

On a timeless journey, the Green River has carved its way through the heart of the West.

A life source for generations of American Indians, its rushing waters were a boon for trappers and a mystery to explorers. It was the birthplace of modern river rafting and ground zero for creation of a grass-roots environmental movement.

But in the 21st Century the Green River is being offered as the answer to so many national and regional questions, its very future is in doubt.

KUED explores the past, present and uncertain future of the Green River in a new documentary by Nancy Green, “**Green River: Divided Waters,**” airing November 9 at 9:00 p.m. and again November 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Running over 700 miles from its Wyoming headwaters until it plunges into the Colorado River near Moab, the Green River is a vital resource in an arid landscape. The last wild stretch of a river system that now supplies water to nearly 30 million people, the Green is often viewed as the best hope for untapped water. And there is no shortage of interests forming a line to lay claim to the river’s flow. Its waters call to those who prize outdoor experiences. But others hear a call to use the water to sustain development for an energy-dependent nation and to tap the river to quench booming populations in the West.

“The Green River with its remote, beautiful and rugged landscape is an incredible resource,” says Green. “People love the Green for its wild feel and recreation, yet its also vital as a resource to meet the need of a growing population. With all the varying interests in the Green, how do we find a balance? What do we value?”

“There are so many demands because we're looking at the river from so many different perspectives,” says Dennis Willis in the documentary. “And we can't really have a decent conversation about the river until we can agree that we're talking about the totality of the thing itself, and not just a water column.”

In addition to interviews with an array of players, **“Green River: Divided Waters”** looks at the history of the river itself – from John Wesley Powell’s first expedition into the unknown river in 1869, to the pitched battle over the proposed Echo Park Dam where David Brower and the Sierra Club made a pivotal environmental stand, to the ongoing debate over the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, to the most recent arguments over oil shale, gas and nuclear development.

In the words of Zachary Frankel, “The Green River is really at a crossroads today.”