“Water for us is very, very sacred.”

— Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk (Ute Mountain Ute—Towaoc, CO)

THE LANDSCAPE CONNECTS US ALL

KÉYAH T’AA AŁSTO BEE DA’AHXÍINÍÍTĄ

EL PAISAJE NOS CONECTA A TODOS

Snow, ice, rain, rivers, and wind shape the mountains, mesas, and canyons we see in the Four Corners. As people came to live here, they began to name and give meaning to these landmarks. Some of these landmarks continue to be sacred features of Indigenous homelands.

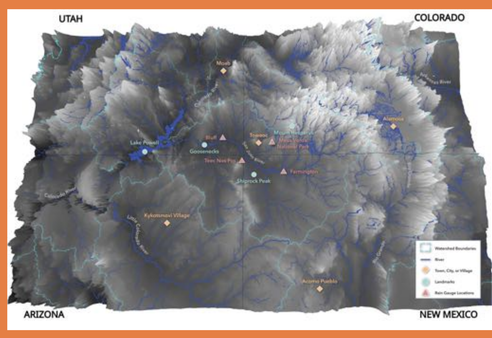
Mount Hesperus
Near Durango, Colorado, Mount Hesperus is located on traditional lands of the Ute and Navajo. Called Dibé Nitsaa in Navajo, the mountain remains a sacred site for Indigenous communities today.

Shiprock Peak
Navajo call this important feature Tsé Bit’ a’ í —“the rock with wings.” This sacred site, the remnant of an ancient volcano, soars 1,583 feet above the desert plain.

Goosenecks of the San Juan River
The San Juan River has carved this section of its canyon for millions of years. Here, the river bends sharply back and forth like the folded neck of a goose. The river flows six miles through these twists and turns, while a straight line from end-to-end spans just a mile and a half. The canyon walls record a long history of people living here. On them, you can find petroglyphs by the Navajo, Ute, and ancestral Puebloans.

Lake Powell
Lake Powell was formed in 1963 behind the Glen Canyon Dam. When the dam was built the Colorado River flooded the canyon. The rising water covered the cliff-side dwellings and rock art of the ancestral Puebloans who once lived here.

To read or listen in...

Navajo
bit.ly/WaWNavajoSB3

Spanish
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