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Coyote - one of Artown's Spirit Animals

Daisy Kadibil - her 800 mile trek inspired "Rabbit Proof Fence"

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Youths gain essential knowledge in Summer TEK program

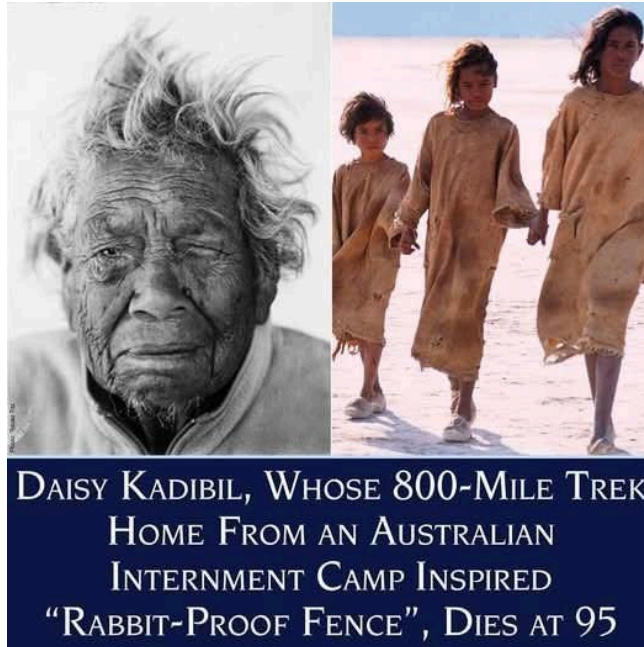
Trump may decommission the Chuckwalla National Monument



<https://artown.org/spirit-animals/NAHUALES.pdf>

Jahkia Tuareg

..if you and/or your children have never seen the movie "Rabbit Proof Fence", you owe it to yourselves. It's a classic that I watch periodically. I get teary-eyed just writing this, but Daisy Kadibil -- who was eight years old in 1931 when she escaped from an Australian internment camp along with her 14-year-old sister Molly and 10-year-old cousin Gracie -- passed away in 2022. The three girls' 800-mile (1,300 km) journey through the harsh Australian desert to return home inspired a book and the acclaimed film "Rabbit-Proof Fence." Daisy, the last surviving of the three, died at the age of 95. The extraordinary story of Daisy, Molly, and Gracie's nine-week trek introduced many people, both in Australia and around the world, to the tragedy of the "Stolen Generation", the tens of thousands of Australian Aboriginal children who were removed from their families between 1910 and 1970. "I come from Jigalong," Daisy wrote in a biographical note. "They took me away but I walked all around country back to where I was born. I came back."



Washoe County Leadership Academy returns with free, in-depth look at local government (ktvn.com) — The Washoe County Leadership Academy is back, offering a comprehensive look at local government in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno. Participants will engage in monthly sessions exploring county services, starting this September.

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### **A conceptual breakthrough has emerged for the Colo. River's future**

“After months of stalemate, glimmers of hope have emerged for consensus on a new plan to manage the shrinking Colorado River. Negotiators from the seven river basin states said in a series of meetings in recent weeks that they were discussing a plan rooted in a concept that breaks from decades of management practice. Rather than basing water releases on reservoir levels, it would base the amount released from the system’s two major reservoirs on the amount of water flowing in the river. The new concept would be more responsive as river flows become more variable. The comments signal a break in months of stalemate between the Upper Basin states — Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming — and the three Lower Basin states: California, Nevada and Arizona. The states’ representatives are wrestling with a seemingly simple question: How should the river’s water be allocated as long-term drought and higher temperatures fueled by climate change decimate the amount of water available? ... ” [Read more from the Las Vegas Sun.](#)

### **Audio: States may meet federal deadline on new Colorado River water-sharing deal**

“About 40 million people rely on the Colorado River for drinking water. It also irrigates agricultural fields. It’s also shrinking. Now, states might agree on a potential deal on sharing the river.” [Listen at NPR.](#)

### **Satellite images show how much Lake Mead has shrunk in 25 years**

“Satellite images illustrate how water levels in Lake Mead have fallen in the past 25 years. Lake Mead supplies vital water to millions in Nevada, Arizona, California, and parts of Mexico. However, [declining water levels could jeopardize](#) city water systems, farm irrigation, and hydroelectric power output. Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the U.S., capable of storing approximately 29 million acre-feet of water. It is closely followed Lake Powell, with a capacity of around 25 million acre-feet. Recent forecasts lowered runoff into Lake Powell to just 55 percent of average, down from an earlier estimate of 67 percent, due to an underwhelming winter snowpack. ... ” [Read more from Newsweek.](#)

### **Sarah Porter: The future of Arizona's water policy**

“Sarah Porter’s fondest memories of growing up in Phoenix include spending time with her family camping, hiking, and fishing. So when Porter saw an opportunity to transition from her career as a lawyer working in complex commercial litigation to serving with the National Audubon Society, she stepped into a role that reconnected her with one of her passions. Her work with the Audubon Society ultimately led to her current position as director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University’s Morrison Institute for Public Policy, where she has served in this capacity since 2015. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Capitol Times.](#)

### **Groundwater replenishment left hanging by Arizona's new 'ag to urban' law**

"A newly signed bill giving developers the ability to buy and retire farmland in favor of subdivisions has been hailed by supporters as the single biggest improvement in state water law since the landmark Arizona Groundwater Management Act passed 45 years ago. It's been promoted as a ticket to water savings, since homes typically use significantly less water than cotton fields. It's also seen as a path to more affordable housing in the Phoenix area and Pinal County, where the law would have an impact. There, homebuilders say existing state restrictions on building new homes using groundwater have reduced housing supplies and triggered a spike in home prices. What's more, the new law went through the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support. ... " [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star.](#)

### **Rural groundwater conservation plans failed this year in the GOP-controlled Arizona Legislature**

"At the beginning of the year, Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs introduced a plan to conserve shrinking rural groundwater supplies. But that, and similar efforts, died in the GOP-controlled Legislature. In rural areas of the state, many communities rely on dwindling groundwater supplies where there are no restrictions on water pumping. [Rural Republicans stood with Hobbs in January](#) when she announced her plan to address the problem by creating rural management areas around endangered groundwater basins where pumping would be restricted. But it didn't get consideration by legislative Republicans. Hobbs said Tuesday that she hasn't given up. ... " [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

### **Why isn't agrivoltaics taking off in Arizona?**

"Under patches of shadow, Greg Barron-Gafford crouched to check on a row of artichokes. It was mid-April in the southern Arizona town of Oracle, which had already seen a string of 90-degree days in the previous few weeks, plus a 100-degree spike. Still, the plants appeared robust, their leaves lush and perky. Other plants — herbs, garlic, carrots — seemed to be thriving, too, despite the heat. The garden's bounty had even drawn wild animals: Recently, gophers had raided the site, so Barron-Gafford and his colleagues were considering installing a buried fence to thwart them. Part of the garden's vitality was thanks to the 30 3-meter-high solar panels overhead, which provide crucial shade that keeps the crops underneath from drying out. About 30 feet away, another garden — that's a generous word for it — sprawled forlornly under the full heat of the sun, its plants wilted and shriveled. ... " [Read more from the High Country News.](#)

### **Arizona Game and Fish is using beavers to help restore wetland habitats**

"Biologists from the Arizona Game and Fish Department have been testing out a new protocol when relocating beavers. And now at least two of these furry mammals are, sort of, state employees. In certain circumstances, the department has to move beavers who are causing land management issues. And with their new translocation protocol, some beavers may now be paired with man-made dams. ... " [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

### **'Just another Native': Minneapolis Indigenous women demand emergency response to violence**

[https://www.startribune.com/article/601413694?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=evening\\_update&utm\\_term=Evening%20Update?utm\\_source=gift\\_email](https://www.startribune.com/article/601413694?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=evening_update&utm_term=Evening%20Update?utm_source=gift_email)



National Trust *for*  
Historic Preservation®



**REGISTER TODAY**

**Join us in Milwaukee or online as we come together as a movement.**

Our mission to protect and activate historic places, and the stories they hold, is more important than ever. Recent actions and proposals to reduce staffing at key agencies, freeze grant opportunities, and diminish programs that support historic preservation work, will impact how our shared heritage is protected, interpreted, and funded.

Now is the time to summon that spirit of innovation to ensure our work remains relevant. By embracing new strategies, technologies, and creative solutions we can work together to adapt to the evolving needs of the field.

At this year's PastForward conference, we will connect with each other, support each other, and learn from each other. With your peers, strategize how to advocate for policies and funding that ensure preservation continues to serve the public. Discover new ideas for engaging audiences, gain insights on how to respond strategically to challenges, learn powerful ways to raise awareness, and understand ways to preserve a complete history of America through its places.

Learn more about [session details](#), including information on Field S

Sessions and speakers will highlight how our work:

- Spurs economic development
- Nurtures a healthier environment
- Fosters a stronger, shared sense of civic duty and belonging

Join us at PastForward 2025, because preservation matters not just to history but to the future we share.



## **Senate confirms Griffith as Energy undersecretary**

### **Griffith worked at the Energy Department in the first Trump administration as principal deputy assistant secretary for international affairs**

The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Preston Wells Griffith III to serve as undersecretary of the Energy Department.

The 54-43 vote included Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, joining Republicans in support.

Griffith said at an April hearing that his role would be to use the department's resources to ensure that "America remains at the top of the global energy system and unleashes that abundance here at home and also abroad, especially with nuclear and natural gas."

Griffith compared the challenge of bringing additional energy online to the Manhattan Project and said meeting the increased demands caused by the expansion of artificial intelligence and domestic manufacturing will require utilizing all sources that are "secure, reliable and affordable."

The Energy Department, particularly Secretary Chris Wright, has criticized wind and solar power as making the grid less reliable.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources ranking member Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., supported Griffith's confirmation in committee in April, saying Griffith was qualified and that decisions at the department should be made by a Senate-confirmed nominee rather than someone with ties to the Department of Government Efficiency.

Griffith previously worked for the Republican National Committee and unsuccessfully ran in the Republican primary for a House seat in Alabama in a 2013 special election, ultimately placing fifth.

Griffith worked at the Energy Department in the first Trump administration as principal deputy assistant secretary for international affairs, where he traveled to international climate talks in 2018 to promote fossil fuels. He was later senior director for energy and environment at the National Security Council.

During that time at the NSC, Griffith, like others, declined to appear before House impeachment investigators in 2019 after being subpoenaed. Griffith said at his April hearing that the subpoena didn't allow White House counsel to be present, and the Office of Legal Counsel in turn deemed the subpoena to be invalid. The office instructed him not to appear in order to protect executive privilege, he said.

He followed his stint at NSC with work at the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. During the Biden administration, he worked at FTI Consulting Inc. on the firm's energy portfolio. Thank you for all you do to protect cultural

### **HUGE NEWS! FY2025 THPO FUNDING IS NOW AVAILABLE**

In case you missed it last week, the Administration has made the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for THPO Apportionment Grants for Fiscal Year 2025 available. You can apply for your apportionment [HERE](#).

We don't need to tell any of you how anxiously THPOs and our SHPO counterparts have been waiting for these funds to be released. NATHPO - along with countless THPOs, Tribal Leaders, Tribal organizations, and our allies in the preservation community - has been working the phones since Congress passed the FY25 spending bill and the President signed it into law in March. We hope all of you apply for your grants as quickly as possible so you can end the waiting for funds for the current fiscal year.

NATHPO would like to especially thank Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Senators Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), Steve Daines (R-MT), and Mike Rounds (R-SD) and their amazing staffs for their advocacy on behalf of THPOs. But we know they were not alone. If you called your Senator or Member of Congress to ask them to contact the Administration and urge them to release these funds, please thank them as well!

Now, if you haven't already, [please click this link and go apply for your FY 2025 THPO Apportionment Grant!](#) You've waited long enough!

### **UPCOMING COMMENT DEADLINES & CONSULTATIONS**

#### **Due TODAY, July 7, 2025: Comments on VA Office of Construction & Facilities**

**Management Proposed Program Alternatives** | The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing Nationwide Programmatic Agreements (NPAs) to address Section 106 processes for two of the agency's most active programs - the State Home Construction Grant Program and the Leasing Program of the VA Office of Real Property. **Comments are due TODAY, July 7, 2025.** NATHPO will be submitting a comment, a draft copy of which is attached to this email. You can learn more about the proposals, find details about the comment meeting, and get details about comment submissions [HERE](#).

**Due TODAY, July 7, 2025: Comments on BIA Workforce Proposals** | The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs are accepting comment on implementation of the President's Executive Order (EO) 14210 establishing the "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative and "to streamline operations while minimizing any potential impact on the quality of services provided to Tribes." **Comments are due TODAY, July 7, 2025.** NATHPO officials attended one of the recent listening sessions, and we will be submitting comment, a draft copy of which is attached to this email. Details and information about comment submissions can be found [HERE](#).

**Happening July 15, 2025: FCC Tribal Session On NEPA And NHPA** | From FCC: "The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) announced via Public Notice (DA 25-538) an upcoming opportunity for federally-recognized Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) to consult with Commission staff regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act. **The consultation will be held via video conference on: Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT; Click here to read Public Notice. Register link here.**" NATHPO submitted comment in April and signed onto a [separate comment letter by the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty](#), of which we are a member. Later NATHPO joined the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in [filing a reply to several of the comments other entities submitted](#).

### **NATHPO CONFERENCE UPDATES**

**New Excursion Details!** On the first day of the conference, Monday, September 8, we will view petroglyphs in Truckee, CA; spend time at Zephyr Cove State Beach on Lake Tahoe; and visit the Stewart Indian School. Afterward, we will return to the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno for the conference welcome reception. However, due to capacity issues at several of the sites, we have to cap the number of participants in this excursion at 150 people. If you plan to come to the conference and want to join us on what promises to be a powerful and education day, register now and secure your spot and indicate you want to join us on Monday's excursion (which also requires an additional fee).

***Please Note: Registration for the conference will close on August 1, 2025. All registrations with outstanding invoices must be paid by August 1, or your registration will be cancelled.***

### **REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JONNIE "JAY" SAM II**

NATHPO and the Tribal Historic Preservation community mourns the loss of one of our own, Jonnie "Jay" Sam II (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians), former Director of Historic Preservation and THPO for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI). Jay spent decades in service to his Tribe and Indian Country as a whole. You can read the full obituary [HERE](#), but here is just an excerpt:

"From the early years of LRBOI as a non-profit organization, Jay's involvement helped shape the government and its purpose. Jay was a primary author of the Tribe's constitution, and served as its' Court Administrator and Appellate Justice. During his time on the Bench, he also assisted Tribes all over Indian Country in creating their court systems to reflect their specific community values. Jay also served as the Tribe's Ogema, expanding citizen services and transitioning its gaming operation into the major resort destination it is today. He also served as LRBOI's Director of Historic Preservation until his retirement earlier this year; this was the work he was most proud of. Jay spent countless hours researching historic maps of mounds, agricultural and village sites in efforts to protect sacred cultural sites, burial mounds and objects. In his capacity as THPO Officer, he repatriated persons and cultural items to their homelands, caring for them traditionally, spiritually and respectfully."

Please join NATHPO in extending our condolences to Jay's family and to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, on whose behalf he spent years performing the sacred work of a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.



## **NATHPO AT WORK**

**Public Lands Sale Update** | Thanks to the THPOs and Tribal Leaders who reached out to their Senators and voiced opposition to this proposed mass sell-off of public lands, which thankfully has been dropped from the package moving through Congress known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. The provision would have endangered Indigenous sacred places and left Tribal Nations out of both the decision-making process as well as the benefits of those sales.

**THPO Funding Advocacy** | NATHPO spent the last several months appealing to the Administration and allies in Congress to ensure THPOs' FY 2025 funds were released as quickly as possible. Those efforts finally came to fruition earlier last week when the Administration released the NOFO. Just last week, NATHPO joined several preservation partners in calling on the Office of Management and Budget to make those funds available, and our team worked with representatives for the Coalition of Large Tribes to appeal directly to the White House to release THPOs' FY 2025 funds. This was truly a team effort, and even though it took longer than it should have, we're incredibly relieved to see THPOs finally able to access their federal funding.

**NATHPO At WAC-10** | Last week, NATHPO Executive Director Dr. Valerie Grussing led a panel at the World Archaeological Congress' WAC-10 Conference on the work THPOs do and the importance of meaningful Tribal consultation. She was joined by Indigenization Director Stacy Laravie (Ponca), Senior Advisor Ira Matt (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), and Sean Young (Gid yahk'ii), Manager/Curator of Collections and Archaeology, Saahlinda Naay (Saving Things House), Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Llnagaay.

**Honoring Secretary Haaland** | Last month, NATHPO Executive Valerie Grussing and Government Affairs Specialist Ted Monoson attended The Wilderness Society's 2025 Ansel Adams Dinner honoring former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. She has been and continues to be a champion for protecting Tribal Nations cultural resources & sacred places. NATHPO appreciates TWS' support for Tribal sovereignty & the protection of Tribal Nations' cultural resources & sacred places.

**Talking THPOs At NCAI** | Earlier in June, NATHPO Director Valerie Grussing attended the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Convention & Marketplace in Mashantucket, CT, at Foxwoods Resort Casino. While there, Valerie helped lead a panel of THPOs talking about the importance of the sacred work they perform and why it's so vital for them to have sustained support from both the Federal and Tribal Governments. The panel included Michael Kickingbear Johnson, THPO for the Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribal Nation and Eastern Region NATHPO Board Representative; Bettina Washington, THPO for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head; and James Quinn, THPO for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut. For more than 90 minutes, Valerie, Michael, Bettina, and James talked about the importance of historic preservation and supporting THPOs. It was incredibly gratifying to be able to answer their questions and hear from Tribal leaders who raised their voices in support of the sacred work THPOs perform.

**Talking THPOs At NCAI, Part Deux** | After THPO panel, the members passed a resolution "calling on the United States Congress to immediately reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund with a mandatory minimum of 20% annual appropriation set aside for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers." This is a significant priority for NATHPO, because as more Tribal Nations exert their sovereignty by standing up a THPO, federal funding has not kept pace, meaning each THPO's individual share of the THPO funding can decrease as the number of THPOs increases. Thanks to the NCAI Executive Committee and General Assembly for supporting THPOs!

### **JOIN OUR BOARD!**

NATHPO's Board of Directors has seen some changes in recent weeks, and we are seeking three new members of our Board of Directors from the Western, Great Plains, and Pacific Regions. If you are a THPO and NATHPO member and are interested in serving, know of someone from any of these regions who would make a good Board member, or want more information about what it means to be part of NATHPO's Board of Directors, please contact Valerie Grussing at [Valerie@NATHPO.org](mailto:Valerie@NATHPO.org) or Melisa Madrigal at [Melissa@NATHPO.org](mailto:Melissa@NATHPO.org).

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

*Registration is now open for NATHPO's 25th Annual Conference, happening **September 8-12, 2025!** We would like to thank Reno-Sparks Indian Colony for hosting us in 2025! We look forward to seeing everyone in Reno at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino!!! You can find more details about the conference and register HERE. If you or your organization are interested in becoming a sponsor, you can access our sponsorship deck HERE. **Registration closes on August 1, 2025, so please register now and secure your spot!***

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

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

*Thank you for all you do to protect culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance, and to empower Tribal preservation leaders.*

*Valerie J. Grussing, PhD, NATHPO Executive Director, [valerie@nathpo.org](mailto:valerie@nathpo.org) | 202-628-8476*

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### **It was a milestone for progressive education in California. Then it unraveled**

The controversy around the state's once-celebrated ethnic studies curriculum reveals deeper schisms afflicting public schools nationwide

**Robin Buller**

### **The astonishing superpowers of nature's most unloved animals**

From their odd appendages to their unsavory hygiene, certain animals suffer an image problem. But their awkward attributes can be their biggest advantages.

**[www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/unloved-animals-conservation-population-underdogs](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/unloved-animals-conservation-population-underdogs)**

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## **Changing crucial definition in Endangered Species Act undermines purpose of Klamath Dam removal**

*“Swimming past the California-Oregon border, a lost fish — one of thousands — finds its way home after an exile of over 100 years.* As swarms of salmon migrate north to Oregon along the Klamath River, youth from across the region’s indigenous tribes [kayak south](#) through northern California to the Pacific Ocean — a 300-mile celebratory journey that would not have been possible just a year ago. What’s changed? Beneath the fish and kayaks lie the watery graves of four dams, built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and dismantled over the past two years at a cost of [\\$500 million](#), the largest and most ambitious dam removal in history. The return of salmon to the upper Klamath River represents a victory for nature, an exhibition of the century-long transition in how Americans view the environment, and a signal achievement of the 1973 Endangered Species Act. ...” [Read more from Circle of Blue](#).

## **Youths gain essential knowledge in Summer TEK program**

“For thousands of years, Native Patwin-Wintun communities tended and cared for the wetlands and waterways of the Yolo Basin with practices that enhanced the health and biodiversity of this rich delta ecosystem. This summer, teenage youths are invited to join Native Californian traditional ecological knowledge specialists in learning how indigenous stewardship practices are key to a sustainable future. Every Wednesday in July, Wintun/Maidu educator, naturalist and cultural practitioner Diana Almendariz will share hands-on lessons in how Patwin-Wintun people flourished in symbiotic relationship with the plants and animals of this area. “The lifeways of Native people kept the land and water healthy and clean. These traditional stewardship practices are essential to the restoration of damaged and threatened environments,” said Almendariz, an expert in the cultural and ecological uses of tule, a keystone wetland plant. ...” [Read more from the Davis Enterprise](#).

## **Trump may decommission Chuckwalla**

“One of former President Joe Biden’s last official acts was declaring the Chuckwalla National Monument on almost 625,000 acres of “canyon-carved mountain ranges” in Riverside County. ... Janessa Goldbeck, CEO of Vet Voice Foundation, which lobbied for the Chuckwalla National Monument designation, said the administration might be thinking twice about reversing that status after blowback from a recent proposal in the House Budget Bill to sell off public lands.

“Veterans, hunters, anglers, a lot of people who are not traditionally invested in politics who came out to say hands off our public lands,” she said. Speculation that the Trump administration could revoke monument status for more than half a million acres of protected land in California has environmentalists fretting, but some outdoor recreation and mining advocates hope to undo what they call a “lame duck land grab.” ...” [Read the full story at Cal Matters](#).

