WHERE THE DRAGON
MEETS THE ANGRY RIVER

Where the Dragon Meets the Angry River

Nature and Power in the People's Republic of China

R. Edward Grumbine

ISLANDPRESS / Shearwater Books

Washington • Covelo • London

A Shearwater Book
Published by Island Press

Copyright © 2010 R. Edward Grumbine

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the publisher: Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009.

SHEARWATER BOOKS is a trademark of The Center for Resource Economics.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Grumbine, R. Edward.

Where the dragon meets the Angry River : nature and power in the People's Republic of China / R. Edward Grumbine.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59726-551-5 (cloth : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 1-59726-551-9 (cloth : alk. paper)

1. River engineering—China—Nujiang Lisuzu Zizhizhou.
2. Water resources development—Environmental aspects—China—Yunnan Sheng.
3. Yunnan Sheng (China)—Economic conditions.
4. Yunnan Sheng (China)—Social conditions. I. Title.

TC502.N85G89 2010 333.72095135—dc22

2009045718

British Cataloguing-in-Publication data available.

Printed on recycled, acid-free paper ♻️

Design by David Bullen Design

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Keywords: Yunnan, Nujiang, Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site, Kunming, Beijing, dam moratorium, hydropower, energy, development, conservation

To the ancient Chinese masters
of philosophy, poetry, and painting;
and to the mountains, rivers, and
wildlands of the Middle Kingdom
that so inspired them.

Contents

	Introduction	3
Chapter 1	The Highest Good	11
Chapter 2	The Frontier and the Middle Kingdom	23
Chapter 3	Under the Jade Dragon	40
Chapter 4	Old Mountains, Young Parks	60
Chapter 5	In the Land of Twelve Thousand Rice Fields	83
Chapter 6	Into the Great Green Triangle	94
Chapter 7	The Dragon Meets the Angry River	108
Chapter 8	China 2020	123
Chapter 9	Conservation with Chinese Characteristics	144
	<i>Notes</i>	161
	<i>Quotation references</i>	187
	<i>Bibliography</i>	193
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	229
	<i>Index</i>	231