

1-1-2006

## Before us the River is

Gregory J. Hobbs

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/wlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

### Custom Citation

Gregory J. Hobbs, Before us the River is, 9 U. Denv. Water L. Rev. 614 (2006).

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Water Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact [jennifer.cox@du.edu](mailto:jennifer.cox@du.edu), [dig-commons@du.edu](mailto:dig-commons@du.edu).

---

Before us the River is

### THIS TIME OTHER WAVES

Wind comes up and does not blow away the leaves.  
Leaves not ready to say goodbye

In their golden season  
hang tight  
to a green thread.

Green thread of the Cambrian.

Streams scour slopes  
revealing shape of pediment  
carved into hearts of this old mountain's core  
thrown to fresh upslopes.

While far away wind and waves may swell and smash  
here the waves this wind stirs up  
support no accident

Impart a spindle greeting to those the ages  
have affixed to an aspen's grip.

### BEFORE US THE RIVER IS

Before us the River is

When Hopi Boatman sets off to explore  
where it is the water goes when his people need it  
to grow families, flocks and fruit trees

When Navajo honor male San Juan  
and female Colorado and their offspring Rainbow Children arc  
deep within the sandstone slick rock

When Mountain Ute warn Mountain Men  
of impassable passages between disparate worlds  
and John Wesley Powell goes there

All return their stories full of how Storm Gods play upon  
the rocks and fade away in soft and low murmurs  
beneath heaven's infinite blue

We find in joining them here  
there is only one law of the River:  
within the limits of living together

Is the common ground of all possibility.