150th Anniversary
of Powell’s Launch

On May 24, 1869 John Wesley Powell launched his audacious expedition down the Green and Colorado rivers from Green River in Wyoming Territory. Join us to celebrate Powell’s pioneering exploration, consider its impacts on the West’s development, and contemplate the future of the Colorado River Basin and its communities. Sponsored by SCREE, UW’s Saturday University, Wyoming History Day, the City of Green River, and the Sweetwater County Historical Museum.

Expedition Island Pavilion
Green River, Wyoming
May 22-24, 2019

SCREE—SESQUICENTENNIAL COLORADO RIVER EXPLORING EXPEDITION

PTSBCredit: There is .5 WY PTSB credit available for teachers. Sign up at the end of the evening on May 23. For further information, contact: Jessica Flock (WY History Day state coordinator) at jflock@uwyo.edu

PHOTO CREDITS: (Front panel top) John Wesley Powell Photo File, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming. (Front panel bottom) Ben Kraushaar. (Above) Tom’s Boat as an 18 Footer, Perfectly Rigged, Patrick Kikut.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

5:30 p.m.: Opening Reception and Light Dinner

6:00–7:15 p.m.: John Wesley Powell & the Future of the Colorado—Catastropolis?

Dan McCool, Department of Political Science, University of Utah. “Catastropolis”—the sudden decline of cities due to Colorado River Basin drought. How can we avoid this fate with cutting-edge policies for water?

THURSDAY, MAY 23

8:30–11:30 a.m.: Clean-up of the Green River

11:30 a.m.: Lunch at Expedition Island Pavilion after river clean-up

12:00–1:00 p.m.: Powell’s ‘Grand Canyon’: A Centennial Perspective

Jason Robison, College of Law, University of Wyoming. Powell may have named the “Grand Canyon” in 1869, but laws about public lands, water, and Native Americans have since molded this magical place.

1:00–2:00 p.m.: The Artwork of SCREE

Patrick Kikut, Department of Visual and Literary Arts, University of Wyoming. How art “sells” the West, from Powell and Thomas Moran to today’s exhibitions of SCREE artists.

4:00–5:00 p.m.: USGS National Youth and Education in Science Program, YES!

Dr. Eleanor Snow and Dr. John Kilpatrick, U.S. Geological Survey

5:00–6:00 p.m.: Doors open for a light dinner before the talks

5:45–6:30 p.m.: An Introduction to SCREE—The Sesquicentennial Colorado River Exploring Expedition

Thomas Minckley, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Wyoming. When Powell journeyed down the Green and Colorado rivers, he found an arid land—a contrast that defines America’s southwest and all life within it. The SCREE Expedition on the 150th anniversary of Powell’s voyage is not just an exciting rafting trip; it explores how Powell’s legacy shapes the modern West even today.

6:30–8:30 p.m.: John Wesley Powell & the Colorado River Basin’s Past, Present, and Future

Panel of experts from universities in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. Powell’s river expeditions shaped his visions of water, public lands, and Native Americans in the Arid Region. This panel explores the nature, impact, and future relevance of Powell’s vision in the Colorado River Basin.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24

8:00–9:00 a.m.: Launch of the SCREE Expedition!

Preceded by a light breakfast.

Art museum activities in the Pavilion

10:00 a.m.: Journey into the Great Unknown, documentary screening

1:00 p.m.: Lost Canyons of the Green River, presentation by Roy Webb

3:30 p.m.: Disney’s Ten Who Dared, film screening

10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.: Family art, nature and history activities. Special brew by Square State and food vendors.

PHOTO CREDITS: (Above right) Thomas Minckley. (Insets) JWP Before the Start 1871 (LOC); JWP First Camp GR WY 1871 (LOC).