

## Hudson River Miles 130-135: The Movie

“The Movie” is an easy to watch compilation of seven (7) separate videos each with a different orientation and messaging. Each is centered on a different aspect of the beauty and the problems to be found on a five mile section of the Hudson River. We know river miles 130 to 135 best. If you are like us and following the model of Voluntary Stewardship it is probably where you live and kayak that defines the topography to investigate and understand.

Like chapters in a book each episode has its own purpose which taken in order tells the complete story. To fully enter the point of view directed to a section of the five river miles, we suggest reading the narrative that accompanies the episode. More details about the area are at the end of each video.

The four principal goals guiding our effort over several years are repeated in each video.

“Recording and archiving for posterity as climate change increases” acknowledges that a simple photo taken today can be historic in a short time, for example knowing where the shoreline was in 2019 may be lost forever by 2030. Icecaps and glaciers do not refreeze so once the view is inundated knowledge the future might find critical is lost with it.

Thomas Cole, the Father of the Hudson River School of painting was appalled by the prospect of steam trains reaching to Catskill because he had already seen the devastation of nature caused by Industrialization. The lost connection between humans and nature has become a cliché, nevertheless, “Reinforcing the connection to the rhythms of nature” is an undeniable need which can be met in some small part by bringing the river to the people.

“Appreciation of the beauty of biodiversity”: The river level in a kayak or canoe presents a rare view into vast interconnected life systems that go unnoticed because they are practically unreachable and thus invisible to many people. Direct knowledge of abounding interconnected and interdependent life systems once brought into public view may increase the chances for the protection of all river life.

Where is the point of contact where the Hudson River loses the struggle against the overbearing needs, wants and errors of humanity, in turn leading to the degradation of this great gift of nature? “It is at the juncture of river and human life” that the worsening of conditions occurred and the slim chance of recovery have played out. The islands of River Miles 130 to 135 are a linear garbage dump when seen up close. The river is also still a dumping ground for permitted pollution, while those who have the actual political and economic power to clean and restore the river merely pose, propose, and pay lip service. As with Climate Change and Global Warming, accomplishing real change is mostly talk, a grand myth, a long fairytale that at least one generation isn't buying.