

WINTER APPEAL 2011



*The demolition of Condit Dam; the rebirth of the White Salmon River (WA). Made possible, in part, with your donations
Photo: Andy Maser & Steve Stampfli*

A River Clean Up 20 Years in the Making...

...while 20 years may sound like a long time to plan a river clean up, it depends on how much concrete you need to haul out of the river.

In October 2011, American Whitewater celebrated the culmination of our efforts to see Washington state's White Salmon River flow freely again after being held back by Condit Dam for 100 years. In 1999, American Whitewater was one of the original signatories to a settlement agreement to remove Condit, and has been a key stakeholder in the effort to restore the White Salmon. We were the only entity at the table representing the conservation interests of the paddling community, and with your support, we'll continue to do so on rivers throughout the country.

For many dams - including Condit - the benefit of restoring the river far outweighs the public benefit that the dam once provided through power generation. While Condit only produced about 10 megawatts, the impact to the native fish runs was devastating, blocking 33 miles of critical coldwater habitat for steelhead and 15 miles for salmon. And with over 40,000 whitewater enthusiasts enjoying a run on the river each year, we're all excited to see the White Salmon emerge from the reservoir that was behind the dam and come back to life through the White Salmon Narrows. River clean ups come in many forms - from restoring flows below dams that aren't going anywhere, to designating rivers as Wild and Scenic. With your support, American Whitewater will continue to make them happen - even if they take many years to plan!

1118

miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers added*

25

rivers with flows/ access restored*

14

dams removed*

1

Organization

** Since 2005 alone*

Dear American Whitewater Member,

Anyone who rafts, canoes, kayaks or floats a whitewater river has American Whitewater to thank for providing important leadership on river stewardship efforts around the country. As you will see in these pages, we have demonstrated tremendous success in building coalitions between partner organizations and agencies, leading to positive results that benefit the rivers you enjoy.

American Whitewater is on a roll. Since 2005 we have been actively involved in the removal of 14 old and uneconomical hydropower dams, restored flows and improved access to 25 nationally significant whitewater runs, and helped designate 1,118.75 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers. But our rivers are facing new emerging threats all the time. As you determine your charitable gifts for the end of the year, we ask that you help us keep the momentum going. There has never been a better time to support these projects with a financial contribution to American Whitewater.



Help us make signs like this a thing of the past



*Glines Canyon Dam Removal, Elwha River (WA)
Photo: National Park Service*

EMERGING THREAT: New Dams

As we look to 2012, American Whitewater's attention is sharply focused on preventing the need to plan a massive river cleanup in the first place. As we celebrate the removal of the Elwha, Glines Canyon, and Condit Dams in Washington, proposals for two new dams in the state threaten the free flowing North Fork Snoqualmie and Skykomish Rivers. While both rivers have been identified for their conservation value, developers seek to move forward with their plans. Unfortunately, the threat of new hydropower is not isolated to these two rivers. American Whitewater is ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work. With your support today, we will not only work to hold back the threat of new dams, but aim to bring permanent protection to free flowing rivers throughout the country.

Elwha Restoration!

The removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams from the Elwha River on Washington's Olympic Peninsula began in fall 2011, and represents a remarkable opportunity for true restoration of the river and its surrounding ecosystem. American Whitewater joined in the celebration of the beginning of this historic event, and are proud to have been one of many stakeholders in the process.



AW's Nathan Fey meets with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar



Twelvemile Creek, SC
Photo: Joey Hanson

Dam Removal in the Southeast

This summer, paddlers watched with great excitement as two dams on South Carolina's Twelvemile Creek were removed. AW worked closely with regional coordinator Kevin Miller and affiliate club Foothills Paddlers to advocate for prompt removal based in part on the recreational benefits of a restored river.

New England Finds its Own Green River

In fall 2011, American Whitewater and the Vermont Paddlers Club held a flow study on the Green River. The Green is another awesome New England creek run, featuring three Class V drops and many Class III and IV rapids, all set in a lush and remote gorge. With your support, we will be working with the power company and regional paddlers to restore flows creating a new recreational treasure and tangible environmental benefits to the river.

Paddlers Lead Effort to Keep Colorado's Rivers Free-Flowing

What started as a focused effort to define and defend stream flows for whitewater boating in the Upper Colorado River is growing into a seven-state initiative to protect some of the most iconic, and threatened, rivers in the West. From the Colorado to the Yampa, Dolores to the Virgin, through our efforts, whitewater boaters are playing a critical role in determining the future of these rivers. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar met with us earlier this year to discuss the value of healthy rivers, and with your support we will be able to act on our commitments and the opportunity before us to give whitewater enthusiasts a strong voice in protecting rivers in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and across the entire Colorado River Basin.



Green River, VT
Photo: Scott Martin



McCloud River, CA
Photo: Bruce Hicks

Opportunities to Restore Flows to California's Rivers

After 50 years of flat-lined flows, American Whitewater has secured a new flow plan for Northern California's McCloud River. Improved flows will not only bring back boating opportunities on what is quite possibly the best Class III/IV wilderness run in California, but will also provide better fish habitat and help to maintain the river channel.

Rivers throughout the Sierras are ripe with opportunity for similar kinds of restoration. In 2012, American Whitewater will be in the thick of final flow negotiations for the South and Middle Forks of the Yuba, Fordyce Creek, Canyon Creek and the Rubicon River. Paddlers have been critical participants in the process to date, but successfully negotiating flows on each of these classic whitewater resources will require a monumental effort. With your support, we will be better equipped to meet the challenge.



Fordyce Creek, CA
Photo: Eric Petlock

We need your help!

Our Stewardship work is possible only through your support, and your contribution plays a vital role in protecting and restoring the special place that you love. We are a lean and efficient organization, with 83 cents of every dollar going to directly support our river stewardship work. With your support, we will be better equipped to meet the challenges ahead.

Please consider making a year end, **tax-deductible** donation to American Whitewater. Everything you'll need is included with this letter. **Thanks for your support!**



Online

We've totally revamped our Donate interface:
<https://americanwhitewater.org/donate>



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Just fill out the enclosed reply form and return it in the envelope provided.



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