

## **Journal #6137      from sdc      12.17.25**

### **Mammals**

***NCAI Exective Council Winter Session/NCAI Youth Leadership Summit at Same Time***

***Coalition for Triba Soverieghty Letters***

***A Tribal Plan to Design Immigration Detention Centers Angers Many Native Americans***

***RFP: proposals for the operation of the Indian Art and Craft Shop located at the U.S. DOI in DC GrantStation***

***Amid Colorado River 'impasse,' tense meeting comes to Las Vegas***

***Tribes say they've been left out of Colorado River talks, want a say in any final deal***

***As states draw Colorado River water, what's left for the river?***

***Even an average snowpack this year could spell trouble for Lake Powell***

***Trout Unlimited's resident river doctor on finding a prognosis for the Colorado***

***Commentary: Agreement on reduced diversion of Colorado River water proving elusive***

***Proposed update to definition of WOTUS: Will federally regulated wetlands continue to shrink?***

***Federal agencies move to return the Endangered Species Act to 2019 interpretation***

***DOE using its own land to help pair AI centers, nuclear reactors***

***From electric typewriters to AI, constituent engagement has changed***

***Far more Americans want to live in the past **than in the future*****

***Nevada's top water regulator abruptly leaves office***

***Federal judge says he's inclined to deny preservationists' request to halt Trump's ballroom project***

***New Head of BLM***

***Deforesting Colorado***

***Statement from US Rep Melanie Stansbury***

***Could You Pass a School Exam From the 1800s?***

***House passes H.R. 2400, the Pit River Land Transfer Act***

***Advice from Tulalip Tribe***



### **MAMMALS**

**FIRST PLACE National Wildlife Federation 2025 Photo contest**

**[Sveinsson](#) of Estes Park, Colorado, calls this photo one of her favorites from the [Grand Tetons](#). “It looks like a movie poster,” she says, making it worth some discomfort. When she saw the bull [moose](#) headed for a channel after hours of waiting, “I squatted as low as I could get in the cold, muddy water. My socks, pants and coat got completely soaked with that smelly mud.”**

## Registration for NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session (ECWS) is Opening Soon!

NCAI's ECWS is the annual meeting of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council, one of NCAI's three main governing bodies. This meeting presents an opportunity for Tribal delegates to hear from members of Congress and the Administration and helps to further the government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations and the federal government.

NCAI's upcoming ECWS will be happening in Washington, D.C., on February 9-12, 2026. Information on registration, hotel room block bookings, and more will be made available next week.

**Save the Date for the Native Youth Leadership Summit: February 9-12, 2026**

**The NCAI Youth Commission will host the Native Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., during the 2026 NCAI Executive Council Winter Session on February 9–12, 2026.** Open to Native youth ages 14–24, the Summit offers an immersive, hands-on leadership and advocacy training experience. More details on the Summit will be made available soon.

**NCAI Contact:** [Alison Black](#), Youth Leadership & Training Coordinator



**CTS Resources, Recent Letters, and Statements**

The Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS), a coalition of national Native advocacy organizations, including NCAI, has sent a series of letters to federal officials to educate and urge them to protect legally mandated Tribal programs from harm while implementing policy priorities.

Some recent letters and statements include:

- Joint Letter to the Department of the Interior [Re: [Continuing the Department of the Interior’s Leadership on Implementation of the Tribal 477 Program](#)] – November 4, 2025
- Joint Letter to the Office of Management and Budget [Re: [Request for OMB Exemption for Federal Employees Serving Tribal Nations in the Event of a Government Shutdown](#)] – September 29, 2025
- Request for OMB Exemption Letter Attachment: [List of Funded Accounts With Tribal Implications](#) – September 29, 2025

[Visit the Coalition Website](#)

[Read the Letters](#)

## A Tribal Plan to Design Immigration Detention Centers Angers Many Native Americans

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<https://www.rsn.org/001/a-tribal-plan-to-design-immigration-detention-centers-angers-many-native-americans.html>

and this one:

<https://substack.com/@ikrakov/note/c-188572450?r=5z4zi5>

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**The Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Central Office has published a Special Notice requesting proposals for the operation of the Indian Art and Craft Shop located at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.** This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks a qualified operator to manage the retail concession on a 5-year initial term with potential for a 5-year renewal. The shop occupies approximately 600-650 square feet and includes a retail area, courtyard, and two storage rooms dedicated to the sale of authentic Indian arts and crafts. The opportunity was posted on December 4, 2025, and represents a civilian agency initiative under the NAICS category of Independent Artists, Writers, and Performers.

The primary objective of this concession contract is to establish a retail operation that promotes and sells authentic Native American arts and crafts while advancing cultural education and supporting Indian artisans and economic development. Proposals must be submitted by January 15, 2026, at 2:00 PM EST, with questions accepted until December 18, 2025. All offerors must demonstrate strict compliance with the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, maintain zero tolerance for discrimination, and maintain independent financial viability without franchise fees or revenue-sharing payments to the government. The RFP evaluation will be based on five equally weighted factors: commitment to authenticity and compliance, support for Indian artisans and economic development, operational and management capability, marketing and outreach strategy, and financial capability. While no formal set-aside is designated, the contract award will favor Indian-owned businesses, with the award ultimately going to the highest-rated responsible offeror.

## GrantStation

### National:

#### **Foundation Invests in Local Solutions to Poverty**

The Journey For Good Foundation strengthens North American communities by addressing the root causes of poverty.

#### **Strengthening Sustainable Forests and Rural Communities**

The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation's Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative supports efforts that strengthen the environmental, economic, and social well-being of forest-based communities in the U.S.

#### **Grants to Deliver Youth Conflict Prevention Programs**

The JAMS Foundation/ACR Initiative for Students and Youth funds programs that teach conflict resolution skills to K-12 students and the adults who support them.

#### **Funds Improve Healthcare Delivery and Patient Care**

The COPIC Medical Foundation supports nonprofits working to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors.

### Regional

#### **Bringing New England Documentaries to Life**

LEF New England's Moving Image Fund supports early development, production, and post-production of long-format documentary films by independent artists in the region.

#### **Grants Strengthen Breast Cancer Services Across Bay Area Counties**

The To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation supports nonprofits that deliver direct, emergency, and navigational services for people facing breast cancer.

#### **Support for STEM and Career Education Programs in Oregon**

The PGE Foundation funds nonprofits that provide hands-on learning experiences and curricula connecting students to careers or higher education pathways.

#### **Empowering Communities Through Health, Art, and Education**

The Goddard Foundation prioritizes organizations in Southern Oklahoma that empower individuals of all ages through health, art, and education.

### Federal

#### **Advancing Undergraduate STEM Education Across the U.S.**

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funds projects that improve undergraduate STEM education.

#### **Government Policy Update**

GrantStation is closely monitoring federal actions and their impact on the nonprofit sector. **[This article tracks ongoing developments](#)**, providing links to source materials.

## Amid Colorado River ‘impasse,’ tense meeting comes to Las Vegas



**“It’s down to the wire for officials to deliver a seven-state agreement to stabilize Lake Mead over the next 20 years. That’s why water managers are eager to attend this year’s annual policy gathering in Las Vegas. Federal and state officials, professors, nonprofit leaders and environmentalists will gather on the Strip this week for the Colorado River Water Users Association conference at Caesars Palace. It’s the largest meeting in the Colorado River world, happening as time runs out for seven states to agree on how to manage a shrinking river. The 2007 guidelines for how the river is shared will expire at the end of next year. “We’re really at a hydrologic precipice,” said Sarah Porter, director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University. “And we’re at this impasse with very little idea about what the future holds. The volume needs to be turned up.” ... ” [Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal.](#)**

**SEE ALSO:** [Tribes among water users trekking to Las Vegas for annual Colorado River conference](#), from KJZZ

### **Tribes say they’ve been left out of Colorado River talks, want a say in any final deal**

“For three days next week, water leaders from across the Colorado River Basin will gather in Las Vegas to talk about water and the looming failure of the seven basin states to work out differences on a plan to manage the river through drought. Tribal leaders and water protectors will arrive with their own goals and a clear message for delegates to the Colorado River Water Users Association conference. They’re worried about not being at the negotiating table despite holding about 20% of the Colorado’s senior water rights. They want to see a more holistic approach to river management as the Southwest’s long-term drought threatens to permanently impact the Colorado’s flow. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star.](#)

### **As states draw Colorado River water, what’s left for the river?**

“The rusty observation tower at the edge of this wastewater-fed marsh offers an osprey-eye view of two possible futures for the parched and overworked Colorado River. To one side, the marsh spreads across more than 20 square miles of pools and islands choked with cattails and

phragmites, convoys of pelicans descending and splashing down for a rest on their journey south from the Great Salt Lake or other western waters. Dragonflies hover below, while a fish hawk circles above, scanning the open water between the reeds. This is a vision of a future in which partners across the Western United States and Mexico save enough water that they can spare some for nature, even if it means irrigating it with the salty dregs. On the tower's other side, boundless flats of sand and cracked mud spread to the horizon across what was, prior to the river's damming a century ago, one of Earth's great green estuaries. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central](#).

### **Even an average snowpack this year could spell trouble for Lake Powell**

“Snow season is off to a rough start for Utah and its neighbors. Most of the West is in a snow drought, with so little white stuff covering the ground that the region hit a 25-year low. If the trend continues, it could be a recipe for disaster for the Colorado River and its reservoirs. That includes the nation's two largest, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, which prop up a system that provides water to communities on the Wasatch Front and tens of millions of other Americans across the West. A new report from more than a dozen Colorado River experts projects that even near-average snowpack this winter could send the two reservoirs to record lows in 2026. “At the end of next summer, that amount would be lower than the storage has been since Powell and Mead initially filled,” said report co-author Jack Schmidt, director of the Center for Colorado River Studies at Utah State University. “So, we would be in unprecedented territory.” ... ” [Read more from KUER](#).

### **Trout Unlimited's resident river doctor on finding a prognosis for the Colorado**

“Meet TU's resident river doctor, Sara Porterfield. With a PhD in the transnational history of the Colorado River Basin and a background as a rafting guide with the Colorado Outward Bound School, Sara brings a unique perspective to both the high-level policy discussions happening about the future of this watershed and the impacts of the historically low water levels on communities across the Basin's seven states. Technically known as Dr. Sara Porterfield, Colorado River Program Director & Western Water Policy Advisor at TU, she quips at the notion of formality before jumping into the importance of her favorite river. “I don't even go by doctor, let alone my title,” joked Porterfield. “Just call me, Sara. There are more important things happening on the Colorado River.” ... ” [Read more from Trout Unlimited](#).

### **Commentary: Agreement on reduced diversion of Colorado River water proving elusive**

Mike Gardner, A Riverside resident and board member of the Western Municipal Water District, writes, “Under the 1922 Colorado River Compact about 16 million acre feet of water are allowed to be diverted from the Colorado River each year by seven US states, numerous Native American Tribal Nations, and the country of Mexico. However, since 2000 the average annual flow in the river is only about 12 million acre feet. Dealing with this roughly four million acre feet deficit has been the subject of discussion amongst the parties and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), which manages the Colorado River. The existing agreement is set to expire at the end of 2026 and the USBR has indicated it will allocate water diversion rights as it thinks best if the parties cannot agree on a plan. The parties have been working on a deal for several years but announced in November of this year, that they have not reached agreement on a

basic framework, let alone a detailed agreement. This misses a key milestone in the timetable USBR has established for resolving the issue. ... ” [Read more from the Raincross Gazette.](#)

**Proposed update to definition of WOTUS: Will federally regulated wetlands continue to shrink?**

“Like the waters it is meant to protect, the definition of WOTUS has been fluid from 1972 to now, including the effects of the 2023 Sackett vs. EPA Supreme Court decision (Sackett) and the recent Memo to the Field “Proper Implementation of ‘Continuous Surface Connection’”. Despite frequent regulation changes and court cases, WOTUS issues persist. To address these issues, the current administration’s 2025 proposed WOTUS rule (Updated Definition of “Waters of the United States” or Proposed Rule) seeks to establish a clear, durable, common-sense definition of “waters of the United States,”; cut red tape and provide predictability, consistency, clarity, and regulatory certainty; and incorporate terms that are easily understood in ordinary parlance and should be implementable by both ordinary citizens and trained professionals. ... ” [Read more from ESA.](#)

**Federal agencies move to return the Endangered Species Act to 2019 interpretation**

“On November 19, 2025, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced four proposed rules (2025 Proposed Rules) that would change how the agency interprets and implements pivotal sections of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) jointly proposed two of the rules with FWS (collectively, the Services). The Services are accepting public comment on the 2025 Proposed Rules through December 22, 2025. The 2025 Proposed Rules build on other Trump administration actions discussed in this Latham [blog post](#) and would (1) narrow the protections for newly listed plants and wildlife, (2) alter the approach to considering factors for listing a species as threatened or endangered and designating critical habitat for listed species, (3) clarify the procedure for excluding areas from a listed species’ critical habitat, and (4) reinstate the 2019 interagency consultation framework. ... ” [Read more from Latham Watkins.](#)

**DOE using its own land to help pair AI centers, nuclear reactors**

The Energy Department wants to build nuclear-powered artificial intelligence data centers on federal land using new public-private partnerships. Co-locating advanced nuclear reactors with data centers on DOE sites is part of the Trump administration’s bid to accelerate the development of both technologies, sources say. [Read more...](#)

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<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/dec/16/great-lakes-us-data-centers>  
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**From electric typewriters to AI, constituent engagement has changed**

OPINION — When I started as an intern on Capitol Hill in the summer of 1983, I plopped down on an uncomfortable chair in an office in the Rayburn House Office Building, shared a work desk with two other interns, and was shown my primary tool for the semester: an IBM Selectric typewriter.

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**Far more Americans want to live in the past [than in the future.](#)**

[Nevada's top water regulator abruptly leaves office](#)

[December 16, 2025](#)



[Nevada State Engineer Adam Sullivan departs from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Chris Thorson named acting administrator for Division of Water Resources. Read more...](#)

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[Federal judge says he's inclined to deny preservationists' request to halt Trump's ballroom project](#)

**New Head of BLM**

[https://open.substack.com/pub/morethanjustparks/p/a-nightmare-at-the-blm?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=android&r=5z4zi5](https://open.substack.com/pub/morethanjustparks/p/a-nightmare-at-the-blm?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=5z4zi5)

**Deforesting Colorado**

<https://substack.com/@ourpubliclandspodcast/note/c-187791756?r=5z4zi5>

**[Rep. Melanie Stansbury](#) :**

ICYMI: The GOP is trying to pass Permitting Reform legislation that would gut protections for Tribes and communities to oppose strip mining and oil and gas drilling on sacred and public lands.

Now they're using Oak Flat—the sacred lands of multiple Apache Tribal Nations—as the example??? Oh HELL NO!

These lands have been protected by Tribal treaty rights since the 19th Century, and now they're trying to “level the playing field” for foreign mining companies. How is this America First? We are not here to play.

## **Could You Pass a School Exam From the 1800s?      Author Bess Lovejoy**

**Love it?79**

Tests are rarely enjoyable, but imagine taking one in the late 1800s, long before multiple-choice options or standardized curricula. Back then, school exams could be long, demanding, and startlingly wide-ranging. You might be asked to diagram sentences, explain the circulation of the blood, name the capitals of ancient empires, or sketch a map — all before lunch.

One window into this world is [\*The New Common School Question Book\*](#), compiled by Wisconsin superintendent Asa H. Craig. Published in 1899 with earlier versions dating back to 1872, this question book was used by candidates preparing for teacher exams, teachers writing tests for students, and common school (public school) students of various ages — common school was generally grades 1 through 8 — studying for those tests.

The book's thousands of questions, which are available in the [Library of Congress archive](#), span a dizzying list of subjects — U.S. history, geography, English grammar, letter writing, written arithmetic, bookkeeping, drawing, inventions, government, physiology, and more.

The result is a vivid snapshot of what 19th-century Americans considered essential knowledge. Some questions still feel familiar, while others reflect a considerably different world.

So, could you pass a school exam from the 1800s? Let's find out. *Note: The questions and answers below are verbatim and may reflect the knowledge or biases of the time.*

**Q. Which of the states border on Canada?**

**Q. How great is the earth's annual motion?**

**Q. What is essential in every syllable?**

**Q. Which are the five largest islands in the world?**

**Q. What do the words per cent mean?**

**Q. What nations explored the country now known as the United States?**

**Q. What state is the geographical center of the United States?**

**Q. What is the meaning of "sargasso"?**

**Q. What part of North America is in the same latitude as England and Ireland?**

**Q. How are the teeth set in the jaw?**

**Q. How and by whom was alcohol discovered?**

**Q. Define a fibre.**

**Q. Where and when was the first white child of English parents born in America? What was her name?**

**Q. Who said “I would rather be right than President” and why did he say it?**

**Q. What is the area of a circle whose diameter is 1 foot 1 inch?**

**Q. How are parts of Western Texas occupied?**

**Q. What became of [John Wilkes] Booth’s accomplices?**

**Q. What is an impersonal verb?**

**Q. Name five of the principal articles exported by the people of the United States.**

**Q. The time since noon is  $\frac{7}{17}$  of the time to 4 o’clock p.m.; what is the time?**

**Q. What law is impressed on all animal beings?**

**Q. What is a standard unit?**

**Q. If 3 gallons of brandy, at \$3 a gallon, and 5 quarts of alcohol, at 40 cents a gallon, be mixed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of water, for what must the mixture be sold a gallon to gain 37%?**

**Q. What can be said of the fisheries of the Columbia River?**

**Q. What is the aim of drawing?**

**Q. What are the wastes of Patagonia?**

**Q. To whom does the honor of having first established religious freedom in America belong?**

**Q. What great calamity visited the people of America in August 1793?**

**Q. Why should care be banished from the table?**

**Q. A boy [was] hired to a mechanic for 20 weeks on condition that he should receive \$20 and a coat. At the end of 12 weeks the boy quit work, when it was found that he was entitled to \$9 and the coat; what was the value of the coat?**

*Send me your answers; will publish answers next week! sdc*

**[Rep. Doug LaMalfa](#)**

Yesterday, the **House passed my bill, H.R. 2400, the Pit River Land Transfer Act**. The bill returns approximately 580 acres of federally owned land known locally as the “Four Corners” to the Pit River Tribe. For decades, the Pit River Tribe has pursued every legal and administrative avenue to acquire this land, facing endless bureaucratic delays. Transferring Four Corners to them will allow the tribe to build an interpretive center, educate the public on their history, and honor their ancestral past. I was pleased to see the House pass this legislation as a step towards strengthening stewardship, land management, and tribal self-determination.

**Statement from the  
Tulalip Tribes on ICE Actions**



**Tulalip is a sovereign nation. ICE has no authority over the Tulalip Tribes or our members.**

*While we have no credible reports of ICE presence on the Tulalip Reservation, we prioritize the safety of our members and will defend their rights.*

**Guidance for Interacting with ICE**

- **Carry Identification:** Always have your Tulalip Tribal ID and another form of ID.
- **Stay Calm:** If approached by ICE, remain calm, present your ID, and identify yourself as a Tulalip tribal member and U.S. citizen.
- **Do Not Open Your Door:** Unless ICE has a court-signed warrant, you can deny them entry. State, “I do not consent to you entering or conducting a search.”
- **Request Identification:** Ask to see the ICE agent's ID or badge.
- **If Detained:** State, “I am exercising my right to remain silent, I want to speak with an attorney.”
- **Document the Encounter:** Record interactions if possible and note important details.
- **Do Not Sign Anything:** Do not sign any documents from ICE.
- **Contact the Tribes:** Notify the Tulalip Tribes Office of Reservation Attorney if detained or contacted by ICE.

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*The Tulalip Tribes will assist in securing legal counsel and defend the rights of all members against ICE actions.*