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Newswire

Volume 7**August 2026****18th Edition**

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Dear Relatives,

The summer vacation season is coming to an end across the U.S. The summer season felt shorter, or maybe it was the wildfires, storms, and natural disasters taking place across Mother Earth that distracted or prevented us from enjoying it. Such intense heat scorched gardens and forests across the land, bringing hardship for many.

As summer winds down, kids are going back to school and starting or continuing academic schedules.

Returning to school reminds us of the dark history of Indian boarding schools when, by federal policy, Native American children as young as three years old were taken from their families and housed in dormitories of church-run boarding schools, sometimes hundreds of miles away. Operating under a philosophy of “kill the Indian, save the man,” the system used religion and military discipline to force assimilation into white society. It would be many years before some children were allowed to return home. Some never returned.

Abuse, heartache and loss of connection to language and culture have plagued Native communities for generations. Time and the rekindling of those connections, bringing back languages and traditions, have helped and will continue to help heal the People.

[Nearly 1,000 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children died while attending boarding schools that were set up by the U.S.](#)

The past two or three decades have seen more efforts to address the legacy of genocide, forced assimilation, and termination of Indigenous rights, so it is never forgotten and never repeated. Click here to learn more: [“Reckoning with the Devastating Legacy of Federal Indian Boarding School Policies.”](#)

Avalanche of Food, Drug, and Product Recalls

For most of this year, especially in August, there has been a breakdown in consumer trust, affecting everything from imported foods and hard goods to fresh and processed produce, drugs, and nutritional supplements. What did we think would happen if regulations and inspections were all but eliminated by underfunding and reducing staff tasked with this work?

For the better part of Summer 2026, there was at least one recall of a food or pharmaceutical product every day, everything from children’s car seats to vehicles containing faulty parts that can cause property damage and maim or kill when a component fails. Food recalls were predominantly due to bacterial contamination that caused severe illness or to contamination with glass, plastic, and wood particles, even in life-saving IV solutions administered in hospitals and clinics.

More information at these links: [Recalls, Market Withdrawals, & Safety Alerts](#), - [Additional Information about Recalls and Major Product Recalls](#) – [Product Recalls](#)

Fruits and vegetables watered with wastewater from municipal water systems containing e coli, Salmonella, [or worse have sickened thousands](#). Adding insult to injury, consumers could possibly be

exposed to dangerous petrochemicals in the form of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

When investment firms buy up family farms and convert those farms to high-density, commodity operations for export, those large operations are not monitored as closely and therefore not forced to adhere to even basic safety standards. Under these conditions, systems fail – they are failing right before our eyes.

Moving Forward

There are solutions and healthy alternatives for every failure we are witnessing today. IEN's educational outreach, based on the [Principles of Indigenous Just Transition](#) (IJT), is needed now more than ever.

IJT principles provide guidance for establishing alternatives as community-supported work. IJT work is grounded in the traditional knowledge of Indigenous ancestors and elders and inherent relationships with plant and animal relatives, with Mother Earth, having thrived and prospered because they understood and adhered to natural law and our original instructions.

If we are to thrive and prosper, we will find the path to the future by adhering to the ways of the past.

Click here to learn more from [IEN's community outreach in the Giitigaan and beyond](#).

There is a lot to report in this IEN August Newswire — calls to action, events and announcements.

Please keep reading and engage where you can.

Spread the word by sharing this Newswire with family and friends.

Stay tuned to our social media and website for timely stories from the front lines, updates, and ways to get involved.

Until we meet again, be well and safe.

IEN Staff

IEN Campaign Reports for August 2026

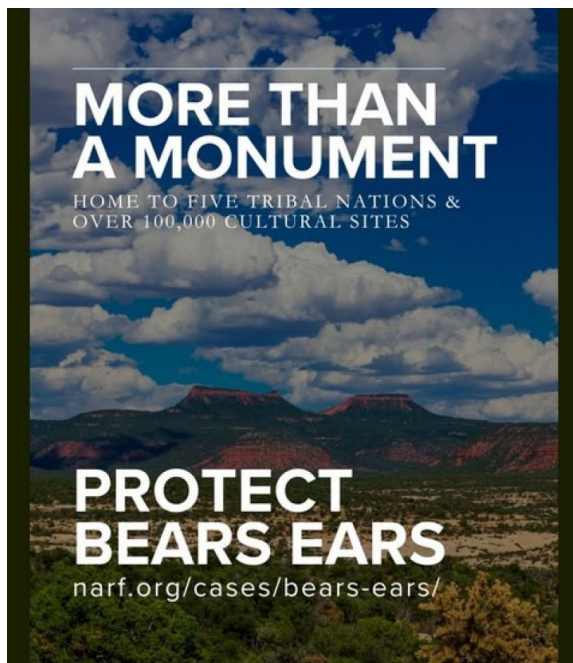
August Community in the Gitigaan and Beyond



On August 29, the IEN Teaching Garden crew joined the local Bemidji Pride Festival at the Railriver Folk School in Bemidji, Minnesota. The annual festival takes place at the same community hub where the IEN Teaching Garden and IEN office are located, making it a natural opportunity to bring the garden and our land-based work into conversation with the broader community.

[Click here to read more!](#)

[Image: DJ Seki and volunteer Joe tabling at the Bemidji Pride Festival in the Gittigaan.]



KIITG August Activity Review

[Click here to read updates on these subjects and issues:](#)

- Tamarack Sulfide Copper Mine Meeting – Blaine, MN
- Northern Arapaho Chairman Opposes Bridger Pipeline
- Red Stone Movement Meeting Pipestone, MN
- Governor Walz Signs BWCA Mining Ban Executive Order
- Trump Administration Opens 62,000 Acres of Superior National Forest
- NDN Collective and Indigenous Protector Movement Panel – Minneapolis
- Minnesota PUC Pipestone Comment Period Accepted Until September 11, 2026
- Line 5 Pipeline Rupture Saxon, WI
- Border Wall Construction Begins on Tohono O'odham Land
- Senate Candidate James Byrd Opposes Bridger Pipeline
- Mato Tipila Rare Earth Mine Public Comment Period

Stop Data Colonialism Data Sovereignty Summit

The Stop Data Colonialism Data Sovereignty Summit was hosted by the Indigenous Environmental Network and Honor the Earth on August 14-16, 2026, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa campus. The summit served as a major kickoff event for the Stop Data Colonialism Coalition, a national coalition co-founded by IEN and HTE members that serves to connect and empower local fights against data colonialism on a national level. Tribal leaders and Indigenous land and water protectors from across Turtle Island traveled to the summit to organize and strategize the movement against data colonialism. Movement leaders shared information about local fights against hyperscale data centers, harmful energy projects connected to the AI infrastructure, and Tribal and national efforts to protect Indigenous Peoples from data colonialism. Participants were able to learn from experts in technology, land protection, nuclear energy, data center fights, and Indigenous language and cultural protection.



Click here to watch: [Jordan Harmon, Policy Analyst & Legislative Advocate from the Muscogee \(Creek\) Nation, speaks at the Stop Data Colonialism Summit](#)

Actions - Events - Announcements

NO rollback of the 2001 Roadless Rule!

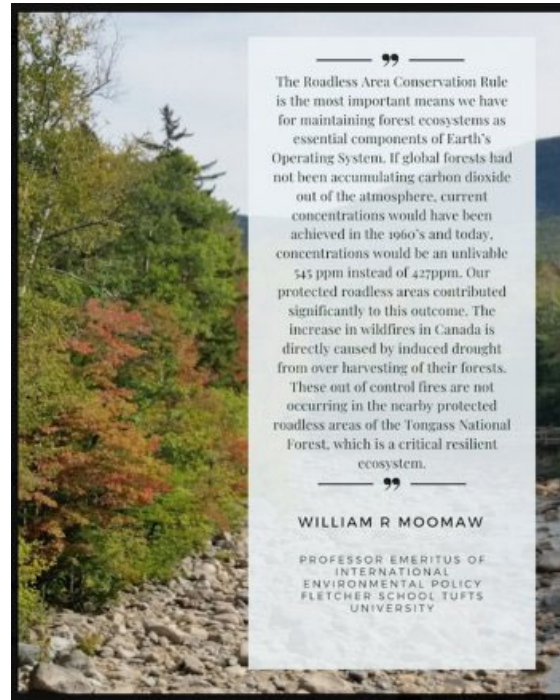
On August 20, 2026 the USDA published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule, kicking off a 30-day comment period which ends Sept. 21, 2026.

What's at Stake: The proposed rollback of the 2001 Roadless Rule jeopardizes nearly 45 million acres of undeveloped backcountry forestland managed by the U.S. Forest Service, comprising around a third of the territory in our national forest system.

These forests have only remained intact because of the Forest Service's nearly 25-year-old commitment not to build roads in these areas for harmful activities like major logging operations or oil-and-gas drilling.

[Click here for more info.](#)

[Click here to submit your comment.](#)



Help commemorate the ten-year Anniversary of the "Mni Wichoni: Water Is Life" movement that started at Standing Rock in 2016. [Click here or scan a QR Code to donate below.](#)





**COMMUNITY FORUM
ON PROPOSED URANIUM MINING
in the BLACK HILLS**

Curious about the status of uranium mining projects in the Black Hills? Wondering what you can do about it? We invite you to participate in this event.

Information • Food • Discussion

Pine Ridge at The Sacred Heart Church: Sept. 12, 2026. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (MT)
30236 US-18, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Rapid City at The Oyate Community Center: Sept. 19, 2026. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (MT)
2430 Gnugnuska Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702

Eagle Butte at Lakota Cultural Center: Oct. 3, 2026. 10:00 am - 2:00 (MT)
24352 US HWY 212, Eagle Butte, SD. 57625

Hot Springs at Smiling Sage Wellness Center: Oct. 17, 2026. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
240 N Garden Street, Hot Springs, SD 57747

Sharps Corner at Thunder Valley CDC: Oct. 24, 2026. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (MT)
290 Empowerment Dr, Porcupine, SD 57772

**RADIATION CONTAMINATION?
NOT IN MY WATER. NOT IN MY NATION.**

**Let's Work Together to
Protect the Black Hills
and Water from
Radioactive Destruction**

For more information:
Duane at: duane.bhcwa@gmail.com or 605-381-6473

Sponsored by Black Hills Clean Water Alliance
www.bhcleanwateralliance.org

FOLLOW US TO
STAY UP-TO-DATE

COMMUNITY FORUMS ON PROPOSED URANIUM MINING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Curious about the status of uranium mining projects in the Black Hills? Wondering what you can do about it? We invite you to participate in this community educational event.

BHCWA is excited to announce that we will be sponsoring FIVE (5) COMMUNITY FORUMS ON PROPOSED URANIUM MINING IN THE BLACK HILLS.

Join Us for a forum in your area!

****Information— Food —Discussion****

Let's Work Together to Protect the Black Hills and Water from Radioactive Destruction

For more information:

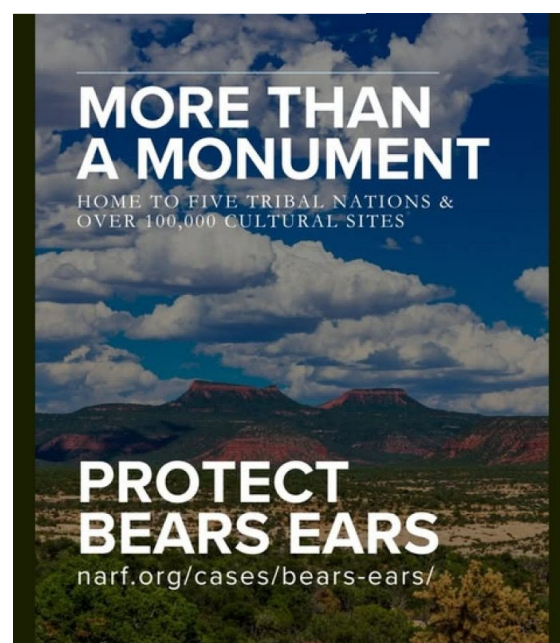
Email Duane at duane.bhcwa@gmail.com

[Click here for more information.](#)

Protect Bears Ears

"We will pursue every available legal course of action to stop these illegal attacks on Native homelands, culture, and people. Native communities worked for years with the broader public to obtain national monument status for Bears Ears. These protections provide a means for Tribal Nations and Native communities to preserve their ongoing relationships with the land, culture, and traditional practices. Tribal Nations have protected these lands for generations and they won't stop now," said NARF Deputy Director Matthew Campbell.

[Click here to learn more.](#)





NDN's Community Action Fund is now accepting applications!

The Community Action Fund supports Indigenous-led direct action and organizing efforts that are urgent and time-sensitive with grants up to \$15,000 USD.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until October 30, 2026 (5 PM CT), but you must register to apply by October 16, 2026. Open to Indigenous individuals, Indigenous-led groups, and organizations across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and surrounding Island Nations.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)



What is the Unplug AI Week of Action?

We're taking to the streets of New York City during Climate Week to confront the tech giants driving the massive buildout of fossil-fueled AI data centers and the politicians who have the power to press pause on new data center development and fossil fuel expansion projects. What do we hope to achieve?

Our goal is to make it crystal clear that Big Tech is a climate villain while advancing strategic campaigns to slow the development of AI data centers and erode Big Tech's political and economic power. [Click here to learn more.](#)

ICYMI News and More from Across Turtle Island

Tribes Celebrate as Michigan Supreme Court Nixes Line 5 Permit

Navajo families' homes in peril as tribe works with Trump on massive coal mine expansion Coal has long been the economic bedrock of the Navajo Nation, which owns deposits in Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico. Now, the tribe is asking the Trump administration to dramatically expand the life — and size — of an operational coal mine that could uproot the lives of some Navajo families. And their longtime homes — literally. You can listen to this

and other radio programming by [clicking here](#)

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### **Native knowledge keepers featured in upcoming PBS documentary**

A new PBS documentary is highlighting Indigenous scientific knowledge developed and passed down over thousands of years. The NOVA special "Knowledge Keepers" explores how Native communities have used observation, experimentation, and relationships with the natural world to develop approaches to science. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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One uranium project takes a step toward state permit, while another stays stalled by legal questions

Both proposals are located along the southern edge of South Dakota's Black Hills. Uranium is a metallic, radioactive element used as fuel in nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. Interest in uranium exploration and mining has risen recently. That's in response to nuclear energy's potential to supply electricity for data centers. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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### **Cattle producers cope with 'gut-wrenching' losses from July heat wave**

*Thousands of cattle in South Dakota died of heat stress last month.*

Though locations across the state experienced unusually high temperatures, data from the Rapid City office of the National Weather Service help illustrate the historic nature of the heat wave: It was the city's second hottest July on record, according to several indicators, and the city experienced its highest-ever recorded temperatures on July 25 downtown (110 degrees) and at the airport (112 degrees). [Click here to learn more.](#)

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North of North Season 2 — 'Siaja's world just explodes'

"The story of North of North is universal. The experiences, the relationships, the humanity of it is there and that's the most important thing," Lambe says. "It's set within a very specific cultural context and in a very specific place but what Siaja is going through and the relationship that Siaja and Neevee have and this idea of trying to figure out who you are and what you want, we all go through that at different points in our lives and I think that's why it's been so relatable despite where people come from." [Click here to learn more.](#)

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### **Collision causes pipeline leak near Bad River Reservation, shuts down Line 5**

*Controversial crude oil pipeline shutdown following semi-truck collision in Northern Wisconsin*

Construction on a controversial oil-pipeline in northern Wisconsin resulted in a leak of natural gas liquids Tuesday less than five miles east of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Reservation.

Drone footage shared on social media by a Bad River tribal member depicted large white plumes of smoke emitting from the rupture, which required the 600-mile-long pipeline to be shut down. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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For more timely news, event announcements, calls to action and

more that's happening across Turtle Island and beyond, engage  
with us on our social media channels:



*You make it possible for us to do what we do by sharing our newsletters,  
webpages, and social media posts - keep up the good ways of being and we'll see  
you on the trail!*

The Indigenous Environmental Network • PO Box 485 • Bemidji, MN 56619  
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