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

RETURNING RAPIDS PROJECT

glen canyon institute

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS

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

98 Center food and refreshments are available 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. $10 suggested donation per person; no food or drink allowed in Star Hall.

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 introduction from Meg Flynn will be followed be an opening short doc 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 discussion with the following panelists:
Eric Balken, Lorelei Cloud, Meg Flynn, and Dave Wegner.

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*
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*
Sam Bagge *Exposed Reservoir Sediment Erosion in Lower Cataract Canyon During Prolonged Low Water Levels in Lake Powell Reservoir*
Cari Johnson *Stuck in the Mud: Sediment Stories Revealed from the Glen Canyon Dam 'Experiment'*
Mike DeHoff *The North Wash Boat Ramp: A Displaced River, Scouring into an Unknown Future*
Moderated by Brenda Bowen

BREAK — 4:50 - 5:00 pm

SESSION 5 — The Power of Art & Storytelling — 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Wendy Wischer *Where Water and Rock Collide*
Beth Henshaw *The Emotional Landscape of Glen Canyon*
Chad Niehaus *Feeling the Flow: An Artist's Take on a Recovering Landscape*
Chyenne Klemme *Diné Perspectives of Glen Canyon*
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*
Brenda Bowen, Cari Johnson, Mark Radwin, Hannah Baggs, Kelly Wilson, Mary Roalstadt, Sam Bagge, Elizabeth Mahone, and Mike DeHoff *Rates and styles of Lake Powell delta migration on the Colorado and San Juan Rivers*
Cynthia Dott, Gary Gianniny, and Alan Kasprak *Coupled vegetation and sediment changes along the San Juan River arm of Lake Powell Reservoir*
Cari Johnson and Brenda Bowen *Rates of change, geomorphic and sedimentological expressions, and controls on connected fluvial-deltaic-lacustrine systems as revealed by the Glen Canyon dam "experiment"*
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*

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

FILM SCREENING (7:30-9:00 PM)

WELCOME

Meg Flynn *Co-Founder, Returning Rapids Project*
Presenting *Gypsum Canyon Rapid: A Story of Loss, Return & Hope*

KEEP LABYRINTH CANYON WILD!

Nicole Milavetz *Utah Grassroots Organizer, 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 *Co-Director, 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 *Executive Director, Glen Canyon Institute*
Lorelei Cloud *Southern Ute Tribal Council (2015-2023), Colorado Water Conservation Board, Water and Tribes Initiative*
Meg Flynn *Co-Founder, Returning Rapids Project*
Dave Wegner *Water Scientist, Manager, and Policy Writer*