have healing powers. The site was a great source of revenue for the local Māori, who worked as guides. Until 1886, that is. On June 10 of that year, Mount Tarawera erupted. The Pink and White Terraces—along with the nearby village of Te Wairoa—vanished. The explosion killed more than 100 people and sent the storied world wonder to the bottom of a crater, which later [flooded](#) and made Lake Rotomahana even larger.

### 6. Bering Land Bridge

We can't talk about lost landmasses without mentioning the Bering Land Bridge. The area linked North America to Asia and was part of Beringia, a region wedged between Russia's Lena River and Canada's Mackenzie River. It's believed the land bridge [formed](#) around 35,700 years ago, when the sea levels lowered during the Pleistocene Ice Age's last glacial maximum, creating a passage between the two continents.

According to a popular theory, humans came to the Americas via the Bering Land Bridge. Some researchers [believe](#) people lived on the 600-mile-wide stretch of land, where they would have hunted elk and small mammals and used wood fires to burn their bones. As with Doggerland, when sea levels rose at the end of the [Ice Age](#), most of the Bering Land Bridge eventually

became submerged, severing the passageway between the two continents. Only a [few islands](#) remain above water.

## 9. Old Man of the Mountain

For centuries, an old man's face loomed over New Hampshire, peering out from the side of Cannon Mountain. The Indigenous Abenaki called him "Stone Face," while the white settlers referred to him as the "Old Man of the Mountain." Except it wasn't an old man at all: It was a rock.

The Old Man, like Dry Falls, was shaped by the last ice age. Erosion caused by the [freeze and thaw cycles](#) of the warming climate carved an astonishingly human-like shape into the rock. The Old Man of the Mountain became a beloved symbol of New Hampshire, but the years were not kind to him: First, his forehead began to crack. Workers had to make extensive repairs on the rocks throughout the 20th century as he continued to crumble. The iconic Old Man of the Mountain fully collapsed in the early hours of May 3, 2003. There's now a [memorial viewing plaza](#) in the spot he once loomed over.

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/10-places-that-no-longer-exist>

- Nevada launches toolkit to help communities reduce light pollution. "Nevada currently has two internationally recognized DarkSky sites: Massacre Rim Dark Sky Sanctuary and Great Basin National Park. The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural resources says with approximately 80% of the state consisting of public land and minimal urban development in many regions, Nevada is well positioned to become a national leader in night sky conservation and astro-tourism." ([Via KTVN](#))
- National Park Service prepares for projected historic low water level at Lake Mead in Nevada. "Lake Mead hit its all-time low water level three years ago: 1040 feet. Right now, the lake is about 18 feet higher, but water levels are projected to drop throughout the summer, and the lake could reach that record low level once again according to the Bureau of Reclamation. Declining water levels due to climate change and 20 years of ongoing drought have reshaped the park's shorelines. As Lake Mead continues to recede, the National Park Service is committed to extending boat launch ramps to continue to give the public access to the lake." ([Via KVVU](#))

There are only 900 people in the world who speak Cypriot Maronite Arabic, or Sanna. The tongue, an offshoot of Syrian Arabic that has absorbed some Greek, has been passed from generation to generation in a windswept community in Cyprus. [Until less than two decades ago, there was no written script, or even an alphabet](#), since parents transmitted it to children in conversation.

**Ancient hunter-gatherers: [DNA reveals a new group of people who lived near land bridge between the Americas](#)**

**Today, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) responded to the US Supreme Court's decision to turn away the Apache Stronghold's appeal** in their efforts to save Oak Flat, a site sacred to the Western Apache people. The U.S. Government is seeking to transfer the land to Resolution Copper for the purposes of developing a mine there, which would destroy Oak Flat and eradicate a site Indigenous peoples have used for religious ceremonies since time immemorial and still use today. [NATHPO joined in an amicus brief](#) in support of the Apache Stronghold's case.

**"Allowing a mining development on Oak Flat is government-sanctioned religious desecration,"** said NATHPO Executive Director Dr. Valerie Grussing. **" As Justice Gorsuch wrote in his dissent, this ruling has 'consequences that threaten to reverberate for generations.' We hope the US Government and Resolution Copper will see the error of their ways and not demolish this centuries-old and still active religious site, and we will continue to stand with the Apache Stronghold and the Western Apache people in their continued efforts to save Oak Flat."**

Who we are – NATHPO is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization, founded in 1998, of Tribal preservation leaders protecting culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance. Connections to cultural heritage sustain the health and vitality of Native peoples. We provide guidance to preservation officials, elected representatives, and the public about national historic preservation legislation, policies, and regulations. We promote Tribal sovereignty, develop partnerships, and advocate for Tribes in governmental activities on preservation issues. For more information visit our website at [www.nathpo.org](http://www.nathpo.org).

Man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.

– Rachel Carson

