

"LIQUIDATED"

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INT. UNIV.OF WY LECTURE HALL - DR. DANN PEQUA, PHD GEOLOGY, - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "SEPTEMBER 2017"

Professor Dann Pequa is at the podium in a darkened lecture hall with multiple slides showing his younger self in various devastated landscapes. The last one is the one everyone is interested in.

PROFESSOR DANN PEQUA
Geological events tend to happen quickly. Years, hundreds, and thousands of years to set up. In the blink of an eye, entire mountains are gone.

INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE (DENVER) - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE "MAY 2015"

Gov. John Franks is signing a bill surrounded by suits. After he signs he shakes hands walking out to a podium in the Capitol for a press conference. The businessmen follow and stand behind him as he speaks.

JOHN
Today I have signed historic legislation that will give local communities control over fracking wells. My Task Force has found innovative ways to protect communities.

When the press conference is over, dozens of businessmen are seen texting and calling their office.

LAWYER #1
Drill, baby, drill!

BUSINESSMAN
It's official. We're all in

LAWYER #2
You can do whatever you want.
You're covered.

EXT. CAPITOL - DAY

News trucks and their reporters speak to their cameras while protesters chant and wave signs in the background.

REPORTER #1

We're live outside the Capitol.
Just moments ago the Governor
signed the Local Water Protection
Act. Some say it doesn't go far
enough

PROTESTER

There are loopholes in the Bill's
amendment that are industry-
friendly.

REPORTER #2

I'm with Tom Jefferies, Director of
Citizens Against Fracking. Tom, you
said this bill is actually worse
for communities-

TOM JEFFERIES

This bill allows them to drill as
many wells as they want, drill
injection wells even deeper and
gives Frackers senior water rights-

REPORTER #2

But Tom, this is the Local Water
Protection Act the Gov-

TOM JEFFERIES

It gives Frackers senior water
rights regardless of the name of
the bill. That water that will be
contaminated, Will never be used
again. They are burying billions of
gallons-

REPORTER #3

I'm here with the leader of the
Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force,
David Verily. David, you've heard
what opponents-

DAVID VERILLY

They're wrong. This bill actually
ensures the water rights of senior
water rights holder to-

TOM JEFFERIES

It ensures nothing you filthy liar!
Tell them the truth for once!

A chaotic scene devolves into more chaos as people and
cameras are jostled.

SOUND: CHAOTIC CROWD NOISES

INT. UNIV.OF WY OFFICE - DANN PEQUA, PHD GEOLOGY, - DAY

Dr. Dann Pequa is casually reading through a report looking bored when he flips to the summary

CUT TO "REPORT SUMMARY" SHOWING THE WORDS "UNKNOWN ORIGIN, SUSPECT FRACKING FLUIDS"

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

EXT. RANCH IN W. COLORADO NEAR PARACHUTE

SUPERIMPOSE "JULY 2015"

2 men are near a fence, the end of the ranch boundaries, beneath a steep slope of rock outcropping.

HANK DEL REY

I contacted every single geology office in Colorado, New Mexico and even Utah. Not a single one of them ever bothered to return my calls!

DR. DANN

(Looking down at the rocks, using a stick to poke around while using a handkerchief to cover his nose)

You really shouldn't be breathing this-

HANK DEL REY

(Exasperated)

I know but it smells this way all the way along back here! I can't be dressing like an outlaw!

DR. DANN

(Nodding)

Hmm...

HANK DEL REY

At first I thought it was water. When this formation goes dry I have to start my well pumps. This usually happens in late May, early June right around when the Colorado reaches its peak flow.

DR. DANN
(Nodding)
Hmm...

HANK DEL REY
But 2 years ago it started in
April. And in May through June it
started smelling really bad. My
horses won't come near it.
(Motioning towards his
horse who was packing
back and forth)

HANK DEL REY (CONT'D)
And now it's starting in to show up
year round and smells horrible!
Just like it does now (coughing)

DR. DANN
You really should not be breathing
this. I don't know what it is but I
do know it's toxic as hell. Smells
of diesel, gas, oil. I think it's
from an injection well.
(Pointing to the top of
the Mesa)

HANK DEL REY
(Pointing to the top of
the Mesa)
What the hell does that have to do
with this?

(SOUND OF ROCKFALL. BOTH TURN TO LOOK AND LISTEN)

HANK DEL REY (CONT'D)
That happens a lot.

DR. DANN
That?

HANK
(Nods) Uh huh. Yes. Several times a
day.

Dann and Hank ride around the base of the cliffs to another
cliff area.

EXT. CLIFF WITH LARGE BOULDERS AND ROCKS AT BASE

DR. DANN
Whoa!

HANK

Yeah, even the cattle know better than to come here.

DR. DANN

This seems fresh, like within the last 15 years.

HANK

No, the last 3. Starting 2 years ago it's been coming down every day.

DR. DANN

(Pointing)

Do you see that?

(Pulls out binoculars)

That's where the injection wells are leaking. Wow! I've never seen anything like this.

HANK

(looking worried)

Like what?

DR. DANN

(Sighing)

There's fracking going on all over the top of the Mesa. It's 3,000 feet up to the top. Supposedly they're drilling injection wells 5,000 feet down. They pump the leftover fluids into the wells and leave them there.

INT. NCAR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE BOULDER - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "September 7th, 2016"

DR. JIM HANSON

(Surrounded by mounds of paper, dials landline phone)

INT. NCAR TABLE MESA BUILDING - DAY

Several scientist are walking through a huge supercomputer going about their daily routine. One walks into a small adjacent office with windows.

DR. TREN LIU

Hi, this is Dr. Liu.

DR. JIM HANSON
Hi Tren. I was reading your
analysis of the Long Term Winter
Forecast.

DR. TREN LIU
(Smiling nervously)
Hi Dr. Hanson, I was expecting your
call.

DR. JIM HANSON
Call me Jim, please. I just want to
verify that I have everything
correct because I've never seen
anything like this, and I want to
verify-

DR. TREN LIU
-the models were fed clean data.

DR. JIM HANSON
Right. So with that out of the way,
you have the strongest El Niño
we've ever seen and a high pressure
over California that will pump
copious amounts of moisture into
the Central Rockies, our backyard
basically-

DR. TREN LIU
Right on top of us.

DR. JIM HANSON
You're positive the jet stream is
going to stall out for 10-16 weeks.
(Sighing)

DR. JIM HANSON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
I'm having trouble digesting what
this means. I'm thinking of the
Winter of 1887-88. In fact I'm
looking at photos of Breckinridge
with 18 foot telegraph poles
buried.

DR. TREN LIU
Mmm-hmm.

DR. JIM HANSON
You seem awfully confident of this.

DR. TREN LIU

We incorporated new research about the Jet Stream Oscillation into the models. So the models are showing us high pressure systems over the Southwest Deserts and Eastern US that seem to lock in place until April or so. How that affects the normal Northwest flow aloft is really interesting.

DR. JIM HANSON

How much snow are you thinking the mountains could wind up with?

DR. TREN LIU

Well, that's what's bothering me.

DR. JIM HANSON

I'm missing the model summary in the email you sent.

DR. TREN LIU

I omitted that because I find it hard to believe. I don't want to stake my reputation on any of this. I'm confident that we'll see a stubborn high pressure over the SW Desert that will pump up huge amounts of moisture. But will we have the systems pull it out? The models say maybe, but my gut says yes.

DR. JIM HANSON

Okay. That works for me.

Jim begins typing up a Press Release on his computer.

We see his screen showing this text:

"Skiers, rejoice! A strong El Nino is setting up and with luck we'll see one of our better winters for skiing...."

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH NEAR PARACHUTE, COLORADO

SUPERIMPOSE: "September 22nd, 2016"

Dr. Dann's powerful, huge F650 kicks up a large trail of dust as it drives over dirt roads to Hank del Rey's ranch. In the back is a 4 foot cube box strapped down, marked with biohazard, chemical and radiation warning symbols.

Dr. Dann parks near another large truck. As he gets out of the truck a bobcat vehicle can be seen moving the box into the other truck.

Dann casually gives a shiny, new briefcase to the driver of the other truck who silently takes it, climbs into the truck cab and waits for the box to be secured.

Dr. Dann walks over to the hacienda's wide porch where HANK is waiting for him. They shake hands and sit down to drink coffee that Hank has poured.

DR. DANN
(looking at the distant
rock striata, then to the
driver of the truck who
is now backing up and
driving away)
Good to luck to him.

DANN and HANK grab their coffee mugs and drink.

INT. NCAR COMPUTER MODELING SCREEN

SUPERIMPOSE: "January 2017"

Dr. Tren Liu's climate models were feeding the meteorological models extremely copious amounts of moisture on a huge sleek plasma TV screen. Graphics on the screen:

"El Niño February-April Forecast Model"

Graphics on modeling monitor: Colorado; dark blue colors over much of Colorado's mountains indicating heavy snow.

Adjacent computer monitor: Snow Depth monitor showing white where the deepest is usually a pale pink indicating 48" snow depth at various Colorado River Basin snow gauges.

Taped to the screen are the actual depths of 6 stations. They read: 11.6' 12.25' 10.75' 11.33' 13.1' and 12.75'

Camera backs out of the NCAR Climate Modeling office and zips 80 miles north to Laramie

INT. UNIV.OF WY OFFICE - DANN PEQUA, PHD GEOLOGY, - DAY

DR. DANN
(Dialing cell phone)

INT. NCAR TABLE MESA BUILDING - DAY

Several scientists are milling about checking several computer monitors and hi-tech flat screen monitors.

Dr. Tren Liu is walking from the Modeling room when her cell phone rings.

DR. TREN LIU
Hello, this is Tren.

DR. DANN
Hi, it's Dann.

DR. TREN LIU
Dann, good to hear from you!

DR. DANN
What're your models telling you?

DR. TREN LIU
They're showing 3 to 4 times the amount of snow for the Colorado River basin. Hold a sec....Just sent you email.

Dann swivels to his computer monitor and clicks on Tren's email. Scrolling to the bottom he finds the Summary: 300-400% above average snowfall for February-April.

Dann pauses to mentally calculate what that meant. Crazy, he thought. Models can be wrong more often than not. 25%, or even 15% would mean a lot more water. But 300%? That was unheard of.

DR. DANN
What are you telling Communications? I bet they'd flip if they read what you just sent.

DR. TREN LIU
Yeah, I told them 'above normal' and omitted the Summary because, well, that's just an awful lot of snow. Every time I think of that much snow I think "flooding" And I just... I don't know, it seems weird.

DR. DANN
Yeah, hard to believe.

DR. TREN LIU
Or not. Our models always have shown water vapor would increase dramatically, but not when it would. So maybe it's now.

DR. DANN

I'm having trouble imagining what 25 feet of snow in a 3 week period looks like. And another 10-15 feet on top of that?

DR. TREN LIU

Yeah, I get that. We've been tweaking the models left and right and this is the middle of the pack, so....

DR. DANN

I'll be down this weekend-

TREN

Text me.

Dann looks at the rock samples from Hank's ranch encased on acrylic on his desk, glances at a relief map of the Parachute area, runs his fingers along the contours of the Colorado River, trying to imagine his childhood state under 30 feet of snow, and scoffs.

SUPERIMPOSE: "FEBRUARY 2017"

SERIES OF SHOTS - DEEP SNOW ON VAIL AND I-70 AREA

A) Empty Chairlifts disappear and then reappear again as they head up the slopes of a ski resort.

B) There is a visible rut at the top of a lift as the chairs circle at the top to go back down the mountain. It's a mini slot canyon of snow.

C) Superimposed: "February 21st, 2017, 9:00 am" A checkpoint in Vail. Sign reads "CLOSED TO ALL AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC. NO CARS ALLOWED. \$1,000 FINE." The sky is beautifully dark. Heavy snowfall makes it seem like late afternoon before sunset.

D) Panning vertically from the sign above the highway it resembles deep ski tracks on the highway. A convoy of semi-trucks follows 3 evenly spaced snowplows. The snow is even at the top of the trucks, but at the top of the pass the rut is deeper and the top of the snow is 10 feet above the top of the semi-trucks.

E) Inside a semi-truck, a driver moves at 10mph through a wall of snow, sometimes gently bouncing into the wall on either side. It's so narrow that the trucks routinely bounce off the walls.

F) There are 7 places over 10 miles on the western side of Vail Pass where snow can be moved off the highway. The smallest one has 3 snowplows moving in overlapping circles. The largest one has 9 snowplows moving in concert to push snow into the small valleys. Flamethrowers are used to melt the snow up and down the highway. They are mounted on trailers with 5,000 gallon tanks in and near stream banks. There are over 100 of them on the West side of Vail Pass alone. It is a disturbing scene of trucks, fire, water, and snow.

SERIES OF SHOTS - WEATHER REPORTERS AND WEATHER SCIENTISTS

A) NCAR Weather Data monitor displaying the intensity of snow across the mountains of Colorado as scientists stare in quiet disbelief.

B) Dr. Tren Liu looks at the model projecting for the dates March 7-31, shakes her head and covers her face, playing peek-a-boo with the repeating snow intensity graphics that the models display.

C) Colorado's most famous Weatherman Mike Nelson's cheery demeanor was replaced with a serious look.

MIKE NELSON

The mountains continue to get dumped on and there's no change in the weather pattern for up to 5-6 weeks from now. The average daily snowfall ranges from 16" in the San Juans to 20" in Rocky Mountain National Park. Folks in the mountain communities are not able to receive this broadcast. Contact the National Guard at the number or website on the screen. They are making daily deliveries, but it takes up to 7 days to reach recipients. That's how deep it is folks!

D) Dr. Jeff Master's screencast:

DR. JEFF MASTERS

Climate change is absolutely at work here. The Jet Stream goes through seasonal changes each year and this is the first time in recorded history that we've seen the Jet Stream locked into one place. We have the strongest El Niño ever. It has warmed up parts of the Pacific Ocean.

(MORE)

DR. JEFF MASTERS (CONT'D)

That extra warm water has created a high pressure system that won't budge because of the Jet Stream. It's pumping an unbelievable amount of moisture into what we call the Pineapple Express...

SERIES OF SHOTS - DEEP SNOW ON THE FOOTHILLS HIGHWAY

A) Superimposed: "March 1st, 2017"

I-70 at Morrison near Golden Colorado. Several highway patrol cars with their lights flashing are partially buried near signs the read "CLOSED TO ALL AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC. NO CARS ALLOWED. \$5,000 FINE."

B) Dr. Dann Jenson's F650 looks very much like a shorter semi-truck. Basic stenciled letters on both sides and the back of his truck reads "DAN'S SHORT HAUL". In the bed were neatly strapped down crates from his Antartica expeditions, lending him scientific credibility to go along with weather scientists flocking to Colorado.

C) Sitting next to Dann is Dr. Tren Liu.

EXT. I-70 MORRISON CHECKPOINT - DAY

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN

What are you hauling and where are you going?

DR. DANN

Food and scientific instruments to Parachute.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN

Are you tanked up? What's your capacity?

DR. DANN

Topped out at 300 gallons.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN

(Whistling, signs the permit and hands it to Dann)

It's about an 18 hour drive. Traffic moves at 10mph on average. Expect a few hours of delay. Radio is spotty. And you have food and necessities, right?

DR. DANN

Yep.

HIGHWAY PATROLMAN
(Waving Dann through and
signaling the gate to be
raised.)

You're good to go.

EXT. VAIL PASS - SUNSET

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 3RD, 2017"

Intensely heavy snow is falling in fat flakes that are 3-5 inches big. It's falling at a rate of 4-6 inches an hour. Over 36 hours, 14' of snow fell.

SERIES OF SHOTS - VAIL PASS

A) At the top of Vail Pass, the 25' of snow starts collapsing onto the the deep rut that snowplows struggled to keep open for semi-trucks. One truck gets stuck briefly, the wall of snow collapsed on top of the truck. The next truck came 5 minutes later and didn't see the snow-covered truck. It gently rear-ends the first truck. A snowplow driver could not see where it was going. The snowfall rate of 8" an hour at that time made driving impossible.

B) The snowfall rates stops several drivers dead in their tracks. Unable to drive, they sit for a few hours. By the time visibility improves, it's been nearly 3 hours and 20" of snow on the road.

C) NCAR scientists' jaws hit the floor as they watch the snowfall rate on the data monitor. Real time, real life. Knowing that radio is spotty at best, one scientists calls CDOT. "We're showing 8 inch per hour snowfall rates the past hour and think it's another hour at least before it "tapers" off. I don't think any of your drivers will be driving."

INT. CAPITOL PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 5TH, 2017"

Governor John Franks and others are hosting a Press Conference

GOV. JOHN

Today I'm declaring a State of
Emergency in Colorado as the
unprecedented snowfall continues to
blanket mountain communities and
disrupt economic activity.

For the past 5 weeks all automobile
traffic on I-70 has been suspended.

(MORE)

GOV. JOHN (CONT'D)

2 days ago Vail Pass, Frisco are and the Tunnel areas received 14' of snow in 36 hours. I-70 is now effectively shut down from Glenwood Springs to Denver.

Best case scenario is we re-open I-70 within 3 days. Worst case scenario is 7 days. I ask you to pray for our mountain communities. They are shut off completely for the first time ever. Snowmobile rescuers are dealing with perilous, life-threatening conditions.

Our focus is getting food to the people in mountain communities, many of who have been facing medical emergencies due to being snowed in and unable to communicate with anyone. We are exploring all options as to how to get help into the mountain communities.

All vehicular travel is now impossible within the red areas of this map. Yellow areas indicate severe difficulties and extremely slow travel.

The President's Transportation Secretary is here and will now tell you how he intends to help Coloradans deal with these conditions.

EXT. AERIAL SHOTS OF I-70 - DAY

Commercial trucks were lined up from Rifle to Grand Junction, a distance of 60 miles, and much more sporadically another 80 miles to the junction that leads to Moab.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 5th, 2017"

HANK DEL REY and DR. DANN come up a ramp of snow. At the top of the ramp we see a 5 foot high wood pyramid. It's the roof of HANK's ranch house.

They snowshoe 2 miles to base of the mesa where Dann collected rock samples. When they arrive they are startled to see that the rock band is not covered in snow, but is oozing and smells horrible.

DR. DANN
What the...

HANK
Oh my wow...

HANK and DANN look at each other. They can feel vibrations under the snow.

DR. DANN
There's not a train track nearby,
is there?

HANK DEL REY
(Looking bewildered)
No....

Hank and Dann snowshoe back to the ranch house. Rockslides can be seen and heard. The walls of mesas are buckling under the weight of the snow and snowmelt.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - DAY

Hank and Dann arrive back at the ranch house

DR. DANN
I'm going to set up right over
there. It's a helluva view you
have.

HANK
(smiling)
Yeah, and a scary one at that.

Dr. Dann unloads 2 boxes from his truck and drags them on an expedition sled across the snow opposite the ranch house. It's a perfect point to observe the mesas.

He positions the one of the boxes on the snow. It has a thick wood base. Using an avalanche shovel, he digs and moves a bit of snow around to make it stable. Then he unlatches the box to reveal a telescope and stool placed on a hand-cranked swivel plate. It's ready to use.

He pulls a folding solar panel out from a sleeve and sets it up a few feet away and then plugs in various cords that plug into a black motor box at the base of the telescope and a small podium stand.

Dr. Dann pulls 3 iPad Pros out of his pack. He places one in a tray connected to the telescope and plugs both into each other. He places and plugs one into another tray. He places and plugs the third one into his chairs armrest. It is the armrest actually.

He expertly moves the levers and the telescope swings into position. He begins scanning the mesas and then settles onto the one closest to Hank's ranch. Dr. Dann is surprised by all of the activity he is seeing. It seems the rockfall from the top is constant, as if the snow was casually pushing off rocks for the fun of it.

But it's the base of the vertical walled mesa that captures his attention. The base is the intersection of two formations. The one on top is harder, the bottom one is softer. At this intersection he sees rivulets of water staining the sloping hills below it. In some places there's obviously more fluid draining. Every time Dr. Dann sees something of note, he pushes a button that marks the location on a map on the iPad. He pushes another button to attach a dictated note on the spot.

EXT. CLOSEUP OF THE IPAD

As Dr. Dann scans the mesa and digitally marks significant observations by pressing the buttons, the camera displays how his voice notes are converted to text and placed on the maps.

DR. DANN

(small beeps are heard
when he presses the
button)

Constant streaming, marginal
volume.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)

Irregular flow, significant volume.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)

Significant rock deterioration,
large volume, pressurized fluids?

EXT. HANK'S RANCH - EARLY AFTERNOON

The second box Dr. Dann unloaded from the truck has a larger solar panel attached to a large port on its side near the top. It's a large box with recessed levers. It's made of carbon that absorbs light. It's exotic looking.

As is his habit, Dr. Dann slowly scans his surroundings making mental note of powerlines, roads, trees and whatever obstacles that might interfere with control of his custom drone. Satisfied with the lay of the land, Dann walks over to the telescope, unhooks the primary iPad, walks back to the drone, attaches it, turns on the 6 cameras, iPad, and walks back to the telescope to sit in the chair. He pulls out yet another iPad from under the seat, see the "ALL MAPS SYNCED" notification, plugs it into a tray port, pulls out another tray with another iPad and launches the Flight Control app.

His chair now resembles a dental chair. His 2 armrests have iPads so he can control the drone with one and view the camera with the other.

He launches the drone. CPOV is that of the drone cameras flying 5 miles through the air to the base of mesa walls. As soon as a drone hovers on the coordinates from Dann's iPad it activates a LIDAR scan.

Dr. Dann's iPad shows the live stream. The other one shows the LIDAR scan of the base of the mesa wall.

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 19TH, 2017" -

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - DAY

Dr. Dann is dressing down. In just a week it has become noticeably warmer. 7 days of sunshine while 2 storms had passed overhead.

Dr. Dann dials his cell phone.

INT. NCAR COMPUTER MODELING LAB -

DR. LIU
His this is Tren.

INTERCUT WITH DR. DANN AT HANK'S RANCH -

DR. DANN
Do you have a few minutes Tren?

DR. LIU
Of course, Dann. How can I help you?

DR. DANN
I thought you might be interested in how your model looks in real life out here on the Western Slope. We're on the outer edge of this craziness. I've been here a week doing research and I have footage that might be of interest to you.

DR. LIU
Interesting. Yes, send it to me.

DR. DANN
I can only do broadcast uplink.

DR. LIU
Hold a second please.
(Presses hold and punches
in internal numbers)
David, what's our channel for
broadcast uplinks?

DAVID (V.O.)
1437

DR. LIU
Thank you.
(presses buttons on
phone)
Dann, upload it to 1437 on GOES 11.

DR. DANN
Thanks.
(starts unbuckling his
boxes)
I'll call you when it's uplinked. I
don't think you guys are going to
believe what you see.

Dr. Dann hangs up and configures one of his iPads to upload a certain footage to a broadcast satellite. He searches for the channel which reveals the satellite's location on his iPad.

Cut to show iPad with satellite icons and their orbits. It's D.O.D classified info of broadcast and scientific satellites. GOES 11 is 30 seconds away from being available. Dr. Dann splits the screen to reveal his drone footage, scrolls the footage and selects "Logan Horse". He drags that onto the GOES 11 icon and the upload begins.

INT. NCAR COMPUTER MODELING LAB -

Dr. Liu is watching the footage that Dann compiled from his drone.

DR. DANN (V.O.)
This is Mt. Logan from the top to
its base near Parachute. You can
see that the immense weight and
water volume is causing the mesa to
buckle. (long pause as video
plays). Technically there should be
more water coming from the base
like you see here. But instead it's
coming out just above the base of
the hills.

Video footage shows a steady stream of water shooting out from the base of a hill.

DR. DANN (V.O.)
I went south of the Colorado river
to the base of Horse Mountain. I
found water streaming from the base
of that mountain, too. Here's
footage from 17 different locations
scattered at the base of Horse, and
23 from the base of Mt. Logan.

Video footage cuts of various streams.

DR. DANN (V.O.)
Here's the kicker: I don't think
any of that water is from snowmelt.

Jaws drop from the scientists who are watching.

Jaws also drop from those who are watching at the local
Denver news channel whose meteorologist noticed a new video
uplink in the satellite feed.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - 1 HOUR LATER

Dr. Dann is already shooting new footage using the drone.
He's in the chair staring intently at the drone control panel
on the iPad when his phone rings. It goes straight to
voicemail.

JR. PRODUCER (FEMALE V.O.)
Dr. Pequa,

DR. DANN
Call me Dr. Dann (scoffing)

JR. PRODUCER (FEMALE V.O.)
tHis is Cary Weber at 9News Denver.
We received your footage of Mt.
Logan and would like to air today.
I need your permission to edit the
footage to fit and to air it.

Without looking away from the control panel, Dr. Dann taps
his phone and calls the producer back. He reaches her
voicemail.

DR. DANN
Hi Cary, this is Dr. Dann. Drop the
Pequa please. I got your voicemail.
You have my permission to edit and
air it.

Dr. Dann resumes shooting footage.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)
(speaking into mic)
My best guess is that water
shouldn't be coming out of this
formation because it's the hardest
member of that formation. I don't
understand why it's supporting
hydraulic activity...

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 27TH, 2017"

The snow around the ranch is now mostly melted with a few stubborn spots in the shade of cottonwoods. Dr. Dann and Hank del Rey load up Dr. Dann's truck with Dann's two boxes. Then they walk into Hank's hacienda.

INT. HANK DEL REY'S HACIENDA -

Hank pours two beers on the kitchen counter and brings both over to Dann seated at the thick, large table. Hank sets the beer down, slides one to Dann, and pulls his chair out to sit.

HANK DEL REY
Are you finished?

DR. DANN
No. I'm going further up the
valley, and then over to Debeque.

HANK DEL REY
I've seen the footage. Thank you
for sharing with me. But what does
it mean? Does it change anything
about my property issues?

DR. DANN
No. I think it confirms my initial
impression. I think the injection
well are not as secure as the
industry proclaims them to be. I
think that with that much snowmelt
and pressure that the water has
saturated the rock surrounding the
wells.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)
See, when people hear the word
well, they think "pipes" when
actually injection wells are
nothing more than a mile deep 6"
wide hole in the earth.

(MORE)

DR. DANN (CONT'D)

All kinds of ways for water to get
in and out.

HANK DEL REY

Hmmm....

DR. DANN

Yeah, hmmm alright. Right now I'm
thinking that those wells are not
as deep as they say.

EXT. SELDOM TRAVELED CANYON - DEBEQUE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "MARCH 31ST, 2017"

Dr. Dann steps out of his truck for better phone service. He
swivels around, walks away from the truck, and then dials his
cell phone.

DR. DANN

Hi Tren (wearily)

INT. NCAR COMPUTER MODELING LAB -

DR. LIU

Hi Dann, you sound tired.

INTERCUT WITH EXT. OF DR. DANN'S TRUCK

DR. DANN

Sounds about right. I'm calling to
ask you a favor. Bear in mind this
is a huge favor to ask, but I'm not
seeing any other options.

DR. LIU

Okay. What do you want to ask me?

DR. DANN

I need you to come out here to
double check my work.

Dr. Liu looks surprised, yet happy.

DR. LIU

That bad or that good?

DR. DANN

(sighing)

Both. I just need to talk it out
and show you in person. Bring
whatever gear you can.

EXT. HANK DEL REY'S RANCH

SUPERIMPOSE: "APRIL 6TH, 2017"

Dr. Dann and Dr. Liu load up a large wheeled ATV that is bigger than a Jeep. Worn out lettering on the side reads "Antartica 2008". Loaded up, they hop in and head up the valley towards Hank's end.

They come to a stop where Hank originally showed Dann about his water issues.

DR. LIU
Oh my God - that smell!
(covering her face)

Dr. Dann quickly gets out, throws up one of the boxes and hands her a gas mask and then puts on his own. With a video camera in hand, they walk closer to the site. Dr. Dann is shocked to see the small stream is now a 20' wide river that doesn't look like water, per se, but like salad dressing.

They shoot it and return to the ATV.

EXT. FURTHER UP THE CANYON - NOON

Dr. Dann and Dr. Liu get out of the ATV and try breathing without the gas masks. It's impossible. Dr. Liu bends over as to throw up.

SOUND: ROCKFALL AND A LOW GROAN -

DR. DANN
Do you hear that?

DR. LIU
(gasping for air)
Ugh! yes, rockfall.

DR. DANN
No, that low humming sound, like
the earth is groaning....
There! That!

Dr. Liu nods and stumbles back into the ATV

DR. LIU
We gotta get out of here Dann. I
don't feel right at all!

EXT. COLORADO RIVER - BURNS, CO

SUPERIMPOSE: "BURNS, COLORADO, APRIL 7TH, 2017"

Under the crushing weight of 35 feet of snow that leaves the forest looking like 8 foot Christmas trees, a massive landslide unfolds before our eyes. An entire mountain side of 5 square miles turns into slush and mud. The white snow disappears with a disturbing speed as the muddy maelstrom quickly smashes into the opposite side of the Colorado River canyon, triggering several other adjacent slides just West of Burns, Colorado.

INT. CELLAR OF FARM - BURNS, CO - LATE MORNING

Farmer John is stuffing carrots, onions and cheerfully about to put a large squash into his sack when suddenly the dimly lit cellar is filled with light, then debris as the resulting shockwave rips through the Colorado River canyon upstream and downstream.

EXT. COLORADO RIVER - DOTSERO

SUPERIMPOSE: "Dotsero, 15 miles downstream"

Eagle County Sheriff truck, sheriff sitting inside, windows ajar, music playing. Sheriff turns down music and lowers window. Concerned, he gets out of his truck. He can feel massive rumbling in the ground. It's like an earthquake.

SOUND: the Colorado River roaring nearby, and traffic from the highway.

SOUND: a growing roar of a shockwave traveling down canyon

A brown haze is starting to become visible just above the contours of the hills, filling the sky from the ground up.

EXT. SHERRIF TRUCK, DOTSERO

Sheriff Jim notices the growing cloud of debris. He frantically gets in his truck and speeds towards an old metal bridge near the Interstate 70 exit. He slams on the brakes, his truck sliding just under the bridge abutment. The front of the truck juts a mere foot out of the abutment. Seconds later the shockwave hits Dotsero, turning the air into a dark haze of flying debris. In an instant it has passed, and the haze remains, filtering the sky and sun with a sooty gauze.

Everything is still. 20 minutes later the haze settles enough to see that the river is no longer flowing. It's trickling. Everything is eerily quiet save for the trickle of the river. Normally 230 feet wide at the bridge and 12 feet deep, it was a 4 foot wide shallow creek.

The Sheriff looks at his phone and radio. Both are silent. The radio and cell towers have been destroyed by the shockwave.

The Sheriff gets in his car, turns on his lights and sirens and races up I-70 towards Eagle, 13 miles away.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT MOVING UPSTREAM IN THE CANYON

Camera lands in Farmer John's farm, revealing the Colorado River backing up behind the massive, muddy dam with trees sticking out everywhere.

250 feet below the Colorado was rising up the slopes quickly. Across the river he saw his fellow farmers peering down at the river, glancing around at others who came to watch the spectacle. 2 cars were driving up the road below him, the bridge they crossed was now underwater.

Looking again across the river with binoculars, he saw Len Bias, his friend of 30 years, drive up to the edge of the embankment in his tractor. Len pointed to his phone, shook his head, pointed to the river and shrugged his shoulders.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT ZOOMS PAST FARMER LEN UP THE GENTLE MOUNTAIN SLOPE.

Just then a lurch followed by a growing rumble behind Farmer Len. King Mountain West had just slumped into its creek the same way that the Colbran Slide from a few years earlier did.

A wall of mud 80' high quickly moves towards Len and the river, hurtles down the 250' embankment and starts building up the other side towards Farmer John, and upstream.

The river starts damming up behind that fresh injection of mud and forest debris. Panicking, Farmer John gets into his truck and drives south to higher ground, the mud moving like a lava flow as it creeps towards his speeding truck.

INT. FARMER JOHN'S TRUCK

John pulls out his cell phone and looks for a signal.

Shot: cell phone shows "No Service"

INT. EAGLE COUNTY SHERIFFS BUILDING

Sheriff Jim is frantically moving the dials of a Ham Radio set behind his desk. Seldom used, Jim is relieved when he gets a signal.

SHERIFF JIM
This is Sheriff Jim, Eagle County
Colorado. What's your location?

RADIO ENTHUSIAST
Laramie, Wyoming, Longitude-

SHERIFF JIM
It's an emergency, do you know
anyone in Denver?

RADIO ENTHUSIAST
Yes, tune to 510, that's the
emergency channel for the Feds in
Lakewood.

SHERIFF JIM
10-4 good buddy (chuckling
awkwardly, realizing his faux pas)

Sheriff Jim tunes into the emergency broadcast channel and
begins relaying the news as he knows it.

SHERIFF JIM (CONT'D)
This is Eagle County Sheriff Jim
Anderson. Approximately 45 minutes
ago there was a probable landslide
upstream from Dotsero, Colorado on
the Colorado River. Communication
towers are down. Currently the
Colorado River is not flowing. I
repeat, the Colorado River is
stopped upstream from Dotsero.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A) EXT. EAGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S BUILDING

Camera zooms out the window from Sheriff Jim's position at
the ham radio and zooms to the nearby highway where 3 State
Patrol cars drive in formation down the highway west of
Eagle.

B) Same 3 patrol cars arrive 2 miles East of Dotsero and
block the road.

C) Mud continues to flow down the 8 miles long King Creek.
The mud flow is 1 mile wide by 100 feet high moving like lava
into the Colorado River which is backing up furiously under
the immense pressure of 30' of snow melt.

D) A few miles downstream the Buck Lake Mountain slide is
being topped. Small streams are pouring out over the debris.

E) A few miles upstream, the King Creek mudflow is now moving faster and faster down the canyon. In seconds its flow smashes over the first slide. With a loud, deep rumble that is felt for miles, the earthen dam breaks with the mudflow, with the constipated Colorado River snowmelt blasting through and over the mudflow down the canyon

F) The Highway Patrolmen look shocked as they feel the rumble and hear the disturbing growl of the impending disaster mauling its way down the canyon

G) They see a brown hazy mist over the foothills just north of the Eagle and Colorado river confluence at Dotsero. A minute later a wall of mud, water, and debris boiling 150 feet high pour out of the canyon.

H) Terrified, they get in their cars and speed down the median into the Eastbound lanes of the highway. Soon all of the cars and trucks that are backed up do the same, but it's too late, as the hellish boiling water flows up hills and upstream at the same time.

G) Soon the swollen Eagle River and the furious Colorado river mudflows reverse course to begin grinding down the Colorado river bed to the narrow and majestic Glenwood Canyon.

H) 15 miles downstream as the raven flies, guests at the famous Glenwood Hot Springs scramble out of the hottest of the pools. Several show scald burns as they exit. Geologically active, the earthquakes have widened the channel of the springs, causing the super-heated water to surge through the resort's plumbing. Nearby at Yampah Vapor Caves, guests can be heard wailing as there aren't any controls to regulate the water temperature. People are steamed alive.

I) 1500 feet above Glenwood, customers in the Caves were already moved quickly out of the caves when the landslides upstream caused a panic. They looked upstream and could see the same brown mist of a now 200 foot high wall of water rushing down the Glenwood Canyon. Ravens and other birds flew quickly by, the scale of the impending disaster was reflected in their shrieking cries. Just above them herds of deer and elk along with bobcats, mountain lions, bears and other wildlife were seen and heard moving through the forest. But these south-facing slopes had very little left. It was only a 1/2 mile further up into the forest where the snow was deadly deep to wildlife.

J) The rumbling from the canyon grew louder. Cave patrons stood on the edge of the overlook and wept. Panic overcame a few who fell to their death. The noise was growing disturbingly louder. People covered their ears but what they heard terrified them.

K) The massive engorged wall of debris choked its way down the canyon, destroying it as it went. In the narrow places it slowed considerably as if it were to stop and dam up. In a normal year that would've been the case, but there was so much snow melt this year that this mudflow won every battle, blasting its way through, under, and over the debris dams and continued its massive smashmouth march down the canyon. Fits and heaves grew bigger as it engulfed small side streams and the wider canyon mouths.

L) Several patrons run uphill for better cell phone reception, frantically calling their loved ones down the hill at the now empty hot springs pool. The lead caver was among them.

LEAD CAVE GUIDE
(yelling into cell phone)
Mom, Dad, get out!

Shot zooms from the Glenwood Caves hilltop down to downtown Glenwood Springs where most everyone has come out of their houses and businesses.

LEAD CAVE GUIDE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Go! South on the 82 now! Go, go,
go!

M) Cave patrons watch in horror as the massive red-brown debris-choked wall smashed through the No Name river bends and easily covered the 200' hill that housed the last tunnel before Glenwood Springs. The sound was so loud that it knocked patrons back into the cave. For 10 minutes the water grew higher and higher, just like the videos of tsunamis they had seen.

EXT. 60 MILES WEST NEAR PARACHUTE - DAY

Drs. Dann and Tren get out of his truck to marvel at the flooding Colorado. Within a minute he notices the flooding is dramatically slowing down. They notice a stream on the hill nearby isn't slowing down. Scowling, Dr. Dann starts pacing back and forth, swearing under his breath.

He then has an "Eureka!" look on his face and recoils in horrors about what he thinks is happening.

DR. DANN
(grabbing Dr. Liu by the
shoulders)
Let's get out of here!

Spooked, Dr. Dann and Tren run to his truck. Dann floors it like a madman down I-70 to Grand Junction.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)
(On his cell phone,
panicky, urgent)

INT. GRAND JUNCTION AIRPORT - DAY

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
Hi! How-

DR. DANN
Do you have any commercial flights
to Denver within an hour?

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
(sucking on a lollipop)
Ummm... Let me check... Yeah,
we've got one leaving in 90 minutes
on-

DR. DANN
Book me in first class-

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
I can't actually do that but I'll
switch you over to the airline-

DR. DANN
No! It's an emergency and I really
need your help-

DR. LIU
(grabbing his phone)
(Cheerfully)
Hi! It's an emergency that we have
going on here. I'm going to give
you my credit card and you're going
to buy us 2 first class tickets to
Denver.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEENAGER
But I can't-

DR. LIU
Shhhhhh! It's okay sweetie, we're
not asking you to break the law.
Don't you want to be a hero?

EXT. FLYING ABOVE THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY - DAY

Dr. Dann looks outside his window down onto the Rancho del
Rey and witnesses the most shocking scene in his life.

EXT. MT. LOGAN AND SURROUNDING HILLS AND VALLEY COLLAPSE

The collapse of Mt. Logan, Horse Mountain and adjacent hills is a 5-10 minutes long mise en scene involving a little known fault line that gets the whole area shaking. That is triggered by the injection wells lubricating the fault. The massive amount of snowmelt applies the coup de grace to the area. There are landslides all over Colorado, but nothing like this.

DR. DANN
Oh my god.
(grabs Dr. Tren's arm)

DR. LIU
(gasping)
How is that possible?!

Two minutes later Dr. Dann, from the window seat on the airliner, see the Colorado River's bloody, muddy wall of death pouring out of Glenwood Springs narrowed West side.

DR. DANN
(grabs Tren's arm
excitedly)
Look! Look at that! What is that?
Is that the Colorado?! Oh my God it
is!

Following the river path north past Dotsero, Dr. Dann is able to make out patches of brown where there should be snow covered trees.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)
They're happening everywhere!
Landslides! Humongous landslides!

DR. LIU
Of course!
(pulling out her iPad
Pro, looking at a
professional geographical
map)
I think it must have dammed up at
the narrowest part of the canyon.
Oh my word! That would explain why
it slowed down!

DR. DANN
(pulls out his phone)

PILOT (INTERCOM)
We are currently experiencing
communication issues with various
control and cell phone towers.

Dr. Dann and Tren look at each other in silent agreement.

15 minutes later the plane was in contact with traffic
control towers in the Denver area

PILOT (CONT'D)
We now have contact with front
range communication towers. I
understand we have an emergency on
the ground.

STEWARDESS
Dr. Pequa?

DR. DANN
(nodding)
Yes.

STEWARDESS
(bends over to whisper)
You can make your call now.

INT. GOVERNORS OFFICE RECEPTIONIST DESK - DAY

RECEPTIONIST
Governor Franks office

DR. DANN
We have an emergency - the Colorado
River dammed up, then destroyed
Glenwood Springs and all
infrastructure and probably is
destroying Rifle right now.

RECEPTIONIST
And you are?

DR. DANN
Dr. Dann Pequa. I'm on the
Governor's Climate Task Force.

RECEPTIONIST
Hold while I get the Governor.

INT. CAPITOL REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER - DAY

GOVERNOR IS SPEAKING AT THE PODIUM

GOV. FRANKS

"... in retrospect, we've done everything we can to alleviate the suffering in our great mountain communities-

Long-time aide Leslie Berman steps to the podium. Gov. Franks glances at her irritated but changes his expression when he sees hers. She continues to whisper in his ear as he leans forward

GOV. FRANKS (CONT'D)

Pleas excuse me, it appears we have an emergency.

Gov. Franks points at several legislators, motioning them to follow him. Their aides are making an entrance to the chamber with alarm on their faces and join them as they all walk briskly out of the chamber.

INT. GOV. FRANKS OFFICE

As Gov. Franks walks in through the double wide doors, one of his aides motions for the legislators and their aides to wait in the reception area.

INT. GOV. FRANKS OFFICE

(Male aide hands him a satellite phone)

GOV. FRANKS

This is Governor John Franks

DR. DANN

John, it's Dann Pequa. We just flew over Rifle and Glenwood Springs. There appears to be several massive landslides like the one in Cedaredge, but these are far more massive.

Another aide bursts into the Governor's office.

YOUNG FEMALE AIDE

Oh my god - my city is gone!

GOV. FRANKS

(waving off his aide Leslie Berman, he puts the call on speakerphone)
I appreciate you calling me Dann.

(MORE)

GOV. FRANKS (CONT'D)

Do you have any other info about this? Do you have any idea what I'm looking at?

DR. DANN

From what I and Dr. Tren from CU saw from 30,000 feet up, the Colorado River dammed up somewhere North of Dotsero, broke through sometime later, and is now on a rampage through Rifle. We saw 2 mountains collapse into the Colorado at parachute. We could not see anything but dark muddy water in Glenwood Springs. No buildings, no streets, nothing. It was completely covered.

A hush falls through the room. Moments later a burly man bursts through the door into the Governor's office.

BURLY MAN

(calmly)

Sir, the President is on the phone.

Everyone looks around in bewilderment.

GOV. FRANKS

(pushes button to turn off speakerphone)

Hello Mr. President, this is Governor Franks. We have an emergency sir-

(Gov. Franks grows silent, nods as he continues to listen for an agonizingly long 30 seconds. He motions to his aide Leslie and together they listen to the President. Tears well up in her eyes as she silently mouths "oh my god!" repeatedly)

EXT. DEBEQUE - AERIAL VIEW - DAY

The small town of Debeque is covered up by Mt. Logan to the north and Horse Mtn. to its southeast. The massive earthen dam is 800' high and burning out of control as billions of fracking fluids burst up from hundreds of injection wells. Thick black toxic smoke hinders visibility. Those unlucky enough to live above or below the twin landslides are dying from the toxic smoke.

EXT. AERIAL SHOTS

The camera rises from Debeque and travels upstream as the Colorado's raging maelstrom begins to settle in behind the dam. The water begins filling the valleys between Debeque and Parachute.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT

Alternatively, the camera rise up from Debeque and follows the Colorado downstream. Peach orchards and vineyards are the first to notice that their irrigation canals are not working.

PEACH FARMER
(speaking into walkie
talkie)
Pedro! Did you forget to open the
sluice? There's no water over here!

Peach Farmer looks over to Pedro on the other side of orchard by the Colorado River.

Pedro shrugs his shoulder, pointing to the river

PEDRO
Boss, there's no water in the
river.

PEACH FARMER
What? Come on Pedro, just open the
sluice!

Pedro again shrugs and points to the river

PEDRO
Boss, I'm not joking around! The
river is dried up!

Peach farmer's wife pulls up in her ATV.

PEACH FARMER'S WIFE
David! There's been another
landslide! The river's been cut
off!

PEDRO
(shakes his head, shrugs
his shoulders)

INT. PEACH FARMERS HOUSE - DAY

Peach farmer, wife and Pedro burst in to watch the TV.

TV REPORTER

We bring you breaking news from our Grand Junction affiliate. This is live from just outside of Parachute. 2 major landslides have buried the town of Debeque. Due to the fires we can't clearly see the extent of the damage.

We do know that the Colorado River is dammed and not flowing below the town of Debeque. We'll have more information as it becomes available. First, we'll switch over to Jaime Wilson who is live at the Governor's office.

EXT. CAPITOL, ON THE WESTERN STEPS - NOON

Governor Franks is at the microphone facing just a few microphones on a podium. He looks haggard and sleepy.

GOV. FRANKS

At 10 o'clock this morning, two major landslides completely covered the small town of Debeque, Colorado which is an hour East of Grand Junction. I-70, is now closed at Grand Junction and at Eagle. Concurrently, there was a flooding event near Glenwood Springs. That's all we know right now. I'm in touch with experts who are on the scene right now. My office will have more information as we receive it.

REPORTER #1

Governor, do you have any information about reports of the Colorado flooding impact on Glenwood Springs?

GOV. FRANKS

As I just stated, I will release more information when we have it.

REPORTER #2

Since we know that Debeque is covered, are we to assume that there is large scale loss of life? And what about the Colorado River - it flows right through town.

INT. DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NOON

Dr. Dann is disembarking from the plane. He is greeted by 3 men in suits who dryly greet him.

DARK SUIT MAN #1
Dr. Dann Pequa?

DR. DANN
Yes.

DARK SUIT MAN #1
Come with us sir, the Governor is expecting you.

DARK SUIT MAN #2
I'm sorry Ma'am, but you are not coming with us. We have arranged transportation to take you to either your home or office.

Dr. Dann nods to Dr. Tren. Dark Suite Man #3 escorts her in a different direction while the two others and Dr. Dann go to an adjacent terminal.

EXT. TARMAC AT DIA - NOON

The 3 men step down internal stairs. At the bottom the doors open revealing the President's helicopter. Dr. Dann looks around.

DR. DANN
What's going on?

DARK SUIT MAN #1
It's a national security issue Dr. Pequa.

EXT. SATELLITE SHOT OF THE WEST

VOICEOVER, FEMALE
The primary tributaries with normal flows for this time of the year are the Gunnison, Dolores, and Green rivers. Tributaries not listed have insignificant flows for this time of the year-

Camera pulls away from satellite shot to reveal hydrologist Dr. Lisa Collins and a projector as the voiceover continues.

INT. DARK, SMALL AUDITORIUM

GENERAL PALMER

But we can't protect rivers.

DR. LISA COLLINS

Correct.

(clicking remote control
revealing another slide)

But you can guard dams. The big
three are the Glen Canyon, Hoover,
and Parker Dams. Upstream are three
more: Blue Mesa, Vallecito, and
Navajo.

GENERAL PALMER

(looking at iPad Pro)

Mr. President, we're going to begin
with the big three and take a wait
and see approach with the lesser
three dams, sir.

POTUS

(nods in agreement)

What's your timetable?

GENERAL PALMER

2 days, sir.

POTUS

(aide whispers quickly in
his ear)

Get in there today, General. You
have 6 hours at most.

GENERAL PALMER

(looks uncomfortable)

Yes, Mr. President.

EXT. SATELLITE SHOT OF THE SOUTHWEST - AFTERNOON

Satellite view of the Southwest zooms into the Glen Canyon Dam and zeroes in on the Visitor's Center adjacent to the west side of the dam. The shot travels from the parking lot into the interior offices where there are a few bodies. Camera peeks into offices to see the bodies. It is silent when there are footsteps barely heard and the camera peers out of the office to see a Navajo move out the door to the observation area. The camera goes out the door as the Navajo waves his hand towards the other (east) side of the dam.

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM PARKING LOT, EAST SIDE

NAVAJO LEADER #1
We're ready! This land is our land!
This water is our water! This dam
is their dam!

SMALL CROWD
This dam is their dam!
This dam must go!

NAVAJO LEADER #1
(speaking into walkie
talkie)
We're ready brothers!

INT. GLEN CANYON DAM TURBINES

NAVAJO LEADER #2
(speaking into walkie
talkie)
We're ready to set the timer. T-
minus 20 minutes.

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:15 P.M."

NAVAJO LEADER #1
(walkie talkie to his
ear)
30 minutes brothers! Everybody out!
Go to your families - tonight we
celebrate!

Military helicopters descend on the dam. 3 helicopters land
in the Visitor's Center parking lot. Fully armed soldiers
pour out and race into the Visitors Center.

INT. GLEN CANYON VISITORS CENTER - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:35 P.M."

Soldiers step out from the helicopters, weapons drawn and
storm into the visitors center. 2 women and a man bound and
gagged under a table in the back office are freaking out. A
soldier undoes their gags.

1ST FEMALE VICTIM
They're going to blow up the dam!

SOLDIER 1
(into shoulder mic)
Evacuate! Clear out! It's wired to
explode!

The soldiers quickly search the rest of the visitors center for other survivors. They find 1 in the bathroom, then rush out to join their fellow troops in the helicopters. They take off.

INT. MILITARY CONTROL ROOM

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:35 P.M."

Monitor displays Soldier 1's helmet cam as he search thew Glen Canyon Visitor's Center for survivors. Camera records 1st Female Victim's words, "They're going to blow up the dam!"

GENERAL PALMER
Fuck!
(clicks a button on comm
panel)
Hoover! Status report!

EXT. HOOVER DAM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:42 P.M." -

3 military helicopters approach hoover dam from above the dam, and 4 approach from below the dam.

INT. HELICOPTER APPROACHING HOOVER DAM FROM BELOW

Navy Seal scanning the dam and terrain with LIDAR. The LIDAR video is live streamed into the Military Command Room.

NAVY SEAL
Nothing on LIDAR, sir. We are
landing now.

2 helicopters land on top of the dam. 5 others land in the other parking lots.

INT. HOOVER DAM OFFICE.

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:45 P.M."

Navy Seal and other soldiers calmly walk into the office.

OFFICE WORKER
Hey! We were not informed of
military exercises.

NAVY SEAL
(speaking into shoulder
mic)
Mr. President, Hoover Dam appears
to be free of external threats.

Manager comes out from a bigger office with puzzled look.

HOOVER DAM MANAGER
What the hell's going on?

NAVY SEAL
National Security, sir. Terrorists
have taken the Glen Canyon Dam.
(concerned look appears
on his face, turns away,
then turns back to the
Manager)
Negative, they just blew up the
dam.
(puts hand to earphone
and steps closer to the
outside door)

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "3:45 P.M."

Glen Canyon Dam blows up. It's a terrific explosion from deep
within the dam, but since the silt has backed up to near the
waterline of the dam, it's just enough to create several
large gaps in which water begins to pour out.

INT. MILITARY CONTROL ROOM

Video feed from a front-mounted camera facing the Glen Canyon
Dam captures the explosion and displays on one of the
military control room monitors.

GENERAL PALMER
Holy shit.
(turning towards his
second in command)
Toby, get a team to Parker and get
me eyes on those other dams!

EXT. BELOW THE PARTIALLY DESTROYED GLEN CANYON DAM

Smoke, dust and water are pouring out from the gaps in the
Glen Canyon Dam.

EXT. CONFLUENCE OF GUNNISON AND COLORADO RIVERS - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 3"

SUPERIMPOSE: "CONFLUENCE: GUNNISON AND COLORADO RIVERS

Gasoline tanker parked at rivers edge is dumping gas downstream while a generator driven pump is pumping water from upstream. 3 men with automatic rifles scan for threats.

Camera lifts up, flies down the Colorado River to northeast of Moab, enters the river canyon at Castle Valley, flies above the river and presents a bird's eye view of Red Cliffs Lodge

SUPERIMPOSE: "NEAR MOAB, UTAH"

EXT. RED CLIFFS LODGE - MORNING

8 men dressed in desert camouflage are waking up guests, robbing them, getting their cards and PINs. 3 gas tankers roll in to begin pumping water from the river.

Camera lifts up once again, flies down the river, up over the Slickrock area, down to Main Street Moab where a furious gun battle is taking place.

SUPERIMPOSE: "MOAB"

EXT. MAIN ST. MOAB - MORNING

A gas station begins to burn, thick black smoke as thugs shoot it out over 2 gas tankers while gas spews into the street. Tourist and citizens alike begin shooting at each other for no apparent reason. Police and Grand County Sheriff win the battle but must shoot several citizens to gain control of the tankers.

SERIES OF SHOTS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS THE WEST

SUPERIMPOSE: "DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT" -

SUPERIMPOSE: "GREEN RIVER, UTAH"

A) Armed militia takeover west part of Dinosaur National Monument where the Green River runs.

SUPERIMPOSE: "NUCLA, COLORADO, DOLORES RIVER"

B) Nucla, CO 3 miles from the Dolores River, a tiny town where guns are mandatory. Citizens convoy down to Naturita and face a fierce gun battle at the Dolores River.

SUPERIMPOSE: "CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO"

C) Camera flies to Crested Butte, Colorado. Front loaders are creating an earthen dam on the East side of town.

SUPERIMPOSE: "ASPEN, COLORADO"

D) Pan up and fly to Aspen Airport where billionaires disembark from planes with private armies and cargo planes are bringing in heavy equipment.

INT. NYC NEWS STUDIO - EARLY AFTERNOON

NATIONAL REPORTER #1

We interrupt your normal programming to bring you breaking news from Denver, Colorado where once again the weather is wreaking havoc. Janice is with us.

EXT. CAPITOL OF COLORADO - NOON

JANICE (REPORTER)

2 days ago scores of landslides occurred throughout Colorado. 3 of them have blocked the Colorado River. As word of this event spread, so has violence.

We are live at the Capitol of Colorado where Governor John Franks will be addressing this issue.

INT. WHITE HOUSE CABINET COMMAND ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Dr. Lisa Collins, Dr. Dann Pequa, General Palmer and other Cabinet members are present.

POTUS

Dept. Of Interior Amanda Johnson is here with Dr. Lisa Collins and Dr. Dann Pequa.
(nods at Amanda)

AMANDA JOHNSON

The Navajo-

GENERAL PALMER

Terrorists.

POTUS glares at General Palmer.

AMANDA JOHNSON

The Navajo actually did us a favor as the Glen Canyon Dam has been drastically weakened by sediment buildup.

(MORE)

AMANDA JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Although the dam is somewhat intact, it's is beyond repair.

Because the Colorado remains dammed at Debeque, the Green, Gunnison, Dolores, and San Juan Rivers have enough flow to sustain the communities-

GENERAL PALMER

California, Arizona, Vegas are not communities Ms. Johnson! We have 39 bases that are crucial to carrying out the Commander-In-Chief's decisions.

AMANDA JOHNSON

We have strict conservation measures in place and a feasible water rationing plan.

GENERAL PALMER

Bullshit! What we have Mr. President are thugs manipulating this crisis.

POTUS Chief of Staff whispers into the President's ear.

PRESIDENT

General, do whatever it takes to help law enforcement get this under control. This meeting's over.

Chief of Staff nods to Secret Service agent who blocks Dr. Dann and nods to the Chief of Staff who silently mouths the word "wait"

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Dr. Pequa, a word.

The room clears out. When the door is shut the Chief of Staff nods to the Secret Service agent at the opposite wall. A door magically opens - although Dr. Dann has his back turned he sees the wall open, reflected from a photo on the President's desk. A tall man - Z - with radiant silver hair enters.

CHIEF OF STAFF

(nodding to the President)

This way gentlemen.

The President looks on as 2 SS agents, Dr. Dann and the unnamed tall man exit via another wall door.

INT. VERY LARGE GRANITE ROOMCOOL, CURVY, ROUGH AND SMOOTH
GRANITE-WALLED ROOM FULL OF WEIRD CONTRAPTIONS

SUPERIMPOSE: "BASEMENT: SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM"

The Granite room is cozy, cool, curvy, a mix of rough hewn granite and impressive precision smooth blocks. Dr. Dann follows Z through the maze of tables to a small safe on a sagging shelf. Z steps up to the safe, bends over slightly, and spins the combination. The shelf sags a bit more and objects clatter and smack into the safe. Z ignores it. He pulls out his phone to look at the sequence of numbers.

Z
(smiles wryly at Dr.
Dann)
Too long of a sequence.

After a minute that seems like five, Z opens the safe to and casually pulls out a pair of gold gloves and boots.

DR. DANN
(gently scoffs, smiling
in mild amusement)

Z
Yeah. I figured as much, too.

DR. DANN
What? What is this?

Z
(sighing)
Found technology.

DR. DANN
Found where?

Z
Machu Picchu

Amazement spreads across Dr. Dann's face. He turns to think and then realizes that this somehow is connected to the amazing cut stone at Machu Picchu, Puma Punku, Cuzco and others. He recognizes that some of the granite interior walls resembles those locations.

Dr. Dann hides his amazement and turns back towards Z.

DR. DANN
How does it work?

Z

(Speaks into his phone)
Send the techs.

(Looking at Dr. Dann)
They call it E2 for Electron
Expansion. I call it the Hand of
God for reasons that will be
obvious.

Z puts on the gloves and slips the boots over this shoes.
They expand to accommodate his large foot size.

Z (CONT'D)

Intent, doctor. Whatever you intend
you will have. Point to cut through
rocks, sweep to sweep aside. Lift
to move.

Z pulls them away from the safe. They both step back while Z
lifts the safe using the gloves from a distance of 20 feet
and throws it against the stone wall. He then begins slicing
it in 2. He cuts a hole in the granite wall, lifts the
remains of the safe, caps it with the granite plug he just
cut and seals it into the wall, all in just 15 seconds.

Dr. Dann stares in disbelief.

Z (CONT'D)

You're familiar with Scripture
doctor? My favorite is Mark 11:23,
'Say to this mountain "be removed
and cast into the sea" and it shall
be done'.
Remember doctor, intent is
everything.

Z nods to the 2 techs.

Z (CONT'D)

You'll have to check these out of
this room. You know what to do,
doctor?

DR. DANN

(nods)

Z

Because of the nature of this
technology, you cannot disclose
anything about it. You were never
here, you don't know what these can
do, and these two are your newest
graduate assistants.

EXT. RULISON COLORADO - INTERSTATE I-70

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 4, AIRLIFT DAY 2"

I-70 highway is packed with cars, trucks and fracking rigs evacuating from Parachute, Rulison, and Rifle. The newly formed dam can be seen in the distance and water is steadily backing up. Front loaders are everywhere, clearing debris and making temporary berms to allow traffic on the highway.

A major airlift is underway, having started the previous day. Helicopters are everywhere, ferrying people from residences south of the river onto the highway, which offers little relief and safety.

INT. FEMA HQ, LAKEWOOD FEDERAL CENTER

FEMA MANAGER

(on video phone)

Mr. President, the situation is dire. Evacuees have only 1 way out. That's up a highway into ranching country. There's no infrastructure for 60,000 people, let alone a few hundred. People downstream have evacuated to Grand Junction. We can airlift people down that way. But we need fuel, food and shelter.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - WHITE HOUSE

POTUS

That was done-

CHIEF OF STAFF

-Yesterday. Why are you not airlifting them?

FEMA MANAGER

The military won't let us sir. National security.

Chief of Staff covers the phone, and whispers harshly to the President.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Remove Palmer!

POTUS

Get Z on the phone.

INT. WHITE HOUSE CABINET COMMAND ROOM - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE "DAY 5"

POTUS

Ms. Johnson has put together a projection of rate of expansion of the newly formed lake. I've heard her explain it, but I want your professional opinion Dr. Collins.

The room dims and a video of a computer model plays. It shows detailed contours of the dam's expansion rate, starting with Day 4. It shows days 5 through 14. On Day 7, the town of Rifle will begin to be underwater, cutting off access to the only way out of town. Day 8-11 fills up the wide, gentle valleys south of Rifle and Silt before back up the canyon between New Castle and Glenwood Springs.

Lights come up.

DR. LISA COLLINS

The projection seems accurate Mr. President. I would imagine that on the ground it's a terrifying reality.

POTUS

Yes it is Dr. Collins. General Bonner, I've made my decision. That dam must be removed.

GENERAL BONNER

Yes, Mr. President

POTUS

How soon can that be done?

GENERAL BONNER

(aide looks up from his tablet, whispers into General Bonner's ear)

Tomorrow, sir.

POTUS

Is the area clear?
(turning to Dr. Collins)
Are we rushing this?

GENERAL BONNER

It's clear.

DR. LISA COLLINS

The sooner the better Mr. President.

POTUS

Well, then. That wraps up this meeting.

(turning to Dr. Collins)

You can share that with Dr. Pequa. Mr. Carter will get you a secure phone.

(nodding to Chief of Staff)

INT. EAST WING, WHITE HOUSE -DAY

SS Agent Carter hands Dr. Collins a secure phone.

AGENT CARTER

Dial any number. You have 15 minutes.

Agent Carter walks away, speaking into his lapel mic.

DR. LISA COLLINS

Pick up Dann! Please be there and pick up.

SOUND: DR. JENSON'S VOICEMAIL PLAYING

Dr. Dann (V.O.)

You've reach Dr. Dann. Please leave a message at the tone.

(tone sounds)

DR. LISA COLLINS

Dann! Get out of there! The President has authorized the bombing of the dam!

EXT. GROOM LAKE AFB, AKA AREA 51

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAY 6, 4:30 A.M"

Very early morning shot of 6 huge bombs known as GBU-43 being loaded onto 6 F-16s.

Each F-16 speeds down the runway and takes off and quick succession.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

President is on the phone with General Bonner.

GENERAL BONNER (V.O.)

Mr. President, F-16s are enroute to the dam, sir. They are 30 minutes out.

POTUS
(hangs up the phone
without saying anything)

EXT. MORNING - PARACHUTE DAM

Dr. Pequa is several hundred feet up a debris field on the south side of the earthen dam. He's wearing the gold boots and gloves. Prior to using them he looks himself over and thinks his appearance ridiculous.

His two "assistants" give him the once over, shrug, and resume scanning the area constantly with large binoculars.

He begins moving boulders one at a time. He's slow and cautious, as if trying not to break them and worrying how it will look. Soon he begins tossing boulders, and trying various motions. He hikes a little further uphill and downstream. This takes 5 minutes.

Satisfied with his location he starts "digging" away boulders rapidly with a force and efficiency that astounds him.

EXT. MORNING 30,000 FEET

The F-16s are flying side by side approaching Parachute dam.

INT. WHITE HOUSE COMMAND ROOM -

GENERAL BONNER
Operation Landscape, you are "Go".

FIRST PILOT
Roger that General. We are 3
minutes out. Dam is in our sight.
It's a beautiful day sir.

SECOND PILOT
(nodding to first pilot)
Affirmative General. We happy to
help.

EXT. PARACHUTE DAM - DAWN

SUPERIMPOSE: "5:45 A.M."

Dr. Pequa is busily moving boulders by the dozens at a time. During a brief pause he hears the F-16 bombers. At first he thinks its commercial aircraft. Then he wonders why he hasn't heard any other aircraft this morning.

Suddenly, he realizes that it must be the bombing options discussed a few days ago with the President.

He then sees the bombers fly overhead followed curiously by a bigger, slower jet that appears to much higher overhead. He then sees the bombs. Painted bright orange and falling rapidly. Terrified he guesses it's 10 seconds before impact.

He and the two assistants look around frantically. There's no place to hide. It's useless.

Z (V.O.)
Remember Doctor: intent.

Dr. Dann kneels with his arms outstretched and palms facing away from his body. He waves in a circular motion, turning to sit in a calmer posture, closing his eyes and holding his arms straight out, palms out.

This motion forces two of the bombs away from Dann towards the third bomb. Together the 3 bombs detonate a mile away followed a second later by the other 3. The shockwave is racing towards Dann. He can't see it, nor hear it, but he can feel it. He steels himself against this awesome force with a look of determination etched on his face.

The shockwave blasts over and around him, obliterating the two assistants and cleaning out all debris save for the rocks. It's like a giant blast of vacuum sucked everything out. All of his equipment and gear vanished along with all debris.

He opens his eyes to see an ocean of boulders. He hears the recon plane circling overhead and furiously resume "digging" away boulders. But this time he sweeping away the dam by 10 cubic football fields per swipe. In just 5 minutes the dam is cleared enough for the lake water to begin rushing down the river bed.

Finished with removing the dam, he turns and is startled to see over 20 Native Americans looking at him. He tries to speak, but cannot. He feels paralyzed, and can hear their thoughts.

NATIVE AMERICAN #1
You have freed the river of our
ancestors. The Fremont thank you.

DR. DANN
(Looks thoroughly
confused)

NATIVE AMERICAN #2
(motioning to the gloves
and boots)
We have not seen these since the
Great Forgetting.

The other natives nod in agreement.

NATIVE AMERICAN #2 (CONT'D)
Come with us.

Dr. Dann nods nervously, quite unsure if this is real or a hallucination. The natives hold out their hands and pull him completely into their realm.

EXT. - PARACHUTE DAM

SUPERIMPOSE: "5:55 A.M."

Water is draining rapidly and becoming a torrent. On the hillside Dr. Dann looks confused, takes a few steps up the hill and disappears.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The President is on the speaker phone surrounded by two aides and his Chief of Staff.

GENERAL BONNER (Speaker Phone)
Mr. President, I'm happy to report
that the Colorado is flowing again.

President smiles and high fives his staff.

POTUS
Thank you General Bonner. I will
personally thank you and your men
in a few days.

EXT. COLORADO CAPITOL STEPS - MORNING

Governor Franks is at the podium once again, but this time he is all smiles for the first time in months.

GOV. FRANKS
As you can probably tell, we are
all very excited to share with you
that as of 5:45 this morning the
mighty Colorado River is now
flowing again!

Reporters can be seen and heard overlapping each other with various details.

REPORTER #1

While this is certainly great news, the Governor also reiterated that many mountain communities remain in crisis mode from the historic and unprecedented snows this recent winter.

REPORTER #2

Even with the water flowing again, it will be several days if not 2 weeks before Arizona and California water restrictions are lifted.

REPORTER #3

We are receiving reports that despite that the Colorado flowing again, violent activity has increased. Law enforcement thinks these are the last incidents and free-flowing water will restore order.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

The President is finishing a meeting. As soon as the participants have cleared the room, Z walks in with a tablet.

Z

Mr. President.

POTUS

Yes...

Z

Two FYEOs, sir.

POTUS

(nods)

Z

Here's video thermography of the dam removal in Colorado.

Tablet shows infrared and thermo overlays of the 6 bombs from overhead. 6 dots are neatly spaced and growing smaller when suddenly a cool looking series of pulsating waves shove 3 of the dots close to the other 3, and then the six explode just outside the target.

Z (CONT'D)

Here's a video of the Colorado River water after the detonation.

Tablet shows the dam intact.

Z (CONT'D)
The detonation didn't work, sir.

POTUS
(Motions to Chief of
Staff to leave)

Z looks dryly at the departing Chief of Staff who is obviously irritated, and smiles wryly.

Z
Forwarding to 3 minutes later. What you're about to see has been seen by only me.

Z shows video of some invisible force violently moving massive amounts of earth.

Z (CONT'D)
Here's a remarkable infrared.

The video displays a tiny dot that appears to be the source of the force.

Z (CONT'D)
Here it is zoomed in on the apparent source.

Video zooms in on what clearly is a human shape moving its arms out in sync with the massive amount of earth being moved, like an Orchestra Conductor.

POTUS
(stunned)
Wha- how is that possible!?

Z
I can't tell you that, sir, and it's better that you don't know. The reason I'm here sir is because we know who and what. We don't know where right now.

POTUS
Terrorist?
(looking confused)

Z
No. It wasn't the bombs that destroyed that dam - it was Dr. Pequa.

POTUS
(stunned)

Z
We can't find him.

POTUS
Oh
(mouths "my")

EXT. GLEN CANYON DAM - DAWN

Standing on the west side of the dam, Dr. Dann sees why the bombs failed. He see the decades of sediment built up against the dam and extending over a mile from it. He sense what he has been brought here to do. He starts quickly cutting lines into the dam, then clawing them out just like Z showed him.

As the dam comes down quickly, the water is finally freed. He intuits that he can hold the water back to better remove the sediment - he does so and senses the natives approval for the care he is showing.

In less than a minute he is done.

NATIVE AMERICAN #2
(hand on Dan's shoulder)
Come with us.

He sees the Grand Canyon from a bird's point of view a few hundred feet over the river. It only appears that they are moving slowly and then in what was maybe 1 minute they are standing above the east side of the Hoover Dam.

EXT. HOOVER DAM - DAWN

The skies are still dark. It has been only a few minutes since he freed the Colorado river from 2 dams.

The natives gather closely around him. He can sense their gratitude. They part slightly and beam as a very old chief moves through them.

NATIVE AMERICAN ELDER
(no jaw movement)
Your work is holy.

Dr. Dann is filled with an immense joy, falls to his knees and weeps. Soon he is sobbing like a baby.

EXT. DIRECTLY ABOVE DR. DANN

The natives circle around him with their palms facing Dr. Dann. An energy field encircles them. Dr. Dann is still sobbing when the gloves and boots begin to glow. He is lifted above them with the energy hoisting him up as he unfolds from his fetal position and places his hands on his heart. He brings his palms together, fingers up, in front of his heart. The energy is entering the boots making them and his hands hands blindingly bright. He looks to his right at the Hoover Dam, he looks downstream and "sees" the Parker Dam, closes his eyes and throws his arms out to each side.

A shockwave vaporizes the Hoover dam and the energy shoots it out into space. A similar shockwave travels down the canyon benignly and then vaporizes the Parker Dam.

FADE TO GREY

EXT. BASE OF NAVAJO MOUNTAIN - LATE DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: "4 WEEKS LATER"

Navajo, Hopi, Paiutes, and remnants of Anasazi are decked out in ceremonial garb of their respective tribes at the base of Navajo Mountain. A crowd of several hundred have gathered to honor Dr. Dann. There are several fires for ceremonial purposes, and primitive well-used grills with meats and vegetables roasting. People are milling about.

In the center of all this is small stage. Next to it people line up to meet Dr. Dann and speak in their native tongue. Dr. Dann appears rather awkward with all this attention; he feels torn between two worlds. He is certain that what he has done was criminal in the eyes of the US government, and is reconciling that with the Navajo rejoicing in the cultural justice of his actions.

SOUND: DRUMMING AND THEN A BULLHORN

A young boy steps to the stage and can barely lift the bullhorn to his mouth. There is screechy feedback and sqwaks while he fiddles with it.

YOUNG NAVAJO BOY
Attention... Attention! We are
starting!

SOUND: CHEERS FROM THE CROWD

Navajo President Russell Begaye steps up to the stage wearing a dark blue suit, turquoise shirt, brilliant beet red tie. He motions to Dr. Dann and several others. Dr. Dann is wearing traditional navajo garb.

A young man helps align the men on the stage. Most are very old, 2 are younger than 45 which includes Dr. Dann Pequa.

Russell Begaye looks behind him at the men, and then begins.

RUSSELL BEGAYE
(speaks in navajo first,
then speaks in English:)
By now you have heard that the
River flows freely once again.

Wild cheers from the crowd. Begaye is beaming as the cheering goes on for almost a minute. He points to Dr. Dann a few times and gestures to quiet down.

RUSSELL BEGAYE (CONT'D)
You may have met the man who had a
role in this-

More wild cheering. Dr. Dann is embarrassed by the attention, still overwhelmed by the improbable experience, humbled beyond words about what he witnessed. He looks down at his shoes. One of the elders steadies himself by grabbing Dann's arm.

RUSSELL BEGAYE (CONT'D)
I cannot overstate the importance
of the astounding turn of events
and the powerful impact it will
have on each chapter. You will each
remember this day as will all Diné.

The crowd is cheering wildly once again, but Begaye will have none of it.

RUSSELL BEGAYE (CONT'D)
(motioning the crowd to
be silent)
Dr. Dann Pequa-

More wild cheering

RUSSELL BEGAYE (CONT'D)
- we and all of our brothers and
sisters honor your restorative
work, and would be pleased to
restore your heritage among our
elders.
(hands Dr. Dann a stack
of clothes)
In Navajo: Today we celebrate!

The crowd cheers briefly as Dr. Dann and Navajo Tribal President Russell Begaye shake hands, share small talk, and then step down from the crude stage.

Many people come up to Dr. Dann to shake his hands. Mothers bring their babies and kids. It's a festive crowd.

EXT. BASE OF NAVAJO MOUNTAIN

To the south a cloud of dust rising behind a shiny black SUV can be seen in the distance. 3 Navajo teens see it, squint, and one pulls out a pair of binoculars. He recognizes the driver. He hands the binoculars to his two friends. They look at each other with a mix of alarm. They run over to the Navajo President, and interrupt him talking with Dr. Dann.

NAVAJO TEEN #1

Mr. Begaye!
(pointing to the truck in
the distance)
It's Negaynezgani!

CAPTION: "SLAYER OF ALIEN GODS"

Russell Begaye scowls, grabs the binoculars and looks in disbelief. He barks in Navajo to his two lieutenants. Word gets out, the crowd grows silent and turn their attention to the SUV.

The SUV comes to a stop. Glare from the sun prevents most from seeing what's going on. After 30 tense seconds a tall man and his shock of radiant silver hair emerge from the car.

Dr. Dann is stunned to see Z. Russell Begaye sees the look on Dr. Dann's face and orders the boys and other men in Navajo to shield Dr. Dann. The crowd is quiet, the mood is tense as Z casually walks up to Russell Begaye.

Z

Hello Russell.

RUSSELL BEGAYE

(glares angrily at Z)

Z drops his cigarette onto the ground, puts it out with his foot, pulls a small plastic bag out that has a few other butts in it, squats down while looking around, picks up the butt he just put out, stands and puts it in the bag, and puts the bag in his pocket.

Z

(looking at. Dr. Dann)
I need it back.

DR. DANN
I don't have it with me.

Z
(scoffs, looks at the
sacred Navajo Mountain)
Are you saying that you lost it?
Loaned it out to a friend did you.

DR. DANN
Or returned it to its rightful
owner.

Z turns quickly to approach Dr. Dann.

Z
(gravely)
If that's true doctor, you don't
know what you have done. You-

The crowd is even quieter. The air is completely still. All animal sounds are gone, no ravens can be heard. A brilliant white Kachina walks toward Z as the crowd gives it plenty of space.

Russell Begaye, and the elders are shocked. Dr. Dann however sees the same group of elders that assisted him surround the Kachina as it strode up to Z. The Kachina stops exactly 9 feet from Z.

NATIVE AMERICAN ELDER
Tell them now my son.

For once, Z loses his composure. The Kachina is wearing the gold boots and gloves. It looks beautiful, mesmerizing. The gloves, boots and the Kachina itself begin to radiate. The crowd falls on its face. Z is terrified.

DR. DANN
Listen! Our elders are present here
today! Do not fear this man. Our
restoration has only begun.

The Kachina move his palms to pick up Z.

Z
(trembling)
Wait! Please put me down. I have
come with the best intentions. I-

The Kachina swipes left, hurtling Z over 4 miles through the air to the north side of Navajo Mountain

KACHINA
(speaking Hopi)
I slay the Negaynezgani! I remove
at last the curse of those who
destroyed our lives.

The crowd is stunned and then begins murmuring as they see the Ancient Elders surrounding the Kachina. Each Elder is exactly 9 feet from it facing outward to the crowd. As they walk out and away from the Kachina the people begin to see them clearly and a profound peace descends on them.

The elders on stage who were very old and bent over stood up straight and moved with energy. The alcoholics became sober. Those who limped no longer did. Those with colds and other ailments suddenly were breathing just fine. All through the crowd a sickness was lifted, replaced with a vitality they had never known.

The crowd looks up towards Russell Begaye who is not quite sure what to do next. Dr. Dann takes the stage.

DR. DANN
We are all one people, one tribe. I
have seen firsthand the power of
the Kachina. Do not fear him, but
rejoice in this new dawn!

Dr. Dann walks over to Russell Begaye who nods approvingly. Begaye motions his hands to continue on.

RUSSELL BEGAYE
Celebrate! We have much to be
grateful for! And we will have much
more to come!

EXT. GROUND VIEW OF SKY THROUGH PINE FOREST SLOPE - DAY

Silence fills the glorious bright blue sky and serene pine forest as the camera picks up a faint dot in the blue between pines. The dot grows bigger and smashes into the thick carpet in front of the camera.

Camera moves up and around the object buried into the pine needles in a small impact crater. The debris moves enough to reveal a body. Then it moves some more and it turns out to be a man covered in dirt and pine needles. His back is towards the camera as he struggles to stand up, head bowed down.

As he struggles to stand, it is like watching a newborn colt, gaining strength and confidence. Finally he stands upright, shakes off the debris and turns to the camera. It's Z.

CUT TO BLACK

CREDITS

EXT. BETATAKIN, SEET KEEL, MESA VERDE, CHACO CANYON, CEDAR EDGE AND MANY OTHER RUINS.

After the primary credits roll, we are treated to several scenes of ruins, the more the merrier. Some are in excellent condition, some are pitiful.

In the last ruin, a typical alcove, the camera pans left to reveal an impressive cliff dwelling in a massive 500' tall sheer vertical cliff made using the gold boots and gloves. It is absolutely astounding in scale and craftsmanship.

The camera moves to a tall immaculately "cut" rectangle. Beautiful cursive Diné words are carved into the stone next to the cut.

CAPTION: "GREAT HOUSE" -

EXT. BETATAKIN RUINS -

Dr. Dann hands the boots and gloves to a teenaged boy.

DR. DANN
Now you give it a try.

Boy points on the gloves and holds it up to Dr. Dann

DR. DANN (CONT'D)
(falling down to the
ground)
Whoa whoa whoa! Do NOT point those
at anyone! Point them only at the
rocks like I showed you.

A small group of teenagers giggle as the boy turns to the rock and starts carving it with the gloves.

DR. DANN (CONT'D)
Remember, this is going to be your
home and there is just this one
cliff to use, so make it good, make
it great, but do not get silly.

Teenagers giggle as the boy starts carving out a door.

EXT. MONUMENT VALLEY -

Dr. Dann and 2 families are inside a new cliff house peering out various windows at the valley below. They hear a car. Camera goes out a window to peer down 20 feet at an old pickup truck carefully driving up a freshly cut rock ramp.

Camera continues out the window to reveal an immense house cut into vertical red sandstone, complete with a driveway and a 3-car garage.