



CHRIS WARREN | Artist Statement

Rivers are one of the most powerful geologic forces on earth, but in reality they are little more than the culmination of countless raindrops and snowflakes that are compelled by gravity to flow together in their search for the lowest elevation. The Colorado River is an icon of the American west, as well as one of the most overtaxed and imperiled rivers in the world. Its flow rarely ever reaches the Pacific Ocean, having been cut to death by 1000 sips and diversions, watering our cities, crops, and lawns. In the same way that countless drops come together to create this western behemoth, it is taken apart and stolen from its flow by equally countless blades of grass, shower heads, and irrigation ditches. The land that is drained by a single river is called a watershed. These pieces have isolated the different watersheds that make up the upper Colorado River (its flow upstream from its confluence with the Green River in Canyonlands National Park). The total of the whole of the Colorado River is made up from these tributaries, rivers that water our Colorado mountain towns and the fields of hearty high altitude farmers. If we are going to save the flow of the Colorado River, for our own need not just for ecological reasons, we will have to all take cuts and rethink how we use the precious water. We will have to sacrifice countless drops and return it to gravity, there is no one big solution. To save the river and save ourselves, we all need to act as responsible pieces of the whole.