**Renegade Rancher**

**Short description:**

A RENEGADE... HELPING SAVE THE COLORADO RIVER.

40 MILLION PEOPLE RELY ON THE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM FOR WATER AND POWER... BUT AFTER 20 YEARS OF DROUGHT, THE RIVER BASIN IS RUNNING LOW.
BRAD HICKS SHOWS YOU HOW ONE RANCHER ALONG THE UPPER REACHES OF THE RIVER IS TRYING SOMETHING NO ONE HAS DONE BEFORE... AND WHY IT COULD BE A GAME CHANGER IN THE ROCKIES, AND BEYOND.

**Script:**

SCRAPE BY SCRAPE, PAUL BRUCHEZ DIGS INTO THE UNKNOWN.
HE’S EXPERIMENTING WITH A PLANT THAT’S NEVER BEEN DOMESTICATED.

“There’s not a lot known about this particular plant.”

FOR THIS RANCHER WHO’S BEEN SHAKING THINGS UP ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER FOR YEARS... IT’S RIGHT ON BRAND.

BRUCHEZ IS A 5TH GENERATION RANCHER.
MUCH OF THE YEAR, HIS LIVESTOCK FEEDS ON THE WILD RANGE, BUT IN THE WINTER THEY NEED FORAGE CROPS GROWN WITH COLORADO RIVER WATER. BUT AFTER URBAN AREAS AND INDUSTRIAL FARMS TAKE THEIR SHARE... PAUL AND HIS RANCHING NEIGHBORS GET WHAT’S LEFT.
AND IN MOST YEARS, IT’S NOT MUCH.

INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING.... HE CAME UP WITH A WAY TO RECONFIGURE THE RIVER NEAR HIS RANCH.... MAKING IT BETTER FOR HIS FELLOW RANCHERS, AND FOR FISH.

“This is where all the magic happens." PEOPLE STARTED TO TAKE NOTICE.

(—SOT—)

S/ Aaron Derwingson, The Nature Conservancy
“I just couldn’t extend enough gratitude to somebody like Paul for stepping into the leadership role he’s in to try new things.”

SINCE THEN, HE HAS BUILT RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE ROCKIES WITH URBAN AREAS AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

(—SOT—)

S/ Paul Bruchez, Rancher
“We all share this resource and we need to figure out how to be as responsible as possible.”

WHICH IS WHY HE’S PLANTING THESE SILPHIUM SEEDS.
ON THIS DAY, AN EXPERIMENTAL CROP RESEARCH CENTER FROM KANSAS IS GIVING HIM A HEAD START, WITH SEEDLINGS. IF THEY GROW, THEY’LL LOOK LIKE SMALL SUNFLOWERS.

(—SOT—)

S/ Hunter Doyle, The Land Institute Agronomist
“We’re trying to figure out how to take it from a wild plant to something we can just grow in a field.”

AND THEY HAD NO PROBLEM FINDING THE RIGHT RANCHER EAGER TO GIVE IT A TRY.
SILPHIUM HAS DEEP ROOTS SO IT REQUIRES A LOT LESS WATER, AND IT’S RICH IN PROTEIN, SO IT COULD REPLACE OTHER CROPS HIS CATTLE EAT.

IF IT WORKS, HIS EXPERIMENT COULD SAVE RANCHES ACROSS THE ROCKIES AND BEYOND— AND DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN COLLABORATION, NOT CONFLICT, IS THE WAY TO MANAGE WATER.
NEAR KREMMLING COLORADO, BRAD HICKS REPORTING.