

WHERE
THE
WATER
GOES

LIFE AND DEATH ALONG
THE COLORADO RIVER

DAVID OWEN



PERRY RV ROAD TRIP
Colorado River in
Grand Canyon
National Park



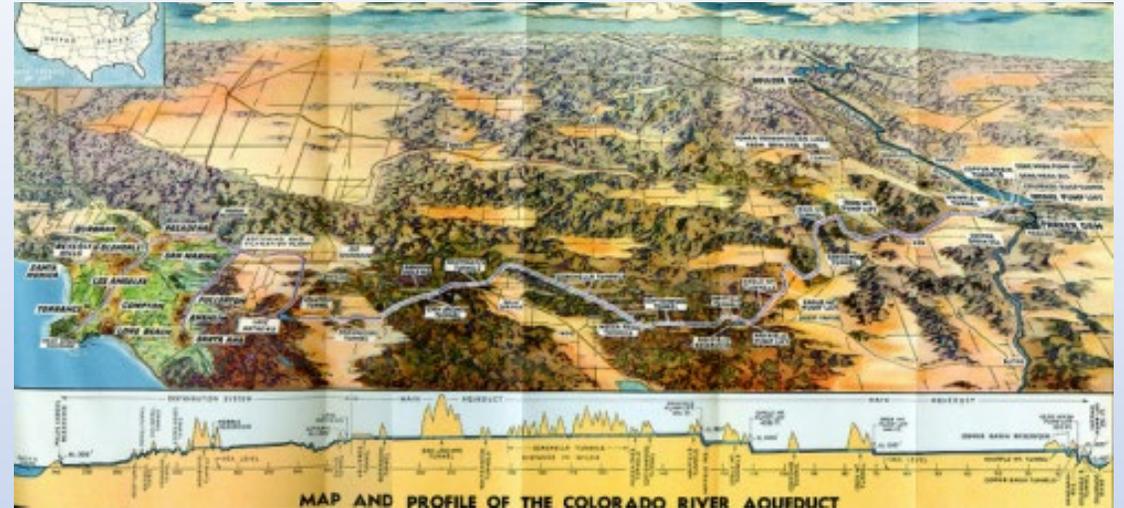
**Scenic Byway
along the
Colorado River
near Moab**

A scenic view of the Iron Mountain Hot Springs in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The foreground features several circular hot spring pools with stone and concrete surrounds, where people are relaxing. A wooden walkway winds through the pools. In the middle ground, the Colorado River flows through a valley, with a train and some buildings visible on the opposite bank. The background is dominated by the Iron Mountain, a large, rugged mountain with green and brown slopes, under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**Iron Mountain Hot
Springs and the
Colorado River at
Glenwood Springs**

David Owen

Grew up in Kansas City, MO., went to Colorado College and Harvard. He has been a staff writer at The New Yorker since 1991 and author of 20 books. He is an investigative journalist and author on many subjects. Fun fact - He is an avid golfer and writes for Golf Digest.



"From those first lines, Mr. Owen owns our attention. We have a lot to learn, but this is not a textbook. What Mr. Owen offers is a detail-rich travelogue, an amalgam of memoir and journalism and history, moving across a watershed that sustains 36 million people from Wyoming to Mexico. This wonderfully written book covers issues that will, or should, give you a headache. But it is a good headache, one that makes you a more informed person. Mr. Owen writes about water, but in these polarized times the lessons he shares spill into other arenas. The world of water rights and wrongs along the Colorado River offers hope for other problems. We all want our fair share of water, but maybe, just maybe, we can get it without draining our neighbor's pipes." —**Wall Street Journal**

Takeaways (Somewhat repeating prior common themes)

- In the Front Range 80% + of water is used for agriculture but there is much reuse as the irrigation water goes back into ground water aquifers and rivers. It's typically reused 6 times before it reaches the state line.**
- The massive scale of manmade structures along the river are mind blowing including the diversionary structures serving the needs of the Colorado Front Range; Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam to serve Arizona, California and Nevada; plus all the canals and dams downstream to capture the water allocated to the USA before it gets to Mexico.**
- Unintended consequences of introducing non-native species of plants and animals into the environment including Tamarisk and Mollusks which are huge problems.**
- Mexico is living up to the Compact Agreement even though they probably didn't realize how little water they would be receiving and how salty it is. Other USA states are reluctant to open Pandora's Box to renegotiate this agreement.**

Questions to Ponder

- **We are currently facing issues with providing hydro power through our large dams along the Colorado River. What changes will we need to face if rationing/reductions in water use are imposed?**
- **Tying land use and water resources together should be a priority. Who decided that California, Nevada and Arizona should be development growth areas and provide so much of our produce? Climate change is going to play a role in geographic winners and losers.**
- **The Salton Sea is disappearing and salty. What is the future for migratory birds and wetland environments – people versus the bigger environmental questions.**
- **Utah's proposed Lake Powell Pipeline is underway with permitting and could be operational in 2025 allowing delivery of up to 83,756 acre feet of water every year. This could upset the whole River Compact because in the past Utah has not been taking their allocation of water. The pipeline would fix that and severely reduce the overage California and Arizona have been the benefit of over the years. [Lake Powell Pipeline | Lake Powell Pipeline \(lpputah.org\)](#)**