



## WINTER APPEAL | 2013



**PROTECTING & RESTORING RIVERS REQUIRES PERSISTENCE,** skill, teamwork and passion. It also requires the support of river-loving people like you. As you determine your charitable gifts for the end of the year, please consider the value that American Whitewater's work brings to you and the whitewater paddling community.

At the heart of our river stewardship program is the understanding that conservation and recreation are mutually dependent. Time spent paddling forms the basis for a conservation ethic that values water in rivers. Paddlers understand that you cannot love what you don't know. It's our love of whitewater that makes us fierce defenders of rivers and their flows. This intimate connection to flowing water has made American Whitewater a force in river stewardship for 60 years.

Your additional end of year support allows American Whitewater's river stewardship staff to work on important projects in their respective regions. Our team consists of professional staff supported by board members and volunteers from communities across the country. American Whitewater's regional approach to stewardship work is focused on our mission, "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely."

*Brian Jacobson enters the put-in rapid on the West Fork Tuck with High Falls in the background, NC. | Photo by Mark Singleton*





*Paddling through the Quinault Gorge, a river that would be recognized as Wild and Scenic through Wild Olympics legislation.  
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe*

## Pacific Northwest

**WILD AND SCENIC** | The same abundant rainfall and steep gradients that attract whitewater kayakers to the Pacific Coastal Rainforests are also a perfect recipe for new hydropower. With your support, American Whitewater will continue to push for Wild and Scenic legislation to permanently protect the rivers of the Wild Olympics and others in the region.

**PUBLIC ACCESS** | American Whitewater has prioritized access projects in the Pacific Northwest, and we're celebrating new access enhancements on rivers like the Skykomish and Snoqualmie (WA). Our access work is nearly exclusively supported by your membership contributions, and with your support, in 2014 we'll continue to work with our partners to bring sites on the Crooked and West Fork Hood Rivers (OR) into public ownership.

**THANKS TO AN ORGANIZATION WIDE EFFORT** to provide transparency and operate efficiently, Charity Navigator awarded American Whitewater with its third consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that American Whitewater adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 9% of the nonprofits Charity Navigator rates have received three consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that American Whitewater outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates American Whitewater from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust and support.

## Colorado / Southern Rockies

**GUNNISON RIVER BASIN** | American Whitewater collected valuable information during our 2013 Gunnison River Flow Study, enabling us to clearly define recreational flow needs on cherished and revered sections of whitewater in the region. In the coming year, we will use this information as we work with water managers to protect seasonal boatable flows in the Gunnison Basin, even in the face of persistent drought.

**COLORADO, COLORADO RIVER ACCESS** | 2014 promises to be another tense year over river access in Colorado. As another round of ballot initiatives are advancing that will dramatically change Colorado water law, American Whitewater will continue to work with powerful political associations and interest groups to clarify the public's ability to float Colorado's rivers.

**COLORADO, WILD AND SCENIC** | Across western Colorado, hundreds of rivers are being studied for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The State, which has its sights on new water supply projects to meet urban water supply demands, aggressively opposes these actions. American Whitewater will continue to ensure that the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is applied fairly, and that equal protections for our rivers are achieved under Wild and Scenic alternatives.

**SOUTHERN ROCKIES, COLORADO RIVER BASIN STUDY** | American Whitewater is playing a major role in helping the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation understand how recreational boating flows across the Southwest will be impacted by the challenges of prolonged drought, water supply development, and future adjustments to dam operations. We are asking paddlers to help us define optimal flows on rivers in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and will ensure that paddlers have a voice in protecting those flows.



*An example of river access challenges in Colorado.  
Photo by Nathan Fey*

## Northern Rockies

**MONTANA HEADWATERS** | Montana contains some of the cleanest, coldest, and most scenic rivers in the US, and American Whitewater is working to keep it that way. In 2013 we blocked the construction of three new hydropower projects on whitewater rivers, and are working to develop broad support for Wild and Scenic designations for treasured Montana rivers like East Rosebud Creek, the Gallatin River, and streams in the state's Crown of the Continent region.

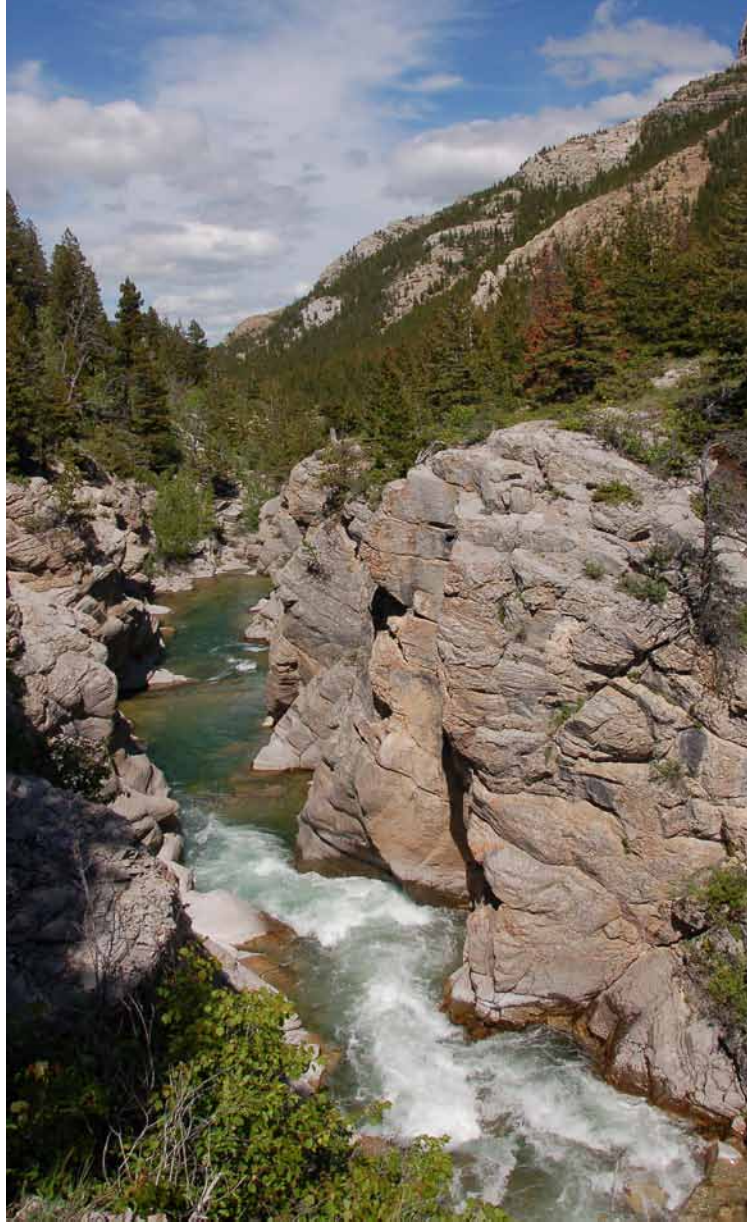
## Mid Atlantic

**RESTORING FLOWS TO THE NEW RIVER DRIES (WV)** | Flow studies conducted on the New River Dries in 2013 and 2014 will serve as the basis for negotiating new flow releases and public access on the Dries. American Whitewater is representing private boaters, seeking spectacular paddling opportunities and ecological benefits.

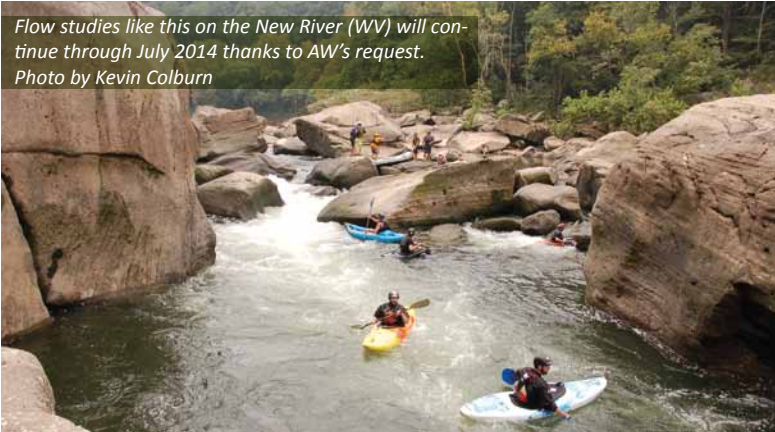
## Southeast

**UNLOCKING THE TUCKASEGEE'S RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL (NC)** | Seeing water flowing over the spectacular High Falls, and paddling the West Fork Tuck on its first recreational release earlier in 2013 marked a major milestone. In the coming year we'll work closely with Duke Power to optimize the flows and improve river access throughout the watershed.

*The Dearborn River is one of the many spectacular rivers in Montana that American Whitewater is working to protect. Photo by Kevin Colburn*



*Flow studies like this on the New River (WV) will continue through July 2014 thanks to AW's request. Photo by Kevin Colburn*



*American Whitewater will work to allow boaters to enjoy the entire length of the San Joaquin River (CA). Photo by Darin McQuoid.*





Turner's Falls Dam (MA) will be the site of flow studies in 2014.  
Photo by Pennington Geis

## Northeast

**CONNECTICUT RIVER (MA, VT, NH) |** American Whitewater is working to improve fish habitat and provide new recreational boating opportunities to sections of the Connecticut River that have been dewatered by dams. In 2014, we'll be busy with flow studies at Bellows Falls, VT and Turners Falls, MA that will give us the information we'll need to successfully negotiate for these flows.

**CONTOOCOOK RIVER (NH) |** American Whitewater with the help of Merrimack Valley Paddlers acquired and protected land along the Contoocook River, assuring permanent access to the best whitewater paddling opportunity in Southern New Hampshire. After creating a conservation easement and donating the land to the town of Henniker, we will be creating a new parking area for paddlers to facilitate access.

## California

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS THROUGH FOREST PLANNING |** A Wild and Scenic designation gives rivers the ultimate protection from future dams. With your support, in 2014 American Whitewater will continue our work to permanently protect world-class rivers (like Dinkey Creek) on the Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests through the Forest Planning process.

**OPENING RIVERS ON PUBLIC LANDS |** American Whitewater has been working with National Park staff to lift boating bans on treasured rivers in Yosemite National Park. In 2014, we'll keep the momentum going and work with Park staff to lift the boating ban on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin in Devil's Postpile National Monument.

# 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 rivers that you love. We are a lean and efficient organization, with 84 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

To make online giving more user friendly we've totally revamped our donation page:  
[www.americanwhitewater.org/donate](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/donate)



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



### Phone

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