

**Letter #:** 486  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
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**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** SEIS comment

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I am a conservation photographer engaged in Colorado River conservation. I have just completed a book, titled Living River, The Promise Of The Mighty Colorado with publisher Braided River. I work with numerous conservation groups and tribes throughout the watershed and engage with conservation leaders. I've experienced much of the watershed on foot, bicycle, raft, and by plane, often spending time with local experts, a number of them featured in our book.

And I certainly grasp the urgency and scope of the crisis on the Colorado. My comment for the SEIS is: wherever possible, please consider the health of the river for people and wildlife. For the river itself. A major problem with communications about the Colorado and her tributaries in these times is that nearly all of the discussions and articles written are about a dying river. Yet, my experience is that wherever the rivers of the Colorado flow, there is life, abundant, vibrant life. I believe we have a moral imperative to conserve, restore, and protect the enduring wild in the watershed. I also believe that we won't be whole as a watershed community until everyone has access to clean water. My work with Navajo Dineé people in Monument Valley and tribes throughout the Bears Ears region has been both uplifting and heartbreaking. I've gone to the water station with Henry Wilson Sr. and witnessed the 2 1/2 hour wait just to begin filling a 325 gallon container in a dedicated 3/4 ton pickup. I've been with Indigenous people who are drinking bottled water because the well source isn't potable.

The water crisis is layered and complex with millions of straws drawing from these rivers. I ask that we take the time to consider and listen to the river. I believe that a big part of our job in this moment is to get people to see, and feel the river; not as a resource, but as a river of life. All life.

Thank you, I'm here to help,

Dave Showalter  
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