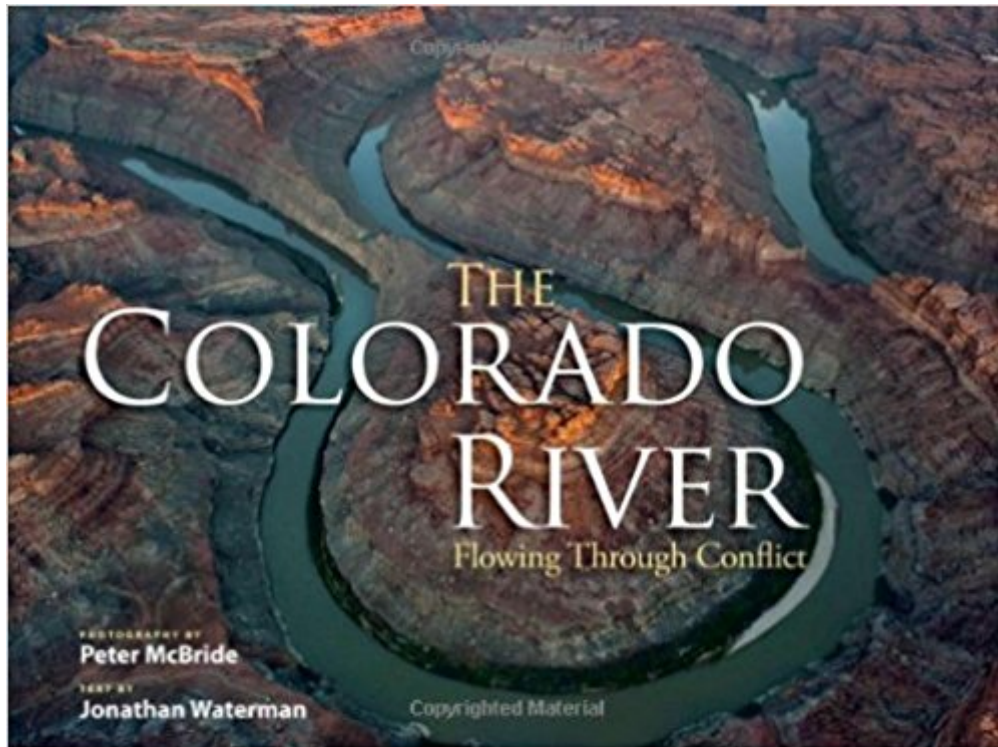




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The Colorado River: Flowing Through Conflict



Synopsis

Supplying vital water to more than 30 million Americans living in the arid West, the Colorado River is one of the most diverted, dammed, and heavily litigated rivers in the world. In full-color, photo essay format, *The Colorado River: Flowing Through Conflict*, follows the river's epic 1,450-mile journey from its headwaters high in the Colorado Rockies to its dried-up delta touching the Sea of Cortez. With striking photography and authoritative prose, Peter McBride and Jonathan Waterman illuminate the historical, geographical, and environmental significance of this life-giving river.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Westcliffe Pub; First edition (November 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1565796462

ISBN-13: 978-1565796461

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 11.9 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,221,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Photography & Video > Aerial](#) #116 in [Books > Arts & Photography >](#)

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Customer Reviews

McBride and Waterman have done an incredible job of conveying the various challenges that beset the river and those who work tirelessly to save her...Together they have created a photo essay that will tear at your heart as it inspires us all to do more, however futile it may ultimately be, to save this great river and return her to the natural magnificence that is her birthright. --Explore Bookseller's Staff Pick / Aspen Daily News Online

Native Coloradan Peter McBride has always been passionate about flying, particularly low and slow. That aerial bug helped lure him into a self-taught photography career that has taken him on assignment to over 60 countries for National Geographic, Smithsonian, and Outside magazines. His photography, writing, and video work have earned him accolades internationally, and in 2007 he was awarded a Knight Fellowship for professional journalists at Stanford University. When not on

assignment, Peter can be found on his family's ranch cutting hay or chasing water (irrigating), or around his home in nearby Basalt, Colorado, where he serves as a town councilman. Jonathan Waterman has worked as a wilderness guide, magazine editor, park ranger, director of a small press, guard dog agitator, and freelance writer. He has authored ten books, including *Running Dry: A Journey From Source to Sea Down the Colorado River* (National Geographic Books, 2010) and five television documentaries. The recognition for his work includes magazine and book awards, a literary fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and an Emmy. He has created a wall map of the Colorado River Basin, and with coauthor Peter McBride, *The Colorado River: Flowing Through Conflict* photography exhibit, touring the West.

If you are interested in water issues in the Southwest, this book is for you. The Colorado River has become a perfect symbol of what happens when we ask too much of a limited resource: it disappears. In fact, the Colorado no longer regularly reaches the sea. Dams, irrigation and now climate change have drastically reduced the once-mighty river. Is it a sign of more things to come? The authors take us on a trip down the Colorado River, from the mountains through the reservoirs and into the basins. Approximately 30 million people rely on its water which flows through 14 coal/gas plants & 107 hydroelectric turbines. Many of our friends browse this 9 x 12 coffee table book because it has gorgeous pictures on every page and awesome aerial photography (I'd buy it for the many crossover aerial photos alone). Coupled with a few helpful maps, the commentary about water issues facing the Southwest will help you understand why you hear of so much more news about "droughts" and mandated water conservation programs.

The Colorado River is the defining watershed of the great U.S. Southwest, and the story of what we have done with it is fascinating. McBride's photographs are so wonderful, and so descriptive of the power and beauty of this river, and the degradation it has suffered at our hands.

I bought as a gift for my son's b'day. He doesn't have time to do that. We'll both enjoy it...as time permits. As always, comes thru...w/ both a good price ...& good service. Tks. J. Linn. CO

great deal

Colorado is so beautiful and diverse, and this book really brings it out. It's relaxing, and informative - I'll be visiting a few of the areas this summer.

Peter McBride's photographic talents shine throughout this book. Johnathan Waterman obviously experienced the length of the Colorado River with descriptions that are alluring and thought provoking. This is a great book for anyone interested in water and especially scarce western water.

For the concept and the execution (two authors working together, one on the ground and one taking pictures by air), I think it's quite lovely to look at. It's a good coffee table book. The problem is that people tend to flip through coffee table books for pretty pictures and then be done with it-- I actually brought this book to some people I know who I thought would be interested, and the comments were pretty much in the range of "oh, these pictures are disturbing and I don't want to look anymore." So basically if you're really interested in the subject, it's probably not going to be as substantive as you're hoping for, and the pictures aren't going to draw people in the way the authors hoped. But for people looking for a wide breadth of knowledge on the subject, it's a good addition to your collection.

If you own a copy of Reisner's *Cadillac Desert* you'll want this too. Peter McBride's photo opus on the Colorado is the first I've seen that tracks the river from the high mountain headwaters all the way down to the sea. McBride's artistry is stunning, and the collection is well edited. Just as impressive is his command of the myriad issues that make the Colorado River the most loved and litigated in the United States. In both the modest text and the images themselves, McBride and co-author Waterman demonstrate their mastery and love of the subject. Last year Verlyn Klinkenborg wrote in the New York Times "if we're not nostalgic for water now - in all its forms - soon we will be. We're entering a climatically uncertain world, so perhaps now is the time to visit water, before it is piped, tubed, desalinated, and geothermalized everywhere...Go now." The threats are very real, and many people are working hard to save the Colorado River before it's too late. Even if you can't make a visit soon, you can get your fill in this book.

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