

EPISODE
CLOSED CAPTION
SCRIPT



Into the Outdoors

RIVER REBORN

DAM REMOVAL AND RIVER RESTORATION

Emma - When people built dams for electricity, they didn't give much thought to what would happen 100 years later. But now that its 100 years later at many idled dams, we're forced for the first times to ask, how do we balance the needs for humans and this river's ecosystem?

Norb Tutlis - We determine the worth of the river. We the people. Not necessarily the riverfront owners, the kayakers, the canoers, the tubers, the fisherman, the swimmers, the hikers. We all should have a voice in it. We the People.

Brett Fessel - Who has the right to decide? I think that really demonstrates a fundamental difference between tribal culture and views of natural world and say the European or non-native.

Arlene Kashata – There is a difference in the values of the way we are. In dominant society, there's God, then there's man, and then there might be the trees, rivers, mountains, plants and the animals. In our Neshnomi way of life, there's the creator, then there's the mountains, the plants, the rivers, the trees, the animals. And then there's us two leggeds. All of this was put here before us. So, all of this life here, is to help us live our ways as a good person. Because we were put here to take care of it, not abuse it, not misuse it. But respect it and take care of it so that it's always here to take care of us.

Frank Dituri - The worth of a river on its own accord is far beyond the tangible pieces that we as humans can understand.

Sam McClellan - Who do we ask? Nobody asked the river. Nobody asked the eagle, the otter, the beaver, the deer, the birds. The river is speaking to us and that's what the native Americans listen to is mother earth.

Tom Peters - And all life is sacred. And we think that it's really important that we allow the river to have a voice in our community for future generations.

Tom Shomin - Because it has given us life and it's given us all these generations of human beings that lived here for millennia after millennia.

Joann Cooke - we know the river has a voice through us and our work and the songs and the ceremonies on her behalf. That in her words, we know that she's alive that the water is alive, and the spirit of that water comes to us and talks to us. We are speaking on her behalf.

Arlene Kashata - She's happy that we're here today. You can hear her gurgling and bubbling over there and she's talking. And she's helping us to heal. And so, when I listen to her she's happy and I can hear her laughter. And she's coming back alive and she's here for us today and I'm really grateful for that. And when we sing to her, songs, I think of her as a female spirit.

Music

Frank Dituri So thousands of folks, hundreds of hours in meetings got together and looked at 84 different options and decided on this system the best thing to do was remove three of the dams and modify the fourth.

Steve Largent - it was the city and the counties' decision to take the Boardman River Dams Committee's recommendation to remove the dams. And April 9th of 2009 in a joint meeting between the county and the city. The country voted to proceeded with dam removal and the city commission voted to authorize the city manager to begin looking for funds to remove dams and their decision came later.

Frank Dituri - it really is a dichotomy that we saw here. Ninety-four years ago, humans built this dam for their own purposes, for their own monetary gain, and to give themselves energy in town. Now 94 years later, we're removing it. Because we realize we need to restore the systems that give ourselves and this area the lifeblood that it deserves. We need to have this water flowing free again.