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We Will Never Forgive or Forget Those Who Sell Our Public Lands



A night explorer near the Moon Caves in Nevada's Cathedral Gorge State Park. (Mike Ver Sprill/Shutterstock)

https://thenevadannews.com/community/must-see-stops-in-the-nevada-state-parks-passport/



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women USA ·

Three years after grisly murder, Washoe County Sheriff's Office still won't provide basic answers to community.

Three years ago Anna Marie Scott, a 23-year-old Paiute mother of two small children, was found shot to death inside the trunk of a burning car left on the I-580 overpass between Carson City and Reno.

Since her death, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office has refused to release any information surrounding the incident while simultaneously requesting help from the community.

Despite being asked multiple times over the years since her death, WCSO has refused to release even basic information such as how long Scott had been dead before she was discovered, the make or model of the car she was found in, what her movements were in the days leading up to her death, and if there are any suspects in the case, among others. They have also never commented on why this information cannot be released.

Earlier this week, multiple requests were met with responses that a WCSO spokesperson would work with investigators to see what could be released on the case. After several days passed, along with multiple phone calls and emails, the spokesperson finally said:

After reviewing the case and speaking with detectives, there isn't any information I can provide at this time. It is still actively under investigation by our Detective Division.

Despite WCSO continuing to ask for information from the community, it's been argued that WCSO hasn't provided any parameters which could help potential witnesses determine what information could be helpful to their case.

For example, critics have said that without knowing Scott's movements prior to her death, it's impossible for potential witnesses to know what information could have helped. Or, if WCSO had released the make, model or color of the car Scott was found in, witnesses may have been able to come forward with information about seeing the vehicle and its driver and/or potential passengers prior to entering I580 that morning.

However, not only have these details never been released, but WCSO didn't even release Scott's identity for four days after her death, despite family and friends identifying her on social media

themselves. A full month passed before the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner released information that Scott had been killed by a gunshot wound, officially naming her death a homicide.

It has never been answered why it took so long for her name and cause of death to be released to the public.

Case highlights ongoing inequities for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women WCSO has never held a press conference regarding Scott's case, despite multiple agencies around the same time period holding back-to-back press conferences relating to the nearby kidnapping and subsequent murder of 18-year-old Naomi Irion.

Scott's death is highlighted as one of the many cases of missing and murdered indigenous women throughout the United States whose cases go underinvestigated and unsolved.

In 2022, Nevada Senator Catherine Cortez Masto gave a speech on this subject, which included Scott's case.

The American Indian Movement held a prayer circle for Scott in March 2022 outside the Washoe County Sheriff's Office administration building to help raise awareness on her case.

"In the end, justice is in the hands of the creator," Ray Bacasegua Valdez, Director of AIM Northern Nevada, said in 2022. "What we're asking for is accountability. We're trying to create awareness, to show that there is accountability. Perpetrators prey on our women because they know [these cases are often unsolved]. We want those who were responsible to be brought forward."

Following the first prayer circle while speaking in the parking lot, surrounded by signs of Scott, a Washoe County sheriff's deputy approached AIM leaders and asked what they were there for. Bacasegua Valdez said they were there to raise awareness surrounding the recent murders of indigenous people — shortly after Scott's murder, 23-year-old Jacori Shaw was shot and killed by police.

Only lead killed by Sparks Officer

In the weeks after Scott's murder, there was a single lead named publicly: 23-year-old Jacori Shaw.

WCSO said they were seeking Shaw not as a suspect but because he may have information about her case.

However, whatever Shaw knew died with him after he was shot and killed by police on Feb. 23, 2022. His death was ruled as justified despite video evidence and witness testimony from officers contradicting what was reported in the District Attorney's ruling.

Specifically, a Sparks officer shot and killed Shaw after he said Shaw raised a gun at him. However, the gun was never seen or located on body cam footage despite a significant search attempt by over a dozen personnel on scene, and several officers later admitted they had never seen the gun themselves. Out of all the officers deployed as part of the chase, only the officer who shot Shaw said with certainty he'd been holding a gun, while one other said he saw "what he perceived to be the top part of a handgun slide possibly in the suspect's left hand."

Since Shaw's killing, there have been no updates, leads or information released by the WCSO despite multiple attempts over the years to receive additional information that could help bring forward witnesses.

#### Case Gone Cold?

When asked for the 2025 update, Carson Now asked whether or not Scott's case was now considered a "cold case."

Cases are considered to be cold when all leads have been exhausted and the case is no longer being actively investigated.

On the cold case listings from WCSO's site, the oldest cold case is Zona Shroud, discovered in 1960, while the newest listed is a John Doe whose skull was located in 2009.

No cases newer than 2009 are included in the database.

While there is no official designation for what constitutes a cold case by law, it's typically defined as a case in which all leads have been exhausted, the case is no longer actively being investigated by the original investigators, among other criteria. Some states, such as Texas, classify a case as cold if it has not been solved in three years.

However, WCSO said the case is still under investigation. An award was increased to \$5,000 in 2024 for any information that could help lead to finding Scott's killer(s).

The award is being offered by Secret Witness. If you have any information that could help solve Scott's case, please contact the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Detective Division at (775) 328-3320 or Secret Witness at (775) 322-4900. Refer to case #WC22-563.

In July 2024, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, of which Scott was a member, issued another plea for information where it identified the car as belonging to Scott. Despite this, WCSO has still never confirmed or denied the car was hers.

https://www.carsonnow.org/.../three-years-after-grisly...

# Newly Discovered Footprints Dramatically Re-date When Humans First Came to Americas

https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/newly-discovered-footprints-dramatically-re-date-when-humans-first-came-to-americas/ar-AA1H9PuW? ocid=hpmsn&cvid=2d982deb9023476c9109c7552966e233&ei=41

Independent researcher looks to uncover secrets hidden at bottom of Lake Tahoe <a href="https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/independent-researcher-looks-to-uncover-secrets-hidden-at-bottom-of-lake-tahoe/vi-AA1AlKwZ">https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/independent-researcher-looks-to-uncover-secrets-hidden-at-bottom-of-lake-tahoe/vi-AA1AlKwZ</a>

# **Stromatolites: The Earth's Oldest Living Lifeforms**

In Western

Australia, 3.5bn-year-old stromatolites built up the oxygen content of the Earth's atmosphere to about 20%, giving the kiss of life to all that was to evolve.



Stromatolites are living fossils and the oldest living lifeforms on our planet (Credit: MaXPdia/Getty Images)

https://getpocket.com/explore/item/stromatolites-the-earth-s-oldest-living-lifeforms?utm\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

**New Process Uses Microbes to Create Valuable Materials from Urine** 

https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2025/06/17/new-process-uses-microbes-to-create-valuable-materials-from-urine/

Before you say "Eeww", remember birth control pills are manufactured from pregnant horse urine.

# Presidential Executive Orders and Memoranda thru 6.16

• Further Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay Executive Orders June 19, 2025

250th Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill Proclamations June 17, 2025

• Implementing the General Terms of The United States of America-United Kingdom
Economic Prosperity Deal Executive Orders June 16, 2025

Nominations & Appointments June 16, 2025

• <u>Father's Day, 2025</u> <u>Proclamations</u> June 13, 2025

Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2025 Proclamations June 13, 2025

Regarding the Proposed Acquisition of the United States Steel Corporation by
Nippon Steel Corporation Executive Orders June 13, 2025

Anniversary of the Founding of the United States Army Proclamations June 13, 2025

<u>Presidential Permit Authorizing the City of Laredo, Texas, to Expand and Continue to Maintain, and Operate a Vehicular Border Crossing at the Laredo-Colombia Solidarity International Bridge Land Port of Entry</u>

Presidential Memoranda

June 13, 2025

• Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Generate Power for the Columbia River

Basin Presidential Memoranda June 12, 2025

**Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response**Executive Orders

June 12, 2025

Presidential Permit Authorizing Green Corridors, LLC, to Construct, Maintain, and Operate a Commercial Elevated Guideway Border Crossing Near Laredo,

Texas, at the International Boundary Between the United States and Mexico

Presidential Memoranda

June 9, 2025

• Department of Defense Security for the Protection of Department of Homeland
Security Functions Presidential Memoranda June 7, 2025

<u>Leading The World in Supersonic Flight</u> <u>Executive Orders</u> June 6, 2025

Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty Executive Orders June 6, 2025

• <u>Unleashing American Drone Dominance</u> <u>Executive Orders</u> June 6, 2025

Sustaining Select Efforts to Strengthen the Nation's Cybersecurity and Amending Executive Order 13694 and Executive Order 14144 Executive Orders June 6, 2025

**Eliminating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Medicaid Presidential Memoranda June 6, 2025** 

• National Ocean Month, 2025 Proclamations June 6, 2025

'A mini-step in the right direction': Netherlands returns 119 looted artifacts to Nigeria

"Not improving': Lake Tahoe had one of its murkiest years on record • Nevada Current (nevadacurrent.com) — Lake Tahoe's water clarity remains a concern, with 2024 being one of its murkiest years. Sudeep Chandra from the University of Nevada, Reno, emphasizes the need for further research to understand the complexities affecting the lake's health.

# **History Bits**

- 1865 Jun 27 In general order 118, President Johnson assigned Major-General Irwin Mc Dowell command of the Department of California, which included the states of California and Nevada and the territories of Arizona and New Mexico.
- **1866 Jun 26** The ShoshoneTreaty, drawn in 1863, was ratified by the US Congress.
- **1875 Jun28** HR Clum, activing commissioner reduces Moapa Reservation to 1000 acres (signed by President July 3, 1875). President Carter added 70,000 acres.
- **1876 Jun 25** General George Custer attacked a Sioux village at Little Big Horn, unaware that the village contained four warriors for every one of his cavalrymen.
- **1876 Jun 26** A day after General George Custer led much of the 7th Cavalry to its doom at Little Big Horn, Major Marcus Reno took command of its survivors.
- 1891 Jun 23 Sheriff Fellows of Humboldt took to the State Prison yesterday morning three Indians, two bucks and a squaw, who were sentenced to State Prison for ten years for murdering a witch at Lovelocks..."
- 1932 Jun 28 Indians made subject by congressional act to local laws for major crimes.
- **1933 Jun 26** The Washoe County Commission decided to try to tap federal tribal road building funds to build a hard surface highway to Pyramid Lake
- **1955 Jun 27** Addition of land was made to Duckwater.
- **1959 Jun 25** A study of mineral resources on Washo lands was amended and accepted by the Indian Claims Commission.
- **1968 Jun 21** Native Americans participating in the Poor People's Campaign protested in front of the US Bureau of Indian Affairs building in D.C.
- **1968 Jun 22** Groundbreaking for Phoenix Indian Medical Center, dedicated December 1970.
- 1983 Jun 23 The Native Hawaiians Study Commission submitted to its final report to Congress, laying the groundwork for the apoloty by the United States for its subversion of the Kingdom of Hawaii
- **2001 Jun 25** U.S. Supreme Court ruled that misconduct by the State of Nevada officers on tribal land is not subject to the jurisdiction of tribal courts. **Nevada** v. **Hicks**, 533 U.S. 353

# We Will Never Forgive or Forget Those Who Sell Our Public Lands

Will Pattiz and More Than Just Parks

There s no forgiveness for those who sell the soul of anation for profit. No forgetting, either.

When public land is handed off to corporations, carved up for drilling, or fenced in for those who can pay, something fundamental is lost. Not just acres. Not just acress. But a shared belief that this country still belongs to its people.

To sell off what was meant to be held in common is not a policy decision. It's a betrayal. And betrayals like that don't get to be quietly buried in the footnotes of history.

So we're making a promise.

#### We're keeping track.

Every lawmaker who moves to dismantle the public estate will be named. We'll post the receipts. We'll make the record permanent. Because forgetting is complicity. And we intend to remember.

What follows is not a list of grievances. It's a ledger of loss and a warning to those who would keep dealing.

This isn't just a record. It's a warning shot. Read it, share it, and make sure they know we're watching.

#### The Promise They Betrayed

"Laws change. People die. The land remains."

That was Abraham Lincoln in 1864, when he signed the Yosemite Grant – the first time in the history of the world that land was formally set aside not for profit, but for posterity.

Even in the middle of the Civil War, Lincoln understood that preserving a landscape could be an act of national unity. That there was power in declaring – *this place belongs to everyone*, *and to no one*. That idea was radical then. It still is.

What began at Yosemite became a uniquely American principle – that the highest use of a canyon, a forest, or a desert might be no "use" at all. That freedom meant more than owning property – it meant the freedom to roam a place that could never be owned. The freedom to pass

something down, untouched. The freedom to stand on a ridge at sunset and know that no one, not even Congress, had the right to sell it out from under you.

That principle shaped our national character. It wasn't carved into law all at once. It was carried forward – by Teddy Roosevelt, who called conservation the great moral issue of his time. By FDR, who saw parks as proof of democracy's promise. By Jimmy Carter who preserved the unfathomable expanses of Alaska for all time. By every generation that chose to protect instead of extract.

But that inheritance is now under threat from the very people sworn to uphold it. Not by accident. Not quietly.

They are writing laws to undo Lincoln's.

They are treating the land not as a legacy, but as leverage.

They think we won't notice.

They think we've forgotten what this land was meant to be.

But we haven't.

Because the land remains.

And so does the duty to defend it.

#### **Naming the Sin**

Let's not mince words.

To sell off public lands – piece by piece, clause by clause, backroom deal by backroom deal – is nothing short of looting. A civic crime. A form of treason.

And it's being done in suits and ties, with drafted amendments and polished press releases, by people who have convinced themselves that patriotism means selling the country off one acre at a time.

They don't say they're selling it, of course. They say they're "unleashing potential." "Increasing opportunity." "Balancing stakeholder interests." Euphemisms, all of them. We've heard the language. We know what it means.

It means miles wide craters in sacred deserts.

It means timber sales in roadless forests.

It means grazing leases priced below market while streams run dry, native species are extirpated, and sagebrush disappears.

It means using the false language of crisis to drill our lands into oblivion.

This is not stewardship.

It's extraction dressed up as governance.

And the sin isn't just what they're doing, it's how quietly they do it.

Through <u>riders tucked into omnibus bills</u>. Through late-night land swaps. Through <u>reservation</u> <u>systems that turn access into a commodity</u>. Through federal contracts that funnel public dollars to private vendors while calling it "no-cost" to the government.

It's a long, slow theft.

And they're counting on the rest of us being too distracted to stop it.

They know that if we see it for what it is we will not forgive them. Nor should we.

But we see it clearly.

And we're naming it for what it is.

Because until we do – until we stop treating this as politics-as-usual and start calling it out as the coordinated dispossession that it is – they will keep doing it.

All while their corporate overlords cash in on our national disinheritance.

#### The Names We Must Remember

These are the lawmakers who are trying to sell out your birthright.

One vote at a time. One deal at a time.

Each name a signature on the ledger of betrayal.

We will be following up with a dedicated post to serve as a living list of those who betray our national inheritance.

Please send us any names we left out and we will update to include.

#### The Names We Must Remember

These are the lawmakers still in office as of 2025 – voting, drafting, and dismantling. This is the record.

# **Senators Against Public Lands**

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)

Leading efforts to repeal the Antiquities Act and transfer federal lands to the states.

Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)

Promoting land sell-offs, expanded motorized access, and wilderness study area rollbacks.

Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)

A fossil fuel loyalist pushing expanded drilling and weakened methane rules.

Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)

Advocating drilling in protected areas and stripping public land safeguards.

#### Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

Backing Arctic Refuge drilling and efforts to weaken protections for Tongass and Bristol Bay.mm

# Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)

Supporter of Keystone XL and efforts to gut climate and wildlife regulations. Sen.

#### Ron Johnson (R-WI)

Proponent of permit streamlining for fossil fuel infrastructure and cutting clean energy incentives.

#### Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Backed cuts to conservation funding and promoted fossil fuel development fast-tracking.

# **Representatives Against Public Lands**

## Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)

As Chair of Natural Resources, steering extraction bills under the guise of forest health.

# Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

Driving the Oak Flat land transfer to a foreign mining company despite tribal opposition.

#### Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)

Advocating federal land transfers, dismantling BLM, and erasing wilderness protections.

# **Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-WI)**

Pushing mining in northern forests and undermining tribal land rights.

## Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY)

Using her post to gut NEPA and fast-track industry access to public lands.

#### Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)

Opposes monument expansions and environmental reviews for logging operations.

#### Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR)

Supporting grazing expansion and weakening of water and habitat protections.

# Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN)

Trying to open the Boundary Waters to sulfide-ore mining.

#### Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)

Supports shrinking monument boundaries and limiting tribal co-management.

#### Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-ID)

Backing mining access at the expense of Idaho forest protections.

#### Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA)

Co-sponsoring legislation to weaken Endangered Species Act enforcement.

#### Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV)

Tried to sell off hundreds of thousands of acres of public land in Nevada.

#### Rep. Celeste Maloy (R-UT)

Co-sponsored emergency land-sale language in reconciliation legislation.

# **Our Wild Cannot Be Replaced**

A wild river does not run twice.

An old-growth tree does not grow back in a congressional term.

A sacred site does not survive excavation.

# When they sell off public land, they don't just trade acres. They erase time.

The forests being logged today took centuries to stand. The desert springs being drained once fed whole ecosystems. The rock art being blasted away held stories that lasted longer than any lawmaker's career. Once gone, these places do not return. Not next year. Not next generation. Not ever.

You can't replace a thousand-year-old Sitka Spruce.

You can't replicate the hush of a canyon with frack wells and drilling pads.

You can't bulldoze a ceremonial site and expect ancient culture to bloom elsewhere.

This is the lie they keep selling –

That land is a renewable commodity. That wilderness is interchangeable. That beauty, silence, and belonging are things that can be moved, copied, rebuilt.

They are not.

There are places in this country that cannot be substituted.

Places that carry memory in their soil.

Places that remind us who we were, and who we're still supposed to be.

That's what they're trying to sell.

And once it's gone, not even regret will bring it back.

#### The Refusal

The land remains. That was Lincoln's promise. Not the policy. Not the politician. The land.

And when that land is handed off – not preserved but priced, not protected but partitioned – something deeper is broken. Not just trust. Not just law. But the thread that ties a people to their place.

We refuse to let that thread be cut.

We refuse to believe that a nation can be sold out acre by acre without consequence.

We refuse to treat silence as neutrality.

We refuse to call this inevitable.

Because it isn't.

Because the damage is still being done – and the line is still ours to draw.

So here it is -

We will not stand by while the ground beneath us is carved into units and sold off in hearings we're not invited to.

We will not let their votes be forgotten.

We will not accept a future where the only wilderness left is behind a paywall or beneath a pipeline.

We owe more than that – to the past that gave us this inheritance, and to the future that will ask what we did to keep it.

# What You Can Do Share this post.

The people responsible for this are counting on you not to notice. They're counting on you to move on. Prove them wrong. Let the record travel.

#### Call their offices.

Whether you live in their district or not – your voice matters. Public lands belong to everyone. That means every member of Congress answers to you. <a href="https://morethanjustparks.substack.com/p/we-will-never-forgive-or-forget?">https://morethanjustparks.substack.com/p/we-will-never-forgive-or-forget?</a>

publication\_id=1594349&post\_id=165554605&isFreemail=true&r=1spl43&triedRedirect=true~

Ed note: and when will they come for tribal land?

First they came for the Communists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me

And there was no one left

To speak out for me

——Pastor Martin Niemöller (famous Holocaust poem)