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A Diet of Deadly Plastic

A saltwater-degradable plastic that leaves nothing harmful behind

Japanese researchers developed new type of plastic; decomposes into components that are digestible

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Governors of Western states give mixed reactions to proposed federal land sell-off

Texas, Oklahoma and Nevada make changes to lure business amid Delaware's 'Dexit' concern

Marlette Lake Dam project underway near Lake Tahoe

A deadline looms for a new Colorado River plan. What happens if there isn't one?

Arizona Legislature passes bipartisan 'ag-to-urban' bill to increase housing supply

What are the environmental impacts of AI?

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'A devastating blow': Western governors wary of public land sales

RFK Jr to encourage Americans to use 'wearable' tech to track their health



A Diet of Deadly Plastic by Justin Gilligan, Australia

Justin Gilligan created a mosaic from 403 pieces of plastic found in the digestive tract of a dead flesh-footed shearwater. He has been documenting research from a team that studies the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems.

A saltwater-degradable plastic that leaves nothing harmful behind

ZME Science | Tudor Tarita. Japanese researchers have developed a new type of plastic that easily decomposes into components that are digestible by natural soil bacteria. This article describes the structure and creation of this material, and how its properties make it a viable candidate for replacing current plastics. ([Read](#))

A Florida-based company called [Timeplast](#) has invented a new type of plastic that can dissolve in water, completely eliminating plastic waste. Even more impressive, their plastic can be programmed to dissolve at a precise time, whether it's in 60 seconds or 60 years. With the plastic markets worth over \$1.3 trillion, Timeplast's breakthrough is [a game changer](#).

Governors of Western states give mixed reactions to proposed federal land sell-off

Texas, Oklahoma and Nevada make changes to lure business amid Delaware's 'Dexit' concern

South Dakota eager for Trump's statue garden near Mount Rushmore despite local opposition

Marlette Lake Dam project underway near Lake Tahoe

"After silver was discovered in Virginia City in 1859, it became a boomtown after a massive influx of miners and speculators arrived to make it rich. To supply water to the town and the mines, Marlette Lake was created by installing a dam on what was known as Goodwin Lake, and Hobart Reservoir was created. The water was diverted to Virginia City via an ingenious system of flumes and pipelines, including the world's largest inverted siphon in 1873. This included a 3,994-foot-long tunnel through the watershed basin divide, and an ingenious inverted siphon pipe to get water through Washoe Valley. The Marlette Lake Dam is a National Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places. ... " [Continue reading from South Tahoe Now](#).

A deadline looms for a new Colorado River plan. What happens if there isn't one?

"The clock is ticking on the Colorado River. The seven states that use its water are nearing a 2026 deadline to come up with new rules for sharing its shrinking supplies. After more than a year of deadlock, there are rumblings of a new plan, but it's far from final. So what happens if the states can't agree before that deadline? There's no roadmap for exactly what would happen next, but policy experts and former officials can give us some ideas. It would likely be complicated, messy and involve big lawsuits. "I think people are looking for a concise answer here," said Brenda Burman, former commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. "But there isn't a concise answer." ... " [Read more from KUNC](#).

Arizona Legislature passes bipartisan 'ag-to-urban' bill to increase housing supply

"The Arizona Legislature passed a bipartisan bill Monday intended to increase the state's housing supply while conserving water. The bill is known as "ag-to-urban." It allows developers to buy water rights from farmers who give up their agricultural land for homes in metro Phoenix

and Pinal County. The homes would use only a percentage of the water the farms had used. The bill was prompted by a moratorium Hobbs set on new housing construction in the Phoenix suburbs due to low groundwater levels. This legislation would give developers a new pathway to build homes in those restricted areas. Rep. Gail Griffin (R-Hereford) called it a win-win-win. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ](#).

What are the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence?

“While most people think about AI in terms of the apps on their phones or the chatbots they interact with, the real environmental story happens behind the scenes—in massive facilities called data centers. These are the physical buildings filled with thousands of computers that process every AI request. Data centers come in many shapes and sizes, from small server rooms in office buildings to warehouse-sized facilities operated by tech giants like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon. But the newest generation of data centers, specifically built to handle AI workloads, are fundamentally different from their predecessors. They require far more powerful processors called GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), consume dramatically more electricity, and need significantly more water for cooling. A single AI-focused data center can use as much electricity as a small city and as much water as a large neighborhood. ... ” [Read more from the Union of Concerned Scientists](#).

Trump bid to repeal forest protections faces hurdles

“The Trump administration’s announcement Monday that it’s lifting timber-harvesting restrictions on more than 58 million acres of national forests is just the beginning of what’s likely to be a drawn-out fight. Rescinding the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced at a meeting of Western governors, will require formal rulemaking and is sure to prompt legal challenges from environmental groups, said people who’ve worked on issues related to the regulations over the years. And if the administration succeeds, then come the hurdles that confront any Forest Service logging project: limited staff capacity to prepare new timber sales, managing environmental reviews and navigating volatile timber markets that can make harvesting on public lands a money loser for taxpayers. ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

A Republican plan to sell off millions of acres of public lands is no more — for now

“A controversial proposal to sell off millions of acres of public lands across Western states — including large swaths of California — was stripped Monday from Republican’s tax and spending bill for violating Senate rules. Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) had advanced a mandate to sell up to 3.3 million acres of public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for the stated purpose of addressing housing needs — an intent that opponents didn’t believe was guaranteed by the language in the provision. Late Monday, Elizabeth MacDonough, the Senate parliamentarian — who advises the government body on interpreting procedural rules — determined the proposal didn’t pass muster under the the Byrd Rule, which prevents the inclusion of provisions that are extraneous to the budget in a reconciliation bill. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times](#).

SUBJECT: Environmental Streamlining Webinar Series

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) leads the Tribal Housing and Related Infrastructure Interagency Task Force to develop coordinated and streamlined environmental reviews. The Office of Native American Programs will host a webinar series to provide an overview of streamlining resources available to Tribes. **Please note these training courses will not be recorded.**

Below you will find a description of the webinars, the schedule, and links to attend.

Environmental Review Streamlining Webinar Series:

Simplified and Streamlined Environmental Reviews This webinar will provide training on PIH Notice 2024-24: Programmatic Part 50. The Programmatic Part 50 determination allows TDHEs and Tribes to not conduct Part 58 environmental reviews for certain activities. It will also cover how to use a Limited Scope Environmental Review to simplify reviews for project based rental assistance with no rehabilitation.

Endangered Species Act: Streamlining Section 7 Compliance Environmental review requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act can be complex and time-consuming. This webinar will highlight specific tools and strategies that reduce administrative burden, ensure compliance, and maintain environmental protections—without unnecessary delays.

Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Washington State This webinar will focus on streamlining endangered species consultation for HUD-funded projects in Washington. You will learn how to apply U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) streamlining tools to HUD projects in Washington.

Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Oregon This webinar will focus on streamlining endangered species consultation for HUD-funded projects in Oregon. You will learn how to apply USFWS and NMFS streamlining tools to HUD projects in Oregon.

Webinar Schedule

Topic	Date and Time	Link
Simplified and Streamlined Environmental Reviews	July 24, 2024 2:00-3:30 PM EDT	https://intellor.webex.com/intellor/j.php?MTID=ma8dc9c7ed542a014d073f70180db8e38
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining Section 7 Compliance	August 5, 2025 2:00-3:30 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/TAmxsBe8tN

Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Washington State	August 12, 2025 2:00-3:00 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/F9TEjCiXr0
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Oregon	August 14, 2025 2:00-3:00 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/P46F5SBUSV

ONAP will post all webinar materials, including PowerPoint presentations and Frequently Asked Questions on Codetalk. Please check [Codetalk](#) for additional updates.

Again, please note that this training will not be recorded. You must attend the live webinar session to hear the information.

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in serving Indian Country.

Sincerely, Hilary C. Atkin, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs



Tanka Fund helps lead regional movement for Buffalo in schools

Summary:

The Regional Buffalo to School Conference, co-sponsored by Tanka Fund and other key partners, brought together ranchers, schools, and Indigenous leaders to strengthen the presence of

Buffalo in school meals and Indigenous food systems. Held in Rapid City, SD, the event included cultural teachings, hands-on harvesting, and educational sessions to advance food sovereignty, economic development, and health in Native communities.

5 Key Points:

1. **Food is identity:** For Native communities, traditional foods like Buffalo are not only about nutrition. They represent memory, culture, and survival.
2. **Buffalo in schools:** The conference helped bridge Buffalo producers with schools to reintroduce Buffalo into student meals.
3. **Cultural grounding:** A respectful Buffalo harvest, led by Lisa and Arlo Iron Cloud, taught participants the cultural and spiritual importance of process and intention.
4. **Economic empowerment:** USDA reimbursement and flexible inspection laws offer opportunities for Native ranchers to support local food systems.
5. **Collaborative impact:** The event was made possible by partners like WWF, The Nature Conservancy, and the InterTribal Buffalo Council, showing strong cross-organizational support.

Food is more than nourishment — it's culture, memory, and survival.

For Native communities, reclaiming traditional foods like Buffalo is a powerful step toward healing, sovereignty, and economic resilience.

In alignment with our mission to return Buffalo to the lands, lives, and economies of Native communities, we partnered with like-minded organizations to host the first event of its kind — a gathering to support schools and producers in restoring Buffalo to student meals and advancing Indigenous food practices.

As a result, the **Regional Buffalo to School Conference** was born. Hosted at Western Dakota Technical College in Rapid City, South Dakota, the conference was designed to connect ranchers with local schools, helping bring healthy protein and meat into students' meals.

Our Executive Director, **Dawn Sherman**, who served on the planning committee, shared that the event aligns with Tanka Fund's "economies" mission, which supports not only ranchers but also Native youth.

“This is part of our economies mission and helps open doors to getting Buffalo into schools,” she said. “We are building connections between ranchers and local schools. It's important for our ranchers to understand that USDA reimburses schools for their school lunches. In addition the USDA does not require federal inspection of Buffalo meat. It's up to each state and tribe to decide their inspection requirements.”

The conference began with a powerful cultural harvest, hosted by **Lisa and Arlo Iron Cloud**. This hands-on event provided teachings around respectful, culturally grounded practices for harvesting a Buffalo — showing why intentional care from start to finish matters deeply.

TJ Heinert of the Rosebud Reservation, who dispatched the Buffalo during the harvest, spoke to participants about the importance of not rushing the process of selecting the animal, and the responsibility to honor its life.

Participants were encouraged to ask questions, be curious, and learn without fear of judgment. The harvested meat was packaged and distributed to attendees, with additional portions going to **Pine Ridge Girls School**.

Other conference highlights included:

- **Ron Brownotter**, Vice President of the Tanka Fund Board and a rancher partner, who spoke about rancher perspectives and opportunities.
- Breakout sessions focused on the logistics, successes, and importance of bringing Buffalo into school food systems.
- A live cooking demonstration by **Chef Sean Sherman (The Sioux Chef)** and **Dianne Amiotte-Siedel**, followed by “**A Taste of Indian Country — A Celebratory Indigenous Food Tasting**”, where participants were able to experience the flavors and power of these traditional foods firsthand.

“Tanka Fund is honored to have co-sponsored this first-ever event highlighting the importance of bringing our Buffalo relatives into healthy school meal programs. This work would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of partners like World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, InterTribal Buffalo Council, and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Buffalo Authority Corporation — just a few of the many organizations that helped make this conference a reality,” Dawn said. “Our hope is that this movement continues to grow and reach more regions.”

<https://www.tankafund.org/our-stories/tanka-fund-helps-lead-regional-movement-for-buffalo-in-schools>



[View fullsize](#)

Tanka Fund at HIP–NAP: A Gathering of Latine and Indigenous Philanthropy Leaders

More than 600 funders, nonprofit heads, and grassroots organizers converged on Hotel Albuquerque last week for the first-ever joint conference of Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP) and Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP). Billed as “*Transforming Philanthropy Together*,” the June 16-18 gathering marked a decisive shift toward collaborative grantmaking that centers both Latine and Indigenous priorities.

A Conference Designed for Collaboration

Two powerhouse networks, one shared stage. After decades of hosting separate annual meetings, HIP and NAP combined forces to spark side-by-side dialogue among corporate foundations, tribal leaders, and movement builders—groups that rarely hold strategy sessions in the same room.

Every session acknowledged the land beneath attendees’ feet—the ancestral homelands of Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache peoples—reminding participants that funding decisions ultimately shape real territories, economies, and cultures.

Philanthropy’s Expanding Job Description

Panelists urged funders to think less like benefactors and more like long-term stakeholders who:

- ***Underwrite infrastructure***, not just innovation. Administrative backbone dollars allow proven projects to scale without chasing fragmented grants.
- ***Budget for policy alignment***. Advocacy stipends and training were framed as legitimate climate-solution expenses, not extras.
- ***Invest in storytelling***. Films, podcasts, and digital media were presented as essential—“the narrative scaffolding that makes big wins possible,” as one foundation executive put it.
These trends echo shifts already baked into Tanka Fund’s forthcoming fundraising roadmap for 2026.

The Bottom Line

No single blueprint emerged from the HIP-NAP convening—but a clear consensus did: land stewardship, cultural continuity, and economic sovereignty rise or stall together. From a decade in nonprofit marketing, one lesson stands out: results follow relationships, and relationships follow story.

With fresh insights—and fresh allies Tanka Fund is poised to deepen its mission of returning Buffalo to Native lands, lives, and economies, armed with a clearer picture of where philanthropy is headed next.



From the Cal Alumni Association in their publication, California Magazine “Fire to the People”

On the list of features that distinguish man from other animals, use of fire ranks near the top. No other species bends fire to its purposes like we do—to cook, to refine metals, to propel ourselves into space.

One way we’ve lost touch with fire, however, is in tending to the land. Not so long ago, California Indigenous people used fire extensively to burn away underbrush, maintain meadows, and improve hunting conditions. But for more than a century, land managers in the state have aggressively suppressed all wildfires, leading to massive fuel buildups in our forests and increasingly catastrophic conflagrations across the state.

Our **cover story** in the **latest issue of California**, now arriving in mailboxes, focuses on the work of Berkeley alum Lenya Quinn-Davidson ’04, who, as Director of University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources’ Fire Network, endeavors to train a growing army of “burn bosses,” civilians empowered to put their drip torches to good use under the right conditions—to fight bad fire with good fire. Even more important than the actual acreage undergoing prescribed burns may be the shift in attitudes about fire and the growing realization that the state needs more, not less, of it.

The Burn Boss

Lenya Quinn-Davidson is spearheading a UC-backed movement that empowers California citizens to fight fire with fire.

Extract:

They also collaborated on a third bill, one that gave financial protection to Indigenous Californians and streamlined their permitting process. This is another important thread running through all of Quinn-Davidson’s work: supporting the resurgence among California’s tribes of what’s known as cultural burning—an array of Indigenous fire practices that pre-date tribes’ expulsion from their homelands and bans on burning.

Fusion power may never happen if we don't fix the lithium bottleneck

Nuclear fusion has the potential to deliver nearly limitless power – but before it can even get started, the world must build a massive supply of enriched lithium fuel from scratch. [Read more.](#)

Partnering with tribes to restore a Delta wetland: Benefits go both ways, from Maven's Notebook

‘Tahoe is not for sale’: Senate proposal could put federal land on the market

“Tahoe is not for sale: that’s the message from Californians speaking out against a proposal by Senate Republicans to sell federal land. This is a proposal Senate Republicans included in something called the ‘budget reconciliation bill.’ It’s part of the ongoing negotiations over President Trump’s so-called ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act.’ Senate Republicans want to sell federal land to generate revenue and build more housing (page 30 here). Bipartisan opponents say—this isn’t the way to do it. Lake Tahoe is a gem of Northern California and tourist destination drawing visitors from around the world. Much of the land in the Tahoe Basin is federally owned and – now, under a new federal proposal – could be up for sale. ... ” [Read more from Channel 10.](#)

Is water the new power?

“At the end of the movie *The Big Short*, which focuses on the 2008 global financial crisis, Christian Bale’s character, Michael Burry, correctly predicts the collapse of the US housing market and focuses all his investment into one obscure asset class – water. The investor’s interest in H2O was well-founded. Water is in some ways our most valuable commodity, not only in its ability to stave off death by dehydration but in its crucial use across basically every major industry. This is especially true within the data center sector, where water plays a crucial albeit understated role in ensuring the facilities can run continuously without overheating. However, with the power of compute increasing by the day, the subsequent heat generated is in turn increasing, requiring even larger volumes of water to maintain operations. ... ” [Read more from Data Center Dynamics](#).

Senate referee rules out public land sales in megabill

“A plan to sell millions of acres of public lands has been ruled out of the Republican-led megabill by the Senate parliamentarian. The decision, according to a Monday night release from Senate Budget Committee Democrats, would seem to scuttle a proposal from Energy and Natural Resources Chair Mike Lee (R-Utah). The move to sell the lands for housing had kicked a hornet’s nest with both his GOP colleagues and online conservative allies. Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough also ruled out a host of other provisions Monday, including the construction of a mining road in Alaska, as well as changes to permitting and oil and gas leasing. Her opinion is key because Republicans want to use the budget reconciliation process to bypass the Senate filibuster to pass their tax cut, energy and border security package. ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

‘A devastating blow’: Western governors wary of public land sales

“Bipartisan leaders of Western states cautioned Congress on Monday against broad mandates to sell public lands to help pay for Republicans’ tax cuts, energy and border security megabill. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) said during a news conference here, ahead of the Western Governors’ Association annual meeting, that cutting public land access to hunters, anglers and other recreationists in Colorado through sales “would be a devastating blow to the quality of life, as well to our economy.” Republican governors were more open to the idea of selling off some federal land but said those decisions should be driven by local and state leaders, not Congress. ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

 **FOX NEWS**

RFK Jr to encourage Americans to use 'wearable' tech to track their health

U.S. Health Secretary [Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#) said on Tuesday that it is his vision "that every American is wearing a wearable within four years."

He made the comments regarding devices like smartwatches, smart rings and fitness trackers to members of Congress, adding that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is "about to launch one of the biggest advertising campaigns in HHS history to encourage Americans to use wearables."

Kennedy said during a hearing before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health that wearables are a way "people can take control of their own health."

"They can see, as you know, what food is doing to their glucose levels, their heart rates, and a number of other metrics as they eat it," he told [members of Congress](#). "And they can begin to make good judgments about their diet, about their physical activity, about the way that they live their lives."

The health secretary said he has had friends who have "utterly changed their lives just from wearing a glucose meter," who have lost weight while monitoring their diabetes.

Shares of continuous [glucose-monitoring device](#) makers Abbott and Dexcom were up 3.6% and 10%, respectively, in afternoon trading, Reuters reported.

In this photo illustration, a Diabetes monitoring device is shown in London in February 2025. While he has been critical of the diabetes drug Ozempic, which is often used for weight-loss, he has expressed support for the prescription of such weight-loss drugs for adults with morbid obesity and diabetes, provided they are accompanied by exercise.

"You know the Ozempic is costing \$1300 a month, if you can achieve the same thing with an [\\$80 wearable](#), it's a lot better for the American people," Kennedy said, adding, "We're exploring ways of making sure that those costs can be paid for."

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., testifies during the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing titled "The FY2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget," in Rayburn building on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

J.P. Morgan analyst Robbie Marcus commented, "We think it's premature to interpret this as a direct comment on whether Medicare and other commercial payors will move towards covering non-intensive Type II diabetes patients or other areas of proactive monitoring."

Kennedy has long promoted healthy eating over medicine as a way to combat obesity, and has been a prominent skeptic of vaccine safety.

He added, both in person and on X, that the forthcoming wearables campaign is "a key part of our mission to Make America Healthy Again."

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<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/us-staring-down-fate-worse-170001260.html>

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/warren-buffett-sends-billion-dollar-083000187.html>

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/tariffs-hit-car-brands-hardest-170000974.html>

What's the difference between unlawful and illegal?..... Unlawful is against the law, ill eagle is a sick bird.