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by Bucky Harjo

ARE AMODEI AND MALOY BREAKING THE COLORADO RIVER FOR TRUMP'S TAX BREAKS

There will be major votes in the coming days on the budget proposal to justify renewing the 2017 tax cuts in the US House. The effort to crunch those numbers includes efforts to sell off public lands and help fast-track the Lake Powell Pipeline. The Colorado River cannot afford tax breaks like this. And we need your help. But first...

The future of the Colorado River is at stake with proposals to sell off public lands and create revenues for tax cuts.

Water Warriors:

Someone recently asked me: You're the Great Basin Water Network. Why do you work in the Colorado River Basin? It's a fair question that I've answered before.

At GBWN, we understand geography and human constructs. The Colorado River Basin and the Great Basin are not the same watershed, but they are inherently connected by proximity and pipes. And those connections are why we do the work where we do.

The genesis of our organization begins with the Colorado River System. The Southern Nevada Water Authority wanted a 300-mile pipeline to export Great Basin waters to augment Nevada's supply in Lake Mead. Thanks to your support and our network of allies, we stopped that effort to illegally augment Lake Mead. But the SNWA still maintains a massive agricultural operation on the ground where clashes with agricultural families in Lincoln and White Pine County persist. The SNWA is not continuing to farm and ranch in the Great Basin because they like beef and lamb. They are maintaining beneficial use on Great Basin water that could, one day, be piped to Vegas.

The future of the west as we know it depends on the Colorado River.

Consider that towns in the Great Basin and other western watersheds are outside of the Colorado River System but systematically dependent on it. Denver, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles are among that cohort. The greater Salt Lake City metropolitan area, for example, is in the Great Basin. But 26 percent of the region's consumptive water use derives from the Colorado River via the Central Utah Project. Furthermore, Los Angeles imports water from Owens Valley, which is the western extent of the Great Basin, and the Colorado River. Denver, in the Platte River Watershed, is a city that, somewhat ironically, personifies the Colorado River for easterners and flatlanders. But the water is piped in.

In short, what happens on the Colorado River doesn't stay on the Colorado River. It ripples and flows outward. However, the Colorado River System's reach isn't what it once was — with a 20 percent reduction in average flows hitting the southwest in the past quarter century. And with the ongoing efforts that we've mapped by Upper Basin communities to take more, the threats are numerous.

Some people want to believe water is still available.

That's why you will read below about our efforts to raise awareness about dangerous proposals to sprawl desert cities, sell off public lands, and build new airports with water that only exists on paper.

Federal officials expect elevations at Lake Mead to drop this summer as a fervor takes over Congress to sprawl communities with Colorado River water.

IS AMODEI'S AMENDMENT A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR HIM, HIS RURAL CONSTITUENTS, AND VEGAS?

There is not water available for more development on the Colorado River. But Congress is taking dangerous action on proposals that will take the river to places it has never been.

By now, many of you have likely heard about an effort by Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei and Utah Congresswoman Celeste Maloy to sell off public lands as part of an effort to raise money for the "big, beautiful bill" that extends the 2017 tax cuts passed during President Trump's first term.

The Republicans' amendment would allow auctions on tens of thousands of now-federal acres throughout Nevada and Utah in places that rely on the Colorado River System and its tributaries. The proceeds of those land sales would be used to offset the deficit that the tax cut extension creates.

The tag-team effort from Amodei and Maloy is the subject of much controversy and upheaval from Westerners of all stripes. Some members of Congress, NGOs and citizens are outraged. But, as expected, others are elated.

The provision gives developers in Nevada and Utah something that they've wanted for a long time: access to currently unavailable lands. In Nevada, the amendment upends the long-standing traditions of selling off public land in the quid-pro-quo vein. In other words, Nevada would no longer get a special cut of the take on the sales via the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. Instead, all the proceeds will go to the treasury to pay for the tax cuts.

No matter how you view the imbroglio, Amodei and Maloy must not have looked at the elevations at Lakes Mead and Powell before submitting their amendment. Both reservoirs are hovering at 30 percent. And many scientists believe that the river system's outputs are going to be greatly reduced in the coming years due to the forces of aridity.

The implications of this legislative effort, which cleared another procedural hurdle on Sunday night, are non-negligible for the western water supply.

For Nevada, the amendment will clear the way for sprawl along the I-15 Corridor all the way to the California border. There is no meaningful supply of groundwater there to meet those developmental needs. Indeed, the potential real estate boom requires new pipelines carrying the Colorado River. But there's more to consider.

GBWN, Living Rivers and the Center for Biological Diversity alerted the press and public before any other NGO about a provision in the amendment that would benefit the Lake Powell Pipeline — a project that would suck 28 billion gallons annually away from the nation's second largest reservoir. That means less water flowing to Lake Mead. See the story by Alan Halaly in the Review Journal.

For Maloy, this is a huge win if it passes. If the provision clears the House, moves through the Senate, and gets President Trump's signature, it will bring Utah one step closer to harnessing more of its paper water rights on the Colorado River System. While it doesn't automatically green-light the pipeline, it does remove permitting barriers for Utah. The amendment is guaranteed to do this, however: It will strain negotiations and expedite conflict among the seven Colorado River dependent states.

Amodei's constituents, ironically, don't rely on the Colorado River because Southern Nevada isn't a part of his congressional district. But for a man who professes to care for Nevada, his amendment would be a Pyrrhic victory for the millions of Nevadans who do rely on the beleaguered river.

Amodei told reporter Sam Shad on Nevada Newsmakers that he didn't confer with his Southern Nevada colleagues in Congress before introducing the amendment. Maybe one of them would have mentioned to the northern Nevada congressman something about the situation at Lake Mead and the implications of passing a bill to support the Lake Powell Pipeline. Maybe someone would have recalled Las Vegas' water officials submitting pretty stern comments during Lake Powell Pipeline's failed attempt at federal permitting nearly five years ago.

This will be a critical week for the fate of the Amodei-Maloy amendment. Montana Congressman and former Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, may prove to be a hero on this front as he vows to do what he can to take public land sales out of the "big, beautiful" tax bill.

Zinke, a Republican, recently told WBUR Boston that the issue transcends the usual political divides.

"Look, this is not a blue issue or red issue," said Zinke. "This is a red, white and blue issue.

Democrats in Nevada's congressional delegation are speaking out. Rep. Susie Lee sent Amodei a letter expressing her ire and raising concerns that his amendment would affect the "integrity" of the Colorado River System.

Rep. Dina Titus has an amendment to gut the amendment. Her proposal will be put forth when the House Rules Committee takes up the budget measure on Wednesday.

What can you do to fight for our water?

We joined the Sierra Club, local officials, and others to raise awareness at a press conference in the days following the amendment. We have spoken with members of the media and public officials to raise our concerns. But now we need you to act.

Email and Call Amodei and Maloy's offices and tell them to remove the amendment on H.Con.Res.14 before it goes for a vote in the House Rules Committee and for a final vote on the floor of the House.

Contact Amodei's office, via Max.Kobetz@mail.house.gov and 202-225-6155, and tell him to pull his amendment on H.Con.Res.14

Contact Maloy's office, via james.leavitt@mail.house.gov and 202-225-9730, and tell her to pull her amendment on H.Con.Res.14

Additional reporting on land sales and water:
KNPR, KUNR, NEVADA CURRENT, INSIDE CLIMATE
NEWS, REVIEW JOURNAL, HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE'S NEW, THIRSTY NEIGHBOR?

Southern Nevada has an airport crisis, according to powerful developers and politicians. And, of course, the people in power have a plan to fix it: [a new, additional airport 40 miles south of the Las Vegas Strip](#) in the middle of the Ivanpah Desert.

There's no water. There's no infrastructure. But there are big dreams.

The "supplemental airport" is the anchor of the I-15 sprawl corridor that will be, if the surrounding land sales happen, surrounded by subdivisions, shopping plazas, and warehouses.

The airport, after all, is why we need all the [public land sales](#), right? Or is the tail just wagging the dog?

Congress legislatively designated this airport in 2000. But the move requires an [environmental review](#) from the Federal Aviation Administration to see if there are other alternative locations. The airport will be a stone's throw from the Joshua Tree haven known as Mojave National Preserve.

With Lake Mead at 30 percent capacity right now, what could be a problem with building another massive airport and another city just south of the Las Vegas Valley? It is desert tortoise habitat. It is right next to Mojave National Preserve. It is a rapidly warming patch of desert that is not in need of more pavement, concrete and air pollution. But that's just our opinion.

No matter what happens with Amodei's amendment, the efforts to sprawl Vegas to the California border take other shapes and sizes. [Senator Catherine Cortez Masto](#) and Rep. Lee have their own bill to sell off public lands, [Nevada style](#), as opposed to the Amodei amendment. There is Rep. Titus' bill, the Sloan Canyon Lateral Pipeline Act, that will ultimately ensure that Colorado River water makes its way to places like Ivanpah, Jean and Hidden Valley. The Nevada Legislature is doing its part by [championing AJR10](#).

We reap what we sow. But it will be a challenge to sow these seeds with the Colorado River. At GBWN we always ask: Where will the water come from.

Thank you, Kyle

Our mailing address is: PO BOX 75 Baker, Nevada 89311

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**And related:**

<https://www.landwatch.com> › nevada-land-for-sale › farms-ranches

### [Nevada Farms and Ranches for Sale - 55 Listings - LandWatch](#)

Browse our Nevada farms and ranches for sale, view photos and contact an agent today! ... surrounded by public lands and national parks. Robert Dow. Remarkable Land, LLC. Contact Seller. Lower Kings River Valley Farm ... 261,920 Total Acres The Lucky 7 Ranch is headquartered in the northern reaches of the Great Basin near the border town of ...



<https://www.landwatch.com > montana-land-for-sale>

### **Montana Land for Sale - 7,137 Listings - LandWatch**

Based on recent LandWatch data, Montana ranks eighth in the nation for the combined acreage currently for sale in the state. Recent data from LandWatch shows \$8 billion of Montana land listings for sale. With thousands of properties and rural land for sale in the state, this covers a combined 816,011 acres of land for sale in the state.

<https://www.landwatch.com > utah-land-for-sale>

### **Utah Land for Sale - 7,181 Listings - LandWatch**

Browse our Utah land for sale listings, view photos and contact an agent today! ... Flaming Gorge Ridge Ranch offers 88.42 acres of productive land, year-round water, and excellent access to both agricultural opportunities and outdoor adventure. ... the Rocky Mountains, the Great Basin, and the Colorado Plateau. Utah is a center of ...

## **STEWART FATHER'S DAY POWOW JUNE 13-15**

**All  
Drummers  
& Dancers  
Welcome**

**Arts &  
Crafts**



**Free  
Admission  
Open to  
the public**

**Food  
Vendors**

### **Grand Entry**

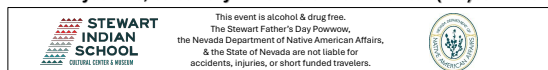
**Master of Ceremonies:**  
Skush Poodry  
(Sac8Fox Nation)  
  
**Arena Director -**  
Art Martinez  
(Chumash)  
  
**Host Hotel:**  
Plaza Hotel:  
[carsoncityplaza.com](http://carsoncityplaza.com)  
Code: POWWOW2025

**Friday, June 13 - 6:30 pm**  
**Saturday, June 14 - 1 pm**  
    & 6:30 pm  
**Sunday, June 15 - Noon**  
**Stewart Alumni Brunch**  
    Saturday June 14  
    9 am - Noon  
    call (775)687-7605 to RSVP for brunch

**Host Drums:**  
Northern -  
Sage Point Singers  
Southern -  
Southern Express  
  
**Saturday Special:**  
Women's Fancy  
  
Limited dry camping available

Shade set up begins at 3 pm Friday June 13 - Shades set up prior to 3 pm will be taken down

**5500 Snyder Ave, Carson City NV for more information call (775)687-7605**



## **STEWART ALUMNI BRUNCH**

**Saturday June 14**

**9 am - Noon**

**Stewart Gym**

**5500 Snyder Ave, Carson City**



**Kick off your  
Saturday  
with friends!  
Reconnect &  
Reminisce**



**RSVP by June 3rd - Free Admission**

Call 775-687-7605 or email [snez@dnnaa.nv.gov](mailto:snez@dnnaa.nv.gov)  
(provide name and year(s) attended)



In partnership with the Stewart Father's Day Powwow and the Department of Native American Affairs,  
and the Nevada Indian Commission

## **Trump fast tracks 3 Nevada geothermal projects**

The Trump administration shortened the environmental review period for three Nevada geothermal projects by Reno-based Ormat Technologies.

**READ MORE**



*Logo Design by Laura Carroll, Development and Communications Director;  
Conceptualized by Tribal leadership*

## **Igniting Indigenous Guardianship in the Sierra Nevada**

We are proud to share that, as of May 2025, The Sierra Fund is now Indigenous Futures Society. A name that reflects our values, leadership, and the future we are building alongside and led by Indigenous communities to catalyze transformative change in the Sierra Bioregion for the benefit of all living beings and future generations.

For over two decades, The Sierra Fund (TSF) has been a trusted advocate for environmental and community health in California's Sierra Nevada. Founded with a vision of protecting the region's rich natural and cultural resources, TSF has led efforts in environmental health, ecosystem resiliency, mining reform, and policy advocacy.



*TSF's legacy was made possible by the dedication of many — from our early Board of Directors to our former leaders, including Elizabeth “Izzy” Martin, Joan Clayburgh, Dr. Carrie Monohan, and Shawn Garvey, and others who helped build a foundation of integrity, environmental stewardship, and public trust. We extend deep gratitude to everyone who shaped TSF's journey. [Read on here for more information](#) about The Sierra Fund's profound legacy that Indigenous Futures Society is proud to be born from.*



## The Shift to Indigenous Leadership

The Indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada bioregion, have since time immemorial served as guardians and stewards of the lands, waters and all living beings within this sacred territory. Our ancestors have passed down traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and governance systems that have sustained these ecosystems and our communities for countless generations. We recognize the urgent need to integrate our traditional knowledge with technological innovation to address contemporary challenges of ecological degradation, climate change, and cultural preservation.

In September 2024, our organization formally transitioned to Indigenous leadership with the appointment of Brian Wallace (Washoe/Nisenan) as CEO. This marked a historic turning point: the organization's Board of Directors unanimously and voluntarily voted off 5 of its members, and voted on a 75% Indigenous-majority board, and its strategic direction was re-centered around Indigenous values, governance, and knowledge systems. A re-grounding of our work in the land, languages, and leadership of Native peoples.

## Why We Rebranded

With new Indigenous leadership at the helm, we knew we needed a new name and image to reflect deep, withstanding Indigeneity in the Sierra. The name Indigenous Futures Society and our new logo emerged from conversations of a committee comprised of our Board, staff, Tribal community partners, and trusted advisors. It reflects our belief that ecological restoration and cultural revitalization are inseparable — and that Indigenous leadership is essential to a just and resilient future in the Sierra Nevada.

## Our New Visual Identity Honors this Vision:

The Indigenous Futures Society logo tells a layered story — one rooted in ancestral knowledge and shaped by a vision for the future. At the heart of the design is the **merging profiles of an Indigenous person and a bear**, symbolizing the sacred connection between Indigenous people and the natural world. This union honors both **deep cultural heritage** and **forward-looking guardianship**, reflecting the very purpose of Indigenous Futures Society.

The **red shading along the bear's neck** symbolically evokes the **flicker of fire** — an element Brian Wallace, our ICEO, describes as the brother of water. Meanwhile, the **cascading blue woven through the human's hair** represents **flowing water** — fire's sister. Together, these elements speak to **balance**, **kinship**, and the essential forces that shape life and ceremony in Indigenous cosmologies.

The **bear** is also a quiet act of **rematriation** — a reclaiming of the California state symbol through an Indigenous lens, restoring meaning to an image too often stripped of its cultural context. The “bear dance” being a unifying shared cultural practice of many Sierra Indigenous Tribes.

Framing the figures is the **moon**, reflecting Indigenous sky knowledge, **the cycles of nature and time**, and the passage of generations.



## Our New Website Is Live! Welcome to Indigenous Futures Society Online

We're thrilled to unveil the brand-new **Indigenous Futures Society** website — a digital home that reflects who we are today: an Indigenous-led nonprofit advancing land, water, and cultural renewal in the Sierra Nevada.

As you explore our site you will [meet our board, staff, and key advisors](#). You will get to know key areas of our work including our [Emergency Preparedness and Climate Adaptation](#), [Land and Water Guardianship](#), [Cultural Ecologies](#), and [Sierra Nevada Tribal Summit](#) programs. You can also stay up to date on our latest news by visiting [the link here](#) or by [signing up for our eNews](#).

### Coming Soon: The Knowledge Basket – A Resource Hub for Shared Wisdom

At Indigenous Futures Society, we believe that knowledge is not just information — it is relationship, responsibility, and renewal. That's why we are proud to announce the upcoming launch of **The Knowledge Basket**, our new online Resource Hub designed to support Indigenous leadership, ecological stewardship, and cultural revitalization across the Sierra Nevada and beyond.

### What's in the Knowledge Basket?

The **Knowledge Basket** is a living, digital space where Native communities, partners, and allies can access knowledge, information, and resources grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing. Just as a woven basket holds food, medicine, and teachings passed from hand to hand, our **Knowledge Basket** is meant to hold wisdom across generations — both ancestral and emerging.

Check back in early Summer to explore and contribute to five interconnected hubs designed for and by Indigenous communities:

### Grants & Funding

Current grant opportunities, funding alerts, and application resources curated to support Tribal programs, nonprofits, and community projects.

### The Red Pages: Native Vendor Directory

A growing directory of Native-owned businesses, artists, consultants, and service providers — centering Tribal economies and ethical contracting.

### Events Calendar

Workshops, gatherings, trainings, and cultural events happening across the region and online — all in one place.

### Job Board

Career opportunities in Tribal organizations, environmental justice, cultural stewardship, and allied fields.

### Resource Library

Toolkits, templates, articles, policy guides, and multimedia stories that support Indigenous governance, TEK, advocacy, and community resilience.

### Moving Forward, Together

This is more than a name change. It's a continuation of our commitment to place — now with renewed purpose, leadership, and belonging. We invite you to join us in supporting Indigenous-led pathways for ecological and cultural renewal.

With deep respect and hope for the future,  
**The Indigenous Futures Society Team**

**IDA Documentary Awards 2025**  
Call for Entries Open

**Share your work for consideration before the next deadline on June 15!**

This year, some categories have been removed, and some categories have been updated. Please read all changes on our [FAQ page](#). Please read all [rules and regulations](#) thoroughly before entering your work for consideration. Watch the recording of our [YouTube Live](#) Q&A about all changes, rules, regulations, and navigating the entry platform.

[FAQ](#)

[CALL FOR ENTRIES](#)



### [Wildfires burn thousands of acres on tribal lands in North Dakota](#)



Honoring exceptional **nonprofits, businesses, and public initiatives** that align with [Truckee Meadows Tomorrow's](#) ten Quality of Life Indicators—recognizing the powerful, positive changes happening across our community.

Finalists will be selected by a review committee and announced at the event.

**Nomination Deadline: July 1, 2025**

- Quality of Life Impact (10 Awards)
- Community Silver Star (10 Awards)
- Data Champion (Single Award)
- Lynn Atcheson Lifetime Achievement (Single Award)

- AI-driven data centers are growing in the drought-stricken Mountain West, analysis finds. "Data centers, which power AI tools and cloud services, use massive amounts of water to cool servers so they don't overheat. **An average-sized data center uses about 2 million liters of water per day**, roughly the same amount as 6,500 households, according to an April [report](#) from the International Energy Agency." ([Via KUNR](#))

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Meta signs 20-year nuclear deal to power AI, data centers
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### [Schwarzenegger tells environmentalists dismayed by Trump to 'stop whining' and get to work](#)

### **Gila River Tribes intend to float solar panels on a reservoir. Could the technology help the Colorado River?**

"About 33 miles south of Phoenix, Interstate 10 bisects a line of solar panels traversing the desert like an iridescent snake. The solar farm's shape follows the path of a canal, with panels serving as awnings to shade the gently flowing water from the unforgiving heat and wind of the Sonoran Desert. The panels began generating power last November for the Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh tribes—known together as the Gila River Indian Community, or GRIC—on their reservation in south-central Arizona, and they are the first of their kind in the U.S. ... Covering water with solar panels is not a new idea. But for some it represents an elegant mitigation of water shortages in the West. Doing so could reduce evaporation, generate more carbon-free electricity and require dams to run less frequently to produce power. But, so far, the technology has not been included in the ongoing Colorado River negotiations between the Upper Basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada, tribes and Mexico. ... " [Read more from Inside Climate News.](#)

### [North Dakota promises flush toilets at historic sites](#)

### [Texas is poised to become the latest GOP state to exert control over university curriculum](#)

### **Presidential Actions - [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)**

- [Enhancing National Security by Addressing Risks at Harvard University](#) June 4, 2025
- [Reviewing Certain Presidential Actions](#) June 4, 2025
- [Restricting The Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#) June 4, 2025
- [Adjusting Imports of Aluminum and Steel into the United States](#) Presidential Actions, Proclamations June 3, 2025
- [Sequestration Order for Fiscal Year 2026 Pursuant to Section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, As Amended](#) May 30, 2025
- [101st Anniversary of The United States Border Patrol](#) May 27, 2025
- [World Trade Week, 2025](#) May 24, 2025