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DAMNATION FILM TO SCREEN AT NEVADA THEATRE: a Benefit for SYRCL and American Rivers

Nevada City, Calif. – (July 8, 2014) – The South Yuba River Citizens League’s Wild & Scenic Film Festival and American Rivers bring you a screening of the film DamNation followed by a discussion on Yuba salmon as part of the Nevada Theater film series on July 20, 2014. Funds raised benefit American Rivers & SYRCL’s Yuba Salmon Now Campaign.

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. Dam removal has moved beyond the fictional Monkey Wrench Gang to go mainstream. 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’s majestic cinematography and unexpected discoveries move through rivers and landscapes altered by dams, but also through a metamorphosis in values, from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature.

“There are so many reasons to see this film. Come for the visually stunning footage. Come to celebrate a new era for our dam-obsessed nation – a fresh chapter of dam removal and river revival. Come for the hope generated by seeing un-dammed rivers heal and salmon populations return. Come to see the spirited 94-year old Katie Lee recollect Glen Canyon before it was submerged. Come to be inspired by former Earth First graffiti activist Mikal Jakubal. Or just come for the explosions. In any case, do not miss the film that river lovers across the nation are talking about,” recommends Elizabeth Soderstrom, Senior Director of Conservation for American Rivers.

DamNation opens big, on a birth, with the stinging words of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the dedication of Hoover Dam, and on a death, as the engineer at Elwha Dam powers down the turbine on its last day. DamNation stint neither the history nor the science of dams, and above all conveys experiences known so far to only a few, including the awe of watching a 30-pound salmon hurtling 20 feet into the air in a vain attempt to reach the spawning grounds that lie barricaded upriver. We witness the seismic power of a dam breaking apart and, once the river breaks free, the elation in watching wild salmon – after a century of denied access – swimming their way home.

“This film is an opportunity for fans of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival and river lovers to gather and support river and salmon issues in our own backyard, as it’s a benefit for SYRCL and American River’s Yuba Salmon Now campaign,” said Melinda Booth, Festival Director. “Phenomenal filmmakers Ben Knight, Travis Rummel, and Matt Stoecker, along with Producers Yvon Chouinard and Beda Calhoun have made a documentary film on rivers and dams that rivals a Hollywood
blockbuster in terms of engaging the audience and telling a compelling story. It is definitely a “don’t miss” for river and film lovers.”

Details:
Sunday July 20, 2014, 7pm
Nevada Theatre, 401 Broad Street Nevada City, CA.
$15 general  |  $50 VIP (includes pre-event wine reception and reserved seating)
Tickets available at www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org or at the SYRCL office, 313 Railroad Ave., Nevada City, CA. Call or email Melinda Booth for more information: Melinda@syrcl.org; (530) 265-5961 x 202.

ABOUT 2015 WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
Considered one of the nation’s premier environmental and adventure film festivals, this festival combines stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to inform, inspire and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the earth and human communities while creating a positive future for the next generation. Festival-goers can expect to see Award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, Native American and indigenous cultures. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival will be hosted in Nevada City, California from January 15 – January 18, 2015. For more information, visit WildandScenicFilmFestival.org

ABOUT AMERICAN RIVERS
Since 1973, American Rivers has protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and the annual America’s Most Endangered Rivers® campaign. We have helped protect 12,000 miles of rivers across the country as Wild and Scenic, brought rivers to life by helping communities remove or modify hundreds of dams, safeguarded public health by working to eliminate sewage pollution in our waterways, restored habitat for fish and wildlife, provided scientific and legislative expertise on behalf of rivers and clean water, and delivered leadership to the nation’s growing river movement. Headquartered in Washington, DC, American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 200,000 members, supporters, and volunteers. Our presence in California includes offices in Nevada City, Berkeley, and Palo Alto. Our long-term vision is a California where communities can expect to catch healthy salmon, steelhead and other native fish, safely swim in streams, paddle down free-flowing rivers, drink clean water, live free from the threat of catastrophic flooding, and where rivers are preserved for the benefit of future generations. For more information, visit AmericanRivers.org