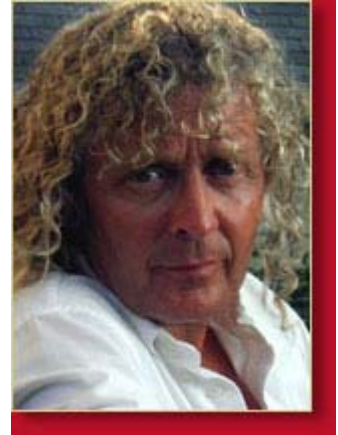


WATERBUSTER--Paul VanDevelder and *Waterbuster*

Waterbuster, a film by director/producer J. Carlos Peinado, was 900 years in the making. That's the span of time Mr. Peinado's ancestors lived on the floodplain of the upper Missouri River - until the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1944 and took their homelands by eminent domain. With the Flood Control Act came the Pick-Sloan Plan, a huge public works project that called for the construction of 110 dams, a project that would eventually be described as "the largest public works boondoggle in history." The Garrison Dam submerged fertile land, destroying a self-sufficient community and displacing the people of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.



Author and journalist Paul VanDevelder hosted the evening; he spent 10 years researching the story, which is told in *Coyote Warrior: One Man, Three Tribes, and the Trial that Forged a Nation* (2004). VanDevelder then pooled his research with Peinado to help tell the story of Peinado's ancestors, the people of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes which hosted Lewis and Clark at the Knife River Villages in the winter of 1804-05. *Waterbuster* recounts Peinado's journey to his ancestral North Dakota homeland from his home in California to reconnect with his family and community. Through interviews he discovers the proud and resilient nature of his tribe, their contributions to American culture and history, and their deep attachment to the harsh North Dakota prairie. Ultimately this story is a confrontation with identity, a bi-cultural, hybrid identity of Indian and non-Indian, highlighting the universal struggle we all have in 21st century America to find a sense of place, a community, and a home. *Waterbuster* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2006. The film and opening reception were sponsored by the Institute of Water and Watersheds at Oregon State University.