

Center for Water & Society ~ Videos on Water Resources

(May be borrowed from Alex Mayer asmayer@mtu.edu or Carol Asiala casiala@mtu.edu)

DVDs

FLOW: How Did a Handful of Corporations Steal Our Water? (2008 by Oscilloscope Pictures)

Water is the sleeping giant issue of the 21st Century and we all need to wake up about it. *FLOW* opens our eyes about the greatest threat of our time - the global water crisis. Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century - The World Water Crisis. It is a compelling and passionate film. Its engaging narrative will grip the viewer." Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel. Interviews with scientists and activists intelligently reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, and the film introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab, while begging the question "CAN ANYONE REALLY OWN WATER?" Beyond identifying the problem, *FLOW* also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround. (DVD, 84 minutes) www.flowthefilm.com/

Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure (2008 by Pennsylvania State University)

Liquid Assets tells the story of essential infrastructure systems: water, wastewater, and storm water. These systems — some in the ground for more than 100 years — provide a critical public health function and are essential for economic development and growth. Largely out of sight and out of mind, these aging systems have not been maintained, and some estimates suggest this is the single largest public works endeavor in our nation's history. Exploring the history, engineering challenges, and political and economic realities in urban and rural locations, the documentary provides an understanding of the hidden assets that support our way of life. (DVD, 90 minutes) <http://liquidassets.psu.edu/>

Plagues & Pleasures on the Salton Sea (2006 by Tilapia Film L.L.C.)

Fabulously offbeat and refreshingly upbeat, this lovable film gets friendly with the natives of the Salton Sea, an inland ocean of massive fish kills, rotting resorts, and 120 degree nights located just minutes from urban Southern California. This award-winning film from directors Chris Metzler and Jeff Springer details the rise and fall of the Salton Sea, from its heyday as the "California Riviera" where boaters and Beach Boys mingled in paradise to its present state as a decaying, forgotten ecological disaster. From wonderland to wasteland, *PLAGUES & PLEASURES ON THE SALTON SEA* captures a place far more interesting than the shopping malls and parking lots of suburban America, a wacky world where a beer-swilling Hungarian Revolutionary, a geriatric nudist, and a religious zealot building a monument to God all find solace and community. Crisply and hilariously narrated by oddball auteur John Waters, and featuring music by desert lounge rockers Friends of Dean Martinez, *PLAGUES & PLEASURES ON THE SALTON SEA* melds high camp with stark realism, offering both a sobering message about the consequences of tampering with nature and a heart-warming tale of individualism. (DVD, 73 or 58 minutes) www.saltonseadoc.com

The Return of the Cuyahoga (2008 by Bullfrog Films)

The Return of the Cuyahoga provides a fascinating look at the life, death and rebirth of one of America's most polluted rivers. The 100-mile long Cuyahoga River in Ohio is known to most Americans as "the river that burned," yet few are aware of its broad and historic impact on life in the United States. The return of the Cuyahoga, and of rivers across the United States, represents a tremendous success in individual effort, community resolve and national public policy. The final chapter of our relationship with our rivers has not been written, however. While the Clean Water Act led to reduced industrial pollution, it did not anticipate that contamination from urban run-off, suburban sprawl and agriculture would keep many U.S. waterways, like parts of the Cuyahoga, too polluted for swimming and fishing. Other challenges, such as dams and storm drains also test our ability to balance economic and environmental concerns. (DVD, 57 minutes) www.pbs.org/thereturnofthecuyahoga

Thirst (2004 by Snitow-Kaufman Productions)

Is water part of a shared "commons", a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? THIRST tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions, as water becomes the most valuable global resource of the 21st Century. A character-driven documentary with no narration, THIRST reveals how the debate over water rights between communities and corporations can serve as a catalyst for explosive and steadfast resistance to globalization. (DVD, 62 minutes)

www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/thirst

Water First: Reaching The Millennium Development Goals (2008 by Hart Productions)

Through the inspiring story of Charles Banda, a humble Malawian fireman turned waterman, we see how water is a solution to many of the problems in his impoverished, sub-Saharan country. From hunger and poverty to women's equality and population control, HIV/AIDS to environmental sustainability, Banda makes it clear that the best way to assist and empower people in developing nations, and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is by putting water first. *Water First* draws a clear correlation between clean water and all of the other Millennium Development Goals. The goals are a set of 8 targets set by the UN in the year 2000 and endorsed by 187 nations. Sadly, at the halfway mark, we are less than halfway there. Charles Banda believes that if more people knew about the MDGs we would have a much better chance of achieving them. And, if clean water was the top priority, achieving the goals would be much more feasible. "30% of the goals would automatically be achieved if everyone had clean water," says John Oldfield of Water Advocates. (DVD, 28 minutes or 45 minutes) www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/wfirst.html

The Water's Edge: Profits and policy behind the rising catastrophe of floods (by Marshall Frech)

Who makes money from floods? Who benefits from building in harm's way? And why are floods disasters growing with no end in sight? "The Water's Edge" is the first critical documentary to link the systemic failures behind the growing catastrophe of floods in this country. Through an amazing collection of flood footage and in-depth coverage of repetitive flood victims, this movie uncovers the profiteering and neglect that ensure increasing devastation for our ever-urbanizing society. The precious land at the water's edge, so vital for wildlife corridors and open space, is being turned into a federally-subsidized disaster zone that brings great fortune to bankers and builders and the perpetual debt of the underclass.

(DVD, 57 minutes) <http://thewatersedge.tv/>

Mining Madness, Water Wars: The Great Lakes in the Balance (2008, National Wildlife Federation)

"Mining Madness, Water Wars: The Great Lakes in the Balance" is an award winning documentary that lays bare a controversial proposal to blast a mine beneath a blue ribbon trout stream in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The 33-minute story is told through the passionate voices of scientists, community activists, tribal officials, and others who care about protecting our most precious asset water.

http://online.nwf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=glnc_lakesuperior_documentary

Red Gold, an environmental documentary (2009, Felt Soul Media) The Bristol Bay region of southwest Alaska is home to the Kvichak and Nushagak rivers, the two most prolific sockeye salmon runs left in the world. Two mining companies, Northern Dynasty Minerals and Anglo American have partnered to propose an open-pit and underground mine at the headwaters of the two rivers. The exploration site is the second largest combined deposit of copper, gold and molybdenum ever discovered and has an estimated value of more than \$300 billion. Despite promises of a clean project by officials, the accident-plagued history of hard rock mining has wrought one of the biggest land use battles Alaska has ever faced. Documenting the growing unrest among native, commercial and sport fishermen, Red Gold is a portrait of a unique way of life that won't survive if the salmon don't return with Bristol Bay's tide. (DVD, 55 minutes) <http://www.redgoldfilm.com/>

VHS

Cadillac Desert Part 1: Mulholland's Dream and Part 2: American Nile (1997 by Trans-Pacific Television)

Mulholland's Dream, tells the incredible story of how the hunt for and the exploitation of water brought the city of Los Angeles to life -- and, literally, life to Los Angeles. Evoking the real-life visionaries, scoundrels and dark intrigues behind the fiction of the motion picture Chinatown -- and the remarkable tale of Water Department chief William Mulholland's quest to quench the city's ever growing thirst for more and more water -- the broadcast weaves together past and present to illustrate water's essential role in the history of Los Angeles, as well as the city's challenges for the future. An American Nile tells the story of how the Colorado became the most controlled, litigated, domesticated, regulated and over-allocated river in the history of the world. Rich with archival footage and interviews with the river's "shapers" and protectors, the broadcast chronicles how the Colorado became so dammed-up and diverted that by 1969 it no longer reached the sea except in the wettest of years. (VHS, Episode 1: 90 minutes, Episode 2: 60 minutes)

Cadillac Desert Part 3: The Mercy of Nature and Part 4: Last Oasis (1997 by Trans-Pacific Television)

The Mercy of Nature traces the fierce political and environmental battles that raged around the transformation of California's Central Valley from a semi-arid plain into the most productive and environmentally altered agricultural region in the history of the world. Last Oasis, offers an eye-opening report on the ways in which water use -- and misuse -- are affecting the daily lives of millions of people in India, China, Mexico, South America, the Mideast, and here at home in Colorado and California. The broadcast explores how, in the face of rising water needs, advances in water conservation may be humanity's "last oasis." (VHS, 2x60 minutes)

Flood! (1996 by NOVA)

Travel with NOVA along the Mississippi River and experience the flood of the century. The Great Flood of 1993 drowned America's heartland beneath inescapably rising waters. Unlike the fast moving

devastation caused by a hurricane or earthquake, a flood unfolds as if in slow motion as it moves along a river. Part of the torture was how the river seemed to pit one community against another. Disaster for a town where a levee fail and water rushes in can mean salvation for other towns along the river. (VHS, 60 minutes) www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/flood/

A Journey in the History of Water: I & II (2001 by Norwegian Broadcasting Corp. and University of Bergen)

I. The Struggle: This program takes the viewer from unique scenes in the Himalayas, where a sterile expanse of rock has been transformed into an oasis, to the Borana people of southern Ethiopia, who manually draw water for 300,000 people and a million head of cattle from deep, hidden wells. The ancient civilization of the Nile valley is contrasted with the highly sophisticated methods of irrigation employed by farmers in California. We then progress via the aqueducts and beautiful fountains of Imperial Rome to the old land of the Aztecs and their water civilization, where today the world's largest metropolis, Mexico City, is sinking due to overuse of groundwater.

II. The Energy: It was a momentous revolution in the history of humankind when the energy in running water came to be exploited. For countless millennia the only power available was human or animal muscle power. This program takes the viewer on a dramatic boat trip down the Yangtze through the Three Gorges to the world's biggest hydropower dam, and on to the longest canal ever built, the old Emperor Canal. The program explores the role of the modest waterfalls and canals in Britain's industrial revolution, before ending up in Norway, a land abundantly endowed with rivers, lakes and waterfalls, and whose development from about 1500 was totally dependent upon different uses of hydro-power. (VHS, 2x45 minutes) <http://watervideo.com/>

A Journey in the History of Water: III & IV (2001 by Norwegian Broadcasting Corp and Univ. of Bergen)

III. The Myths: The physical and aesthetic properties of water give it a unique mythical-religious potential. This program starts on the rain coast of Scandinavia to investigate the religion of the Vikings and then goes to the Middle East, home of the monotheistic desert religions. It follows in the biblical footsteps of the Israelites from Jordan to Jericho and discusses the importance of water in Islam. The role of Mother Ganga in Hinduism and the significance of the enormous funeral pyres in the sacred city of Varanasi are shown. The program also looks at the history of bathing, from Roman times to modern hydrotherapy in Germany. It ends up in France, at Lourdes, where millions of pilgrims flock every year to take the holy water.

IV. The Conflicts: Many argue that future conflicts will be conflicts over fresh water. This program takes the viewer from the desert city, Las Vegas, where urban history rests not only on the casinos, but on water control. Then it proceeds to Lake Victoria in the heart of Africa, to the wonderful Blue Nile falls in Ethiopia, to the greatest swamp in the world in Southern Sudan and to Egypt, to tell the story of past water conflicts on a grand scale. This is followed by a presentation of the water issue in the Israeli-Arab conflict. Then the viewer is taken to a little-known institution - one of the oldest court still functioning in Europe - the water tribunal in Valencia, Spain. The series ends in the deserts of Oman, bringing the viewer to deep underground canals made more than two thousand years ago and to a water auction! (VHS, 2x45 minutes) <http://watervideo.com/>

Toxic Trials (1986 by NOVA)

When a high number of cancer cases struck the suburban community of Woburn, Massachusetts, the town mobilized to investigate why. The result was a landmark study of the effects of hazardous wastes. NOVA explores the legal and scientific implications of the link between environmental pollution and illness. (VHS, 58 minutes)