



“The voice of native peoples has been drowned out. Instead, corporate CEOs and those Indians the corporate press has selected to be the spokespeople are featured on front pages.

This film allows us to hear new and different voices.”

Jack Forbes, Prof. Emeritus, Native American Studies, UC Davis.

A stunning 73-minute documentary by award-winning director Christopher McLeod tells the story of three indigenous communities and the land and sacred sites of extraordinary beauty they struggle to protect. The Disputes are between American Indians who consider these sites sacred and other Americans who wish to use the sites for commercial enterprises and recreation. Religious freedom so valued in America is not guaranteed to those who practice land-based religions.

Hopi and Navajo Claim Rare Victory. Over the past 35 years a total of 40 billion gallons of pure groundwater was pumped from the Navajo Aquifer beneath the Hopi and Navajo Nations in NE Arizona. Peabody Coal used the water for a slurry pipeline to transport coal from a stripmine on Black Mesa to a power plant in the Mojave Desert, 273 miles to the West. On January 1, 2006, the Mohave Power Plant was shut down and the slurry-line, that was operated for the last 10 years without a permit, was finally terminated. For 30 years, traditional leaders and activists struggled to protect their sacred waters from pollution and waste.

Winnemem-Wintu Struggle on to Protect Sacred Sites and Water. When the Shasta Dam on the upper reaches of the Sacramento River was completed in 1944, it created huge Lake Shasta flooding 4,400 plus acres of Winnemem-Wintu land, including sacred sites, ancestral villages and burial grounds. Now Congress has appropriated \$395 million to study increasing the Dam height by between 6 and 200 feet. Raising it even six feet will flood most of their remaining sites. Additionally, the Winnemem-Wintu have been denied status as a federally recognized tribe that would give them some legal standing and protections.

Climbers Continue to Disrespect Devils Tower. Devils Tower a natural rock standing 865 feet tall in northeastern Wyoming is a most sacred site to Lakota, Cheyenne, and members of other Plains tribes where they offer prayers and perform ceremonies. It is a National Park Service Monument that has become a popular rock-climbing destination with the increasing climbers and tourists disturbing the solitude of this native religious site. Some climbers see the tower as “their” sacred spot and banning them to restrict “their” religious freedom. Agreement to a ban during the month of June, the most important period to the tribes, has only been partially successful. The conflict continues.

In the Light of Reverence is available in high-quality DVD or VHS format. To rent a copy from the Alliance for Democracy office, call Barbara Clancy at 781-894-1179 or email her at afd@thealliancefordemocracy.org. Order your own copy from Bullfrog Films, Oley, PA at 1-800-543-3764 (toll-free) at \$59.00, plus \$6.00 for shipping/handling for community groups. See also <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>. A 48-page Study Guide is available to order or download at www.thirstthemovie.com/ThirstStudyGuide.pdf.