

Journal #6133 from sdc 12.11.25

All the Races and Tribes in the world are like different flowers in one meadow
Protecting Tribal Waters and Sovereignty: Navigating the New WOTUS Proposed Rule
States push to end secrecy over data center water use
Environmental groups demand a nationwide freeze on data center construction
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2026 ART + ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT: UNDER PRESSURE
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Scholarships (E-R) with January 31 Deadline



**All the RACES AND TRIBES in the world
are like different colored flowers in one
meadow. All are beautiful. As children of
the Creator, they must all be respected.
Chief Spirit Hawk**

POWWOWS.COM

Protecting Tribal Waters and Sovereignty: Navigating the New WOTUS Proposed Rule

Description: The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are proposing to substantially reduce the scope of water bodies protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The impact on Tribal Nations will be immediate and, in some cases, potentially severe. Join the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) for a critical discussion on the proposed regulatory revisions to the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) definition. The resulting definition threatens to strip federal protection from streams and wetlands vital to Tribal reserved rights including hunting, fishing, and gathering by eliminating key jurisdictional standards. This webinar will provide Tribal leaders, legal counsel, and environmental staff with an analysis and commentary of the proposed rule, which attempts to codify the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*, and also answer questions about the proposed rule and offer ideas about how Tribal Nations can participate in the comment process and monitor the proposal moving forward.

If you missed this, you missed one of the best hours I've spent in a long time. . . The session was designed to help equip Tribal governments and stakeholders with the knowledge needed to submit effective, legally sound comments before the deadline.

- **The Proposed WOTUS Standard:** A legal and policy deep dive into the new interpretation of WOTUS, focusing on the narrow “relatively permanent” and “continuous surface connection” tests as well as term definitions were well covered. *Water rights contains many technical terms that require legal definitions.....which sometimes change and one must have them mastered when reviewing proposed law.*
- **Threat to Tribal Sovereignty and Reserved Rights:** How the shrinking federal jurisdiction shifts regulatory burden onto Tribal Nations and undermines the federal trust responsibility to protect waters necessary for Tribal reserved uses.
- **The Comment Strategy:** Guidance on drafting and submitting formal institutional comments that assert Tribal governmental authority and articulate the impact of the rule on environmental programs..

The importance of how to communicate with well thought-out statements was emphasized. The suggestion to also include “what has happened in the past that worked” as well as the need to comment so that one is on the record (creating an administrative record) should their community ever become involved in a water suit.

Kudos to Daniel Cordalis (narf.org) who facilitated the session with well prepared, on-point discussants:

- **Ken Norton**, Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe (Expert on Tribal Water Management)
- **Janette Brimmer**, Attorney, Earthjustice (Clean Water Act Expert) jbrimmer@earthjustice.org
- **Donna Downing**, National Association of Wetlands Managers (Technical and Policy Expert) (donna@nawm.org)

For a variety of reasons, the discussion was not recorded for distribution but there will be information forthcoming and each panalist is available /open to your questions/concerns.

Some helpful sites related:

[narf.org/headwaters-reort/tribal-water-field](https://www.narf.org/headwaters-reort/tribal-water-field) notes

<https://www.epa.wotus/updated-definition-water-united-states>

States push to end secrecy over data center water use

“States facing drought and dwindling groundwater supplies are seeking to pull back the curtain on water use at data centers, in a push for transparency that has scrambled traditional partisan alliances. Lawmakers from at least eight states this year introduced legislation to require data centers to report their water use, which supporters say is crucial to protecting consumers and managing a finite resource. Driven by concerns about artificial intelligence’s environmental footprint, the effort is generating support — and skepticism — from both sides of the aisle. In New Jersey and California, bills requiring data center water use reporting passed both legislative chambers but were vetoed by Democratic governors. In Virginia, a bill authorizing local governments to evaluate data center noise, water and land-use impacts was vetoed by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

Environmental groups demand a nationwide freeze on data center construction

“More than 200 environmental organizations signed a letter to Congress supporting a national moratorium on the approval and construction of new data centers. The letter, sent Monday, highlights these centers’ impacts on water resources, electricity rates and greenhouse gas emissions. Data centers often suck up large amounts of water to cool their computers. They require a lot of electricity to run their servers, often leading to higher regional utility rates and upgrades to the electricity grid to accommodate them. Some utilities are planning to build natural gas plants to serve the new load, while some data-center companies are even building their own plants, increasing local greenhouse gas emissions. It is near-impossible to paint a complete picture of the energy and water use of data centers, and the corresponding climate impacts, given the limited data that companies provide. A November study in the journal Nature Sustainability predicted that, depending on the speed of expansion, the artificial intelligence industry could emit as much carbon dioxide each year as 10 million cars, Inside Climate News reported. ... ” [Read more from Inside Climate News](#).

President Trump announced a \$12B aid package for American farmers on Monday
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 has been terrible for the US agricultural sector, with low crop prices after record harvests and higher costs causing bankruptcies to jump about 60 %. The pressure worsened when Trump’s tariffs on China led Beijing to stop buying US soybeans, removing the beans’ biggest buyer• The aid package includes \$11B in one-time payments through the Farmer Bridge Assistance program for crop farmers, with the remaining \$1B designated for other commodities. The program is available to farmers whose average adjusted gross income fell below \$900,000 during 2022-2024

Pricey but includes some of our favorite people: <https://www.nevadaart.org/2026summit/>

2026 ART + ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT: UNDER PRESSURE

Can't we give ourselves one more chance? Why can't we give love that one more chance? This is our last dance. This is ourselves. Under pressure.

— As sung by David Bowie and Freddie Mercury

How do we consider the future of life on this planet in a present that appears increasingly unstable and fleeting? How do we move [into a time horizon](#) that sustains all life forms, is regenerative, and protects future generations? The pressure of our current moment seems ubiquitous: pressure on the environment, pressure on life forms of all kinds, pressure on nations and cultures, pressure on infrastructure and economies, pressure on space and time.

Highlighting commissioned proposals generated by artists, designers, writers, and visionaries of all kinds, the Summit will explore many interrelated spheres of interest: the vitality of animal and arboreal life; the preservation of natural ecologies; the impacts of the Anthropocene; eco-feminist legacies, and honoring the Indigenous wisdoms that have, for millennia, protected and sustained the planet.

During our three-day spring gathering in Reno, Nevada we will envision sustainable and resilient horizons together. An abundance of life-sustaining options is within reach. We can imagine and implement them together.

PRESENTERS

- Kai Anderson Makeda Best Andrea Bowers Johanna Burton Carolina Caycedo
- Brittany Nicole Cox Sudeep Chandra Apsara DiQuinzio Ginger Dunnill
- Herman Fillmore William L. Fox LaToya Ruby Frazier Jeffrey Gibson
- Kathy Jetñil-Kijner Jonathon Keats Dr. Bernie Krause Land Art Generator Initiative
- Rebecca Lendl Margaret Levi Judith Lowry Cannupa Hanska Luger Jack Malotte
- Haley Mellin Stacey Montooth Maia Nuku Madison Olandt Laura Ortman
- Katie Paterson Eric-Paul Riege Colin M. Robertson Kim Stanley Robinson
- Rose B. Simpson Delaine Spilsbury Clarissa Tossin Oscar Tuazon David B. Walker
- Ann M. Wolfe Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

April 17 10:25 am **Herman Fillmore: Waš́-šiw Tribal Welcome and Introduction**

Waš́-šiw cultural leader and language preservationist Herman Fillmore and Tribal members open the Summit with an introduction grounded in Waš́-šiw knowledge, centering the wisdom of place and the responsibility of environmental stewardship.

10:25 am April 18 **Indigenous Art Futures**

Moderator Jeffrey Gibson (Mississippi Choctaw/Cherokee) guides a discussion among Indigenous artists Judith Lowry (Mountain Maidu/Pit River/Washoe), Jack Malotte (Western

Shoshone/Washoe), and Lawrence Paul Yukwulpton (Tsartlip/Syilx First Nations) about imagining Indigenous futures through art, culture, and resilience. Introduced by Ann M. Wolfe.

11:30 am April 18 **Cannupa Hanska Luger: Proposal for the Future**

Cannupa Hanska Luger (Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara/Lakota) presents his poem that powerfully intertwines ideas about Indigenous identity with environmental stewardship, sustainability, and self-determination.

1:30 pm April 18 **Madison Olandt: “Once Upon a Time in the West”**

Commissioned by the Museum, Madison Olandt's evocative choreography and original dance performance to the song “Once Upon a Time in the West” embodies the tension and possibility at the intersection of art, environment, and human imagination.

1:40 pm April 18 **Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner: Anointed**

Poet and climate activist Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner shares work that channels urgent climate realities in the Marshall Islands and the power of language to inspire action.

2:15 pm April 18 **Maia Nuku: A Protocol for Living**

Curator Maia Nuku highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists whose work imparts vital Indigenous wisdom and supports sustainable futures for the land, seas, and communities that depend on them.

The above are only a few examples of the program; do check out the entire list of offerings.



Zig Jackson
Indian Man at Kennecott Copper Mines, Tooele, Utah
2004/printed 2020

This arrived with a rather short timeline. Although readers may think it not for them, the time is right for indigenous ideas and practices to be promoted and the fine veracity of many tribal individuals to make the current world a better place. So put on your creative hats and go for it! (or think about how to approach next year).

Final Deadline: December 12

Fast Company's World Changing Ideas Awards honor products, concepts, companies, and policies that are designed to make the world safer, cleaner, more sustainable, and more equitable.

For this contest, now in its ninth year, we're looking for creative, surprising projects that have launched in the past year and are committed to tackling the most pressing issues of our time. Entries will be judged by a group of *Fast Company* editors and reporters on their impact, sustainability, design, creativity, and scalability.

In an effort to recognize even more worthy ideas, we'll be naming hundreds of winners, finalists and honorable mentions to the 2026 list. We'll be considering every application and creating a list of the most compelling entries—along with a few categories offering chances for additional recognition for companies excelling in specific locations, sectors, and years in business.

You can read about 2025's winners and finalists [here](#). Discover our full evaluation methodology and learn more about the application process, pricing, and FAQs [here](#).

WHY APPLY



Brand Exposure

Be seen and evaluated by Fast Company editors and reporters



Opportunities

Potential speaking engagements at Fast Company events and exclusive invitations to influencer-only programs



Credibility

Gain the Fast Company stamp of approval for creating groundbreaking innovations



Break News

Tell your organization's story for the first time; highlight the success of teams within your organization—or partners who have helped with your success



Visibility

Appear in the Summer 2026 issue of Fast Company and on [fastcompany.com](https://www.fastcompany.com)

ELIGIBILITY

Entries must have been launched or seen a significant product update in 2025 (we offer some wiggle room if the launch was during the entry period for last year's awards).

Entries should demonstrate an ability to improve society, and will be judged based on their impact, sustainability, innovation, creativity, and scalability.

Every entry will be read by *Fast Company* editors and reporters; select honorees will appear in the Summer 2026 issue of *Fast Company* magazine. All winners and honorees will be featured on [fastcompany.com](https://www.fastcompany.com).

CATEGORIES - World Changing Ideas Main List

All applicants must first apply to the prestigious World Changing Ideas main list—celebrating hundreds of companies for standout ideas over the past 12 months. Then, boost your chances for recognition by adding any of our exclusive award categories, with multiple winners honored in each.

AI and Tech Solutions

Artificial intelligence, scientific or technological advancements that have the potential to improve our quality of life, make materials more sustainable, or reinvent products for the better. This can include everything from AI and data to apps and software to industry-specific technology that helps improve a certain corner of the world.

Academic Excellence

Projects in any category that are designed to make a difference, created by undergraduate or graduate students, faculty, research labs, or any other world-changing idea that is affiliated with

an academic institution.

Social Equity and Accessibility

Projects, products, or services that help advance the cause of civil rights for marginalized people or groups, or generally make the world more accessible. This can include everything from corporate social responsibility and social justice to healthcare and education to politics and policy initiatives.

Consumer Products and Services

Offerings that help people live a more purposeful life or have the potential to provide a new way of thinking about how we consume.

Visionaries of the Year

Leaders at any level of a company who helped create a product, service, new business model, or policy that improved sustainability, equity, and/or accessibility, and generally made the world a better place for its customers.

Business Products and Services

Creative B2B offerings that make systems more equitable, sustainable, or accessible.

Best World Changing Idea Asia-Pacific

The best ideas serving or headquartered in the Asia-Pacific region

Best World Changing Idea Latin America

The best ideas serving or headquartered in Latin America

Best World Changing Idea Europe, Middle East, and Africa

The best ideas serving or headquartered in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa

Best World Changing Idea North America

The best ideas serving or headquartered in North America

On the Rise: 0–4 Years in Business

Projects from companies that have been in business for less than 4 years

Enduring Impact: 15+ Years in Business

Projects from companies that have been in business more than 15 years

Established Excellence: 5–14 Years in Business

Projects from companies that have been in business between 5 and 14 years

Final Deadline: December 12

The Well Watchers

There are millions of abandoned oil wells across the United States. A group of unlikely activists in Texas is making sure no one forgets they need to be cleaned up.

[Molly Taft January+February 2026 Issue](#)

Building the Workforce for the Golden Age: A Conversation with Federal Leaders

Dec 17, 2025 | 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM PT

Join us for a conversation with leaders from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) on [**America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age**](#), a comprehensive plan to transform the nation's workforce development system that meets the demands of a rapidly changing economy.

Moderator

Kim Vitelli, Administrator, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) /Office of Workforce Investment

Presenter(s)

Lori Frazier Bearden, Acting Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

Kimberly M. Richey, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Nicholas J. Moore, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE)

Presenters will share the Administration's workforce system priorities, emphasizing the need for an industry-driven approach to workforce development while enhancing mobility for workers, integrating workforce programs, and ensuring accountability. As states work to develop two-year modifications to their WIOA State Plans, this webinar will highlight opportunities for greater alignment across core and partner programs, including Perkins V Career and Technical Education programs, and share strategies that foster flexibility and innovation.

Materials

[Employment and Training Administration | U.S. Department of Labor](#)

[America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age | U.S. Department of Labor](#)

[TEGL No 05-25: Maximizing Innovation in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs | U.S. Department of Labor](#)

<https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2025/12/03/17/33/Building-the-Workforce-for-the-Golden-Age-A-Conversation-with-Federal-Leaders>

Scholarships (E-R) with January 31 Deadline

Enid Hall Griswold Memorial Scholarship	\$5,000	January 31, 2026
EPP/MSI Undergraduate Scholarship Program	\$45,000	January 31, 2026
eQuality Scholarships	\$6,000	January 31, 2026
Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship	\$40,000	January 31, 2026
Fair Chance Scholarship	\$3,000	January 31, 2026
Fair Chance Trade School Scholarship	\$3,000	January 31, 2026
Florida Retired Educators Foundation Scholarship	\$4,000	January 31, 2026
Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship	\$3,500	January 31, 2026
Harry Hampton Fund Scholarship	\$20,000	January 31, 2026
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Go Texan Scholarship	\$20,000	January 31, 2026
ICAFS Douglas J. Megargle Memorial Scholarship	\$2,500	January 31, 2026
ICAFS High School Scholarship	\$750	January 31, 2026
ICAFS Student Training Opportunity and Project (TOP) Grant	\$1,000	January 31, 2026
ICAFS Susan B. Martin Scholarship	\$2,500	January 31, 2026
ICAFS Undergraduate Student Scholarship	\$1,500	January 31, 2026
Incline Friends Scholarship Program	\$2,768	January 31, 2026
InspirASIAN Scholarship Program	\$2,000	January 31, 2026
Irene and Daisy MacGregor Memorial Scholarship	Varies	January 31, 2026
IWEA Clean Water Scholarship	\$1,000	January 31, 2026
IWEA Environmental Career Scholarship	\$500	January 31, 2026
Keep Iowa Beautiful Scholarships	\$1,000	January 31, 2026
Kent and Carolyn Hojem Music Scholarship	\$4,000	January 31, 2026
LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Scholarship	\$1,000	January 31, 2026
Leslie Andree Hanna Medical Scholarship	\$5,000	January 31, 2026
Licensing International's Scholarship Program	\$10,000	January 31, 2026
Lillian and Arthur Dunn Scholarship	\$20,000	January 31, 2026
Lisa Kaminski Memorial Scholarship	\$3,000	January 31, 2026
LPGA Chevron Changing the Face of Golf Scholarship	\$10,000	January 31, 2026
LPGA Chevron Dinah Shore Scholarship	\$10,000	January 31, 2026
LPGA Marilynn Smith Scholarship	\$5,000	January 31, 2026
LPGA Phyllis G. Meekins Scholarship	\$5,000	January 31, 2026
LPGA Renee Powell Scholarship	\$5,000	January 31, 2026

<u>Madeline Pickett Cogswell Nursing Scholarship</u>	\$2,500	January 31, 2026
<u>Margaret Howard Hamilton Scholarship</u>	\$4,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Mary Elizabeth Lockwood Beneventi MBA Scholarship</u>	\$2,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Material Handling Education Foundation, Inc. Scholarship</u>	\$6,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Matthew Tobin Cappetta Archaeological Scholarship</u>	\$2,500	January 31, 2026
<u>Michael T. and Mary L. Cloyd Scholarship</u>	\$3,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Michigan Council of Women in Technology Scholarship</u>	\$4,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Mildred Nutting Nursing Scholarship</u>	\$2,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Minority Natural Resource Scholarship</u>	\$1,000	January 31, 2026
<u>NAMIC Mutual Insurance Foundation Scholarship Program</u>	\$5,000	January 31, 2026
<u>National Eagle Scout Association Merit Scholarships</u>	\$48,000	January 31, 2026
<u>NEHA/AAS Scholarship</u>	\$3,750	January 31, 2026
<u>Nellie Love Butcher Music Scholarship</u>	\$20,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship</u>	\$40,000	January 31, 2026
<u>NROTC National Scholarship</u>	Full-Tuition	January 31, 2026
<u>NROTC Navy Nurse Program Option</u>	Full-Tuition	January 31, 2026
<u>Ohio Township Association Scholarship</u>	\$1,500	January 31, 2026
<u>Pacific Gas & Electric Company PrideNetwork ERG Scholarship</u>	\$6,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program</u>	\$5,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Posse Foundation Scholarship</u>	Full-Tuition	January 31, 2026
<u>Posse Veterans Program Full-Tuition Scholarship</u>	Full-Tuition	January 31, 2026
<u>PRSA Chicago Michelle Flowers Diversity Fellowship Program</u>	\$2,500	January 31, 2026
<u>Quaker Foundation Scholarships</u>	\$10,000	January 31, 2026
<u>Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Scholars Program</u>	\$10,000	January 31, 2026
<u>RTCA William E. Jackson Award</u>	\$5,000	January 31, 2026