

RIVERS OF CHANGE

Reckoning with the Impacts of Glen Canyon Dam through Science, Art, and Advocacy



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH 2025

Symposium: 12:30–6 PM • Poster and Exhibit Display: 6–7:30 PM
What the River Knows Film Screening: 7:30–9 PM

STAR HALL • MOAB, UT

PRESENTED BY RETURNING RAPIDS PROJECT, GLEN CANYON INSTITUTE, AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



EVENT OVERVIEW

SYMPOSIUM OF CURRENT WORK

12:30 – 6:00 pm

The symposium includes a series of presentations from scientists, artists, and advocates on their current work. Topics span disciplines and geologic time, covering large-scale changes in ecosystem recovery to micro-scale sediment characterization. Others highlight intricate relationships with Glen Canyon and the surrounding area, asking what it means to approach this landscape with hope, curiosity, respect, and responsibility. **Doors open at 12:00 PM.**

POSTER AND EXHIBIT DISPLAY

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Food and refreshments will be served in the Sun Court alongside a display of science posters, artwork, maps, and photographs. Attendants of both the symposium and film screening are welcome to join.

WHAT THE RIVER KNOWS FILM SCREENING

7:30 – 9:00 pm

The evening is centered around a screening of *What the River Knows*, a Good Intentions Paving Co. documentary that explores the reemergence of Glen Canyon from the receding waters of Lake Powell reservoir. Weaving together past and present, *What the River Knows* reveals a new way forward for the Colorado River. An opening short from Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, *Keep Labyrinth Canyon Wild!*, covers the BLM's efforts to reverse the 2023 Labyrinth Canyon Travel Management Plan. The event will wrap up with a panel discussion with film participants and topic experts.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

DOORS OPEN

12:00 – 12:30 pm

WELCOME

Opening Remarks

12:30 – 12:35 pm

Mike DeHoff

SESSION 1

Changing Ecosystems

12:35 – 1:35 pm

Seth Arens *An upside to drought, climate change and overallocation of water in the Colorado Basin: Emerging ecosystems in Glen Canyon*

Alan Kasprak *Landscape change along the Colorado and San Juan Rivers in response to two decades of water level decline in Lake Powell*

Abby Burk *Guided by Feathers: Avian Insights of Habitat Recovery*

Chris Wilkowske *An overview of data collection at the USGS streamgage: Colorado River above Gypsum Canyon, UT*

Moderated by Zanna Stutz

SESSION 2

Protecting & Stewarding River Systems

1:35 – 2:35 pm

Dave Wegner *Late to the Game but Not Forgotten: The Role of Science, the Colorado River and our Relationship with Water*

Morgan Sjogren *A Century-Old Dream to Protect Glen Canyon*

Louis Williams *HOZHO along the San Juan River: The hozho concept utilized as guidance in the backcountry and along the rivers*

Michael Fiebig *Inflow and Intactness: Tools and Opportunities to Protect the Colorado River System and its Tributaries Upstream of Lake Powell*

Moderated by Zanna Stutz

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

BREAK

2:35 – 2:50 pm

SESSION 3

**Understanding History to
Shape the Future**

2:50 – 3:50 pm

Melissa Sevigny *Writing the Wild River*

Natalie Tanski *Geologic Perspectives on How the Colorado River
Carved Glen Canyon and Canyonlands*

John Weisheit *Respect for Geography, Climate, and Culture*

Moderated by Mike DeHoff

SESSION 4

Reservoir Sediment in the Canyon

3:50 – 4:50 pm

Pete Lefebvre *Repeat Photography of Lower Cataract Canyon*

Cari Johnson *Stuck in the Mud: Sediment Stories Revealed from the Glen
Canyon Dam ‘Experiment’*

Sam Bagge *Exposed Reservoir Sediment Erosion in Lower Cataract Canyon
During Prolonged Low Water Levels in Lake Powell Reservoir*

Robert Tusso *Scour and fill on the displaced Colorado River near the North
Wash boat ramp, 2020-2024*

Moderated by Brenda Bowen

BREAK

4:50 – 5:00 pm

SESSION 5

The Power of Art & Storytelling

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Chyenne Klemme *Diné Perspectives of Glen Canyon*

Beth Henshaw *The Emotional Landscape of Glen Canyon*

Chad Niehaus *Feeling the Flow: An Artist’s Take on a Recovering Landscape*

Moderated by Brenda Bowen

POSTER AND EXHIBIT DISPLAY

POSTERS

Brenda Bowen, Sam Bagge, and Aditya Pandey *Micro-scale characterization of exposed reservoir sediment from Colorado River side canyons*

Bridget Deemer *Low water levels increase risk of low dissolved oxygen events in Lake Powell*

Cynthia Dott, Gary Gianniny, and Alan Kasprak *Coupled vegetation and sediment changes along the San Juan River arm of Lake Powell Reservoir*

Katherine Chapman, Robert Tusso, Shannon Sartain, and Paul Grams *Profile of the San Juan River from Mexican Hat to Lake Powell*

Shannon Sartain, Paul Grams, Matt Kaplinski, Katherine Chapman, Robert Tusso, Erich Mueller, and Mike DeHoff *Comparison of geomorphic changes in the river/reservoir interface zones of Lake Powell and Lake Mead with declining reservoir elevations*

Katie Woodward *The Role & Management of Invasive Species in Ecological Recovery Following Reservoir Decline in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area*

EXHIBITS

Isabel Adler *Scroll Maps: A Visual Guide for Understanding a Changing Landscape*

Beth Henshaw *Repeat Photography around Page*

Robyn Holmes *picking up the pieces*

Dawn Kish *Glen Canyon Exposed: Now and Then*

Elliot Ross *Geography of Hope*

Wendy Wischer *Where Water and Rock Collide*



FILM SCREENING

KEEP LABYRINTH CANYON WILD!

Neal Clark *Wildlands Director, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance*

Made in collaboration with Cody Perry and Ben Kraushaar of Rig to Flip, *Keep Labyrinth Canyon Wild!* highlights the cultural and environmental resources in Labyrinth Canyon and threats to this landscape from proposed changes to BLM's Travel Management Plan for the region.

WHAT THE RIVER KNOWS

Will Buckley & Diego Riley *Directors, Good Intentions Paving Co.*

What the River Knows follows the reemergence of Glen Canyon from the receding waters of Lake Powell reservoir. At the same time that we are met with the need to redesign our systems of water management in the West, we are presented with the opportunity to restore one of the most stunning landscapes on the planet. The documentary explores this unique reflection point in a centuries-long history, weaving together past and present to reveal a new way forward for the Colorado River.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Eric Balken *Glen Canyon Institute, Executive Director*

Meg Flynn *Returning Rapids Project, Co-Founder*

Lorelei Cloud *Southern Ute Tribal Council (2015–2023), Colorado Water Conservation Board, Water and Tribes Initiative*

Dave Wegner *Water Scientist, Manager, and Policy Writer*



All photos by Will Buckley and Diego Riley, *What the River Knows*