



Pete McBride, Photographer and Filmmaker

Biography

Native Coloradan Pete McBride has spent almost two decades studying the world with his camera. A self-taught, award-winning photographer, filmmaker and writer, he has traveled on assignment to over 60 countries for the publications of the National Geographic Society, *Smithsonian*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Esquire*, *STERN* and many others.

Raised on a Colorado cattle ranch, Pete is passionate about story telling and unique, gripping ways to communicate them, whether it involves vantages from 20,000 feet or swimming below icebergs. His perspective on capturing water-related stories led *American Photo Magazine* to list Pete as "one of the top five water photographers" in the nation.

After a decade working mostly abroad, Pete decided to focus his cameras closer to home on a subject closer to his heart. Combining his passion for aviation and his belief in conservation, he spent over two years documenting his local river — the Colorado. This journey culminated in the acclaimed coffee table book: "The Colorado River: Flowing Through Conflict", an award-winning short film, "Chasing Water" and a traveling museum exhibit/ lecture currently touring the U.S.

In 2011 and 2012, his film "Chasing Water" won over 20 film festival awards including "Best Short Documentary" at Canada's Banff Mtn. Film Festival , "Best Environmental Film" at England's Kendal Mtn. Festival and "Best Documentary" at Florida's Clear Water Festival, to name a few. A new film, *Delta Dawn*, documenting a release of water that allowed the Colorado River to flow uninterrupted to the sea, won the "Best Short Mountain Film" award at the 2014 Banff Mountain Film Festival.

His photography honors include awards from Pictures of the Year International, Photo Week DC, Communications Arts, The Society of Professional Journalists and a Knight Fellowship for Professional Journalists at Stanford University. In 2011, he was awarded "River Conservator" by the Roaring Fork Conservancy for his ongoing awareness work with water conservation.

When not on assignment, you can find Peter in the mountains or on the rivers around the Roaring Fork Valley, Colorado.



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Event Description

Chasing Rivers

SHORT

Proof that passion, hard work, and guts matter more than the cost of your gear or where you went to school, Pete McBride has taken pictures from the cockpit of a WWI-vintage biplane and the underside of an iceberg, working in over 70 countries. Named a “freshwater hero” by National Geographic for his work photographing and filming great rivers, he’ll offer unforgettable journeys down two of them. The Colorado, featured in his award-winning film *Chasing Water*, flows through majestic landscapes but no longer reaches the sea. And the Ganges, India’s sacred waterway, revered as a god, but polluted by the people who worship it.

LONG

Pete McBride is living proof that in photography, passion, hard work, and guts matter more than the cost of your gear or where you went to school. A child of the Colorado, McBride grew up on a cattle ranch along the river, fishing its waters and skiing its snows. Now he’s an acclaimed photographer and filmmaker with over fifteen years of work for *National Geographic* and an award-winning film, *Chasing Water*, to his credit. Along the way, he’s taken pictures from such unusual vantage points as the cockpit of a WWI-vintage biplane and the underside of an iceberg.

The stories he tells are important. So important that National Geographic has named McBride a “freshwater hero” for his work photographing and filming the world’s most beloved rivers. While his unique global perspective on freshwater draws from work in over 70 countries, his most recent big projects have been “source to sea” journeys along two major rivers: the Colorado and the Ganges. For his journey down the “American Nile,” McBride paddled the river and also took to the skies with his father, an accomplished pilot, to make breathtaking images and video of the Colorado’s spectacular landscapes. Following the Ganges, India’s sacred waterway, he traveled by any means necessary, including rickshaw, helicopter, and elephant. And in both America and India, he confronted the paradox of two rivers with deep places in the hearts of the peoples along their banks, but suffering from overuse and abuse at the hands of those same people.



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An engaging presenter who balances the seriousness of his subject matter with a wry sense of humor, Pete McBride will share both the romance, the present realities, and a hopeful future for the great rivers he loves and wants to save.

Quote

"The Colorado River has connected me to many things, many people, and many remarkable places." — Pete McBride

Related National Geographic Projects and Initiatives

Freshwater Initiative – National Geographic's Freshwater Initiative aims to raise awareness of the critical need to conserve our fresh water resources, while offering a means to take action via the "Change the Course" project. Pete's coverage of the Colorado River is featured on the Initiative's home page at

<http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/freshwater>

which would be a great page to link to in materials promoting Pete's event.