

# The Confluence

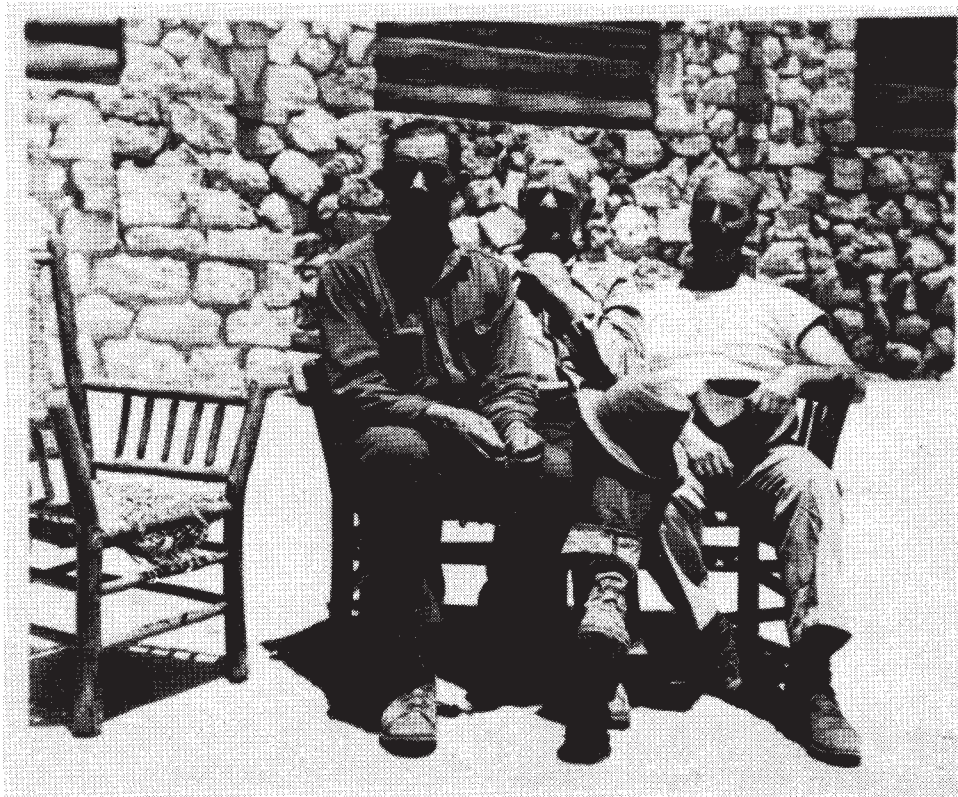
The Journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides

Number 24



Anasazi Canabalism  
Pop's Poetry  
Greg Trainor Poetry  
Bob Webb on "Hell to  
Pay/Capsize"  
Animas La Plata Rally

GJ-Moab River Runners  
Bert Loper Testimony  
Sarah Clinger Artwork  
Motoring above WWRs



Boyd Davis of Orem, Bert Loper age 79, Rulon Doman-Utah National Parks executive.  
Taken during Bert's Boy Scout guiding days. (From Clifford L. Rayl- previously  
published in the Sunday Herald, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1948)

# The Confluence

...wants to be the quarterly journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides, Inc. Colorado Plateau River Guides is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to:

- \* **Protecting the rivers of the Colorado Plateau.**
- \* **Setting the highest standards for the river profession.**
- \* **Providing the best possible river experience.**
- \* **Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community.**

**Guide Membership** is open to anyone who works or has worked in the river industry of the Colorado Plateau.

**General Membership** is open to those who love the rivers of the Colorado Plateau.

#### Membership dues:

- \$ 20 per year
- \$100 for 6 years
- \$195 for life
- \$295 Benefactor

**General Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings will be announced.**

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We need articles, artwork, poetry, photos, stories, and opinions. This journal is composed with Microsoft Word on an IBM PC. If you use a word processor, we can translate most programs. Otherwise, please send your text double-spaced. Please include useful photos, charts, diagrams and artwork. There really is no deadline, but the beginning of each quarter works best.

**Managing editor:** John Weisheit

**Editor this issue:** Dave Focardi

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## DISCLAIMER

The opinions and statements made within the pages of The Confluence are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the guide membership, the board of Colorado Plateau River Guides, nor Canyon Country Volunteers. If you have an opposing or supporting viewpoint please send your comments to CPRG.

**Special Thanks To:** Those who submitted articles for this issue!!

**Issue/Numbering:** In keeping with the new numbering system, this is now issue #24.  
**Thanks for financing this river trip!**

#20—Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2000, Prop in a rock

#21—Volume 7, Number 3, Fall 2000, CNP vertebrate survey

#22—David Brower on cover

#23—Dark Canyon Revisited

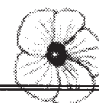
#24—This Issue



Pen and ink by Sarah Clinger

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## **From the Editor and Vice Prez**

Welcome to the 24<sup>th</sup> issue of the confluence. Despite best of intentions, these things always take longer than I think. If all goes well, many of you are reading this at the guides meeting at Sand Island- if not, you got it in your mailboxes.

Previous engagements of the employable nature prevent me from attending the guide meeting. What I will do here is take a stand on some issues of the day. Basically, there is still a dam (or several) in the wrong place on our river, and the board voted at a meeting in Green River several years ago that our position was that Glen Canyon Dam should be decommissioned. We have not changed that position either through consensus or a vote. If you have any questions on why the dam should be decommissioned, check out [justdrainit.org](http://justdrainit.org), I won't go into the myriad details here. One of the issues we will be considering in the future is if we should move our organization under the umbrella of Living Rivers- maintaining our 501c3 status- and being separate from Canyonlands Natural History Association. As the board makes these moves, you the membership have the ability to affect these decisions. Major decisions like moving the charter will be general membership votes, but often we (the people whose names appear on the inside front page) do things as if we were the TL and you are supporting us in where we camp, hike, or stop to do lunch. We are not telling you how to row your boat. Likewise, we are VERY interested in your INPUT and PARTICIPATION. If you want CPRG to move in a different direction, it is up to you. We (that same collective we) often choose to do the more difficult, yet more rewarding hike- to keep the analogy going, rather than doing the same standard trip each time.

## **Message From the President**

Well, Hello There,  
I just wanted to include some sort of announcement in the new Confluence about the upcoming CPRG events. I hope that all of you are doing well and recovering from a long, hot and hopefully prosperous season. Boy, was it hot and low or what? At some point in July ( I think it was), I found myself in the middle of the Big Drops with 3 (out of 9) of our boats hopelessly stuck! I had to step back and hand it to the Lady River; game, set, match; she won!

First and foremost, may I recap the last CPRG endeavors. The Boatman's Bash last July was a big hit. A big thanks to Red Bull, GCAN, Canyon Voyages, Tex, World Wide and all the others who helped make the party happen'n. Welcome to our 40 new members via the bash as well! Secondly, last month, CPRG drafted a letter to all the bureaucracies ( BLM, Park Service, Forest Service etc.) asking them to contact the CPRG board regarding any regulatory changes concerning river corridors. We, as the board, thought this was a good idea to keep guides up to date on what is expected out there. I want to get the letter out this week! In other news, Joe Keys from Grand Junction brought to our attention at the last CPRG board meeting that Colorado Legislators were getting involved in motor use in the Loma section. Joe reports that Steve Yamashita will propose (and likely receive) a "no Jet Ski Launch from Loma" bill. Joe also says that Yamashita is committed to maintaining the current outboard motor use in this section.

So, upcoming events: all three of 'em!

1. We are planning a boatman retreat. The event will take place November 2nd through the 4th at Sand Island in Bluff. The event is the first CPRG, GCRG (Grand Canyon River Guides) collaborative event. I am really hoping for a big CPRG turn out because it is high time that we show these guys who the heck we are and what we are made of!!!! The schedule is as follows: Dinner and social Fri. night, meetings Saturday followed by a great party, respective business meeting Sun morning. We have reserved Sand Island camp ground. You may also stay in Bluff if you prefer. We have tentatively rented the Desert Rose Conference Center in case of rain. Please Bring your own camp stuff.

### Topics for Presentation

Dams in the system ( Dave Wegner)  
River Otter introduction (Joe Shannon)  
San Juan Silting  
Animas \La Plata ( John Weisheit)  
Adaptive management (Matt Kaplinski and Andre Potochnik)  
This is a once in a lifetime, event. I hope that you all will come!

2. Due to a rapidly slowing economy, UGO has decided to seriously down size their event, although, it is still happening. The UGO meeting will be held at the BLM conference room. Nov.

8th from 9:00 until noon. There will also be a UGO sponsored Westwater trip Saturday Nov. 10 contact me ( Annie) at the UGO meeting if you want to go.

Finally; World Wide River Expeditions will sponsor a first Aid/ CPR recertification course for CPRG members only. The course will be at World Wide in Moab May 13-14 at \$75 per person, which includes your book. Call Steve Hazlett at 435-259-7515 if you're interested.

O, one last thing. I am still interested in doing a CPRG flat water trip this fall.; November Sometime!?!? Is anyone out there into it? Let me know. [Anniel@lasal.net](mailto:Anniel@lasal.net), 801-220-0350

OK, so that about wraps it up. I hope that you are all planning a great winter and look forward to seeing you and chatting with you this fall.  
Flowers & Smiles  
Annie Tueller Payne

## **Motors from the Utah State Line to the Westwater Ranger Station**

by Annie T Payne

Joe Keys (CPRG board member) called me this week with a couple of facts about Westwater that he said would be of interest to CPRG members. Joe is possibly one of the busiest guys I know. I think that he just didn't have time to write it all down himself. I told him that I would write it down and see if I couldn't get it in the Confluence. Then I did some fact checking myself. I wanted to clarify all outboard motor regulations concerning the Colorado River corridor between the Utah State line and the Westwater Ranger Station. As it turns out this is a sensitive issue as is everything I try to report on. I guess somewhere in my subconscious I must love confrontation. I know that Alvin (Westwater Ranger) is going to confront me when I publish this. I would just like to apologize in advance to Alvin. I also would like to say thank you to Alvin for doing a great job of keeping the river guides honest and accurate.

There is no regulation concerning down stream motor use from the state line to the Westwater Ranger Station. Yup, and that's from several horse's mouths. Joe Keys spoke with Joe Asher from the Grand Junction BLM recreational planning office. Joe Asher reported no

regulations concerning down stream motor travel. Joe Asher spoke with Marilyn Petersen from the Moab BLM recreational planning office. Marilyn Petersen concurred that there are no BLM regulations concerning down stream motor travel from State Line to Westwater Ranger Station.

I decided that this probably was not a recreational issue as much as an endangered species issue. So, I called Joe Cresto the Moab BLM biologist (three Joe's, one issue, crazy isn't it?) to see if Joe Cresto could shed some light on the issue. As it turns out this is an endangered species problem. Cresto discovered a nesting pair of Bald Eagles below the state line, on private property, river left, sometime circa the late 1980's. BLM was notified as was Fish and Wildlife of the nesting pair of eagles. In 1996, Federal Register Volume 61 number 231 states that up stream motor use is prohibited from the Westwater Ranger Station to the state line from Feb. 1 to Oct. 15. This regulation was in response to the nesting pair of eagles. Fish and Wildlife wanted to eliminate any new disturbances, mainly Jet skis and up stream traveling motor boats in the area. Later, outboards traveling down stream were informally incorporated into the regulation.

I spoke with Cresto about the issue at length. I questioned how rafts with outboard motors going down stream got incorporated into this regulation. He couldn't shed much light on the issue. He did, however, make some interesting points. Its all true guys. Yes, the Eagles are probably far more disturbed by the train then a 5 horse kicker coming down the river. Yes, they are nesting on a private farm which uses noisy machinery daily. Yes, they have been there for 10 years, maybe more, and don't seem to mind the noise. Yes, they are on the endangered species list. According to Cresto, however, there is a noise threshold. It's the whole straw that broke the camel's back thing. I guess that the BLM folks ( although they don't have any legal recourse), pose an interesting point. River runners need not contribute to a potentially sensitive situation for the eagles.

So, this is where I get really bold and confrontational. Legally, we do not have to turn our motors off at the state line. I ask you though, do we need laws to make us do the right thing? Chances are my motor is not going to make a difference on whether or not the eagles stay. But

what if it did? What if my motor startled a female eagle enough to leave her brood at a critical moment? I, personally, don't think it's worth it.

I don't like to motor the state line stretch anyway, it's as rocky as all get out there! Sometimes, if I am pressed for time, I use the motor. I like having the right to make that decision (motor or not motor). I will tell you, right now however, that if we guides start to motor the state line stretch with wild abandon because we can; we will see the day when the BLM will regulate our motors there. So, how about this? Lets not motor the state line section unless it's necessary. It, ultimately, is the guides' decision.

I welcome your comments.  
[anniet@lasal.net](mailto:anniet@lasal.net)

**Comment from Dave Focardi- Right On!** I love that confrontational attitude of Annie's. I am pretty much in complete agreement here- even if the motor doesn't get turned off right at the state line, at the very least it could be turned off before the boats come around the bend in sight of the ranch where the eagle viewing area is. Throughout the years, filling out permit forms at the ranger station, under comments, I always remark if I saw any eagles. How many and estimated ages, specifically where they were seen, type of activity etc. It provides a little extra data for the biologists and something to keep the permit readers interested in their work.

"RALLY TO SAVE THE ANIMAS RIVER,"  
NOVEMBER 9 IN DURANGO!  
YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED...

As you may know, Congress last year authorized construction of the Animas-La Plata (A-LP) project. Recently, \$21 million in funding for first-year pre-construction work was approved by the House of Representatives. Action in the Senate could come at any time. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STOP IT!

We are gathering to send a message to Washington, that the people do not want or need this wasteful, river-killing project. Congress can still do the right thing by not funding the A-LP boondoggle.

[November 9 is the political start date of the project]

JOIN US IN DURANGO ON FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 9: Meet at Rotary Park on 15<sup>th</sup> street and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue at noon. The march will

proceed to the BuRec office at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and then on to Schneider park on 9<sup>th</sup> and Roosa next to the river. There will be music, speeches, food, and fun. This is a family-oriented, legal event. Please check Living Rivers' website for details. We will issue updates via email, as well.

#### BECOME A CO-SPONSOR OF THE EVENT:

We want your organization and/or business to sign on as a cosponsor! There is no fee. The more support we demonstrate, the stronger our collective voice will be!

Please notify David Orr at Living Rivers via email at [david@livingrivers.net](mailto:david@livingrivers.net) so that we can list your group as a supporter.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO \*TODAY\*:

Send a message to Congress and the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec)! Now is the time to write to Senators, letting them know that money for A-LP will be money wasted. Especially in this time of looming recession, federal tax dollars should be wisely spent. Write to your Senators, and ask them to "ZERO OUT" the A-LP line item in the appropriations bill. A list of all Senators with their addresses may be found on the Senate's Internet website at:

<http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm>

Also, write to the Commissioner of Reclamation and ask him to oppose A-LP funding:

John Keys, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240-000.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH A-LP?

Ridges Basin Dam is a key part of the A-LP project and would store water, only to allow it to evaporate. It is to be built in Mancos shale.

(Editors geologic note: Although Mancos shale is impervious to water, when exposed surfaces come in contact with water it becomes a gooey mess. This is because much of the clay in Mancos shale falls under the *smectite* classification. These clays adsorb water into their molecular structure making them particularly slimy and slippery) Taxpayers have been soaked for more than \$200 million already, and not a spade of dirt has yet been turned. But conservative estimates peg the cost to the Treasury at well over \$500 million. Some independent experts put it at more than a billion dollars.

A-LP would pump water more than 500 feet uphill, at great cost in dollars and energy, to store water in a new Ridges Basin Reservoir, that will function as a giant evaporation pond. There is no demonstrated need for the water, except in

the river. More water storage is simply an enticement to more sprawling development into southwest Colorado, at the expense of taxpayers and the virtually extinct endangered native fish.

**RECLAIMING THE BUREAU:** This "Save The Animas River" rally will be the first in a series of public events calling for BuRec reform, as we approach the occasion of the agency's hundredth anniversary on June 17, 2002. Despite former Commissioner Dan Beard's proclamation that "the era of big dam-building is over," the agency appears unable to resist the opportunity to build at least one more useless pork-barrel project.

Environmentalists want BuRec to mark its second century with a shift from "reclamation," i.e. development, dams, and diversions, to river restoration, including decommissioning many of the 600 dams built by the agency in its first century.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH BUREC?

Across the West, BuRec water projects have left a legacy of damaged ecosystems. The agency's famed engineering prowess has created the most efficient infrastructure ever designed for removing water from rivers, to be used in the most inefficient ways imaginable. BuRec projects have fostered rampant, unsustainable sprawl and development in the desert Southwest for decades. Incongruous golf courses, lawns, and swimming pools of Phoenix and Palm Springs symbolize the "good life" to those who choose to deny the reality of life in the desert.

The biggest source of waste is agriculture. With more than 80 percent of diverted water in most Southwestern states devoted to irrigation, the bulk of that water is used to grow alfalfa (cattle feed) and other low-value crops, some of it for export. Few if any incentives for water users to conserve, and there are significant penalties for doing so (loss of water rights). The system of water management and distribution in the West has for a long time been in need of major legal and regulatory reform. Rationality and fairness must play a major role in allocating Western water. Conservation must be rewarded, and all rivers must be allowed to flow. Living Rivers' "Reclaim the Bureau" Campaign is pressing for these essential changes.

#### RESTORING THE WATERSHEDS:

Living Rivers promotes grassroots organizing to restore the watersheds of the rivers of the Southwestern US and northern Mexico. We are

building coalitions of local, regional, national, and international organizations and indigenous groups to ensure that water supplies are distributed equitably to all, and that river ecosystems are respected, protected, and restored to provide a healthy environment for people and wildlife. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please give us a call at 435-259-1063. Whenever you're in Moab, please stop by and see us at Living Rivers' office in the Restoration Creamery, 21 North Main Street.

David Orr <[david@livingrivers.net](mailto:david@livingrivers.net)>

Director of Field Programs

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[www.drainit.org](http://www.drainit.org) -and- [www.livingrivers.net](http://www.livingrivers.net)

Water Rights for Western Rivers

[Living Rivers: formerly known as Glen Canyon Action Network]

#### Rippling Brook

There is  
a cool, steep place  
where pool, green, and deep clear  
draws fool to swim without clothes,  
Ripp  
Ling Brook

#### Rivers.

I think I need a river, lover, friend.  
Voice of quiet, soothing bend  
Embracing, flowing, surrounding trend.  
Rock in the rill, I wait  
Silent.

Greg Trainor

Hi, Pops again

Last issue I mentioned that Jake Burnett brought along a drum on the Desolation Interpretive Trip that I was apprehensive about at first, but subsequently found it a stress reliever.

This drum thing, and my experience with it, has been hanging around in my mind all season, so I decided to get it out of there so I can move on. I have called it "The Drum." Pretty innovative, Huh!

A disclaimer: I have never smoked anything except plain tobacco nor have I sniffed anything except air and a few decongestants. The things I say I saw were not chemically induced. (Well maybe a couple of beers!) Here goes! Hope you enjoy!

### The Drum

Have you ever sat in the wilderness,  
And listened to a native drum,  
And let it resound within your being,  
A natural high far better than rum.

I put in at ol' Sand Wash one day,  
The desolation of the desert below,  
Looking forward to the quiet and serenity,  
That canyons like this one can show.

A group of river guides made up the trip,  
To interpret this wild Canyon's lore.  
And adopted the culture of a Fremont tribe,  
Blending with the desert's aura even more.

A big, light piece of baggage went in,  
With a caution, "Don't step on it now!"  
"It's a homemade drum, easily damaged."  
And I thought, "Yeah, who cares anyhow?"

An early camp on one of the days,  
A sweat lodge we were destined to build.  
Heating up rocks became my chore,  
No way would my time be filled!

But Shane, he has a bigger problem,  
As hyper as a hip-hop song,  
He's sitting there pounding on the drum,  
Like he could do it all day long.

And others I see, as I tend the fire,  
Are stopping by and joining in too.  
What's the appeal? I don't know!  
Doesn't seem worth such a big to-do.

The drum is silent; more work to be done,  
Maybe I should pound it for a while.  
Odd how it tends to help you relax,  
And clear your mind, lighting a smile.

It's time to move the rocks to the lodge,  
Wow! How that hour did fly!  
Amazing how long I beat that drum,  
How my senses seemed to amplify!

Another evening, further down the river,  
The last night before we are done,  
Were beginning to gel as a group of guides  
And like a tribe, to become one.

Quietly around the fire we sit,  
Peacefully, each in our own deep thought.  
Steven gets up and on the drum does strike,  
His own rhythm on the rawhide so taut.

Another joins in with his own beat too,  
And a third lends her own unique throb.  
And then a fourth at the drum does add,  
More resonance to the thick hob-nob.

A hazy ringed moon; A cloudy bright night;  
Eerie sensation radiates through the group.

As one by one, members of the tribe join in,  
Dancing their own moves 'round the loop.

A lone dogged hold-out, I rest against a log,  
And watch in the others their reverie.  
I don't understand the compulsion of the beat,  
And why here, they no longer seem to be!

Time moves on and I relax in the din,  
And slowly the percussion becomes alive,  
As a resonant thrumming in my blood,  
Prodding my intellect to revive.

I stand, inhale, slow movement the norm,  
Eyes slowly closing as I absorb the scene.  
Mind flying high on the resounding beat,  
I look down on eagles, a view never seen.

Suddenly everything becomes so vividly clear,  
The trembling air, its ethereal meaning to all.  
I sense the living of the many before me,  
And the effect of the throbbing drum's call.

I see myself a great village chief,  
Regal leader of a powerful tribe.  
The pulsing helps prepare our buffalo hunt,  
The staple for my people to survive.

I see myself a warrior brave,  
Preparing for battle on the morrow.  
I will count coup on my foes so strong,  
Or pass on from abject shame and sorrow.

I see myself a wrinkled Shaman so wise,  
My sacred cavern deep, velvety and dark,  
Raven's wing feathers brush upon my face,  
As with the Old Ones my spirits embark.

I see myself a grizzled Mountain Man,  
Trapper, hunter and fighter supreme.  
Indians are my friends and even family,  
But these drums sound ominous, I deem.

I see myself a cavalryman in blue,  
With Custer at the Little Big Horn.

Unaware that disaster is surely pending,  
But afraid of the battle in the morn'.

I see myself a pioneer father,  
Hearing rumbling of drums o'er the hill.  
Not sure of the meaning, but apprehensive,  
Checking family and rifle, suspecting ill will.

I see myself a buffalo hunter,  
A Sharps shooter without any equal.  
Harvesting the beasts for their valuable hide,  
Not caring about the native people.

I see myself a lone desert cowboy,  
Trapped in a searing box canyon so stark.  
Knowing what will be if I cannot fight free,  
Torture, slow death; My grave with no mark.

I see myself among the defeated people,  
Glory and freedom a thing of tall tales.  
Sent to a reservation all desert and sand,  
Heart so heavy the resounding drum fails.

I see myself in the reality of now,  
Among colleagues in this wondrous trade,  
Whitewater guide on great western rivers,  
Where once all these visions were made.

Have you ever sat in the wilderness,  
And listened to a native drum,  
And let it resound within your being,  
A natural high far better than rum.

If ever your blessed to run with great peers,  
And a Fremont tribe you try to be.  
Pound a drum of wood and rawhide a bit!  
The Ancients reward any mind that's free.

Paul R. "Pops" Smith - 2001