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Scaling Lone Tree - Stalking a one-tree forest in the Great Basin Desert.

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Lone Tree’s domed shape is mirrored in the hills and mountains behind it.

Scaling Lone Tree - Stalking a one-tree forest in the Great Basin Desert.

[https://sierranevadaally.org/2025/07/10/scaling-lone-tree/?](https://sierranevadaally.org/2025/07/10/scaling-lone-tree/?vgo_ee=bbTs3%2BHqxJigTWHUdK98GvqoQnpf8yrADy5aq42JDY3V%3AFdTunoNKqkTePQkDfQtz5Px8A301dyjb)

[vgo_ee=bbTs3%2BHqxJigTWHUdK98GvqoQnpf8yrADy5aq42JDY3V%3AFdTunoNKqkTePQkDfQtz5Px8A301dyjb](https://sierranevadaally.org/2025/07/10/scaling-lone-tree/?vgo_ee=bbTs3%2BHqxJigTWHUdK98GvqoQnpf8yrADy5aq42JDY3V%3AFdTunoNKqkTePQkDfQtz5Px8A301dyjb)

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

<https://www.justice.gov/civil/common/reca>

Native Community Action Council P.O. Box 46301, Las Vegas, Nevada July 7, 2025

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Dear Tribal Environmental Leaders,

We want to inform you of the passage of the Amended Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA Act of 2025). The Native Community Action Council has advocated for reauthorization and expansion of RECA. The RECA fund, which ended in June 2024, was recently extended to December 31, 2028. The amended RECA Act of 2025 provides compensation to uranium workers, onsite participants, and downwinders.

The amended RECA of 2025, qualified victims of atmospheric nuclear testing who lived in affected areas receive \$100,000 if they suffer from a specified illness. Claimants are considered to have been physically present if:

(I) They were physically present in an affected area for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on January 21, 1951, and ending on November 6, 1962;

(II) Were physically present in an affected area for the period beginning on June 30, 1962, and ending on July 31, 1962

(III) Were physically present in an affected area for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on September 24, 1944, and ending on November 6, 1962

(IV) They participated onsite in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device.

If you live or have lived in: All of New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho; Certain counties in the State of Nevada, including White Pine, Nye, Lander, Lincoln, Eureka, and that portion of Clark County that consists of townships 13 through 16 at ranges 63 through 71. Certain counties in the State of Arizona, including the counties of Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo, Apache, Gila, and Mohave. New Mexico for claims by individuals who were physically present in an affected area for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on September 24, 1944, and ending on November 6, 1962.

In cases of leukemia, claimants must submit written documentation that such individuals developed leukemia 2 years after first exposure to fallout after the applicable period of physical presence as described above.

In cases relating to other specified illnesses and cancer, the individual must submit written medical documentation that he or she, after such period of physical presence or such participation (as the case may be), contracted a RECA specified disease listed below

Eligible miners include those employed in a uranium mine or uranium mill (including any individual who worked in the transport of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore from such mine or mill) located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, and Texas at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1990. During this period, the miner must have been exposed to work-related radiation for a year.

Other eligible claimants include millers, core drillers, and ore transporters as well as those involved in remediation efforts at such a uranium mine or mill, working for at least one year during the same period.

The term “core driller” means any individual employed to obtain cylindrical rock samples of uranium or vanadium through a borehole drilling machine for mining uranium or vanadium. RECA act of 2025 allows the combination of work histories for individuals who worked in one or more of the qualified uranium mining positions above for a period of at least one year, any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1990

Qualified claimants must submit written medical documentation indicating that the individual developed lung cancer, nonmalignant respiratory disease, renal cancer, or any other chronic renal disease, including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue injury, after exposure.

Specified disease’ means leukemia (including chronic lymphocytic leukemia), provided that initial exposure occurred after the age of 20 and the onset of the disease was at least 2 years after first exposure, and the following diseases, provided onset was at least 5 years after first exposure: multiple myeloma, lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary cancer of the: thyroid, male or female breast, esophagus, stomach, pharynx, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary bladder, brain, colon, ovary, liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated), or lung.

Other diseases include nonmalignant respiratory disease or any other chronic renal disease, including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue injury after exposure to radiation through mining work as a miner, miller, core driller, and ore transporter.

Claimants suffering from these illnesses must prove physical presence (that they were physically present) in the affected areas for the specified periods, through contemporaneous written residential documentation and at least one additional employer-issued or government-issued document.

Claimants should also demonstrate that they contracted a specific disease after the period of physical presence by submission of contemporaneous written medical records or reports created by or at the direction of a licensed medical professional who provided contemporaneous medical care to the claimant.

The amended RECA Act of 2025 includes a new compensation program for victims of Manhattan Project nuclear waste in some states, including:

Missouri: with area ZIP Codes 63031, 63033, 63034, 63042, 63045, 63074, 63114, 63135, 63138, 63044, 63140, 63145, 63147, 63102, 63304, 63134, 63043, 63341, 63368, and 63367. State of Tennessee: with the ZIP Codes of 37716, 37840, 37719, 37748, 37763, 37828, 37769, 37710, 37845, 37887, 37829, 37854, 37830, and 37831; State of Alaska: with the ZIP Codes of 99546 and 99547 State of Kentucky: the ZIP Codes of 42001, 42003, and 42086.

A claimant must demonstrate that he or she was physically present in an affected area for at least two years after January 1, 1949, and contracted a specified disease after such period of physical presence, which the attorney general must certify.

Eligible living victims under the program will receive a compensation of \$50,000 or total compensation for unreimbursed losses related to medical expenses. Medical expenses shall be compensated upon submission of contemporaneous written medical records, reports, or billing statements created by or at the direction of a licensed medical professional who provided contemporaneous medical care to the claimant, additional compensation in the amount of all documented out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred as a result of the specified disease suffered by that claimant, such as any medical expenses not covered under any program or insurance.

If an individual who qualifies for compensation is deceased at the time of submission of the claim, a surviving spouse may receive compensation of \$25,000. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children, minor or otherwise, receive compensation in the total amount of \$25,000, paid in equal shares to each surviving child.

Claimants must demonstrate their physical presence by submitting contemporaneous written residential documentation and at least one additional employer-issued or government-issued document or record that the claimant was physically present in an affected area for at least two years after January 1, 1949. A claimant shall be considered to have been physically present in an affected area if their primary residence or place of employment was in the affected area, or they attended school in the affected area.

Claimed illnesses must be demonstrated by submitting contemporaneous written medical records or reports created by or at the direction of a licensed medical professional who provided contemporaneous medical care to the claimant, that the claimant contracted a specified disease after such period of physical presence.

Visit the DOJ RECA website to begin your claim: <https://www.justice.gov/civil/common/reca>

From the Wyoming Outdoor Council:

Wyoming and The “Nuclear Renaissance”

We are collectively in the throes of witnessing an attempt to reframe the nuclear industry. This is particularly relevant in Wyoming. Though the proposed legislation around nuclear storage and development have been relatively unsuccessful to date, there are substantive efforts at the state and federal level to focus solely on the benefits at the expense of public understanding or the consequences and history of the so-called nuclear renaissance.

Case in point: this entire conversation was seeded in a Wyoming legislative committee meeting by passing around a uranium pellet with a statement that tribes supported storage of the nation’s nuclear waste, without ever speaking to tribal leadership.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, based in Lander, Wyoming whose mission is to protect Wyoming's environment and quality of life now and for future generations, takes the position of prioritizing considerations of responsible and intentional policy creation that addresses environmental factors while also stressing the inclusion of the perspective of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of Wyoming. Knowing the history of tribes and how indigenous peoples have historically been targets of land theft in relation to development of nuclear technology, nuclear testing and radioactive waste storage necessitates the consultation and consideration of tribes as well as discussion around how these endeavors may impact ancestral lands, tribal rights and sovereignty.

Presently, not only do both tribes agree that storage proposed by House Bill 16 has no place in Wyoming, particularly on the reservation and ancestral territories, it is especially important to note that there is a proposed law on the agenda of Tribal Council to make the storage and transportation of radioactive waste illegal on tribal lands. This addition to the law and order code would not only create sanctions and restrictions for radioactive waste and transportation of such waste on tribal lands, but also would apply to the fifty-mile area of influence surrounding the reservation as covered by the Clean Air Act. As such, the Outdoor Council hosted four information sessions co-led by Tribal Engagement Coordinator Jennifer Fienhold (Eastern Shoshone Tribe) and Ian Zebarte (Western Shoshone Tribe), to share the historical context of tribes and their connection to nuclear technology and preventative measures that can be taken.

It is the hope of WOC’s Tribal Conservation program that these efforts will come to fruition in the form of impactful protections that will preserve the health and integrity of tribal lands, our resources and people. Two bills most notably mentioned in recent months pertaining to this issue: HB 16 (House Bill 16): Purpose: To allow Wyoming to host a consolidated interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel from anywhere in the US. Status: HB 16 failed to pass the House and was not considered further in the Senate.

Key Points:

- It redefined "high-level radioactive waste" to exclude "spent nuclear fuel".
- It outlined the requirements for siting a used nuclear fuel storage installation.

- It acknowledged the installation would be temporary and required compliance with federal regulations. SF 186 (Senate File 186)
- Purpose: To allow advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers, such as those building microreactors, to store their spent fuel in Wyoming.
- ● Status: SF 186 passed the Senate but failed to pass the House.
- Key Points:
 - It made an exemption to Wyoming's ban on commercial high-level radioactive waste storage for these manufacturers.
 - It allowed manufacturers to store spent fuel in Wyoming without a permanent federal repository.

The topics of discussion approaching for the Joint Minerals Committee (Which will be meeting July 29-30, 2025 in Casper, WY): Priority No. 1: Nuclear Energy Federal Law: Nuclear Facilities Federal Law: Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage State Law: Advanced Nuclear Reactors State Law: Siting of Radioactive Waste Storage Facilities Members of the Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development Committee Senators: Jim Anderson, Ed Cooper, Stacy Jones, Tara Nethercott, Chris Rothfuss Representatives: Kevin Campbell, Scott Heiner, Christopher Knapp, J.T. Larson, Martha Lawley, J.R. Riggins, Mike Schmid, Reuben Tarver, Nina Webber

~~~~~ **UM museum starts return process for remains of 10 Native Americans**

The Native American remains belong to Seminole and Miccosukee tribes in Florida and Oklahoma. They can be returned as early as July 17.

Read in The Detroit News: https://apple.news/AAYJ_cgkhTZy9TDYtFc2fZw

~~~~~ **Mike Lee says selling public lands will solve the West's housing crisis. Past sales show otherwise**

[https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/mike-lee-says-selling-public-lands-will-solve-wests-housing-crisis-past-sales-show?](https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/mike-lee-says-selling-public-lands-will-solve-wests-housing-crisis-past-sales-show?user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8&user_email_md5=7549cf1d39576a38840bf5c6d0e50aa6&lctg=62413d809ad7660edf70913a)

[user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8&user_email_md5=7549cf1d39576a38840bf5c6d0e50aa6&lctg=62413d809ad7660edf70913a](https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/mike-lee-says-selling-public-lands-will-solve-wests-housing-crisis-past-sales-show?user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8&user_email_md5=7549cf1d39576a38840bf5c6d0e50aa6&lctg=62413d809ad7660edf70913a)

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**BREAKING: Historic Grand Canyon Lodge on North Rim Destroyed by Wildfire More Than Just Parks** <[morethanjustparks@substack.com](mailto:morethanjustparks@substack.com)> (click above)

• **First Nations Chronicles** ·

**Johanna July** was a Black Seminole, born around 1857 in a place called Nacimiento de Los Negros in northern Mexico. Her family was made up of Seminole Indians and former enslaved African Americans who had left Florida and settled in Mexico after the Seminole War ended in 1842. They had moved there when many Seminole Indians and Black Seminoles left the U.S. and moved to northern Mexico in 1849.

In 1870, the U.S. Army needed help from people who knew the border area, so they hired Black Seminoles as translators and scouts. This led to many of them, including Johanna's family, returning to the United States. They settled in or near Eagle Pass, Texas, in 1871. Johanna learned how to train wild horses and help herd the family's goats and cattle. After her father died, Johanna continued working with the stock and trained horses for the U.S. Army and local ranchers.

Johanna had her own special way of training horses. She would take a horse into the Rio Grande River, swim with it, grab its mane, and gently climb onto its back. As the horse tired from swimming, it would lose the strength to buck.

Johanna was remembered wore bright dresses made She had her hair in thick earrings and necklaces. She Lesley, and the couple Seminole community near Clark, Texas. However, her Johanna wasn't used to and she struggled with and cutting fabric wrong. her struggles well and Johanna left him and rode Texas.



as a tall, barefoot girl who from homemade fabric. braids and wore long gold married a man named moved to another Black the Rio Grande at Fort new life wasn't easy. doing household chores, things like burning beans Her husband didn't handle became violent. Eventually, her pony to Fort Duncan,

As Johanna got older, not After her first husband times but kept working with 1910, Johanna moved to Brackettville, Texas, where she lived in a small house on a hill near the cemetery. Family members remembered her as an old lady who rode sidesaddle and walked around barefoot at home. She passed away shortly after World War II and is buried in the Brackettville Seminole Cemetery.

much in her life changed. died, she married two more horses and cattle. Around



### **Texas floods prompt new disaster reckoning in Congress**

“Natural disasters have a tendency to ignite clashes in Congress over federal response efforts and relief funding. This latest disaster is different. The catastrophic flooding that ravaged central Texas and killed more than 100 people in recent days represents the first major, nation-gripping disaster to take place against the backdrop of the Trump administration’s sweeping transformation of the federal government. Instead of sparking the usual debates over whether to refill the disaster relief fund, the floods have aggravated deeper, more contentious disagreements over President Donald Trump’s slash-and-burn politics and added new weight to questions about whether the GOP agenda is undermining disaster prevention and recovery. ...” [Read more from E&E News.](#)

### **Floods are increasingly common. Our water infrastructure is unprepared**

Kerr County abandoned efforts to build a more robust warning system, reportedly due to budget issues; officials also appear not to have issued evacuation orders at the start of the flood. But one expert tells *Governing* that local officials across the country should also be using this moment to reflect on the need for updated water infrastructure, the first line of defense for communities experiencing extreme rain events. A 2024 report from the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Value of Water Campaign estimated that the country is billions of dollars short in investments needed to update water infrastructure for 21st-century needs, including a new normal of extreme rainfall events. ...” [Read more from Governing.](#)

### **Rethinking regionalization: Water utilities as economic development partners**

“Amid funding and programmatic uncertainty, many communities are testing new plans, exploring new financing tools, and even rethinking how they govern and operate their water infrastructure. Aging distribution pipes, overwhelmed sewers, and other vulnerable systems not only pose environmental and public health risks, but also strain state and local budgets, as well as those of the public utilities that own and operate this infrastructure. Now, “regionalization”—collaborations or partnerships among geographically proximate local water systems—is gaining renewed momentum nationally as a potential solution. But the specifics of how communities pursue regional coordination vary widely, and simply focusing on the economics of small systems to do so overlooks a key point: how utilities can more effectively function as essential community and economic partners and service providers. ...”

### **Trump’s law reshapes federal loans and Pell Grants, impacting college students**

The law sunsets a loan program for graduate students and makes short-term workforce training eligible for Pell Grants.

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2025/07/09/trumps-law-reshapes-federal-loans-and-pell-grants-impacting-college-students>

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Administered jointly by the department's Women's Bureau and Employment and Training Administration, the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations grant program supports community-based organizations in their efforts to recruit, train, and retain more American women in Registered Apprenticeships and in high demand-occupations. The WANTO grant program represents an important step toward meeting the administration's goal of enrolling [1 million](#) new active apprentices.

The WANTO grants will help address the shortage of American workers in construction as well as emerging industries such as manufacturing, infrastructure, and cybersecurity by capitalizing on women workers, who currently only comprise about [15 percent](#) of active Registered Apprenticeship participants.

[Apply for the 2025 WANTO grant at grants.gov by August 8, 2025.](#)

To learn more, check out:

- [WANTO grant program](#)
- [Press Release](#)

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## [Trump Ge! ts Rare Praise From Native Group Over Redskins Name Fight](#)

### **Rare-Earth Minerals Just Got Militarized, Inside the Pentagon's Surprise**

**Investment** The Pentagon has taken a significant step in securing America's supply of critical rare earth minerals. Reports indicate that the Department of Defense will acquire a 15% stake in MP Materials, the only domestic producer of these essential elements. The multibillion-dollar agreement aims to substantially increase the production of lightweight magnets, **crucial components in various [...]**



<https://conservativesdaily.com/rare-earth-minerals-just-got-militarized-inside-the-pentagons-surprise-investment>

## California Senator Adam Schiff to keynote 29th annual Lake Tahoe Summit



Lake Tahoe. Photo by Dave Schumaker“U.S. Senator Adam Schiff will keynote the 29th annual Lake Tahoe Summit on August 6 in South Lake Tahoe. This year’s theme is “Protecting Lake Tahoe: Balancing Sustainable Recreation and Conservation.” The event will honor the legacy of California Senator Dianne Feinstein, who, alongside Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, established the summit in 1997. The summit will be held at Valhalla Tahoe, a venue cherished by Senator Feinstein and the site of the last Summit she hosted in 2019. Federal, state, and local stakeholders, along with representatives of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, will gather to continue Feinstein’s efforts to safeguard the lake for future generations. ... ” [Read more from Channel 3.](#)

## Fight for Tahoe’s clarity far from over, but progress is undeniable

Jim Sloan, former reporter and editor at the Reno Gazette-Journal, writes, “Over my nearly 50 years as a journalist — first as a newspaper reporter and more recently as a book coach and ghostwriter — one constant has been my interest in Lake Tahoe. ... Like millions, I love the place. And, like many, I worry about it. I worry about wildfires. Climate change. Litter and crowds and traffic. Aquatic invasive species. What I’ve learned in these five decades is that the threats facing Tahoe are unrelenting and require extraordinary vigilance. Protecting this remarkable resource requires backbreaking work and persistent scientific research. This work will never end because the challenges will never end. But from time to time, we should pause and reflect on how that work pays off. ... ” [Read more from the Reno Gazette Journal.](#)



“A coalition of environmental and water advocacy organizations have filed a legal petition urging the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to stop waste of Colorado River water by users in California, Nevada, and Arizona. The petition, submitted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the UCLA Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, with support from Waterkeepers and local groups, calls on the Bureau to use its legal authority to ensure water deliveries to Colorado River Lower Basin users are “reasonably required for [beneficial uses](#)” and are not delivered for uses that are “unreasonable”. Under existing federal law, the Bureau of Reclamation is required to prevent unreasonable uses of water from the Colorado River. The petition demands that the agency enforce this responsibility and cease deliveries for uses that do not meet this standard. ... ” [Read more from Smart Water Magazine.](#)

## Water Rights Complicating Thacker Pass Project

Lithium Americas Corporation recently filed an emergency motion to clarify a legal ruling that has threatened to upend construction of its Thacker Pass lithium mine in Humboldt County. Back in April, a Nevada district court ruling reversed a state engineer's decision to approve the company's petition to relocate its water rights closer to the mine site.

The ruling came after a local Nevada rancher filed a petition claiming that the company's water pumping for the mine will harm his nearby cattle operations. Now, Lithium Americas' emergency motion also requests a limited stay, or temporary suspension of the district court's decision, that would allow the company to continue pumping water until a legal clarification is made.

Amy Alonzo covers the latest legal development for the Thacker Pass lithium mine in a recent report for The Nevada Independent.

[Read more on thenevadaindependent.com >>](https://thenevadaindependent.com)

## Rhyolite Ridge mine delayed as lithium prices plunge

Construction plans for the Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron mine in Esmeralda County have been delayed until at least March 2026 after a crash in lithium prices resulted in a key investor backing out of the proposed project. Loneer Corp., the company behind the Rhyolite Ridge project, has opened a renewed search for a new investor and remains confident the project will go forward despite lithium market trends and an ongoing lawsuit against the project.

The delay comes as lithium prices dropped from more than \$70,000 per tonne at its peak in January 2023 to less than [\\$9,000 per tonne this July](#), forcing mining companies worldwide to pause or delay projects.

Learn more about the latest financial and legal hurdles for the Rhyolite Ridge project in Jennifer Solis' latest report for the Nevada Current.

[Learn more at nevadacurrent.com >>](https://nevadacurrent.com)

Mexico City: [Projection display marks 700th anniversary of founding of Tenochtitlan](#)