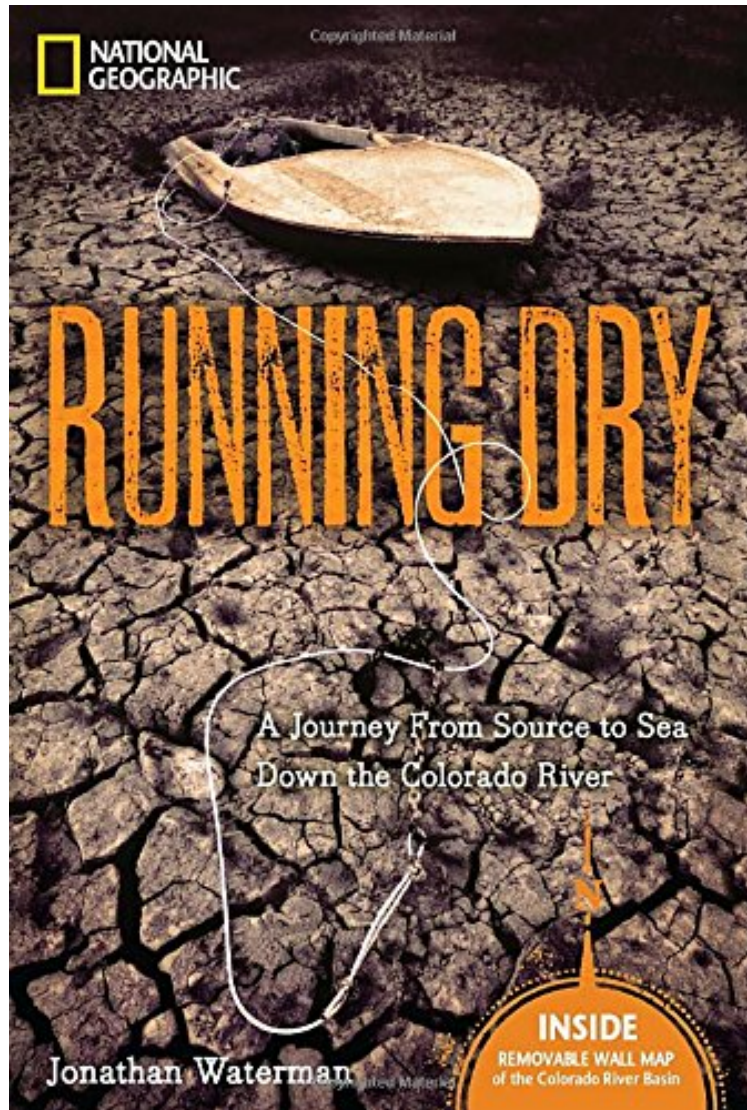


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# Running Dry: A Journey From Source to Sea Down the Colorado River

Jonathan Waterman

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**Jonathan Waterman : Running Dry: A Journey From Source to Sea Down the Colorado River** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Running Dry: A Journey From Source to Sea Down the Colorado River:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Makes my Top Ten list of books I've read in the last decade By Robert I've read the first 18% of this book on my Kindle and I can't say enough positive things about the book. I

expected the book to be a simple recounting of a paddle down the Colorado River and instead I'm getting a fascinating history lesson on Western states water law and an abbreviated bio on the author's paddle mates and interviewees. Having spent a relished year in Breckenridge as a fifth grader in 1979, I have a romanticized view of Colorado that is being brought fast forward to the modern and unsustainable Colorado of 2009. Having spent a week touring from Denver to Lake Powell last summer, I have seen in person the bathtub ring of lowered water levels. This book is helping me understand that they might be permanent. I'll give an update when I finish the book. Oh, and I do wish there were pictures. I don't know if there are pictures somewhere in the book because I can't fan the pages of a Kindle book looking for them, but there ought to be a picture on every page. I have seen none yet. I am using Microsoft Streets and Trips and Google Earth on my laptop to see where the author is at any point in the book. Street View is very helpful to get an idea of the topography. I think this book would be great for parents to share with their kids while using mapping software and following along on the authors travels. UPDATE: I've now finished reading the book. I still highly recommend the book. I found a few pictures at the absolute end of my Kindle edition. I highly prefer photos be embedded at the relevant portion of the book. Also, a few places seem to be truncated w/o the end of sentences. Don't know why that happened. I recall only one spelling error where a "there" should have been a "their." My only complaint with the book is substantive in that the further you get into the book the more obviously one-sided it reads without any effort applied to seeing the other side of the story. It is impossible for me to clarify this statement without spoiling the story for potential readers so I will just say that the author seems to find no value in motorized pleasure boating and misses the point completely that most of the problems with the Colorado running dry are caused by exponential population growth rather than some arbitrarily inappropriate use of water for recreation like building dams. Simply stunning work product otherwise. Thank you for a great education about the river and water rights. See authors web site for a detailed map not included in Kindle edition and to my recollection not mentioned either until end of book. [...] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read while rafting the Colorado By Jim Huston This was a great book to read while I did a one week raft trip down the Colorado with my family in the summer of 2013. Gave a great context for why the river and the ecosystem was the way it was. Probably not as much of a classic of western water as Marc Reisner's "Cadillac Desert", but that's a high bar. Waterman uses the parallel story of the slow death of his mother by cancer as something of an analogy for the death of the river. At times I felt like this quasi memoir was detracting from the story I wanted to hear, but in the end I realized it did provide a good narrative theme for the overall story. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great read for those interested in water management in the west By rangercurt This is one of the best recently written books to help folks understand water management issues in the Colorado River Basin. I read it immediately prior to reading "Dead Pool", an outstanding follow-on to "Running Dry" for those folks who really want to understand the history and current issues of water management in the arid American Southwest.

In 1869, John Wesley Powell led a small party down the Green and Colorado Rivers in a bold attempt to explore the Grand Canyon for the first time. After their monumental expedition, they told of raging rapids, constant danger, and breathtaking natural beauty of the American landscape at its most pristine. Jon Waterman combines sheer adventure and environmental calamity in this trailblazing cautionary account of his 2008 trip down the overtaxed, drying Colorado. Dammed and tunneled, forced into countless canals, trapped in reservoirs and harnessed for electricity, what once was untamed and free is now humbled, parched, and so yoked to human purposes that in most years it trickles away 100 miles from its oceanic destination. Waterman writes with informal immediacy in this eye-witness account of the many demands on the Colorado, from irrigating 3.5 million acres of farmland to watering the lawns of Los Angeles. He shows how our profligacy and inexorable climate change spark political conflict, and how we can avert this onrushing ecological crisis. As he follows Powell afloat and afoot, Waterman reaches out both to adventure travelers and to scientists, conservationists, environmentalists, and anyone interested in the fragile interplay between nature and humans.

From Booklist \*Starred\* Waterman, whose earlier books illuminate the Arctic, strikes an impressive balance between the personal and the political in chronicling his journey down the Colorado River. Quoting those who have traveled its depths before, such as John Wesley Powell and Wallace Stegner, he writes not only about the rivers now-dying power but also the extensive regulations put in place to control and possess it. And yet as much as this is about the river, Waterman also discusses individuals invested in its survival from biologists to the many watermen and -women whose livelihoods come from navigating its length. The misguided playground of Lake Powell proves to be an unsavory stopping point, but the author perseveres in his search for answers. From Vegas to Mexico, he finds waste and ruin and then turns a corner to discover the fruits of hard-won battles for bird sanctuaries and brilliant uses of drip irrigation. Through it all, he ruminates about the choices between life and death for humankind and rivers. An evocative and bold take on a river and what winning the West really means, Waterman's book epitomizes the best of environmental writing. --Colleen Mondor An evocative and bold take on a river and what winning the West really means, Waterman's book epitomizes the best of environmental writing. Booklist Starred through the authors eyes we see how everything

beautiful and majestic, and difficult and frightening, about the United States in 2010 is carried in the currents of that river. You cant put it down, and you cant put it aside, without asking yourself: What should I be doing differently? 2010 Banff Mountain Book Festival, Best Book-Adventure Travel About the Author Jonathan Waterman is the author of nine books, has made four television films, and works as a freelance author and filmmaker. In 2004, his writing about the Arctic won the prestigious National Endowment of the Arts Literary Fellowship.