

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"State of the Yampa" Brings Speakers, Films, Art to Steamboat Event to Launch Annual River Fest with Themes of Conservation and Legacy

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO - The annual State of the Yampa Address has become much more than a series of talks: this year's event will feature four films, four presenters, and interactive experiences with two local artists. The 2018 installment builds on 2017's Address which featured a standing-room-only crowd. This one-night event will launch the 38th Annual Yampa River Festival which continues through the weekend:

Thursday, May 31 at the Chief Theater (813 Lincoln, Steamboat Springs)

6pm doors, 2-for-1 draft beer till 6:30 plus free snacks

7-9pm films and presentations from river luminaries

\$10 at the door benefits Friends of the Yampa

<https://friendsoftheyampa.com/event/state-of-the-yampa-river-address-2018/>

The event is headlined by a keynote presentation by Paul Bruchez, a fifth-generation rancher and flyfishing guide from Kremmling. His talk will feature then-and-now aerial footage illustrating his river restoration efforts in Northwestern Colorado. In a [2017 article](#) for *The Denver Post*, Bruchez shared what he learned from the project: "The interests of ranchers and farmers can align with the interests of conservation groups, state agencies, water providers and other river users. The Colorado River flows through all of our lives."

Also speaking will be Nicole Seltzer, science and policy manager for River Network. She will present her talk "It Takes a Village" about people partnering up to protect the wild Yampa River. Seltzer is joined by Routt County Commissioner and Colorado River District board member Doug Monger who will speak about local and statewide river and water issues. Friends of the Yampa president Kent Vertrees will deliver the annual State of the Yampa address.

Featured films to premiere at the event include *A River's Reckoning*, a 2018 Wild and Scenic Film festival selection, which *Angling Trade* calls "a beautiful story of family, grit, and legacy." Also screening will be productions from three Colorado filmmakers:

- *The Confluence* by Courtney Blackmer: a short film about the controversial Escalade Development in the Grand Canyon. Blackmer says her film "explores how the physical landscapes of the Grand Canyon shape the cultural, emotional and spiritual landscapes of the Navajo people who inhabit it." The film's executive producer was Robert Redford who speaks about the film's mission here: https://youtu.be/3-9m0bne4_g
- *A Few Acres at a Time* by Will Sardinsky: profiles the 'gypsy goat lady' who may have a solution to noxious weeds like those plaguing the Yampa.

- *Little Yampa Canyon* by Ben Saheb: a short update on a river campsite restoration project in Moffat County spearheaded by Friends of the Yampa, the BLM, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The evening is rounded out by opportunities to meet and talk with the presenters along with two local artists and their Yampa-river-themed artwork:

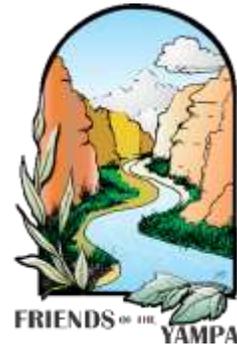
- Charlie Smith will present "FLOW: Immersive Media Experience" - An exhibition of hi-resolution images, slow-motion video, and ambient sounds captured at one Yampa River riffle. Smith says: "Water is easily accessible in the mind of the audience, yet when viewed frozen in time, a whole new world is revealed. We are surrounded by many magical wonders in every waking moment."
- Jill Bergman will display her mural artwork that will grace a building along the Yampa, while sharing the tools and techniques behind her creation.

The State of the Yampa Address is made possible thanks to the generosity of: **Colorado River District, Community Agriculture Alliance, Friends of the Yampa, American Rivers, River Network, Chief Theater**, and the featured **Colorado artists and filmmakers**.

*** Be sure to catch the 38th Annual Yampa River Festival FRI-SUN, JUNE 1-3. Register for events or sign up to volunteer at FriendsOfTheYampa.com ***

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FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The group's mission is to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries, through stewardship, advocacy, education and partnerships.
<https://friendsoftheyampa.com/>



For Social Media

Colorado films, presenters, and artists come together Thu 5/31 in Steamboat for a night of enlightening talks and experiences about the river we love: <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18>
#StateOfTheYampa

@FriendsOfTheYampa launches 38th River Festival with dynamic lineup of films and enlightening short talks: Thu 5/31 in Steamboat <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18> #StateOfTheYampa

Paul Bruchez shares his river restoration success as a rancher and flyfishing guide at the #StateOfTheYampa Thu 5/31 in Steamboat: <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18> @FriendsOfTheYampa

Science & policy manager Nicole Seltzer of @rivernetwork will share how people partner for the health of our wild Yampa River Thu 5/31 in Steamboat: <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18>
#StateOfTheYampa

Hear updates on river issues from @ColoradoWater plus films and other dynamic presentations at #StateOfTheYampa Thu 5/31 in Steamboat: <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18>

2-for-1 beers courtesy @ChiefTheater and free snacks thanks to Colorado Agriculture Alliance launch the 38th Annual River Fest Thu 5/31 in Steamboat: <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18>
#StateOfTheYampa

[Contact Greg I. Hamilton](#) for additional or customized wording.

Abbreviated Event Listing

The STATE of the YAMPA Address: Launch the 38th Annual Yampa River Festival with a dynamic lineup of films and enlightening short talks: <http://bit.ly/YampaTalks18>

Thurs, May 31 Chief Theater (813 Lincoln, Steamboat Springs)

\$10 at the door benefits Friends of the Yampa

6pm doors: 2-FOR-1 draft beer till 6:30 + free snacks

7-9pm films & presentations from river luminaries:

- **Paul Bruchez**, Reeder Creek Ranch
- **Kent Vertrees**, Friends of the Yampa
- **Nicole Seltzer**, River Network
- **Doug Monger**, Colorado River District

Plus films, artists, & experiences:

- ***A River's Reckoning***, a 2018 Wild & Scenic Film festival Selection
- ***The Confluence*** by Courtney Blackmer
- ***FLOW: Immersive Media Experience*** by Charlie Smith
- **Mural artwork** (first peek!) by Jill Bergman
- ***A Few Acres at a Time*** by Will Sardinsky

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