

# Cahuilla Band of Indians

## Cahuilla Tribal Environmental Protection Office

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### *February Newsletter*

#### **In this Issue...**

**Let's Talk About  
CTEPO Updates  
Important Dates & Events**

**Let's Learn About  
Climate Victories**

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#### **CTEPO Updates!**

Last month was a whirl for the CTEPO team! January was a time for many new exciting experiences in preparing for the remainder of 2024.

In the beginning of the month, Jacob and Jason were super busy expertly managing the influx of waste that comes with the holidays. They even set up a Christmas Tree pickup event at the end of the month to ensure that all of your waste needs were met as best as possible in the post-holiday season. Thank you to Jacob and Jason for all their hard work as always!

The CTEPO staff also had the educational opportunity to listen in on an EPA lecture on food waste and its related emissions. There was most definitely a lot of exciting new material to digest in terms of the studies and findings presented during said lecture. Hopefully we will be able to integrate this insightful material into our future programs and initiatives here at CTEPO!

To close out January, Luther was able to attend the Winter RTOC meeting in San Francisco. It was a great opportunity to convene with Tribes from all over the region and decidedly prioritize issues/goals for the new year. This meeting signified the collective intent for a prosperous 2024. Overall, it was very promising!

As you can see, January was an eventful month and kicked off what we hope to be a great 2024. We're excited to see what comes in February and the months to follow!

Lastly, congratulations to the winner of our January Newsletter mystery word game, Gabriel Wisespirit! We were rather impressed with the speed in which you solved the puzzle! We hope you like your new tree!

# Winter Calendar

## February 2024

S M T W T F S



## March 2024

S M T W T F S



### Winter Wonderings

In 2024, Lunar New Year lands on February 10th and marks the year of the dragon!

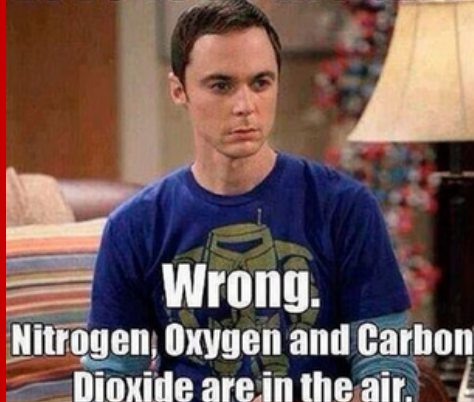
During the Super Bowl, 120 handcrafted footballs are used.

Groundhogs' underground homes often have multiple chambers, including a "bedroom," "bathroom" and a "nursing room."

I JUST SAW



Love is in the air?



### You Snow You Wanna Laugh

Does anybody know any good Groundhog Day jokes?  
I feel like I keep hearing the same ones over and over again...

What does a vampire call his Valentine?  
His ghou-friend.

What did the French groundhog see on February 2nd?  
His chateau.





# Loving this Land



Dear Earth,

This Valentine's Day, we'd like to remind you how amazing we think you are and how much we appreciate you for all that you do.

Here are a few recent stories that hopefully convey some of the ways that humanity has tried to express our earnest affections for you.

Love,

CTEPO

P.S. Thank you for everything!

hope

## Kids Take Charge

Children are far from oblivious. They see the environmental injustices that have plagued their childhoods and will impact their entire future.

With names like Greta Thunberg and Xiye Bastida making headlines in the past few years because of their impressive work as young environmental activists, it is becoming all the more evident that the children of the world are prepared to take matters into their own hands.

They have formed NGOs and served as plaintiffs in lawsuits to fight for the multitudes of environmental issues that matter to them and protecting their futures. One example of such is seen in South Baltimore where local teenagers have formed a group called Free Your Voice. These high school students are using their voices and their free time to try and make their neighborhoods a safer and healthier place to live. This is just one of the many examples of factions of children uniting to fight for causes that matter to them.

It is promising to see a generation so empowered and eager to affect change, especially before the responsibility is technically considered to be their own. It should bring us hope to see these young minds collaborate in their vision for a better tomorrow. We should be eternally grateful to their noble efforts to help carry our burden.

## Amplifying Indigenous Voices for Biodiversity

At the 15th Conference of the Parties Convention for Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Agreement was adopted after being developed over a number of years.

With an ever-increasing number of species suffering from the consequences of human development, establishing an effective global collaborative effort is crucial to protecting the millions of species threatened by extinction. This particular plan has gained the world's attention because it marks a significant global shift to formally recognize the unparalleled efforts of Indigenous communities in preserving the planet's remaining biodiversity.

With an estimated 80% of all species living within Indigenous territories, it has grown increasingly more obvious that Indigenous voices are crucial to the conversation on biodiversity. This document explicitly outlines protocols to respect all existing and future biodiversity-related practices of Indigenous communities and calls to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into UN-led biodiversity frameworks.

The Kunming-Montreal Agreement brings hope to the fight for biodiversity because it intends to actively elevate Indigenous voices and rightfully highlight their invaluable contributions to prevent an ever eminent global extinction event.

## Protecting the Amazon Rainforest

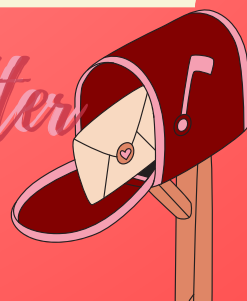
The health of the Amazon Rainforest is imperative to the wellbeing of our planet. It is the host to a cornucopia of invaluable species and is also a major source of air purification for our planet. However, in recent years it has suffered a rapid decline due to deforestation for the sake of human activity.

In the last year there was a 33.3% decrease in deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. In the month of September there was a 66% decrease in deforestation in comparison to that of the September of the prior year! These promising numbers are all thanks to new environmental legislature and global pledges made by the country's current leaders.

This change has been entirely powered by the people and it instills hope that humanity may be able to actually preserve this natural resource which is absolutely vital to the heartbeat of the Earth.



What would your letter  
to the Earth say?





## Word Bank

Amazon  
Baltimore  
Bastida  
Biodiversity  
Brazil  
Deforestation  
Dragon  
Free Your Voice  
Greta  
Groundhog  
Indigenous  
Knowledge  
Kunming  
Montreal  
Rainforest  
Species  
Thunberg  
Traditional  
Valentine  
Xiye

# Word Search

**Use the first 11 unused letters to decode the secret message. The first Tribal Member to call in with the correct answer will win a special prize!**

B	T	K	H	E	R	E	I	S	E	E	B	H	F	N
I	B	M	U	O	P	N	E	N	Y	A	Y	R	S	O
O	A	O	T	N	O	H	I	I	L	Y	E	A	U	I
D	S	N	T	G	M	T	X	T	I	E	X	I	O	T
I	T	T	A	S	N	I	I	K	Y	S	S	N	N	A
V	I	R	R	E	S	M	N	O	J	P	U	F	E	T
E	D	E	L	M	O	O	U	G	L	E	P	O	G	S
R	A	A	L	R	W	R	H	W	E	C	N	R	I	E
S	V	L	E	L	V	O	M	R	Y	I	A	E	D	R
I	L	U	E	O	L	V	W	B	J	E	M	S	N	O
T	E	D	I	I	G	R	E	T	A	S	A	T	I	F
Y	G	C	Z	D	V	I	T	W	F	U	Z	U	K	E
E	E	A	C	Y	G	O	H	D	N	U	O	R	G	D
G	R	E	B	N	U	H	T	H	O	H	N	S	X	E
B	L	A	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	W	A	P

## Secret Message

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