

“WATER IN THE WEST” SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS AND VIEWING

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LOVELAND LOVES TO READ 2019

NON-FICTION – chronological order

Downriver: Into the Future of Water in the West, Heather Hansman, 2019. Ms. Hansman shares insights on the future of water through adventure, story-telling, interviewing and revealing water research and policy-making. Her white-water raft trip on the Green River from WY to the Colorado River reflects on desires of water stake-holders and the environment.

Where the Water Goes: Life and Death Along the Colorado River, David Owen, 2017. The author takes a trip along the Colorado River and talks about what it makes possible as it goes, dwelling on the man-made ecosystem – and the potential for trouble.

Water Is for Fighting Over and Other Myths about Water in the West, John Fleck, 2016. The author has seen people in the Colorado River Basin come together, conserve and share the water that is available. He writes how systemic inefficiencies exist in the West and the smart ways they can be addressed.

Your Water Footprint: The Shocking Facts About How Much Water We Use to Make Everyday Products, Stephen Leahy, 2014. A very visual book about making informed choices, revealing the true cost of our lifestyle.

“Dam Nation”, DVD or Amazon Prime, 2014. This film explores the history and evolution of the great hydro-dams, as well as the change in values, from conquest of the natural world to striving to live in harmony with it.

Dam Nation: How Water Shaped the West and Will Determine its Future, Stephen Grace, 2012. Grace is a Colorado author who followed rivers west of the 100th meridian and charted currents throughout the region’s history. He served as a consultant to the documentary “Dam Nation” (see above)

Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet, Mark Lynas, 2008. A graphic treatment of what to expect from a warming world, degree by degree. Available in companion Blu-ray DVD from National Geographic.

When the Rivers Run Dry: Water, the Defining Crisis of the 21st Century, Fred Pearce, 2006. The Colorado River is the “poster child” for drying up! Global regions are discussed for specific problems, the danger of mining aquifers, a history of failed engineering solutions and how water “runs up hill” toward money.

The Worst Hard Time, Timothy Egan, 2006. The years of the Great Depression were darkened by black dust blizzards in this chronicle of survivors of the great American Dust Bowl.

Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Marc Reisner, 1986, revised 1993 with a new post script. “The definitive work on the West’s water crisis.” – Newsweek.

Desert Passages: Encounters with the American Deserts, Patricia Limerick, 1985. This collection of case studies traces the development of American attitudes toward the desert. A variety of writings from Mark Twain to Edward Abbey.

CLASSIC FICTION

The Milagro Beanfield War, John Nichols, 1994. A feisty farmer, determined to have water for his crop, becomes the center of a power struggle when development begins in surrounding land.

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck, 1939. Migration in the face of natural disaster on a scale no one had ever experienced informs this Pulitzer prize-winning novel of the Dust Bowl.

YOUNG ADULT

Dry, Neal and Jarrod Shusterman, 2018. ages 13 and up The California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions. Teenagers must make life and death decisions to survive after the Tap-Out is declared. A warzone of desperation turns neighbors and families against each other.

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