

# DAMNATION

## what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmakers
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to talk! discussion guide
- online resources

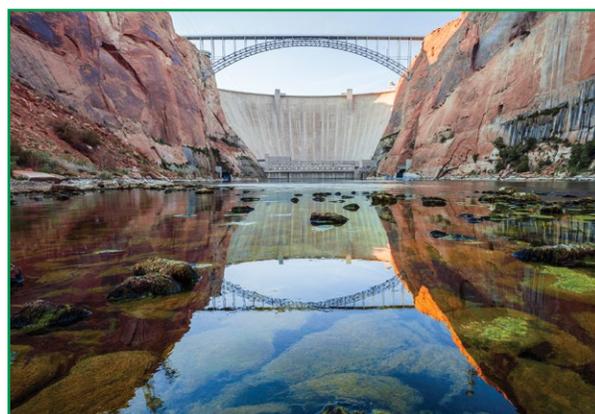
## Bullfrog Community Screening & Discussion Guide

**Roll out the red carpet!** Use your film screening of **DAMNATION** as a tool to explore the sea change in our national attitude towards big dams, and build support for dam removal initiatives in your community or state. This guide offers some background information plus helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, and rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

For additional resources, visit [damnation.bullfrogcommunities.com/damn\\_resources](http://damnation.bullfrogcommunities.com/damn_resources)

## About DAMNATION

This powerful film odyssey across America explores the sea change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. Where obsolete dams come down, rivers bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right of return to primeval spawning grounds, after decades without access. DamNation shows how far things have moved and how quickly, from the assumption 50 years ago that dams were always a power for good, to the first successful attempt to remove a marginal dam 20 years ago on the Kennebec River.



## About the Filmmakers

Matt Stoecker is a biologist and photographer focused on restoring rivers and wild fish populations through his company Stoecker Ecological. Travis was born in New Jersey and received his B.A. from Colorado College. Partnering with Ben Knight in 2004, the two became known for their award-winning short films within the tiny genre of fly fishing. Ben, a self-taught photographer and filmmaker, rolled the dice with his friend Travis and started a small production company called Felt Soul Media. Beda is the founder of brick+mortar productions, a Colorado-based marketing and production company.



# ready to watch!

## Here are some ideas and best practices to help make your community screening of DAMNATION a success!

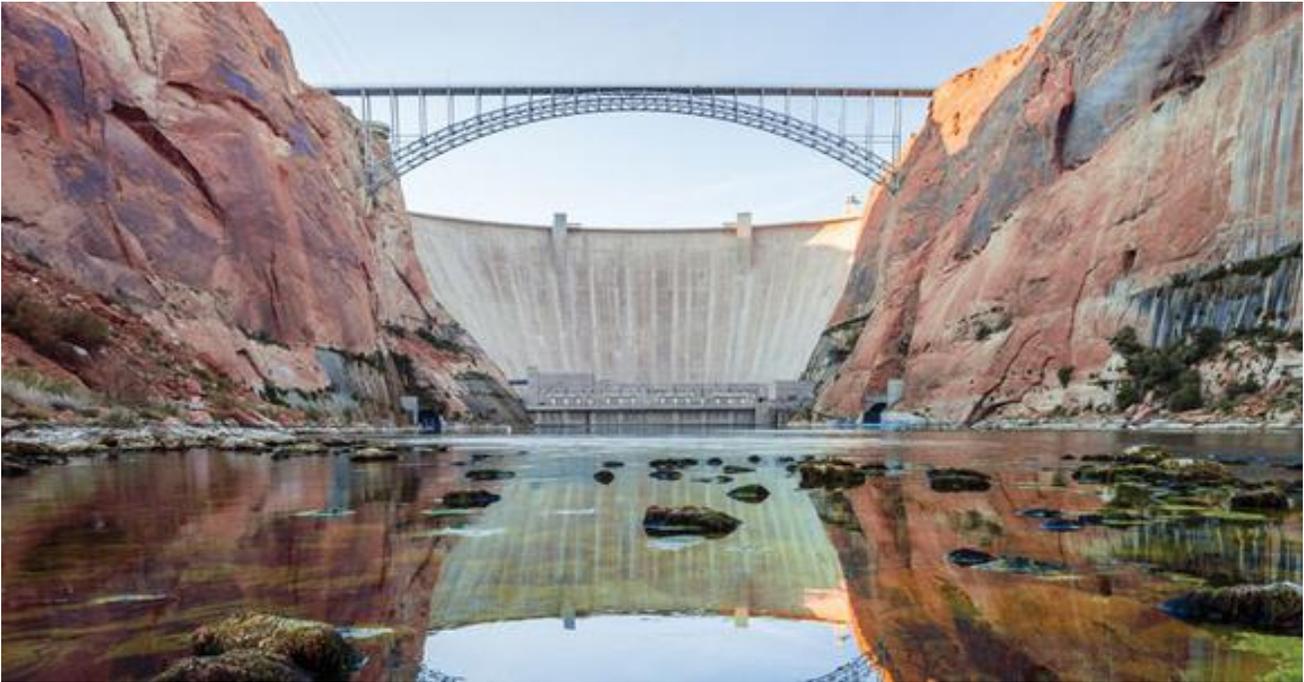
- 1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit <http://damnation.bullfrogcommunities.com/> to register and get the word out on your DAMNATION screening.
- 2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening of DAMNATION? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about dam removal, river restoration and its environmental and recreational benefits., or the engineering aspects of dam construction and the resulting environmental impact. Or, you can simply provide an opportunity for families to watch and learn together.
- 3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, warehouses at a business and outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings.
- 4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Do you know of groups and organizations who deal with conservancy, water, or habitat issues? Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: environmental studies, law, sustainability, and engineering departments at universities and colleges, a representative from your state or local Riverkeepers organization, state park rangers or representatives, environmental and conservancy groups, and other organizations concerned about the environment and/or involved in the areas of fair trade, clean energy, or indigenous rights.
- 5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panels are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact environmental groups, recreational groups such as hiking, or boating clubs, or teachers and professors who have expertise or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend and participate in a discussion or Q&A session.
- 6. Engage Your Audience!** Included in this handout is a section called Ready to Act! which is meant to be a hand-out at your screening. It will help your audience know what they can do to educate themselves about key issues raised in the film.
- 7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing the film screening to people in your community. Sending emails, creating event notifications on Facebook or Meetup, using Twitter, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. Find the DAMNATION screening poster, discussion guide (includes handout), and press photos on [damnation.bullfrogcommunities.com/damn\\_resources](http://damnation.bullfrogcommunities.com/damn_resources) to help publicize your event around town.
- 8. Tell Us How It Went!** Visit <http://damnation.bullfrogcommunities.com/> to tell us about your event: Where it was held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? Your feedback will help others in organizing their own successful events and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

# ready to talk!

**Your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by DAMNATION.  
Here are some questions that will get people talking.**

- 1.** What are some local dam removal opportunities near here?
- 2.** With the high sedimentation and evaporation rates associated with most dams and reservoirs, are they really a sustainable and efficient way to store water?
- 3.** Wouldn't storing water in abundant groundwater aquifers be a more efficient way to store water?
- 4.** If the science is clear that hatcheries are an expensive and ineffective way to manage fisheries, should we invest that money into restoring wild and self-sustainable fisheries instead?
- 5.** In addition to ecological harm, new studies are showing that dams and reservoirs emit greenhouse gases like methane. Should dams still be considered a "green" form of energy?
- 6.** Who are the local groups working to remove deadbeat dams from our rivers?
- 7.** How can someone like me get involved in removing a deadbeat dam from my watershed?

# SIGN THE CHANGE.ORG PETITION TO CRACK DOWN ON DEADBEAT DAMS!



Petitioning **President** Barack Obama

This petition will be delivered to:

**President**  
Barack Obama

## **Crack Down on Deadbeat Dams**

To sign the following petition go to:

<https://www.change.org/p/barack-obama-crack-down-on-deadbeat-dams>

Join us in calling on President Obama to crack down on deadbeat dams, beginning with four especially harmful, federally operated dams on the lower Snake River in southeastern Washington: Ice Harbor Dam, Lower Monumental Dam, Little Goose Dam and Lower Granite Dam.

This petition was created in conjunction with the documentary film DamNation, and supporting partners Patagonia and Save Our Wild Salmon. Please visit [DamNationFilm.com](http://DamNationFilm.com) to learn more.

# resources

## **American Rivers** <http://www.americanrivers.org/>

American Rivers protects wild rivers, restores damaged rivers, and conserves clean water for people and nature. Since 1973, American Rivers has protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and an annual America's Most Endangered Rivers campaign. Through river conservation work, American Rivers is ensuring clean drinking water supplies, revitalizing fish and wildlife, improving recreation, and leaving a legacy of healthy rivers for future generations.

## **Beyond Searsville Dam** <http://beyondsearsvilledam.org/>

Beyond Searsville Dam is a grassroots coalition promoting watershed restoration and removal of Stanford University's "environmentally destructive" Searsville Dam.

## **International Rivers** <http://www.internationalrivers.org>

## **Maine Rivers** <http://mainerivers.org>

## **Matilija Coalition** <http://matilija-coalition.org/>

The Matilija Coalition is an alliance of community groups, businesses, and individuals committed to the environmental restoration of the Ventura River watershed. Starting with the removal of Matilija Dam, the coalition is working for the recovery of the bio-region to benefit the recovery of the Southern Steelhead trout and to restore the natural sediment supply to the beaches of Ventura.

## **Penobscot River Restoration Trust** <http://penobscotriver.org/>

The Penobscot River Restoration Trust is the non-profit organization established for the purpose of implementing the core aspects of the Penobscot River Restoration Project, working in collaboration with PPL Corporation and federal and state agencies.

## **Restore Hetch Hetchy (RHH)** <http://hetchhetchy.org/>

Restore Hetch Hetchy (RHH) works to return the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park to its natural splendor, while continuing to meet the water and power needs of all communities that depend on the Tuolumne River.

## **Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition** <http://www.wildsalmon.org/>

The Save Our wild Salmon Coalition is a diverse, nationwide coalition working together to restore wild salmon and steelhead to the rivers, streams and marine waters of the Pacific Northwest for the benefit of the region's ecology, economy and culture.

## **Waterkeeper Alliance** <http://waterkeeper.org/>

Waterkeeper Alliance is the world's fastest growing environmental movement, uniting more than 220 Waterkeeper organizations around the world and focusing citizen action on issues that affect waterways, from pollution to climate change. Waterkeeper organizations are on the frontlines of the global water crisis patrolling and protecting more than 1.5 million square miles of waterways on six continents. The Waterkeeper movement's mission is for swimmable, drinkable, fishable waterways worldwide. The belief is that the best way to achieve this vision is through the Waterkeeper method of grassroots advocacy.

**WaterWatch** <http://waterwatch.org/>

WaterWatch works to protect and restore flows in Oregon rivers to sustain the native fish, wildlife, and the people who depend on healthy rivers. WaterWatch was the first organization in the West to seek structural reform of antiquated water laws to protect and restore Oregon's rivers.