

Journal #6086

from sdc 10.7.25

Quokkas

Impacts of Cutbacks/Government Shut-down

Concern about "Show your papers" Rule

Scott Cameron takes the reins as acting head of Reclamation

89 years ago, the Hoover Dam began generating electricity for Los Angeles

Advocates raise alarm over PFAS pollution from datacenters amid AI boom

'All the trees are dead': An ancient California forest has been wiped out

Congratulations to Makai Zuniga - graduate from W, Boyd Law School/UNLV passes NV bar

Dr. Pete Wilson

White House asks nine colleges to agree to "compact" banning race and gender in admissions

Mesopotamian Masterpiece

Department of Energy takes 5% stake in Lithium Americas and its Nevada mining project

Incarceration to college

It's tarantula mating season. This is the best place to watch.

Stephen King tops list of banned authors in US schools

What salmon are teaching us about dam removal

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Renewables Overtake Coal as Electricity Source

Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act

Department of Energy takes 5% stake in Lithium Americas and its Nevada mining project



Quokkas, known as the world's happiest animals,

With the federal government shut down, we want to provide you with resources to understand the impact on Indian Country.

"Shutdowns land hardest on our people," said Larry Wright, Jr., National Congress of American Indians Executive Director.

"Tribal leaders do what they've always done: show up for their citizens, keep clinics open, protect public safety, and care for our elders and children. As sovereign governments we should not have to uphold these commitments we made to our citizens at the expense of federal inaction. The United States must uphold its trust and treaty obligations regardless of the circumstance and without interruption."

The National Congress of American Indians explains how tribal nations are responding to the government shutdown. "While Tribal governments work tirelessly to fill federal gaps, government shutdowns result in Tribes front-loading scarce resources or pulling funding from other Tribal programs to keep essential services running. Many Tribal Nations do so at significant financial risk, straining local budgets, staff capacity, and long-term planning."

Here's a look at some of the critical areas that Indian Country could be impacted:

Food and Nutrition Assistance

Initially, the Department of Agriculture will utilize reserve funds to help ensure a lack of reductions in nutritional assistance for Tribes, but a prolonged shutdown could lead to significant disruptions.

Housing Programs

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is shut down. This will directly impact the Indian Housing Block Grants as well as other Native housing programs funded by the federal government.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Tribal police and other safety officials will either be furloughed or forced to work without pay, as they could be deemed essential employees. Emergency responses, particularly in rural areas, could be longer than normal.

Indian Health Services (IHS)

IHS will be able to use prior year balances to continue to keep all staff functional. But leases and contracts could lapse and a prolonged shutdown could stop IHS from issuing payments to Tribes or hinder critical care.

As of 2023, roughly 30,600 federal workers are Native peoples. Right now, 750,000 federal workers are furloughed, with many fearing the potential of layoffs due to a memo released by Trump's Office of Management and Budget.

According to Native News Online:^[1]

"The letter indicates that the Office of Management and Budget has directed federal agencies to begin considering mass layoffs in the event of a government shutdown. These would be a

continuation of the reduction-in-force mechanisms used by the Department of Government Efficiency to cull the federal workforce."

At Native Organizers Alliance, we will continue to organize against cuts that impact communities across Turtle Island, particularly those that impact the federal government's treaty obligations of nutrition, housing, education, and healthcare.

Hawwih (thank you) for helping our communities through these difficult times.

Judith LeBlanc (Caddo), Executive Director

[1] [How the Federal Shutdown Impacts Indian Country](#)

["America First Legal" has petitioned the Election Assistance Commission \(EAC\) to enact a "Show Your Papers" rule, limiting voter registration to those who can present a passport or birth certificate to "prove" they are eligible.](#)

This would create a two-tier democracy -- one where people with easy access to passports and birth certificates get to keep their right to vote, while millions of others are silenced. Tying the right to vote to paperwork that many Americans cannot easily access, this policy would deepen inequality and punish people for circumstances outside their control.

The injustice would fall hardest on communities that already face barriers:

- **Married women, transgender women and men, and others who have changed their names** may find their birth certificates no longer match their legal documents, forcing them to spend time and money chasing down corrections or additional records.
- **Young people** are much less likely to have passports, and may not yet have secure access to their original birth documents, especially if they live away from home for school or work.
- **Seniors** may struggle to produce decades-old paperwork, especially if records were lost, damaged, or never digitized, leaving them disenfranchised late in life.
- **Voters of color** are more likely to encounter bureaucratic hurdles and discriminatory record-keeping practices that make retrieving documentation harder and slower.
- **Indigenous communities** often face unique barriers because many were historically denied proper birth registration, and tribal IDs may be excluded from the requirements.

- **Low-income Americans** may lack the money, transportation, or time off work to navigate government offices and pay fees required to obtain official copies of documents.

Together, these hurdles would strip millions of eligible citizens of their most basic democratic right -- the ability to cast a ballot.

[The EAC is accepting public comments until October 20, and your voice counts! Tell the EAC to reject the "show your papers" voter registration policy that will disqualify millions of eligible citizens from voting.](#)

This unnecessary rule "solves" a problem that does not exist. Non-citizen voting is virtually nonexistent. State investigations consistently show it is extremely rare, and existing safeguards already ensure that only eligible citizens can register and vote. The real purpose of this policy is not election integrity, but voter suppression: exploiting inequality to narrow the electorate.

At its core, this is about the kind of democracy we want. Do we want one that is inclusive, equal, and fair? Or one that entrenches inequality and punishes people simply because they cannot produce the right papers? "One person, one vote" only has meaning if every eligible citizen can cast that vote without unnecessary hurdles.

We must insist that the Commission live up to its mission: assisting eligible voters, expanding access, and strengthening democracy -- not silencing millions of legitimate voices.

[Submit your comment today: Tell the EAC to reject this discriminatory petition and defend equality at the ballot box.](#)

Thank you for protecting the right to vote for those who would be unjustly disenfranchised.
LeeAnn Hall, Director, National Campaign for Justice

Another reason the good records management, especially enrollment will become more critical. sdc

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## **Scott Cameron takes the reins as acting head of Reclamation**

“Scott Cameron will take over as acting head of the Bureau of Reclamation, shifting titles at the Interior Department while he maintains his role as the Trump administration’s lead official in negotiations over the future of the Colorado River. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum tapped Cameron for the role on Oct. 1, announcing the decision in a secretarial order that also updated other leadership roles recently confirmed by the Senate. The decision comes in the wake of President Donald Trump’s decision on Sept. 30 to withdraw his nomination of Ted Cooke, a former top official at the Central Arizona Project, to be Reclamation commissioner. ...” [Read more from E&E News](#) (sorry, subscription required).

### **89 years ago, the Hoover Dam began generating electricity for Los Angeles**

“Around this time, 89 years ago, the Hoover Dam began supplying electricity to the city of Los Angeles. Finished in 1935 and located along the Nevada and Arizona state lines, the concrete arch structure was hailed as the tallest dam in the world at its dedication. Present day, Hoover Dam remains the second-tallest dam in the country, holding back the waters of Lake Mead. Its hydroelectric power plant generates enough electricity for more than 1.3 million people, according to the United States Census Bureau. The dam does more than supply electricity. It also serves the vital role of providing flood control and water storage for irrigation and drinking water. ...” [Read more from KCRA.](#)

### **Advocates raise alarm over PFAS pollution from datacenters amid AI boom**

“Datacenters’ electricity demands have been accused of delaying the US’s transition to clean energy and requiring fossil fuel plants to stay online, while their high level of water consumption has also raised alarm. Now public health advocates fear another environmental problem could be linked to them – Pfas “forever chemical” pollution. Big tech companies like Google, Microsoft and Amazon often need datacenters to store servers and networking equipment that process the world’s digital traffic, and the artificial intelligence boom is driving demand for more facilities. Advocates are particularly concerned over the facilities’ use of Pfas gas, or f-gas, which can be potent greenhouse gases, and may mean datacenters’ climate impact is worse than previously thought. Other f-gases turn into a type of dangerous compound that is rapidly accumulating across the globe. ...” [Read more from The Guardian.](#)

### **‘All the trees are dead’: An ancient California forest has been wiped out**

Roughly 500 years ago in California’s High Sierra, pine cones dropped to the ground and a cycle began. The Aztec Empire was falling. The printing press was new. The seedlings grew.

Read in San Francisco Chronicle: <https://apple.news/A9JgzWiBAQc-Zha6Nfzm6GA>



**INDIAN COUNTRY’S NEWEST ATTORNEY** Congratulations to Makai Zuniga, the first Citizen of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to pass any state bar examination ever from the William S. Boyd School of Law, but now the very first to pass the Nevada Bar Exam from Boyd Law! This is a history-making moment for Makai, for RSIC, and for all of Indian Country. A win for one is truly a win for us all — let’s celebrate this massive accomplishment together!





**Dr. Peter Wilson (1761–1837), a member of the Cayuga Nation, was the First Native American graduate of Geneva Medical College. He went on to practice medicine, served as an interpreter and was a noted orator. He frequently spoke in front of the New York Historical Society about topics related to Native American issues. In 1866 he spoke in favor of universal suffrage, admonishing the members that Reconstruction was a good opportunity to extend the vote to all Americans.**

### FROM THE ARCHIVE



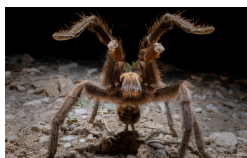
PHOTOGRAPH BY HIRAM BINGHAM, NAT GEO IMAGE COLLECTION

While searching for a lost Incan capital in 1911, American explorer Hiram Bingham was led to a mountaintop in the Urubamba valley of Peru. As rainforest turned into ruins, Bingham took early panoramic photos of Machu Picchu with a Kodak camera. He was not the first person to discover Machu Picchu—Peruvian farmers in the region had long visited the ruins—but he was likely the first to make a photographic record of the site. **Here are the photos he published in National Geographic more than a century ago.**

**White House asks nine colleges to agree to "compact" banning race and gender in admissions, freezing tuition, and capping international enrollment in exchange for federal funds ([More](#))**

### **> Mesopotamian Masterpiece**

**The Met | Staff.** The Met collaborated with the Iraqi government on a high-tech analysis of a 4,500-year-old animal figurine. The sculpture, which had been displayed at the Met for decades, was repatriated to Iraq this week. ([Watch](#))



### **It's tarantula mating season. This is the best place to watch.**

A town in southeastern Colorado celebrates all things tarantulas at its annual festival. First dreamt up in 2018, the two-day event attracts hundreds of scientists and tourists to observe the hairy creatures and to take part in public science talks, a parade, and more.

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2025/10/06/incarceration-to-college>

Stephen King tops list of banned authors [in US schools](#).

- **OCTOBER 9: Science on Tap: What Salmon are Teaching us about Dam Removal from 6pm to 9pm, Mt. Shasta.** Kick off autumn with us at Deadwood Shasta for an evening of science, community, and drinks! Discover the incredible story unfolding on the Klamath River following the largest dam removal project in U.S. history. Our awesome lineup of speakers is excited to chat about the Klamath with you from all angles, from cutting-edge research to traditional ecological knowledge and cultural perspectives to the latest in fish tracking technology and environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis. Learn how we are monitoring salmon runs in real time – allowing us to watch the impact of restoration unfold and inform future restoration efforts. Hosted by Cal Trout. Come for the science, stay for the conversation! [Click here for more information](#).

Up

### New report presents solutions for better Colorado River management

Conservation groups have released a [report](#) with nine recommendations to better manage the Colorado River's decline as Western states face a 2026 deadline to agree on new water-sharing rules. The Colorado River has lost nearly 20% of its natural flows over the past quarter century due to chronic overuse and droughts. If the current conditions continue, projections demonstrate the potential for another 20% decline loss in the coming decades.

Now the recent report, led by the Great Basin Water Network and other conservation partners, recommends collective action across the Colorado River states to prevent new dams and water diversions, reduce usage, improve data collection and enhance water recycling and agricultural practices, among others. The coalition points to Southern Nevada's successful conservation efforts as a model for other Colorado River states to follow. But as it stands today, negotiations have stalled as Upper Basin states (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico) and Lower Basin states (California, Arizona, Nevada) disagree over which region should reduce water use and by how much.

Read more with the latest from the Nevada Current's Jennifer Solis.

[Read more at nevadacurrent.com >>](#)



# **PABA TUKA**

## **TRADITIONAL FOOD FEAST**

**OCT 18**  
**4PM TO 6PM**

5895 Clean Water Way  
Reno, Nev. 89502



## [Museum Topics](#)

### [Market and Meaning](#)

Feature |

Member Login by Maeve R. Donnelly

Museums need new ways to deal with Indigenous art that sits at the crossroads of commerce and repatriation. Learn about the gaps in current practice in conceptualizing Indigenous art, and tips for improving the conceptualization of market objects.

### [Evolving Standards](#) [Point of View | Member Login](#)

by Melanie Deer, Angela Garcia-Lewis, Amanda Lancaster, Martin Schultz, and Reylynne Williams

Collections stewardship pros often learn the 10 Agents of Deterioration, which focus on long-term preservation. The authors propose that the museum field recognize an 11th agent of deterioration: Incorrect Cultural Care.

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During National 4-H Week, and throughout the month,

[@UNRExtension](#)

is encouraging youth and parents who may be interested in learning more about 4-H to get involved by attending a local 4-H activity or by reaching out to their local county 4-H office for more information. <https://bit.ly/48jx0gu>

Renewables overtake coal as electricity source

Renewable energy overtook coal as the world's leading source of electricity in the first half of this year, data shows.

[How it works >](#)



Aye-aye

Earth's largest nocturnal primates

This week Congress failed to pass a new budget or continuing resolution causing another government shutdown. During Trump's first term, the government shutdown lasted more than 30 days.

We could be looking at that happening again. **It could even be longer.**

Sadly, this isn't new and it doesn't just happen when Trump is in the White House. Year after year, sometimes even multiple times in the same year, Congress fights over a budget proposal and its priorities that without passage could cause a government shutdown.

This is exactly why we need a Congress which prioritizes human needs instead of tax cuts for the rich and corporations. But until we have that Congress, they need to pass "advance appropriations" for services provided under the **Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service**. Treaties, and the federal programs they provide, were paid for in advance when we traded millions of acres of land for these rights.

Now, a bipartisan group of senators and representatives led by Congresswoman **Betty McCollum** (D-Minn.), Co-Chair Emeritus of the Congressional Native American Caucus, along with House Appropriations Committee Chairman **Tom Cole** (R-Okla.), U.S. Senator **Ben Ray Lujan** (D-N.M.), and U.S. Senator **Markwayne Mullin** (R-Okla.), **have introduced the bipartisan *Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act*** to ensure the continuation of critical programs like Indian Health Facilities, Payments for Tribal Leases, Operation of Indian Education, Operation of Indian Programs, and more for 5 years at a time, instead of every year.

The Federal government already authorizes advance appropriations for other programs, like the Veterans Affairs (VA), to protect these critical federal commitments from funding lapses. This legislation would ensure obligations to Indian Country are treated the same way.

Passing this bill would be a game changer that not only stabilizes this critical funding, it would also significantly improve the U.S. government compliance with treaty responsibilities constitutionally guaranteed to Tribes.

The federal government is the single largest employer of Native people. This legislation enables Native workers to continue to serve their communities and support their families.

It would enable Congress to ensure timely and sustained funding for essential programs and services that are vital to the well-being and prosperity of Native communities.

The *Act* demonstrates a commitment to transparency and accountability, ultimately empowering our communities to thrive and its passage would be a significant step forward in fulfilling treaty responsibilities.

In fact, we've won this fight before.

In 2023, Congress provided the Indian Health Service with advance funding for the first time in annual appropriations bills, a historic achievement thanks to the tireless work of Tribal Nations and advocates (like us!) across the country.

[Please join us in pressuring Congress to pass the *Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act* now.](#)

Hawwih (*thank you* in Caddo), Judith LeBlanc (Caddo), Executive Director

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### **U.S. government takes ownership stake in Lithium Americas, Thacker Pass**

The Trump administration has agreed to release a previously-approved \$2.23 billion federal loan to Lithium Americas for its Thacker Pass mine, in exchange for a five percent stake in both the company and the project. The arrangement reflects the Trump administration's recent strategy of taking equity stakes in private companies that require federal support.

The deal marks the latest hurdle Lithium Americas has overcome to move the project forward. The developer has already survived lawsuits from tribes, environmental groups and a local rancher. But once operational, the mine is projected to generate over \$1 billion in annual economic activity and create more than 2,400 jobs - representing a key element to Nevada's economic diversification efforts.

Eric Neugeboren breaks down the details of the deal in his latest report for The Nevada Independent.

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

> **Department of Energy** takes 5% stake in Lithium Americas and its Nevada mining project, considered key to reducing US reliance on Chinese lithium for battery development ([More](#)) | **How much is lithium** demand projected to grow? ([1440 Topics](#))