Links:

Saving a river - Mono audio mp4:

<https://vimeo.com/842546190?share=copy>

Saving a river - Split Track .MXF:

<https://vimeo.com/842546254?share=copy>

Jonathan is also putting both versions in your water desk Vimeo Channel.

Summary:

A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT WATER –-

IN THE ARID SOUTHWEST, WHERE WATER SCARCITY OFTEN DIVIDES COMPETING INTERESTS…. AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH THAT COULD BECOME THE MODEL FOR FUTURE COOPERATION.

BRAD HICKS SHOWS YOU HOW A RIVER IS BEING SAVED, BY THE WATER BEING SOLD.

SUPERS:

L / San Juan River, New Mexico :00 - :05

S / Brad Hicks, Reporting :10-:14

S / Daryl Vigil, Jicarilla Apache Nation  :45 - :49

S / Celene Hawkins, The Nature Conservancy  1:06 - 1:10

S / Hannah Riseley-White, NM Interstate Stream Commission 1:47 - 1:52

TRT= 1:56    OUT = Brad Hicks reporting.

A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT WATER –-

(—PKG—)

WITH RECORD SNOW IN THE SOUTHERN ROCKIES THIS YEAR, THE SAN JUAN RIVER LOOKS STRONG ON ITS JOURNEY TO JOIN THE COLORADO.

ALONG THAT ROUTE — A CELEBRATION OUTSIDE FARMINGTON NEW MEXICO:  NEW WATER IN THE RIVER.

“A river that’s breathing new life.”

MOST OF THE SAN JUAN WATERSHED IS TRIBAL LAND—

SOME BELONGS TO THE JICARILLA APACHE.

THEY CALL THE RIVER WATER —

“Koh. K,O,H. Koh.”

AND THEY HAVE RIGHTS TO SOME OF THAT “KOH,”  BUT THEY HAVE NEITHER THE SOIL NOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO USE IT.

SO FOR DECADES, THE JICARILLA HAVE SOLD MOST OF THEIR WATER TO A COAL PLANT.   BUT WITH COAL POWER NOW BEING CUT, THAT MARKET HAS DRIED UP.

(—SOT—)

S/Daryl Vigil, Jicarilla Apache Nation

“A big chunk of guaranteed revenue that we needed to make up.”

INSTEAD OF SELLING TO ANOTHER INDUSTRY, THE TRIBE WANTED TO KEEP THE WATER WHERE NATURE PUT IT— IN THE RIVER.

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY LIKED THE IDEA, AND ARE NOW LEASING THE TRIBE’S WATER FOR TEN YEARS – MORE THAN 6 BILLION GALLONS A YEAR.

(—SOT—)

S/Celene Hawkins, The Nature Conservancy

“We were so intrigued by the opportunity to restore flows into this incredible river.”

THE AGREEMENT HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT — THE EXTRA WATER WILL CREATE NEW HABITAT FOR TWO SPECIES OF ENDANGERED FISH.

IT HELPS THE STATE — WHICH IS REQUIRED TO KEEP A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WATER FLOWING INTO LAKE POWELL.

AND IT HELPS THE TRIBE — NOT JUST FINANCIALLY, BUT SPIRITUALLY, HONORING THE SACRED KOH.

“That gives us life; it gives everything life.”

THE DEAL IS ALSO ABOUT SELF DETERMINATION.

MORE THAN 2 DOZEN TRIBES HAVE WATER RIGHTS IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN, BUT THEY HAVEN’T HAD A SEAT AT THE TABLE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME ON A BIG SCALE, THEY NOT ONLY HAD A SEAT AT THE TABLE… THEY WERE AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE.

(—SOT—)

S/Hannah Riseley-White, NM Interstate Stream Commission

“I hope this is something that we as a state and across the West can learn from and replicate elsewhere.”

IN FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO, BRAD HICKS REPORTING.