and the river.

Two ancient geoglyphs of human forms, each measuring about 20 feet long, are revered by members of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, who say they show their people's deep connection to the land.

Farmlands spread across the floodplain of the Colorado River on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation.

A tractor prepares land in Fort Mojave for new crops. The Colorado River runs through Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, providing water for agriculture.

Kayakers float down the Colorado River through the Fort Mojave Reservation.

"You just dived in there and it was so deep," Otero said, standing on the bank. "You would see fishes going by," he said with a chuckle.

Because it's a living spirit," said Paul Jackson, a tribal elder and cultural artist. "You have to respect it.

"If we keep operating it the way we are, and we keep demanding the uses of it and the way they did it a hundred years ago, the river will talk to you.

"Nobody should own that river, but you have to respect it, the way they owned it a hundred years ago," he said. "Something's got to change. And people got to make that change happen."

"You have to respect the river," Otero said. "People have to respect the river, the way they owned it a hundred years ago."

"The time has come where they have to change the way that they operate and run dry. She said that along with the water the river will talk to you.

As a girl, McDowell enjoyed spending summer days at the river, where she waded, swam, and deeper. She would spend summers swimming.

Linda Otero, director of the Aha Makav Cultural Society, teaches young people about their connection to the river, "that we're all part of it and we all come from it."

If we keep operating it the way we are, and we keep demanding the uses of it and the way they did it a hundred years ago, the river will talk to you.

"Now, it's like a stream," Otero said. "People have to respect the river, the way they owned it a hundred years ago."
Ian James

Ian James is a reporter who focuses on water in California and the West. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2021, he was an environment reporter at the Arizona Republic and the Desert Sun. He previously worked for the Associated Press as a correspondent in the Caribbean and as bureau chief in Venezuela. He is originally from California.

Carolyn Cole

Carolyn Cole is a staff photographer for the Los Angeles Times. Her coverage of the civil crisis in Liberia won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. Cole has been named U.S. newspaper photographer of the year three times. Cole grew up in California and Virginia, before attending the University of Texas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. She went on to earn a master of art's degree from Ohio University.

Albert Brave Tiger Lee

Albert Brave Tiger Lee is a Southern California native, son of Korean immigrants, a father and a staff videographer at the Los Angeles Times. His work spans various mediums of visual story telling and has been in recognized for various disciplines including a National Emmy Award for News and Documentary, RFK Journalism Award, Picture of the Year International, Best of Photojournalism and the Columbia Dart Award.

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