Mourning Muskrat Falls
Finding Environmental Justice through Ecological Grief

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the ecologist (in a more than scientific sense) is someone who is touched by this loss in such a way as to mourn the toll of extinction instituted by human exemptionism and exceptionalism. She is bereft, and yet also understands that this feeling, her being touched by irrevocable loss, is itself a matter of realizing the existence of a sense of an ecological and ethical and political community with other species.

Mick Smith, 2013, 29

She Was Bereft
Stories from the River

Image Courtesy of Jamie Lee Snook (2017)
“For me, my government is my land.
It’s a wonderful place to grow, and a wonderful place to learn.”
What Happened With Muskrat Falls?
"Something that most do not understand about my people: when we stand up in acts of resistance to things that threaten our spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual wellbeing, it is not because we hate what is in front of us – it’s because we love what is behind us. We love our homes, our families, our communities, our nations, our ceremonies, our teachings, our cultural ways, our histories and the land that those things spring from. In that, we are like anyone anywhere throughout the course of human history who has ever stood up to injustice."

Richard Wagamese, 2016
When the River Goes Silent

“They wept because the river no longer lent its wise voice to the community.”

Bernie Krause, 2017, 30
Sovereignty & Determination

“If a way of life is taken away because of circumstances that you have no control over, then you lose control of a part of your life.”

Image Courtesy of the ‘My Word’ Lab, 2010
What can be gained from grieving, from tarrying with grief, from remaining exposed to its unbearable and not endeavoring to seek a resolution for grief... If we stay with the sense of loss, are we left feeling only passive and powerless, as some might fear? Or are we, rather, returned to a sense of human vulnerability, to our collective responsibility for the physical lives of one another? "

Judith Butler, 2004, 30
The ability to mourn for the loss of other species is, in this sense, an expression of our sense of participation in and responsibility for the whole fabric of life of which we are a part. Understood in this way, grief and mourning can be seen not simply as an expression of private and personal loss, but as part of a restorative spiritual practice that can rekindle an awareness of the bonds that connect all life-forms to one another and to the larger ecological whole.

Douglas Burton-Christie, 2011, 29-30

Ecological Grief & Environmental Justice
A Moment of Silence for the River
Sources


