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Short-beaked Echidna

In the red earth of Australia, a creature shuffles quietly.

Covered in spines, moving with slow determination, the **Short-beaked Echidna** is both ancient and strange.

It does not give birth like most mammals. Instead, it lays a leathery egg, cradled in a pouch, where a tiny life hatches and clings. The mother has no nipples—her milk seeps from glands, nourishing the young until it is strong enough to face the world.

Its snout is more than a nose. Laced with electroreceptors, it can sense the faint signals of ants and termites hidden underground. With claws built for digging and a tongue that flicks like lightning, it feeds in silence, unseen by most.

When danger approaches, the echidna curls into a living fortress. Spines rise, body stiffens, or it vanishes into the earth with astonishing speed. A survivor's instinct refined over millions of years.

Neither fully reptile nor fully mammal in spirit, but a bridge to life's deep past. A reminder that evolution carries secrets older than we can imagine.

[#WildLife](#) [#Echidna](#) [#Animals](#) [#Nature](#) [#Photography](#) [#fblifestyle](#)

Tribes Condemn Trump for Backing Out of Columbia River Deal for Salmon Recovery By Marianne Dhenin , Truthout August 31, 2025

Tribal leaders and environmental advocates warn salmon populations will go extinct without remediation efforts.



Time is running out for wild salmon in the Columbia River Basin in the Pacific Northwest. Their populations, as well as those of some other native fish, have been declining for decades. Now, President Donald Trump is attacking the progress that had been made to restore those once-abundant salmon runs.

In June 2025, [Trump signed a memorandum](#) signaling his administration's unwillingness to consider dam removal on the lower Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia River, and reneging on a landmark agreement that would have [provided more than a billion dollars](#) over the next decade to Pacific Northwest tribes for renewable energy projects and salmon recovery.

The federal government entered into the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement under the Biden administration in December 2023 after two years of negotiations. Other parties to the agreement include environmental advocates; Oregon; Washington; and the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes. Those tribes entered into treaties with the U.S. government in the mid-1850s, ceding land but maintaining a perpetual right to their fishing grounds in the Columbia River Basin. The government has failed to ensure the tribal fishing rights it promised to protect in those treaties.

Yakama Nation Tribal Council Chair Gerald Lewis [said in a statement](#) that the Trump administration's withdrawal "echoes the federal government's historic pattern of broken promises to tribes." Still, others who were involved in negotiations to secure that agreement have vowed to continue efforts to restore salmon populations and fulfill treaty obligations even as the federal government seeks to undermine them.

"The Trump administration's decision to pull out of this agreement is short-sighted and regrettable," Miles Johnson, legal director at Columbia Riverkeeper, told *Truthout*. "But folks in the Pacific Northwest who care about salmon, and salmon cultures and our rivers, we don't get to stop working on this just because it becomes more challenging."



[Forest Protectors Launch Tree Sit and Lawsuits to Stop Ecocidal Logging in WA](#)

Forest protectors are defending mature forests from logging after dam removal and restoration on the Elwha River. By [Curtis Johnson](#) , *Truthout*

Dozens of hydroelectric dams built beginning almost a century ago on the Columbia River and its largest tributary, the Snake River, [eliminated spawning grounds](#), blocked fish passage between spawning and rearing habitats, and altered river ecology in ways that can [impair a salmon's](#)

[immune system](#) or undermine their natural migration instincts. More recently, climate change has [placed additional stress](#) on salmon populations.

Experts now agree that dam removal is essential to stop the decline of native fish populations.

The dams in the Columbia River Basin have been disastrous for fish populations: The number of wild Chinook salmon on the Snake River [fell from about 90,000](#) in the mid-1950s, when there was just one dam on the waterway, to a mere 10,000 in 1980, seven additional dams later. Four species of salmon in the Columbia River Basin have been [listed for protection](#) under the Endangered Species Act since 1991.

Congress acknowledged that wild salmon populations in the Columbia River Basin were dwindling and [committed to funding hatcheries](#) meant to stop their decline more than 80 years ago. But the facilities have fallen short of that goal. Today, even the hatcheries are threatened, as salmon survival rates have dropped so low that some struggle to collect enough fish for breeding.

“The truth is that extinction of salmon populations is happening now,” Shannon Wheeler, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe, [said in a June 2025 statement](#) in response to the Trump administration’s withdrawal from the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement.

Experts now agree that dam removal is essential to stop the decline of native fish populations. One proposal, in particular, which argues for the [removal of four dams](#) on the lower Snake River in southeastern Washington, has garnered widespread support from scientists and advocates, as well as other tribal leaders. “We’ve learned over the last 30 to 40 years of studying these fish intensely that those four dams on the lower Snake River are four dams too many,” Johnson told *Truthout*.

The Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement stopped short of calling for the removal of those dams, but it committed to meaningful steps in that direction. The agreement promised funding to study and develop solutions to mitigate the effects of dam breaching on transportation, recreation, irrigation and energy production in the region. It also committed funding to tribal-led alternative energy projects, which could have compensated for the eventual winddown of the hydroelectric dams.

“The concepts behind that agreement remain a really responsible, well-thought-out and careful path that sought to ensure a win-win scenario for all the different constituencies that depend on a healthy Columbia River,” Michael Garrity, special assistant at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), told *Truthout*.

Even though the agreement takes what Garrity and other experts characterize as a measured approach, Trump called it “radical environmentalism” in an effort to slander it and labeled concerns about climate change “misplaced” in his memorandum.

Critical funding will be lost with the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw from the agreement. This includes [\\$500 million to improve](#) underfunded and aging hatcheries across the Pacific Northwest and [\\$100 million for wild fish restoration](#) efforts. Much of the promised

federal funding would have been disbursed via the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a federal agency that operates like a business, marketing power from dams on the Columbia River.

“The NGOs, states, and tribes are not going to quit on this issue.”

Still, many aspects of the agreement will move forward in some form thanks to continued buy-in from state and tribal governments and the committed backing of environmental advocates. “The partnership between our four tribes and the states of Oregon and Washington endures,” said Jeremy Takala, chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and a tribal councilman of the Yakama Nation, [in a statement](#). “We are still united in the cause of protecting salmon and rivers.”

Amanda Goodin, an attorney at [Earthjustice representing the environmental advocates](#) that signed the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement, echoed Takala. “The NGOs, states, and tribes are not going to quit on this issue,” she told *Truthout*. “We’re going to be looking for other avenues for the next few years and waiting for the moment that we have a federal administration that actually cares about our natural heritage, obligations to tribes, and following the law, and we’ll be ready when that time comes.”

Those other avenues are almost sure to include legal battles over the impact of hydroelectric dams on salmon in the Columbia River Basin. Litigation had been ongoing for decades before it was halted as part of the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement. Federal agencies have lost in court in previous cases. Even John Hairston, administrator and CEO of BPA, [welcomed the agreement](#) when it was signed, saying it would help provide “a reliable, affordable power supply to the Pacific Northwest” and put an end to “costly, unpredictable litigation.” Now, Goodin told *Truthout*, “It’s likely we’re going to see continued litigation.”

Earthjustice is also advocating for Columbia River Basin fish in Congress, where a series of bills have been introduced that could further undermine plans laid out in the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement. “Those bills are not just salmon extinction bills, they’re also anti-solution bills,” Cameron Walkup, an associate legal representative working for Earthjustice in Washington, D.C., told *Truthout* of the [Northwest Energy Security Act](#), the [Defending Our Dams Act](#), and the [Protecting Our Water Energy Resources Act](#). “These bills would essentially double down on what the president did in June in terms of trying to turn back the clock on progress toward comprehensive solutions for salmon recovery, and also dealing with interconnected issues like making sure we have reliable and affordable energy.”

Columbia Riverkeeper, Earthjustice, and NGO partners are engaged in organizing [sign-on campaigns](#) to demonstrate support for dam removal and oppose the harmful bills introduced in Congress. Walkup also told *Truthout* that his organization is prepared to engage with members of Congress if it appears the bills could garner enough support to come to a hearing. “We’re certainly doing everything we can to uplift all the issues with these bills to make sure that if Republicans do choose to make this part of their agenda, that they’re fully opposed by the Democrats and don’t make it through Congress,” he told *Truthout*.

For their part, Washington’s state agencies responsible for studying the effects of dam breaching on the lower Snake River are continuing that work even as federal partners have withdrawn.

“WDFW, working with the governor’s office, is committed to finding a path forward to restore healthy and abundant salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin in a way that respects and addresses the non-salmon benefits of the river,” Garrity told *Truthout*.

Johnson of Columbia Riverkeeper said his message to those who are concerned about the Trump administration’s decision to renege on the historic Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement is simple: “We absolutely need our representatives to understand how much people care about salmon and steelhead and having enough fish in our rivers that people can go fishing, we can meet our obligations to tribes and protect tribal cultures,” he told *Truthout*. “That starts with individuals, businesses, leaders and anyone else making their voices heard. It’s critical to build a groundswell of support.

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The poster features a background of a desert landscape with mountains and yellow wildflowers. At the top, a pink rounded rectangle contains the event title and dates. Below this, three white boxes with blue borders list activities for each day. A teal banner with white text states 'A DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT'. At the bottom left is the NOOWUH Knowledge Center logo, and next to it is a QR code with the text 'REGISTER NOW SCAN HERE'. At the bottom right, a blue banner contains the text 'CHECK FOR UPDATES' and a website link. The background also includes a faint illustration of a woman and a man looking upwards.

**Ruby Valley Treaty Gathering**  
Ruby Valley Camp Out- OCTOBER 3, 4, & 5, 2025  
Sacred Ground, Sovereign Future  
WELCOME HAND GAMES & CARD GAMES

**10/3**  
Arrive in Ruby Valley 2 PM  
Community Mixer 4-5 PM  
Pinyon Blessing Round Dance

**10/4**  
Sunrise Ceremony  
Speakers & Workshops  
Creative Workshops  
Pinyon Blessing Round Dance

**10/5**  
Sunrise Ceremony  
Speakers & Workshops  
Closing Ceremony 12 PM

**A DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT**

**NOOWUH**  
KNOWLEDGE CENTER

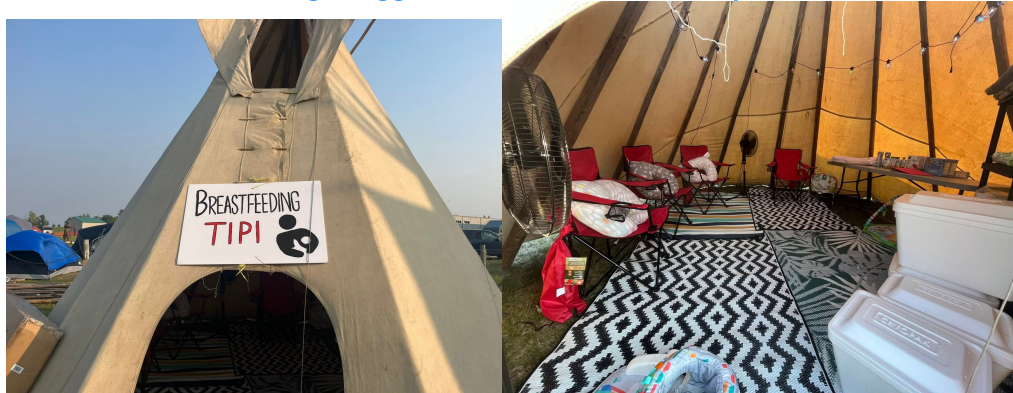
REGISTER NOW  
SCAN HERE

CHECK FOR UPDATES  
[noowuhkc.org/rvtc-updates](https://noowuhkc.org/rvtc-updates)

## **Grove of giant sequoia trees burns in California's Sierra National Forest**

Some of the trees, estimated to be 3,000 years old, were wrapped with fire-resistant foil blankets.

Read in NBC News: <https://apple.news/A9FX4nSYZQRy9mD7e439i0w>



## **Rhaeanne Hibi2025 Sagkeeng First Nation TREATY DAYS**

### **•Breastfeeding Tipi**

A cool, quiet space for anyone needing to feed or change their baby.

Stocked with:

Diapers & wipes (different sizes)/Snacks/Cold drinks

Open to all parents & caregivers — come take a break and care for your little one in comfort.

Thank you to all the MCH ladies for all their time and effort on setting it all up, and thank you to the ones who set the tipi up.

We will be restocking throughout the Powwow days .

Please keep the space tidy for the next persons use.

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## **US Taxpayers Will Pay Billions in New Fossil Fuel Subsidies Thanks to the Big Beautiful Bill**

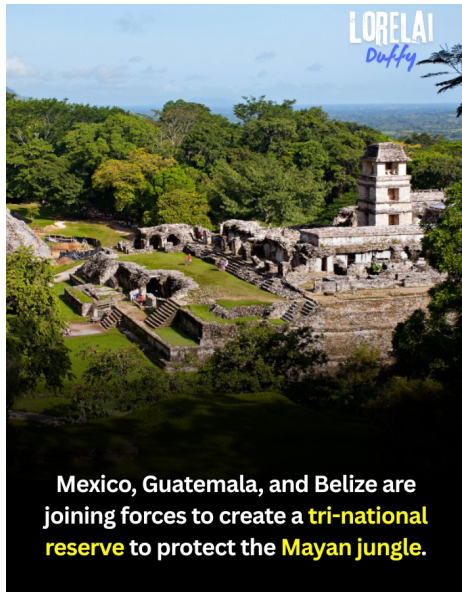
A report finds that President Trump's flagship legislation will grant \$40 billion in new subsidies to the oil and gas industry over the next decade.

Read in WIRED: <https://apple.news/AVVbbqPmPQpC8KN5FSyHCFQ>

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## **Trump Administration puts limits on popular conservation program**

“A parcel bordering Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, a historic ranch on the Yampa River in Colorado and land within the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument in New Mexico all have one thing in common: they were acquired in part with dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The longstanding federal conservation program is funded by offshore oil and gas royalties. But now the program could see more constraints that environmental and recreation advocates worry will undermine its effectiveness. Congress created the LWCF in 1965 to protect natural and recreation areas. Since then, the fund has supported 45,000 projects across 8 million acres in every county in the U.S. It's also enabled matching funds for state and local governments to buy and develop public parks and recreation sites. ... ” [Read more from KUNC](#).



[Lorelai Duffy](#)

In a rare show of unity, Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize have joined forces to shield one of Earth's last great tropical treasures: the Mayan jungle. This newly announced tri-national nature reserve will span over 14 million acres, linking dozens of protected zones into a single living corridor, a sanctuary for jaguars, tapirs, ancient ruins, and the lungs of the planet.

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### **Greenlandic women detail Danish forced contraception program in new report**

Denmark forced contraception on more than 350 Greenlandic Indigenous women and girls, who reported cases that date back to the 1960s.

Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/AH67xk9fSTm6jDavPuhZPjg>

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And another:

### **One year after dams were torn down, an Indigenous writer sees a healing Klamath River**

Dams were dismantled on the Klamath River last year. An Indigenous writer reflects on how the river is starting to recover.

Read in Los Angeles Times: <https://apple.news/Az8GXkeqoRo-NAcBBBDDITw>

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### **Trump moves to scrap Biden rule that protected public lands**

"The Trump administration moved on Wednesday to repeal a Biden-era rule that sought to protect millions of acres of public lands from the twin threats of climate change and industrial development. The proposal from the Bureau of Land Management would prioritize the use of public lands for oil and gas drilling, coal mining, timber production and livestock grazing. The Biden administration, in contrast, had championed their use for conservation, recreation and renewable energy development. If finalized, the proposal would advance what President Trump has termed his "drill, baby, drill" agenda. It also would herald a major shift in the management of roughly 245 million acres of public lands, which make up about one-tenth of the country. ... "

[Read more from the New York Times.](#)

**SEE ALSO:** [Trump Administration Moves to Dismantle Conservation as an Official Use of Public Lands](#), from Inside Climate News

## **National Science Foundation-funded project aims to address rural STEM teacher shortages across Nevada**

**Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program helps build a pipeline of educators for rural Nevada     Kelly Hanlon**

A five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) award for more than \$775,000 is accelerating efforts to address Nevada's rural STEM teacher shortage. Track 1 of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, Developing Secondary Science and Mathematics Educators in Rural Nevada, brings together the University of Nevada, Reno, Great Basin College and Elko County School District to build a strong pipeline of responsive STEM educators dedicated to serving Nevada's rural communities.

Nearly 90% of Nevada's school districts are classified as rural and face persistent challenges in attracting and retaining STEM educators. This project emphasizes recruitment, preparation and retention of STEM scholars in teacher education preparation programs so they are successful in teaching positions in rural communities in our state.

Scholarship recipients receive two years of support and will be co-enrolled in the [College of Science](#) and the [College of Education & Human Development's NevadaTeach](#) program, which gives students the opportunity to earn a dual bachelor's degree in secondary education and a STEM field within four years. Following graduation, scholars will have a teaching service commitment to teach two years, for each year of scholarship, in a high need district.

The project is co-led by [Mandi Collins, Ph.D.](#), NevadaTeach teaching associate professor and director of the Raggio Center for Advancement in (STEM)<sup>2</sup>; [Melanie Duckworth, Ph.D.](#), associate professor of psychology and executive director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and [Pamela Sandstrom, Ph.D.](#), teaching professor of biology.

The University's [Research & Innovation office](#) also played a vital role in securing this award. "We are pleased to be able to partner with our faculty, share our expertise, and help them excel in a competitive research climate," said [Kate Dunkelberger](#), manager of research development.

"The proposal was a labor of both strategy and heart," Collins said. "I'm most proud that this funding opens doors for STEM-focused undergraduates to explore careers in secondary education. It's a meaningful step toward strengthening STEM education where it's needed most."

Sandstrom will play a central role in advising and recruiting scholars. "Participants will build confidence and STEM knowledge by serving as learning assistants, supplemental instructors and biology discussion group leaders through the College of Science's Peer Instruction Program," she remarked. "This experience will also prepare participants to teach advanced courses, including dual-credit courses for rural Nevada students."

Over 60% of the project's funding supports students directly, promoting scholar development

and equipping them to be highly effective teachers in rural Nevada. Support includes comprehensive scholarships, paid internships and rural housing and travel funds for their final semester of apprentice teaching in Elko County. Additionally, funding will support scholar activities, which include cultural immersion workshops, community outreach in the form of organized STEM nights and mentorship from University of Nevada, Reno and Great Basin College faculty, as well as in-service science and math teacher mentors from the Elko County School District. Finally, funding will support scholar testing and licensing fees, as well as induction stipends during their first two years of teaching.

“As a proud graduate of Elko High School, this project is an opportunity to give back to the community that helped shape my path as an educator,” Collins said. “I’m incredibly excited to work with our partners at Great Basin College and the Elko County School District to build and support responsive STEM educators dedicated to serving Nevada’s rural communities. The opportunities afforded by this project represent both a personal full-circle moment and a professional mission to make a lasting impact.”

Emily Nielson, director of secondary curriculum for Elko County School District, remarked, “The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program is a foundational investment in the future of our public schools, championing rural students and addressing the need for highly qualified STEM educators. By strengthening the partnership between higher education and local school districts, we’re creating lasting change and ensuring every student has the opportunity to excel in a rapidly changing world.”

Brian Zeiszler, program supervisor for secondary education at Great Basin College, echoed the importance of collaboration. “The investment in rural education through the placement of student teacher interns in Elko County ensures that our underserved rural communities gain access to quality instruction and experiences while preparing the next generation of STEM educators,” he said. “Partnerships between higher education institutions, like the University of Nevada, Reno and Great Basin College, and rural Nevada school districts are critical and create powerful opportunities to meet local needs and provide future teachers with meaningful, real-world experience.”

By evaluating the effectiveness and retention of Noyce scholars in rural teaching positions, the program also aims to generate insights that will improve rural STEM teacher development in Nevada and potentially serve as a model nationwide.

“With this funding support, NevadaTeach and institutions of higher education in Nevada are poised to harness all the potential for STEM discovery and innovation that resides in students living and learning in rural areas of Nevada,” Duckworth said. “Bringing STEM educational opportunities to the largest population of future scientists and creators is essential to realizing the STEM workforce development vision for our state and meeting the demands of our ever-changing world.”

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“*Sometimes I lie awake at night and I ask, ‘Is life a multiple choice test or is it a true or false test?’ ...Then a voice comes to me out of the dark and says, ‘We hate to tell you this but life is a thousand word essay.’”* — [Charles M. Schulz](#) (Peanuts)

From Friends of Nevada Wilderness fnw@nevadawilderness.org

Defend the Roadless Rule and Nevada's Wildlands

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins plans to eliminate the 25 year-old Roadless Rule, stripping protections from more than 45 million acres across the country and nearly **3 million acres** in Nevada. If the Roadless Area Rule is rescinded, these wild places will be open to oil and gas leasing, logging and road construction. Places like the Toiyabe Crest and Wildcat Peak will be vulnerable to development.

The Forest Service is accepting comments through September 19, 2025 - take a moment to share why Roadless Areas are important to you.

Share personal camping, hiking, fishing, hunting experiences, where possible on why you value protecting our forest service managed roadless areas. (*heritage use*)

Key Message: “I recreate in Nevada's roadless areas and I support maintaining the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Rescinding the Rule would fragment habitat, increase wildfire risk, and threaten clean water supplies. Instead of dismantling a proven policy, USDA should work with stakeholders to refine and strengthen the Rule to adapt to changing fire regimes and local needs while continuing to conserve our precious roadless areas. “

[Submit your comment](#)

Since 2001, the Roadless Rule has conserved some of our nation's most wild and intact national forest lands by prohibiting road construction and logging in in these Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs).

Virtually all our cherished Forest Service Wilderness areas were inventoried roadless areas at one point. Places like the Ruby Mountains, Mount Rose, Table Mountain, Mt. Moriah, and the High Schells were all IRAs before they became Wilderness through acts of Congress. There are still many roadless areas that deserve to become Wilderness. Since the Roadless Rule went into effect in 2001, eight of those IRAs became new or expanded Wilderness areas totaling 282,318 acres. And many more of the remaining IRAs are amazing areas that we are actively working to protect as Wilderness.

These wildlands are our shared American heritage, and are irreplaceable – once they're developed, they're gone. Defend the Roadless Rule and our public lands heritage today.

Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads — Dr. Emmett Brown