



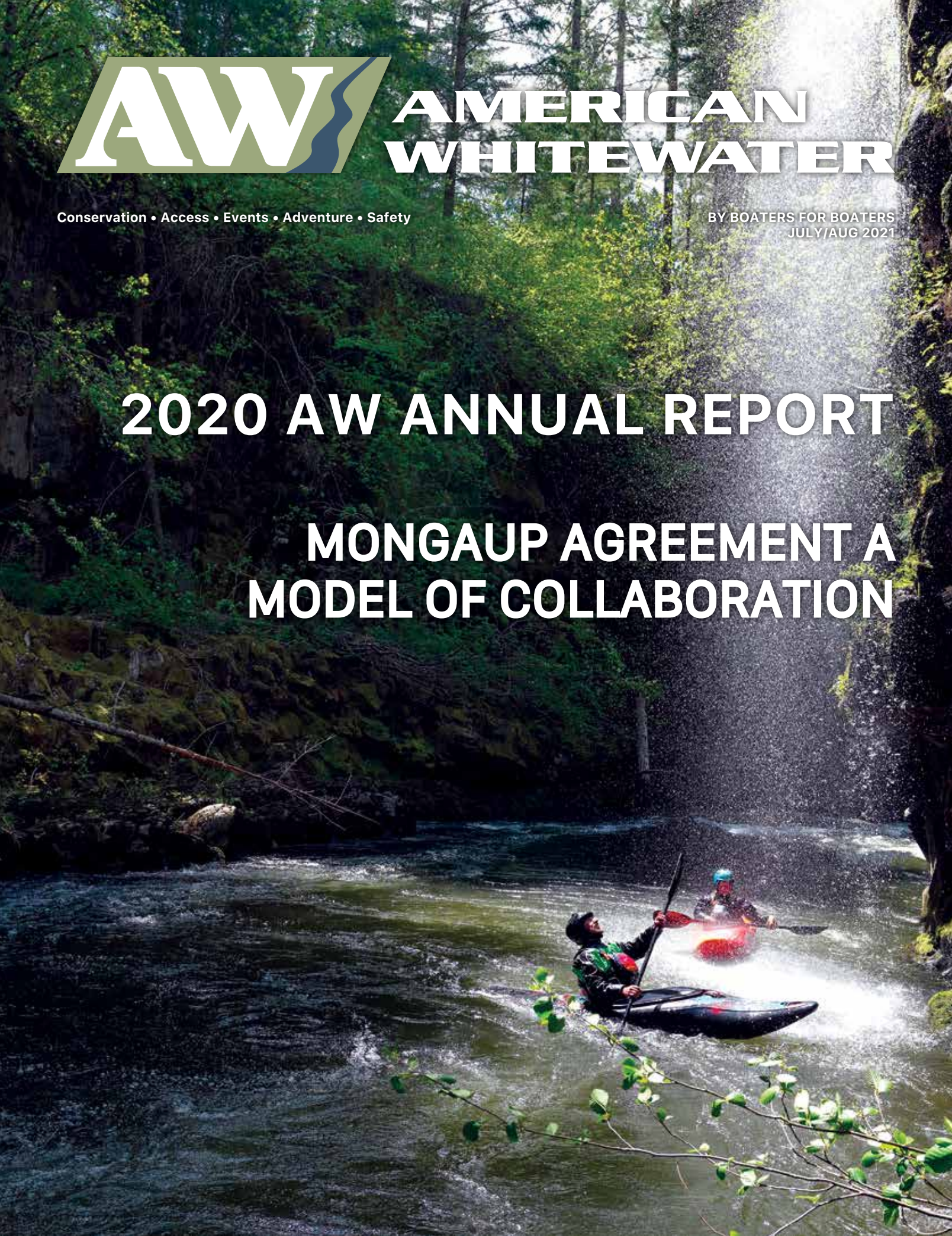
**AMERICAN
WHITEWATER**

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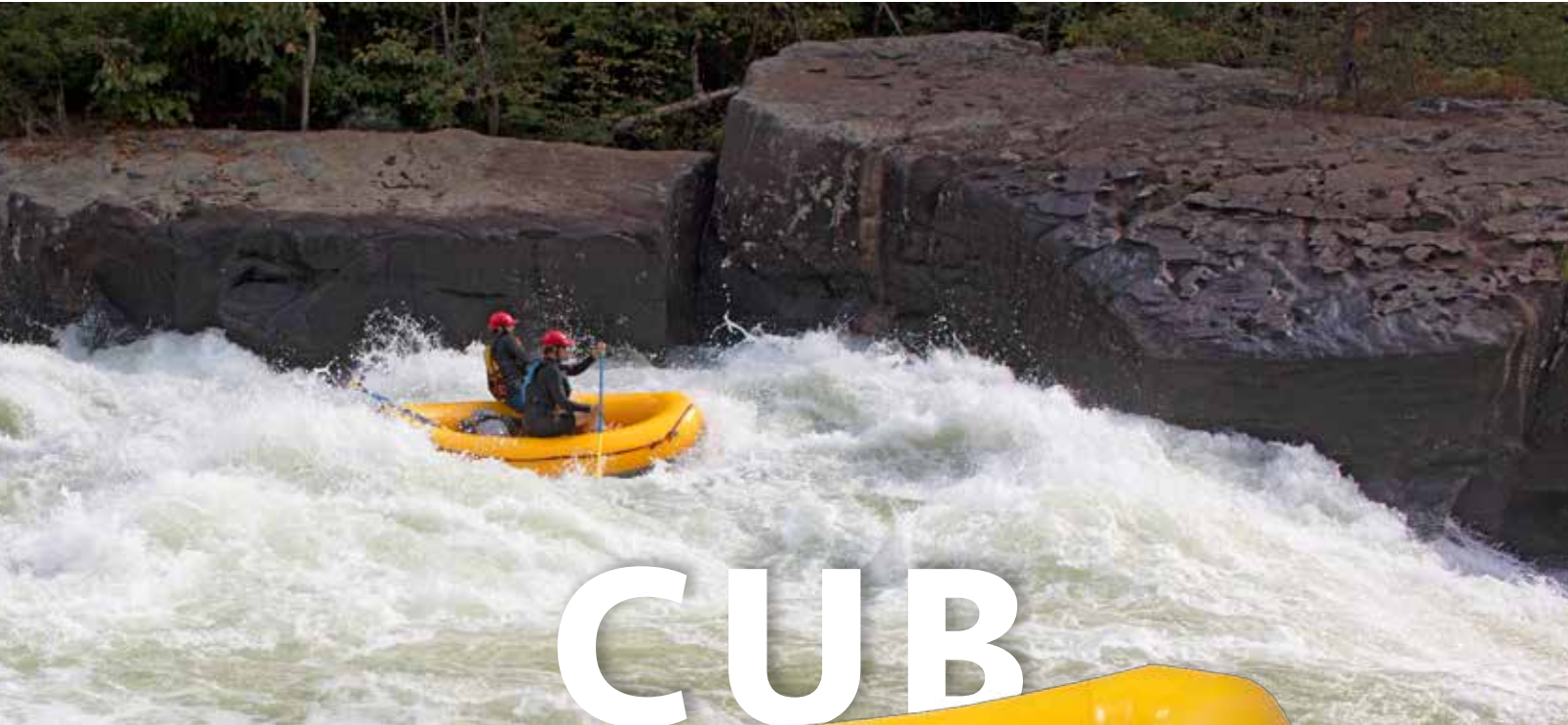
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JULY/AUG 2021

2020 AW ANNUAL REPORT

MONGAUP AGREEMENT A MODEL OF COLLABORATION



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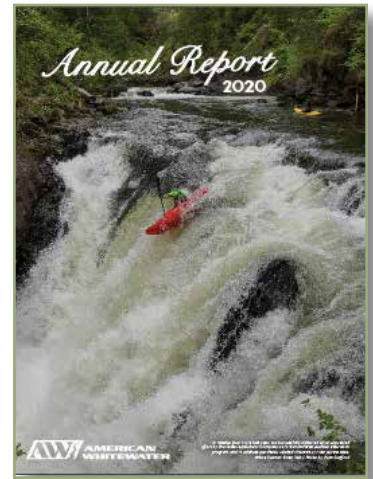
AMERICAN WHITewater

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

American Whitewater Journal July/Aug 2021 – Volume 61 – Issue 4

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Cover Photo

The pending sale of 101,000 acres of private timberland by SDS Lumber Company in Washington and Oregon represents an urgent, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to conserve this vast landscape for wildlife, climate, recreation, and local communities. These lands include portions of the White Salmon, Little White Salmon, Klickitat, and Hood river's watersheds, and also important whitewater access points including for the Farmlands reach (pictured). American Whitewater is engaged with leaders in the local paddling community, conservation groups, and land trusts to prevent the conversion and fragmentation of this landscape that could occur with a sale.

PHOTO BY EVAN STAFFORD

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PURPOSE

RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Our mission: "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely," is actively pursued through our conservation, access, safety and education efforts under the umbrella of River Stewardship. The only national organization representing the interest of all whitewater paddlers, American Whitewater is the national voice for thousands of individual whitewater enthusiasts, as well as over 100 local paddling club affiliates.

AW's River Stewardship program adheres to the four tenets of our mission statement:

CONSERVATION: AW's professional staff works closely with volunteers and partner organizations to protect the ecological and scenic values of all whitewater rivers. These goals are accomplished

through direct participation in public decision-making processes, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, empowerment of volunteers, public outreach and education, and, when necessary, legal action.

RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines published in its official Access Policy, AW arranges for river access through private lands by negotiation or purchase, seeks to protect the right of public passage on all rivers and streams navigable by kayak or canoe, encourages equitable and responsible management of whitewater rivers on public lands, and works with government agencies and other river users to achieve these goals.

SAFETY: AW promotes paddling safely, publishes reports on whitewater accidents, maintains a uniform national ranking system for whitewater rivers (the International Scale of Whitewater Difficulty) and publishes and disseminates the internationally-recognized American Whitewater Safety Code.

EDUCATION: AW shares information with the general public and the paddling community regarding whitewater rivers, as well as river recreation, conservation, access, and safety. This is accomplished through our bi-monthly AW Journal, a monthly e-news, americanwhitewater.org, paddling events, educational events, and through direct communication with the press.

Together, AW staff, members, volunteers, and affiliate clubs can achieve our goals of conserving, protecting and restoring America's whitewater resources and enhancing opportunities to safely enjoy these wonderful rivers.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 1540, Cullowhee, NC 28723; phone 1-866-BOAT-4-AW (1-866-262-8429). AW is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

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Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization (Non-profit # 23-7083760) with a mission "to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely." American Whitewater is a membership organization representing a broad diversity of individual whitewater enthusiasts, river conservationists, and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates across America. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. All rights to information contained in this publication are reserved.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the features and editorials of American Whitewater are those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily represent those of the Directors of American Whitewater or the editors of this publication. On occasion, American Whitewater publishes official organizational policy statements drafted and approved by the Board of Directors. These policy statements will be clearly identified.

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THE JOURNEY AHEAD

SUMMER IS HERE and it seems that everyone is eager to regain their footing and put the last year and a half behind them. One of the most common questions I get in my role of executive director is, “How is American Whitewater doing?” In this issue of the *American Whitewater Journal* we lay it out for you in our Annual Report. Make no mistake, last year was a challenge none of us saw coming. Even though our staff has been working remotely for the last 15-plus years, the way we work as a team and with partners changed significantly. The good news is we were able to adapt and stay highly productive. Sure, Zoom ruled the online meeting space and other digital tools took on new meaning, but the core of our stewardship work did not suffer; in fact, it flourished.

What the last year and a half showed us is how much Americans value their public lands and rivers, and that access to these special places brings joy, family and friend connection, and inner peace. All these attributes gained from being outside and on a river are important to how we see ourselves in a complex and interconnected world. At the core of the American Whitewater River Stewardship Program is the understanding that conservation and healthy human-powered outdoor recreation are mutually dependent. Whitewater paddlers appreciate natural landscapes, and these treasured resources need conservation-oriented paddlers to help preserve and protect them.

What is surprising about last year is how successful it’s been for river stewardship. We achieved major milestones on our priority campaigns like the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. This Act included two major components: the permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million per year (this fund has been instrumental in establishing river access points nationwide), and providing \$9.5 billion over five years to address the maintenance backlog on public lands and rivers. I have personally been involved in funding efforts for LWCF going back 20 years (since before I started working for American Whitewater). The program is based on the simple notion of using revenues from the depletion of one natural resource—offshore oil and gas—to support the conservation of other precious resources—our land and water. With the passage of this Act, every year \$900 million in royalties paid by energy companies drilling for offshore oil and gas will be set aside to support conservation and recreation projects.

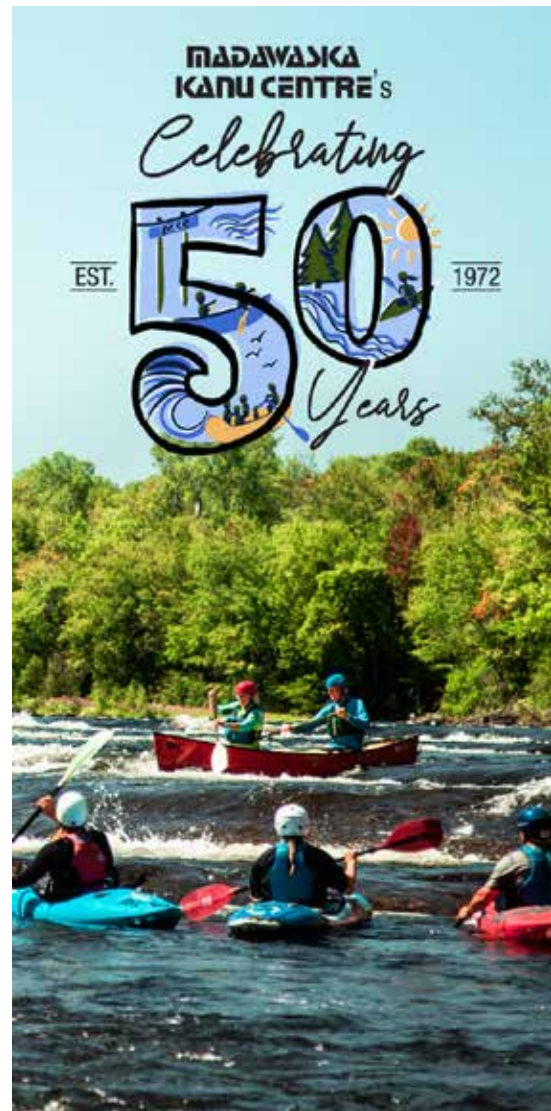
Americans have shown up and expressed their support for rivers and public lands in a big way. We are now moving ahead to take full advantage of that newfound awareness and push forward on additional legislation that is before the Congress. The Protecting America’s Wilderness Act includes more than 1,000 miles of new Wild and Scenic rivers and over 1.5 million acres of new wilderness. We are optimistic that, with the support of the whitewater

paddling community and our partners in the outdoor recreation space, we can pass this bill into law.

We do this work with a lean administrative model; 87% of every dollar we receive goes directly to our river stewardship work. In addition, American Whitewater has received 11 straight Four-Star ratings (highest) from Charity Navigator (only the top 2% of charities receive that many consecutive Four-Star ratings). Your support plays a vital role in protecting and restoring the special rivers you love. It’s been one crazy, upside-down year-and-a-half, but river stewardship continues full speed ahead.

Take care of rivers and paddling will take care of you,

Manh



THE TIME IS NOW TO PERMANENTLY PROTECT NEW MEXICO'S LAST FREE-FLOWING WATERSHED

BY KATHRYN JACARUSO AND KESTREL KUNZ

ON A HOT, still day in late May 2016, our team set off on a trip that had been two years in the making. The grant-funded, 16-day expedition would carry us along the last free-flowing watershed in New Mexico, the Gila River. Our packrafts would serve us well for the varied 87 miles of trails and water.

Our group of four college students, including Nina Lunstrom, Mollie Podmoore, Caleb Cofsky, and myself, were driven to pursue adventure in the Gila Wilderness because this wild river was in danger. The Gila River Diversion Project, a proposal to dam the Gila River, had been threatening the watershed since 2004, with \$16 million already spent on developmental stages.

The thought of navigating the wild Gila by packraft, for perhaps the last time, captivated us. But more motivating was the hope that our experience in the wild could slow the dam proposal momentum. Perhaps our stories would join the countless others shared by stewards of this special place, articulating the value of the greater Gila ecosystem and catalyzing some measure of protection.

It was certainly frustrating that this river was under threat; technically, the Gila Wilderness is considered the very first designated wilderness in America. The Forest Service set aside the 577,000 acres as wilderness a full 40 years before the National Wilderness Act passed in 1964. It's a real example of how, without rigorous levels of protection afforded through legislation like the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, even land and rivers that have been protected in the past are vulnerable to power grabs that are not in the interest of local communities.

My first days in the Gila Wilderness, I could feel it had been untamed for a long time. The early, clear sunlight beamed me into what felt like another country as we approached the trailhead. As we began to hike, the ponderosa pines and rounded river stones designed new memories for me, their architecture guided by new smell and sight, intriguing and raw.

I wondered why this place seemed to have a secret.

My lack of experience with the enchanting New Mexican landscape accounted for a part of this reaction. But another part was that we were deep in designated wilderness, where the absence of disturbance was halting, and the stillness, loud. For those 16 days, we were young river dwellers, exploring a wild river to learn through adventure and beauty outside of school. While our funding depended on an extensive trip plan, we knew we couldn't eliminate nature's variability. Fire season had started early in 2016, and I remember having to read wind and terrain to avoid nearby burns. We met dynamic challenges that you just don't see in a classroom. I find value in that still.

Navigating along Turkey Feather Creek and then into our packrafts for the larger Gila River drainage, we travelled through time and space slowly. Rolling storm clouds drew us deep into our little bodies. Each cup of tea we brewed signaled another day of finding our way through the wild. We struggled to imagine a diverted Gila River, and felt sorrow over the possibility of losing this powerful river and the wilderness it supports.

While in 2016 a threatened Gila River drew us in, now, five years later, the major cause of that threat, the Gila River Diversion Project, has crumbled. This spring marked the end of an era. In April 2021, Governor Lujan Grisham signed House Bill 200, which effectively ended the Diversion Project. Then in May, the Interstate Stream Commission voted to completely defund the New Mexico entity of the Central Arizona Project, the group tasked with implementing the Diversion Project. Even still, the Gila River communities rise to defend in perpetuity their source of livelihood, pleasure, and environmental health, continuing their unrelenting push for a Wild and Scenic designation.

Opposite Top: Navigating the Gila River in 2016
PHOTO BY CALEB COFSKY
Opposite Bottom: Gila River scenery
PHOTO BY CALEB COFSKY



STEWARDSHIP



The spirit of the Gila is as Wild and Scenic as the canyon it flows through.
PHOTO BY CALEB COFSKY

Since 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has prioritized the defense of threatened rivers throughout the United States. Even with over 13,000 miles of free-flowing rivers protected under the Act, each designation is unique and built from the ground up by local stakeholders that all have a common interest in safeguarding their river for future generations.

After years of community-led groundwork, the bill to incorporate the Gila River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was originally introduced in the 116th congress early in 2020, and now must be introduced again. The time is ripe and we must act now to protect the Gila.

Fortunately, the Gila River and its tributaries nourish a diverse group of local stakeholders that is ready to protect what it finds valuable within the watershed. Free-flowing, the Gila is a dynamic and powerful resource. The anglers, hikers, business owners, veterans, landowners, ranchers, paddlers—those who've been in and around the river for a lifetime—and us, the next generation, all agree.

Upon exiting the Gila Wilderness, and after buying canned margaritas and beginning our long drive home, a wave of sad disorientation surged through my body. It was clear that I had quickly started to love the Gila, and was now grieving the loss of the pure mornings in the pine needles and slow bends of the velvet river.

Having invested that time and energy into one area, our group observed that threatened rivers require some of the same healing remedies as humans under threat: attention, time investment, allocated resources, nourishment, and love. Safeguarding our beloved river systems gives us a chance to provide that treatment to the watersheds we value deeply.

Successful Wild and Scenic designations across the country demand an increasingly wide coalition of stakeholders. The Gila River has found this broad swath of support through a diversity of local stakeholders who have a common goal of keeping the Gila pristine and undeveloped. The personal stories, creative work, and public expressions of appreciation, like the Gila River Festival, all provide a life force to the movement. Grateful for the memories and lessons from our unique journey along the Gila River, we know now is the time to engage with folks who value the Gila River for reasons that differ from our own. I am guessing we will find some common ground among the enchantment of the singing birds and the clear, rippling water.



BERKSHIRE EAST
MOUNTAIN RESORT



**AW AMERICAN
WHITEWATER**

AW DEERFIELD RIVER FEST SEPT 11-12, 2021

WATER BRINGS US TOGETHER

ON WATER EVENTS:

- Demos
- Mini-Clinics
- Flatwater Paddle
- Women's Events
- Boater-X Races
- Fun River Activities!



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

AFTER PADDLE CELEBRATION AT BERKSHIRE EAST

**Music & Dance; Food & Beer;
Vendors; Silent Auction;
AW Membership Drive;
Tons of Fun!**





The new agreement on the Mongaup River serves the needs of many different stakeholder groups, while also increasing annual whitewater releases!
PHOTO BY JOHN SCELBA

MONGAUP RIVER (NY) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT A MODEL OF COLLABORATION

By BOB NASDOR



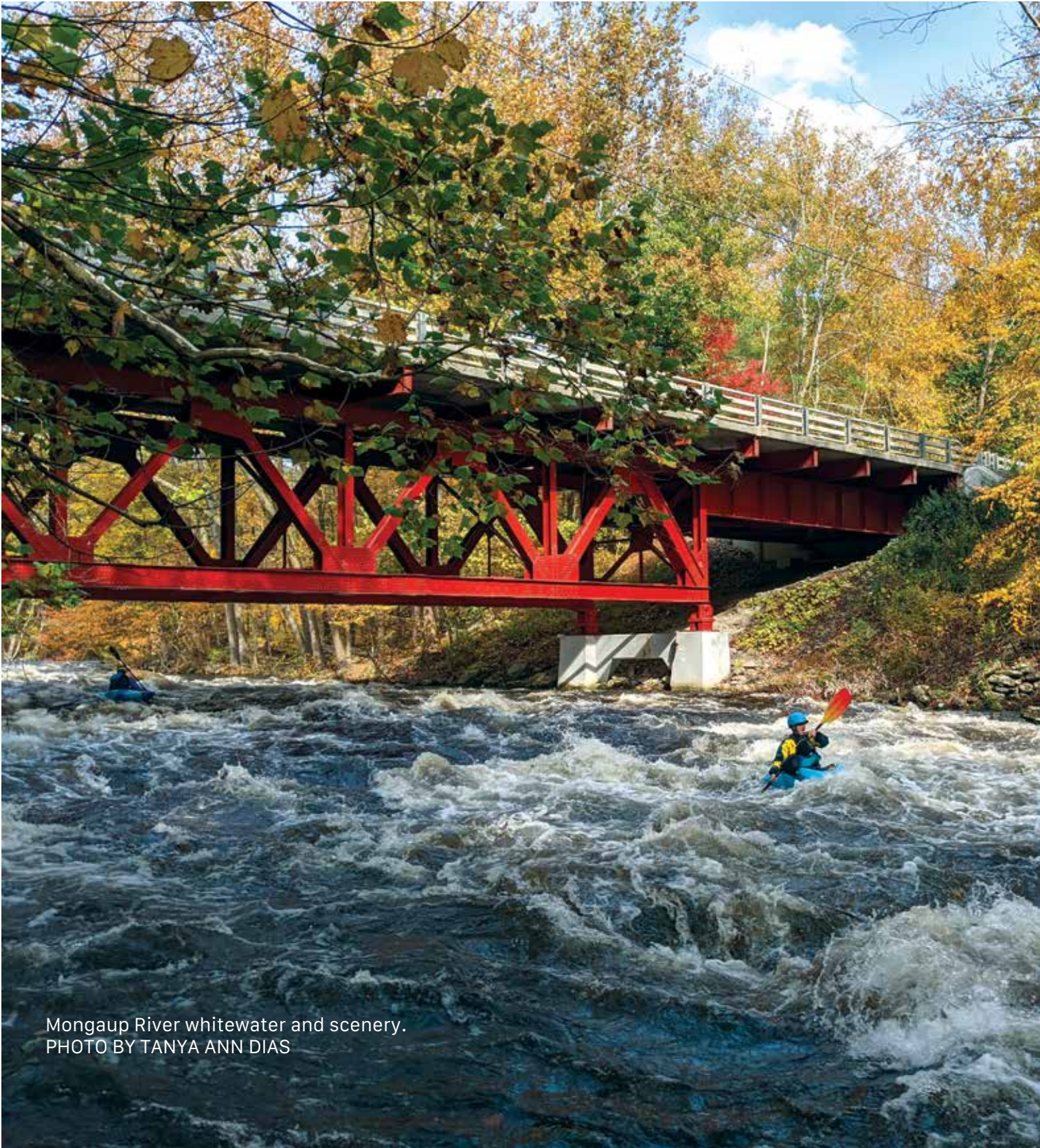
WHITewater boaters, anglers, lakefront property owners, and state and federal agencies joined the power company to reach a settlement agreement in the relicensing of three hydropower dams and storage reservoirs on the Mongaup River in New York. The settlement agreement ushered in a new era of collaboration among a diverse group of stakeholders whose interests often clash in federal hydropower dam licensing.

The Mongaup River is among the most important rivers for paddlers in the New York City metro area. Located near Port Jervis, scarcely more than a 90-minute drive from the City, the Mongaup is a popular river reach providing paddlers with a continuous Class II/III series of waves and playboat features between the Rio powerhouse and the Delaware River. The current FERC license requires 15 scheduled releases annually at different flow levels, each appealing to paddlers of different abilities.

Over the past four years, American Whitewater joined affiliate clubs Appalachian Mountain Club and Kayak and Canoe Club of New York to advocate for expanded whitewater boating opportunities. Last month, our organizations finalized the settlement agreement that will double whitewater releases from 15 to 30 releases annually, increase flows during scheduled releases, provide two days of advance notification of planned generation, allow greater flexibility in scheduling creating an opportunity for a river festival, and provide flow in the “dryway” section below the dam during some scheduled releases.

Above: Paddlers love the playful Mongaup River, well within reach of New York City.
PHOTO BY MARK ZAKUTANSKY

STEWARDSHIP



Mongaup River whitewater and scenery.
PHOTO BY TANYA ANN DIAS



The challenge in all hydropower dam relicensings is reaching a consensus among stakeholder groups and agencies with potentially competing interests and wishes for the limited water availability. Lakefront property owners seek to limit water releases to preserve lake levels and limit reservoir water fluctuation; anglers and resource agencies seek to increase conservation flows to maximize aquatic habitat and improve water quality; paddlers seek to maximize scheduled releases that provide optimal whitewater boating opportunities; power companies seek to maximize their flexibility to generate power at times when electricity prices are highest. On many rivers, the challenge of reaching consensus among stakeholders is compounded by the presence of federal or state-listed endangered species and fish passage and spawning needs. All of these interests came into play in the Mongaup relicensing, making the agreement among these interests all the more remarkable.

Beyond improvements to whitewater boating opportunities on the Mongaup, the settlement agreement will result in the removal of Black Brook Dam, a decommissioned hydropower dam that fragments river connectivity. Lake levels used by lakefront property owners will be maintained throughout the recreational boating season. Water quality and minimum flows will be maintained in project-bypassed reaches. Federally-listed Dwarf Wedgemussel in the Delaware River will be protected and impacts on the Wild and Scenic portion of the Delaware will be minimized.

Credit for the Settlement Agreement goes to all of the participants who worked to protect, mitigate, and enhance both their primary use, but also recognize and support other groups and agencies throughout the process. We are grateful to all the groups involved, particularly our affiliates AMC and KCCNY. Our hope is that this agreement will be a model for cooperation in future relicensings in the region.

PADDLE WISE

a responsibility code
for river runners



PADDLE SMART

- Paddle within your ability • Keep your skills sharp • Communicate with your team on the river • Think for yourself • Don't let bad decisions compound • Go big, but come home safe



PADDLE INCLUSIVE

- Share it • Everyone with the proper skillset is welcome • Find a mentor • Be a mentor • Acknowledge indigenous stewardship and land • Be a positive part of the community



PADDLE NO TRACE

- Leave no trace • Always be a river steward • Use existing access areas, trails and campsites • Pack it in • Pack it out • Use restroom facilities or bring your own waste disposal • Be aware of and remove micro-trash



PADDLE PREPARED

- Plan ahead • Consult existing beta • Understand International Scale of River Difficulty and your chosen river's rating • Carry proper equipment including medical kit, spare paddle and emergency food/layers



PADDLE SAFE

- Wear your PFD • Carry a throw rope, knife and other safety gear • Practice safe river running technique • Set safety where appropriate • Take a swiftwater rescue course • Practice whitewater rescue skills regularly



PADDLE AWARE

- Check weather and flow conditions • Check for closures and river regulations • Know your ability and your group's ability • Understand surrounding landscape and escape routes • Research existing hazards, portages and critical features



PADDLE RESPECTFUL

- Consider impacts to gateway communities • Consider impacts on other paddlers • Drive slowly • Park in designated areas • Respect closures • Be friendly and represent the whitewater community positively • Appreciate cultural resources but leave undisturbed

Annual Report

2020

Members and Fellow Paddlers,

Last year was a year like no other that started with a great deal of uncertainty. The American Whitewater team had to rally and adjust to a new pandemic reality, even something as basic as running a shuttle required a rethink as to what was acceptable risk in a pandemic era. Yet, we managed to grow our base of support even in the face of having to move our in-person events to a virtual format. As we move forward, there is a sense of optimism for what the future holds, a future that includes robust protections for wild rivers. It's become clear over the last year that Americans love their public lands and rivers. If there has been a silver lining to the pandemic it is the value Americans place on their ability to get outside and find solace in nature and on rivers. That urge to be outdoors and in nature has helped many of us find balance in challenging situations. Plus, it's made clear that protecting public lands and rivers, and their access, are the bipartisan issues of our time.

With Zoom events becoming the new normal, the American Whitewater team dug in and took on a major overhaul of membership management systems with the goal of being able to communicate with our community more efficiently. These efforts are paying off as we increased both our dues paying membership and engagement rates. Our engagement rate to policy makers (those are your email comments to lawmakers) increased three-fold last year. This demonstrates our community's ability to lean forward and provide meaningful input on policy issues that impact rivers we all love.

It's been a trying year, with a global pandemic impacting our families and social justice issues challenging our communities. As an organization, our members and leaders support

each other and are willing to learn and grow, even during the most difficult times. We're on a river stewardship journey and recognize that the future of stewardship requires a constituency that is representative of future demographics for stewardship to remain relevant.

There's a lot of talk these days of returning to "normal," we all look forward to its arrival. We're on the right path but not out of the woods yet, and the team at American Whitewater is committed to something better than "normal" that is more forward thinking. As hard as last year was, it provided the opportunity to reimagine the ways we achieve our goals and we made significant strides in our river stewardship program as outlined in the following pages of this report. The sudden unexpected appearance of the pandemic shows us how little we know about what's to come. That sudden appearance also taught us how important it is to adapt quickly and pivot as unforeseen situations arise. We've managed to make those adjustments, thanks to strong support from membership, and we are a better version of ourselves for doing so.

See you in the next eddy,



Mark Singleton
Executive Director



Chris Neuenschwander
President, Board of Directors



American Whitewater River Stewardship Work in 2020

Wild and Scenic



LEGISLATION
INTRODUCED: **21** RIVERS,
782 MILES

ADMINISTRATIVELY
PROTECTED: **75** RIVERS,
614 MILES

WORKING
TO IDENTIFY
ELIGIBLE
SEGMENTS ON: **16** NATIONAL FORESTS,
BLM FIELD OFFICES,
FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS,
AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Policy

MESSAGES SENT
TO LAWMAKERS: **5,577**

COMMENTS SENT
TO LAND MANAGEMENT
AGENCIES: **7,035**

MEETINGS WITH
LAWMAKERS: **100+** POLICYMAKER MEETINGS

LITIGATION FILED: CHALLENGE
TO NEW EPA §401
REGULATIONS
CLEAN WATER
ACT

COURT
VICTORIES: SCHEDULED WHITewater
RELEASES PROTECTED USE
UNDER STATE
WATER QUALITY
STANDARDS (VT)



Access and Enjoyment

NEW ACCESS AREAS: **2** RIVERS

COLLABORATIVELY
MANAGED ACCESS: **8** RIVERS

CLOSURES AND FLOW
CANCELATIONS REVERSED: **10** RIVERS

NEW STREAM GAGE: WILSON CREEK (NC)

LEGISLATION PASSED: OREGON WATERWAY ACCESS BILL (HB 2835),

\$1.9 Billion GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT
PER YEAR FOR RESTORATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC LANDS AND RIVERS

\$900 Million EVERY YEAR FOR THE LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION FUND

Flow Protection and Restoration

NEW FLOW
RESTORATION: **14** SULTAN RIVER (WA),
MILES

NEW FLOW RESTORATION
AGREEMENTS: **2** RIVERS,
11.4 MILES

COLLABORATIVELY
MANAGED: **32** RIVERS,
624 MILES

FLOWS
PROTECTED: **50** SOUTH FORK
AMERICAN RIVER (CA),
MILES

DAMS
DEFEATED: SAN JOAQUIN
RIVER GORGE (CA)

CAMPAIGNS AGAINST
NEW DAMS: **6**
MINES
DEFEATED: ARKANSAS RIVER (CO)

FLOW STUDIES: **2** RIVERS



Your Support is Our Fuel

MEMBERS: **6,326 (50,000+ SUPPORTERS)**
AFFILIATE CLUBS: **91**



MEMBERSHIP DRIVEN RIVER STEWARDSHIP SINCE **1954**

STEWARDSHIP

National

Last year the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, providing \$9.5 billion to address the maintenance backlog on federally managed public lands and fulfilling a long sought goal for American Whitewater of permanent full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Our community stood alongside us and pushed hard for the passage of this legislation and we're now focused on using the fund to invest in the enhancement of river access and recreational facilities. We were also leaders in the effort to secure passage of legislation with over a thousand miles of Wild and Scenic designations and millions of acres of protections for some of the most storied whitewater landscapes in the West, including the Grand Canyon (AZ), the Dolores (CO), the Olympic Peninsula (WA), and several whitewater rich watersheds in California (Trinity Alps, Central Coast, San Gabriels). The Protecting America's Wilderness Act (PAWA) was attached to the National Defense Authorization Act in December and passed in the House, but ultimately was not successful, when the Senate decided to pull the public lands provisions out of the final bill. This legislation however is now well positioned for action in 2021 and we continue to advocate on numerous fronts for it to become law.



In 2020, American Whitewater pushed to responsibly maintain flows and access for numerous rivers in California, including the Pit River. | Photo by Trevor Craft

Mid-Atlantic

New permits for dams offer both risks and opportunities, and in 2020 American Whitewater helped local paddlers make improvements in the new permit for Upper Youghiogheny releases. In addition American Whitewater worked with local paddlers to improve paddler access in several state and county parks, provided access at several access sites that the organization owns or helps manage, and continued our role in scheduling releases on the Savage River, North Branch Potomac, and on the New River Dries where we recently negotiated flow restoration.



American Whitewater worked closely in 2020 with the local community to make sure a new permit for the Upper Yough improved the release schedule for whitewater boaters. | Photo by Evan Stafford



Northern Rockies

Our crowning achievement in the region in 2020 was the introduction of the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act, which would designate 17 new Wild and Scenic Rivers north of Yellowstone National Park. This bill was carefully crafted based on a decade of outreach by American Whitewater and our partners and has a bright future. Also in Montana, our work contributed to interim protections for a total of 52 streams deemed potential Wild and Scenic Rivers in new management plans for the Helena Lewis and Clark and Custer Gallatin national forests. Our work was more defensive in Idaho, where we pushed back on a proposal to mine the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River, and on a precedent setting attempt by the Forest Service to avoid protecting 89 streams in the Lochsa River region in a forthcoming new management plan. The good news is that paddlers spoke up in record numbers on behalf of these rivers in response to our action alerts.

Northeast

The COVID pandemic presented challenges for northeast paddlers resulting in cancelled whitewater releases and access closures. American Whitewater worked to quickly restore access including reopening Bulls Bridge on the Housatonic in Connecticut where the closure eliminated important boating opportunities and had a disparate impact on diverse river users. Our work on hydropower dam relicensing continued, including a successful whitewater boating study on a new river reach on West Canada Creek in New York. On other rivers in the region, we worked to finalize the Settlement Agreement on the Mongaup River in New York and continued our advocacy efforts on a dozen other hydropower dams in the northeast.

In 2020, after years of advocacy we secured a new USGS stream gage on Wilson Creek. | Photo by Dennis Huntley

After over a decade of advocacy by American Whitewater, the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Alternative Management Plan (AMP) was finalized and formally accepted in 2020. | Photo by Evan Stafford





would impact over 50 miles of whitewater on the South Fork American River. As a result, El Dorado Irrigation District put a hold on the diversion proposal and committed to hydrologic modeling to measure impacts to the watershed. We joined Outdoor Alliance California as steering committee members of the Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (SORC), a roundtable working with the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 to promote collaborative action and shared stewardship of sustainable outdoor recreation.

Pacific Northwest

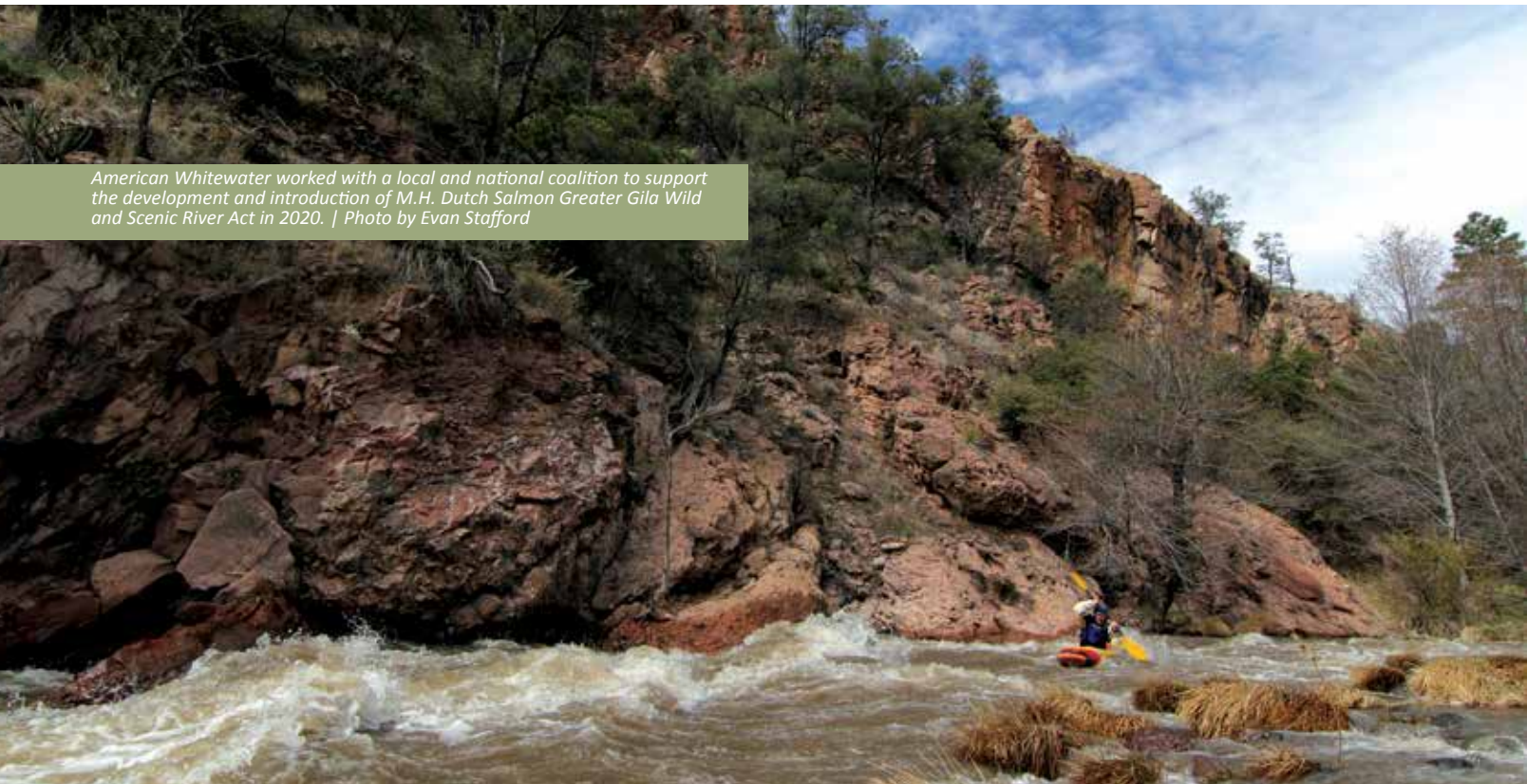
As in many areas of the country, we struggled with how best to respond to pandemic related closures at recreation sites. We worked with regional leaders to re-open recreational opportunities and were among the leaders to establish the Recreate Responsibly Coalition. The coalition spread nationally and we expect it will continue on in future service as a forum for more effective partnerships and improved communication among user groups and managers. With robust engagement from our volunteers, we successfully defeated an ill-conceived effort by the Washington State legislature to impose a state-mandated paddler education program. On the Nooksack River we were pleased to see the Nooksack Dam finally removed after three decades of engagement. Now that the dam has been removed, we will be working to permanently protect the river from future dams or water development projects. We continued efforts to support removal of the Klamath Dams while ensuring that a future vision for a restored river includes accommodations for recreation. We led an effort to better understand instream flow needs for recreation there and found spectacular opportunities in Ward's Canyon, a segment currently dewatered by the hydroelectric project.

American Whitewater led an effort to define recreation flow needs on the Klamath River in California, as we continued to support the push for the removal of five dams along the river in 2020. | Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

California

In California, American Whitewater spent a hectic year navigating class V issues including closures due to the pandemic and unprecedented wildfires. We were successful in opening access to several rivers where closures were not justified and we continue to advocate for a better approach that avoids closures of our rivers on National Forests. We worked collaboratively with counties, state and federal agencies, and utilities to responsibly address scheduled recreational releases during the pandemic. Taking our lead from the local community and county health guidelines, American Whitewater advocated for flows and access on the South Fork American River, Fordyce Creek, Mokelumne River, Pit River and the North Fork Feather River. We submitted over 1,000 email comments protesting proposed changes to water diversions that

American Whitewater worked with a local and national coalition to support the development and introduction of M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act in 2020. | Photo by Evan Stafford





In 2020, American Whitewater collected and submitted over 3,000 comments objecting to a proposal to mine the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River, ID. | Photo by Zach Collier

Southern Rockies

After 12 years of hard work, the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Alternative Management Plan (AMP) was finalized and formally accepted by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to protect and enhance its flow related values. Values like recreational boating of the Upper Colorado River between Kremmling and No Name in Colorado. Ensuring collaborative and cooperative management was the goal for AMP. Because of the trust built amongst the diverse stakeholders, the plan provides avenues and tools for the protection and enhancement of the Upper Colorado, outside the scope of a federal Wild and Scenic designation. Along with our conservation partners, American Whitewater also initiated a process to designate high quality streams as Outstanding Waters to protect them from any degradation. The streams are in the Gunnison, San Juan and Dolores River basins and include paddling destinations like Escalante Creek.

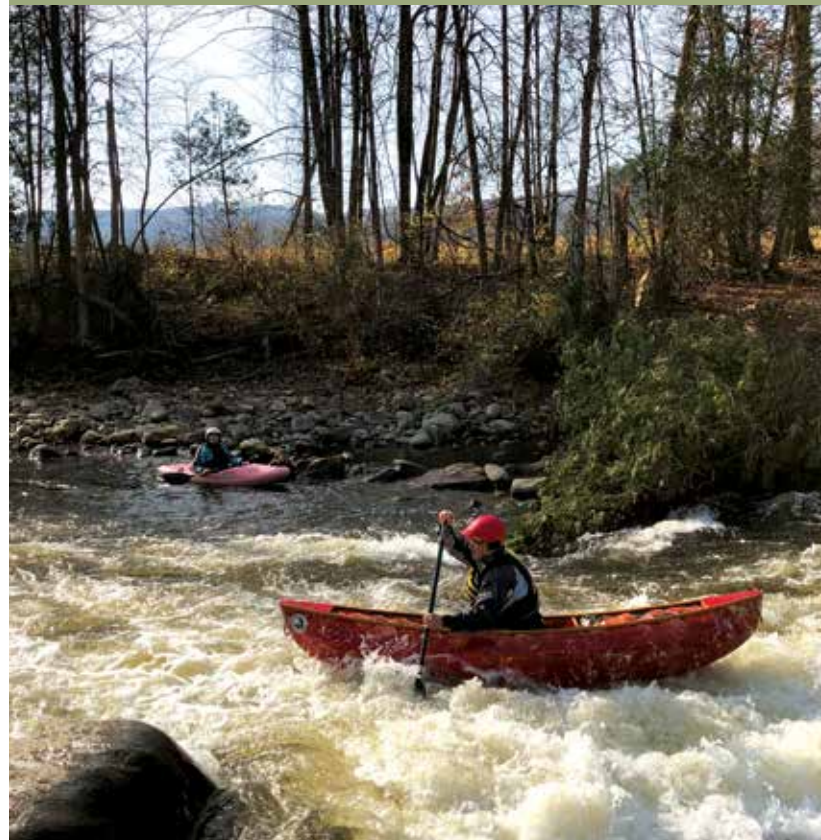
In New Mexico, Senators Udall and Heinrich announced the introduction of the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act. The Act, officially introduced on May 8, 2020, would protect over 440 miles of free-flowing rivers and streams in the Gila and San Francisco watersheds.

Southeast

Building on the designation of Soak Creek, the first new Tennessee State Scenic River in 17 years, in 2020 American Whitewater supported and celebrated additional State Scenic River designations for Piney River, Little Piney River, and Duskin Creek. On North Carolina's Nantahala Pisgah National Forest we worked with a diverse collaborative group to advocate for a new final management plan that includes expanded river protections and improved recreation management. The draft plan, which we reviewed in 2020, proposes to increase the number of protected potential Wild and Scenic Rivers from 10 to 19. An outgrowth of this collaborative work

was shepherding an ever-growing movement to secure Congressional Wild and Scenic designation for the Nolichucky River. In North Carolina's high country American Whitewater also celebrated a new put in for the Watauga Gorge that we contributed to, and a new USGS stream gage on Wilson Creek that we secured funding for and commissioned.

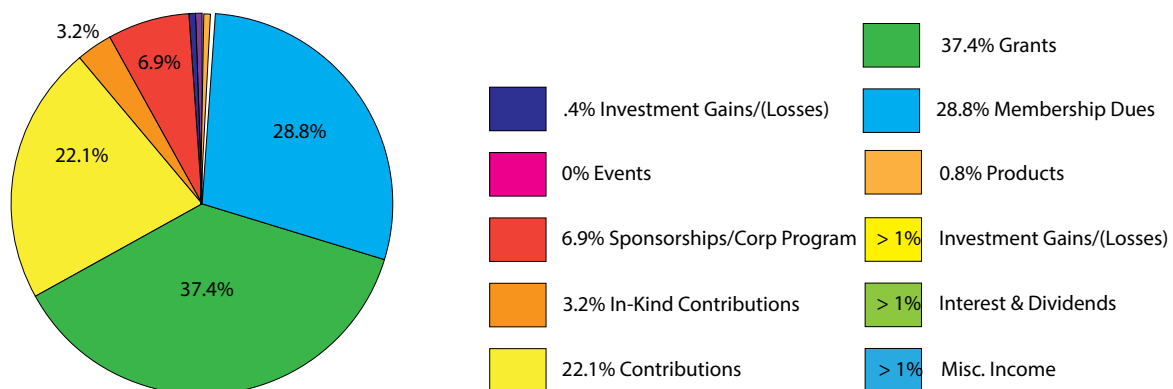
In 2020, American Whitewater conducted a successful whitewater boating study on West Canada Creek in New York State. | Photo by Rob Griffiths



2020 Statement of Activities

| Revenue | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total 2020 | Total 2019 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| PUBLIC SUPPORT | | | | |
| Membership dues | \$ 518,525 | | \$ 518,525 | \$ 419,713 |
| Grants | \$ 52,909 | \$ 621,034 | \$ 673,943 | \$ 540,932 |
| Contributions | \$ 341,405 | \$ 56,263 | \$ 397,668 | \$ 448,867 |
| Sponsorships/Corp Programs | \$ 124,062 | | \$ 124,062 | \$ 109,633 |
| Events | | | | \$ 151,184 |
| In-Kind Contributions | \$ 58,096 | | \$ 58,096 | \$ 58,346 |
| Products | \$ 14,077 | | \$ 14,077 | \$ 24,754 |
| Advertising | \$ 650 | | \$ 650 | \$ 4,176 |
| Investment Gains/(losses) | | \$ 6,918 | \$ 6,918 | \$ 40,704 |
| Interest & Dividends | \$ 1,671 | \$ 4,498 | \$ 6,169 | \$ 14,398 |
| Misc. Income | \$ 1,065 | | \$ 1,065 | \$ 1,013 |
| Net Assets Released from Restriction | \$ 733,723 | \$ (733,723) | | |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$ 1,846,183 | \$ (45,010) | \$ 1,801,173 | \$ 1,813,720 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Program Services: | | | | |
| Total Program Services | \$ 1,510,135 | | \$ 1,510,135 | \$ 1,355,681 |
| SUPPORTING SERVICES | | | | |
| General & Administrative | \$ 198,144 | | \$ 198,144 | \$ 210,129 |
| Fundraising | \$ 14,905 | | \$ 14,905 | \$ 103,453 |
| Total Supporting Services | \$ 213,049 | | \$ 213,049 | \$ 313,582 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 1,723,184 | | \$ 1,723,184 | \$ 1,669,263 |
| Total Change in Net Assets | \$ 122,999 | \$ (45,010) | \$ 77,989 | \$ 144,457 |

2020 REVENUE SOURCES

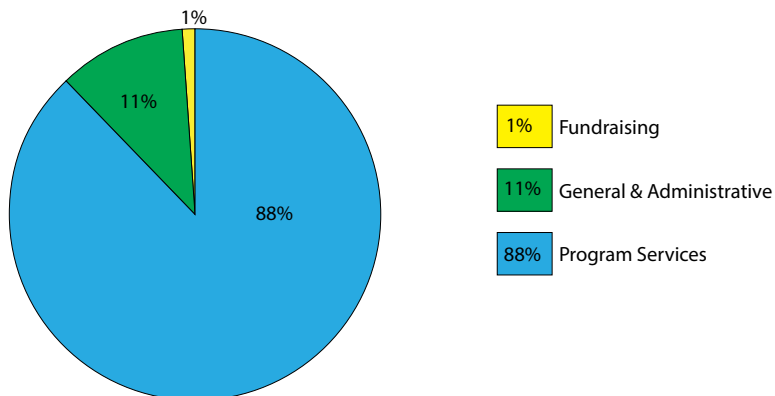


2020 Statement of Financial Position

| Assets | 2020 | 2019 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 863,567 | \$ 961,542 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$ 7,739 | \$ 59,937 |
| Grants Receivable | \$ 33,633 | \$ 30,714 |
| Investments | \$ 924,707 | \$ 624,442 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$ 35,255 | \$ 24,987 |
| Intangible Assets | \$ 5,004 | |
| Inventory | \$ 14,408 | \$ 8,100 |
| | Total Current Assets | \$ 1,884,313 |
| LONG-TERM ASSETS | | |
| Lands held for protection | \$ 58,317 | \$ 58,317 |
| Computer equipment, net | \$ 96,484 | \$ 16,178 |
| | Total Long-Term Assets | \$ 154,801 |
| | Total Assets | \$ 2,039,114 |

| Liabilities & Fund Balances | 2020 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 34,110 | \$ 19,641 |
| Note Payable | \$ 171,700 | |
| Deferred Revenues | \$ 185,925 | \$ 199,436 |
| Payroll Liabilities | \$ 48,382 | \$ 44,132 |
| | Total Current Liabilities | \$ 440,117 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | \$ 1,217,430 | \$ 1,094,431 |
| Restricted Net Assets | \$ 381,567 | \$ 426,577 |
| | Total Net Assets | \$ 1,598,997 |
| | Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 2,039,114 |

2020 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



2020 Honor Roll

American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle

Leave a lasting legacy to the rivers that made a difference in your life. American Whitewater would like to thank the following individuals for making legacy gift commitments.

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For more information about planned giving opportunities visit:
www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:planned_giving_program

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Michael Goldcamp
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**Giving levels are recorded at dollar levels, Honor Roll includes members, special donations, and organizational giving.*

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Clayton Hoskins
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Charles Johnson
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The Hooter Fund II of The Oregon Community Foundation
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Vanguard Charitable
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Scott Blase
Tom Blue
Harlan Blynn
Leigh Boike
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John Bonn
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Phillip Keck
Jeff Keim
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Brad Xanthopoulos

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Art Zemach
Craig Ziegler
Andy Zimmerman

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***contributions in memory of friends during this Honor Roll year**

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Joshua Randall Wright
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Evan Proctor
Torja Rossin
Casey and Lindsee Sande
Sharon Schierling
Scott Shepherd
Evan Stafford
Bryan Stewart
Thomas Hawkins Jr.
Travis Burkhard

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Victor Lee
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Bradley Perrette
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Jeff Robinson
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David Scott

Caelan Simeone
Don Simmon
Debby Singleton
Christian Smith
Molly Solomon
Roger L. Starring
Michael Stevi
Tracy and Jan Tackett
Tracy Tackett
Nathan Taylor
Michael Tehan
Gregory Timm
M. Ann Tran
Kerry Trojnar
Kaylilla Tufts
Edward Roseboom and Donna Weber
Debbie and Kirk Weir
Susan Whitney
Douglas and Ruth Willenborg
Anonymous

Corporate Work Place Giving

*Due to workplace giving standards on reporting some platforms do not allow us to acknowledge donors. If your name is missing please know that we appreciate you.

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Dominion Energy
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The Standard
Thomson Reuters
T-Mobile
UPS
Vanguard Charitable
Wells Fargo
YourCause, LLC
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Affiliate Clubs

Supporting Affiliate Club - \$400+
Arkansas Canoe Club
Bluegrass Whildwater Association
Colorado Whitewater Association
Columbus Outdoor Pursuits
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Fairbanks Paddlers

2020 Honor Roll

Georgia Canoeing Association Inc
KCCNY
Keel-Haulers Canoe Club
Mind Body Play
Oregon Whitewater Association
Paddle Trails Canoe Club
Palmetto Paddlers
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Paddlers
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club
Viking Canoe Club
Washington Kayak Club
Washington Recreational River Runners
West Asheville Canoe & Kayak
Organization (WACKO)

Affiliate Club - \$100+

ADK Schenectady
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
American Packrafting Association
Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club
Beartooth Paddlers Society
Benscreek Canoe Club
Blue Ridge River Runners
Blue Ridge Voyageurs
Canoe Club Of Greater Harrisburg
Canoe Cruisers Association
Carolina Canoe Club
Chico Paddleheads
Chota Canoe Club
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee
Coastal Canoeists Inc
Conewago Canoe Club
Coosa River Paddling Club
Dbl Z! Whitewater Club
East Tennessee Whitewater Club
Eastman Recreation Club
Elkhorn Paddlers
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Foothills Paddling Club
Friends of the Crooked River
Friends of the Yampa
Gold Country Paddlers
Guelph Kayak Club
High Jim and the A.S.K.
Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club
Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq.
Houston Canoe Club Inc
Huntsville Canoe Club
Idaho Whitewater Association
Iowa Whitewater Coalition
Jackson Hole Kayak Club
Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers
Keystone Canoe Club

Kuyahoorra Valley Paddlers
Landmark Learning
Ledyard Canoe Club
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club
Lower Columbia Canoe Club
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers
Missouri Whitewater Assn
New England Canoe and Kayak Racing
Association
North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc.
Northwest Rafters Association
Nova River Runners Inc
Ohio Valley Paddlers
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club
Outdoors Unlimited
Ozark Mountain Paddlers
Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society
Philadelphia Canoe Club
Rapids Riders
Redwood Empire Paddlers
Rhode Island Canoe And Kayak
Association
River City Whitewater Club
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center
San Miguel Whitewater Association
Shasta Paddlers
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter
Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club
Smith River Alliance
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club
Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club
Team River Runner
Tennessee Scenic River Association
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club
Three Rivers Paddling Club
Upper Colorado Private Boaters
Association
Utah Whitewater Club
Vermont Paddlers Club
West Virginia Wildwater Assn
Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club
Yakima River Runners
Zoar Valley Paddling Club

Stewardship Projects

National

Clean Water Act
Federal Recreation Policy
Hydropower Economic Analysis
Hydropower Policy and Legislation
Hydropower Reform Coalition
National Forest Planning

National Monument Defense
Outdoor Alliance
River Safety Program
River Safety Technology Upgrades
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Southeast

Catawba River (SC/NC)
Chattooga River (NC/SC/GA)
Cheoah River (NC)
Coosa River (AL/GA)
Green River (NC)
Hiwassee River (TN)
Nantahala River (NC)
Nantahala Pisgah Forest Planning (NC)
Nolichucky River (TN)
Ocoee River (TN)
Tallulah River (GA)
Tuckaseegee River (NC)
Watauga (NC)
Wilson Creek (NC)

Mid Atlantic

Johns Creek (VA)
Montgomery County Parks (MD)
New River Dries (WV)
Potomac (VA/MD/WV/DC)
Russell Fork River (VA/KY)
Savage River (MD)
Shenandoah (VA/MD/WV/DC)
Slippery Rock Creek (PA)
Susquehanna River (PA)
Youghiogheny River (PA/MD)

Northeast

Black River Basin (NY)
Connecticut River (MA/NH/VT)
Contoocook Access (NH)
Deerfield River (MA)
Green River (VT)
Mad River (VT)
Merrimack River (MA)
Missisquoi River (VT)
Mongaup River (NY)
Office of Outdoor Recreation (MA)
West Canada Creek (NY)

Northern Rockies

East Rosebud Creek (MT)
Idaho Forest Planning (ID)
Lochsa River (ID)
Lower Snake River (ID)
Montana Forest Planning (MT)

**Giving levels are recorded at dollar levels, Honor Roll includes members, special donations, and organizational giving.*

2020 Honor Roll

Montana Wild and Scenic (MT)
Owyhee River (ID)
Snake/Hells Canyon (ID)
South Fork Salmon (ID)
Sullivan Creek (WA)
Teton River (ID)
Weber River (UT)
West Rosebud Creek (MT)
Wyoming Forest Planning (WY)

Southern Rockies

Arkansas River (CO)
Cache la Poudre River (CO)
Clear Creek Access (CO)
Colorado Water Plan (CO)
Crystal River (CO)
Dolores River (CO)
Eagle River/Gore Creek (CO)
East Fork Virgin River (UT)
Gila River (NM)
GMUG (CO)
Green River (UT)
Gunnison and Taylor Rivers (CO)
New Mexico River Access
Outstanding Waters
Recreational Water Rights
Rio Grande River (CO/NM)
Roaring Fork (CO)
Slate River (CO)
Upper Colorado River (CO)
White River (CO/UT)
Yampa (CO)

Pacific Northwest

Chehalis River (WA)
Chelan River (WA)
Chetco River (OR)
Cispus River (WA)
Clackamas River (OR)
Deschutes (OR)
Hood River (OR)
Kalmiopsis Wild Rivers (OR)
Klamath River (OR)
Nooksack River (WA)
North Cascades Wild and Scenic (WA)
Olympic Wild and Scenic (WA)
Oregon Wild and Scenic
Owyhee River (OR)
Puyallup (WA)
Rogue River (OR)
Similkameen River (WA)
Skagit River (WA)
Skykomish River (WA)

Snake River - Lower Snake Dams (WA)
Snoqualmie River (WA)
Spokane River (WA)
Sullivan Creek (WA)
Sultan River (WA)
White Salmon River (WA)
WA Access

California

Big Creek (CA)
Buck's Creek (CA)
Butte Creek (CA)
Chili Bar
"Eel- Potter Valley (CA)"
Feather River / Belden (CA)
Feather River / Oroville (CA)
Feather River / Poe (CA)
Feather River / Rock Creek/Cresta (CA)
Feather River / South Fork (CA)
Feather River / Upper North Fork (CA)
Forest Planning Inyo/Sierra/Sequoia
Kaweah River (CA)
Kerckhoff (CA)
Kern River (CA)
Merced River (CA)
Middle Fork American River (CA)
Mokelumne River (CA)
North Fork American River (CA)
North Fork Yuba River (CA)
Piru Creek (CA)
Pit River (CA)
Poe (CA)
Realigning CA Hydro
San Joaquin River Gorge (CA)
South Fork American River (CA)
South Fork Silver Creek (CA)
Temperance Flat Dam
Toulumne River (CA)
Truckee River (CA/NV)
Yuba/Bear Rivers (CA)

American Whitewater

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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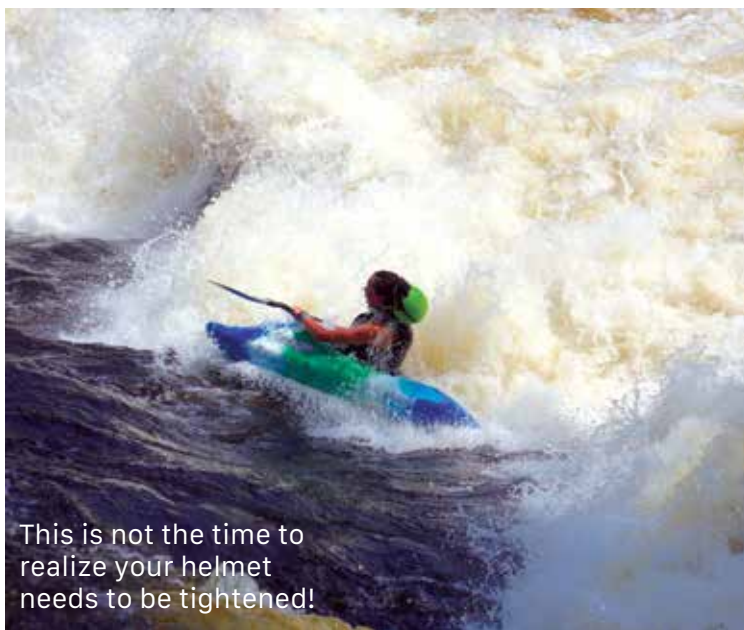
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

This collection features our commemorative 5 decades wave graphic on the Limited Edition HustleR rescue vest, the new Limited Edition OM dry top (our homage to our founder Steve O'Meara) and the Kokatat X dewerstone Life Short, a comfortable and sustainable new paddling short. Collection available January, 2021, in both men's & women's.

www.kokatat.com

SAFETY STORIES: THIRTEEN RIVER ROOKIE MISTAKES TO AVOID

BY TERESA GRYDER, ND



This is not the time to realize your helmet needs to be tightened!

WHEN YOU'RE GOOD at something you can look at a new participant and know if they have a clue—or not. When you ARE that new participant, especially in whitewater boating, you need all the help you can get. So to keep your rookie status out of the spotlight, here's a list. Everybody makes these mistakes sometimes, but guard against them. Mistakes don't make you a bad person. They just mean you should slow down and get more systematic about your approach.

1 BOAT LACKS FULL FLOATATION. Is your boat a floater or a sinker? Canoeists lash giant float bags into both ends of the boat. Kayakers can fail to have floatation inside their boats without anyone else seeing. Bow floatation is worth having if you want your boat rescued when you swim. Repair or replace old leaky airbags and attach them to the boat.

2 FORGOT AN ESSENTIAL PIECE OF GEAR. Make a list and check it twice: life jacket, helmet, sprayskirt (if decked boat), paddle, boat, drysuit/other immersion wear and river boots. If you're lucky someone has spares, but if not, you won't get to boat when you forget something. Don't be tempted to launch without anything essential!

3 NO DRY CLOTHES AT THE TAKE-OUT. This is super common and not overly dangerous, but it does reveal that you are a noob. When your group drops off cars at the take-out, your dry clothes and shoes should stay there. Wearing wet river booties while running shuttle stinks!

4 DON'T KNOW THE WATER LEVEL. It's easy to let someone else pick the river and run. But sometimes the people who are picking don't do the best job. The sooner you get curious about water levels, the fewer disastrous paddling experiences you will have due to water that is either way too high or stupid low. Learn how and where to look up gauges for rivers in your region, then get in the habit of finding out what the flows are before you make plans about your day on the river.

5 WENT TO THE WRONG PLACE. When you're meeting folks at a new location, get the details ahead of time. Smart phones and GPS navigation are useful, but looking at a map or asking for directions can prevent the errors that occur when two places have the same name, or your online map is wrong. Keep investigating until you know where you're going. Bring a paper map and plan to get there early just in case.

SAFETY STORIES



6 DIDN'T CLOSE DRYBAG PROPERLY. Rookies can be so proud when they have a drybag, but they often don't know how to close it to make it waterproof, and their stuff gets wet. Get tips on how to seal your drybag to avoid this mistake.

7 LIFEJACKET OR HELMET NOT ATTACHED AND ADJUSTED. You can HAVE the right gear and not wear it correctly, or undo it partway down the river. There's no excuse for this. Work on your suntan some other time. Adjust your gear until it is comfortable and functional, and leave it on all day, including when you are scouting or portaging. It will save you from injuries and it will make you look like a pro.

8 DRAINPLUG OUT. Modern kayaks have this delightful feature that allows you to empty the boat by standing it on end. If you forget to put the plug back in, it can get lost or, even if it's left dangling out of the hole, your boat can fill with water while you are paddling. Get in the habit of checking your drainplug and that of your friends, too.

9 DRYSUIT NOT COMPLETELY ZIPPED. Often it's the pee zipper that gets forgotten. When you go for a swim and cold water pours in, it's a shock. Drowning because your suit filled with water would be a tragedy. Double check your drysuit zippers, and look out for your buddies too.

10 FAILED TO SECURE STUFF. If you swim and your water bottle and throwbag float away, you blew it. If you get pounded in a big hole and your floatation comes out and your shoes come off, that's worse. Secure everything and you will have less flotsam to chase and less lost gear when things go sideways.

11 NO EMERGENCY GEAR. A whistle is cheap and can summon help when you need it. Get one, keep it handy, and learn whistle signals. While you're at it, get a rope and a knife. River rescue almost always calls for a rope. If you carry a rope, you should also have a knife in case you need to cut the rope. A first aid kit that you know how to use is another great addition to your kit.

12 NO REPAIR KIT. For a roadside day run this isn't crucial, but in the wilderness it matters. Inflatables become trash if you can't patch them. Hardshell repair is relatively easy, using tape for cracks and cord for backbands. Figure out how to fix your boat and bring the materials you might need.

13 SHUTTLE CAR KEYS IN WRONG PLACE. It's a mistake to leave the keys to the take-out car in the put-in car. It's miserable when your electrical remote gets wet. You'll cry when you have the wrong keys and must break a window in your own car. Do your best to have the right keys in hand when you need them.

WELCOME TO THE WHITEWATER NATION

**SUBSCRIBE TO KAYAK SESSION MAGAZINE,
CONTRIBUTE TO AW EFFORTS EVEN FURTHER AND SAVE MONEY!**



\$30 for 1-year subscription (normally **\$50!**)
\$5 back to AW for every subscription purchased

As an AW member, you save money when subscribing to Kayak Session, and if that was not enough your purchase awards another **\$5** back to AW's effort to change the world. If that doesn't change the world, it can at least make it a little sweeter.

> so get to the membership page and tick kayak session subscription!

NEW

Print + Digital (you can now get access to each Kayak Session issue's contents through the KS App at no extra)



SINCE 2001 KAYAK SESSION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO AW FOR A VALUE OF NEARLY \$250 000 TO SUPPORT ITS TREMENDOUS EFFORTS!

Live it. Love it. Share it.



If there's one thing we learned from the yard sale that was 2020, it's the importance of natural places and free flowing rivers in our lives. This year, we hope you'll join NRS in taking steps to break down barriers to the outdoors, protect our most precious places, and promote access for all of us—regardless of who you are or where you live.

In 2021, we are proud to welcome a new class of paddle-activists to our ambassador team. We're also helping train new leaders from diverse backgrounds and working with our partners to spread the word on paddling ethics and safety.

Join us for the journey.

Clockwise: River activist Vera Knook on the Salaach River, Austria; standing up for the iconic Oetz River in Austria; Anup Garung meeting the locals while documenting endangered river communities in Nepal; Hudson River Runners sharing the love of whitewater on the Hudson River, NY.

nrs.com



NRS



**AMERICAN
WHITEWATER**

Gore Canyon Race (CO) *

- **August 28, 2021**
- **Shuttles from Pumphouse starting early**
- **Online Registration Required**
- **No After-Party or Organized Camping**

Gauley Folly (WV) *

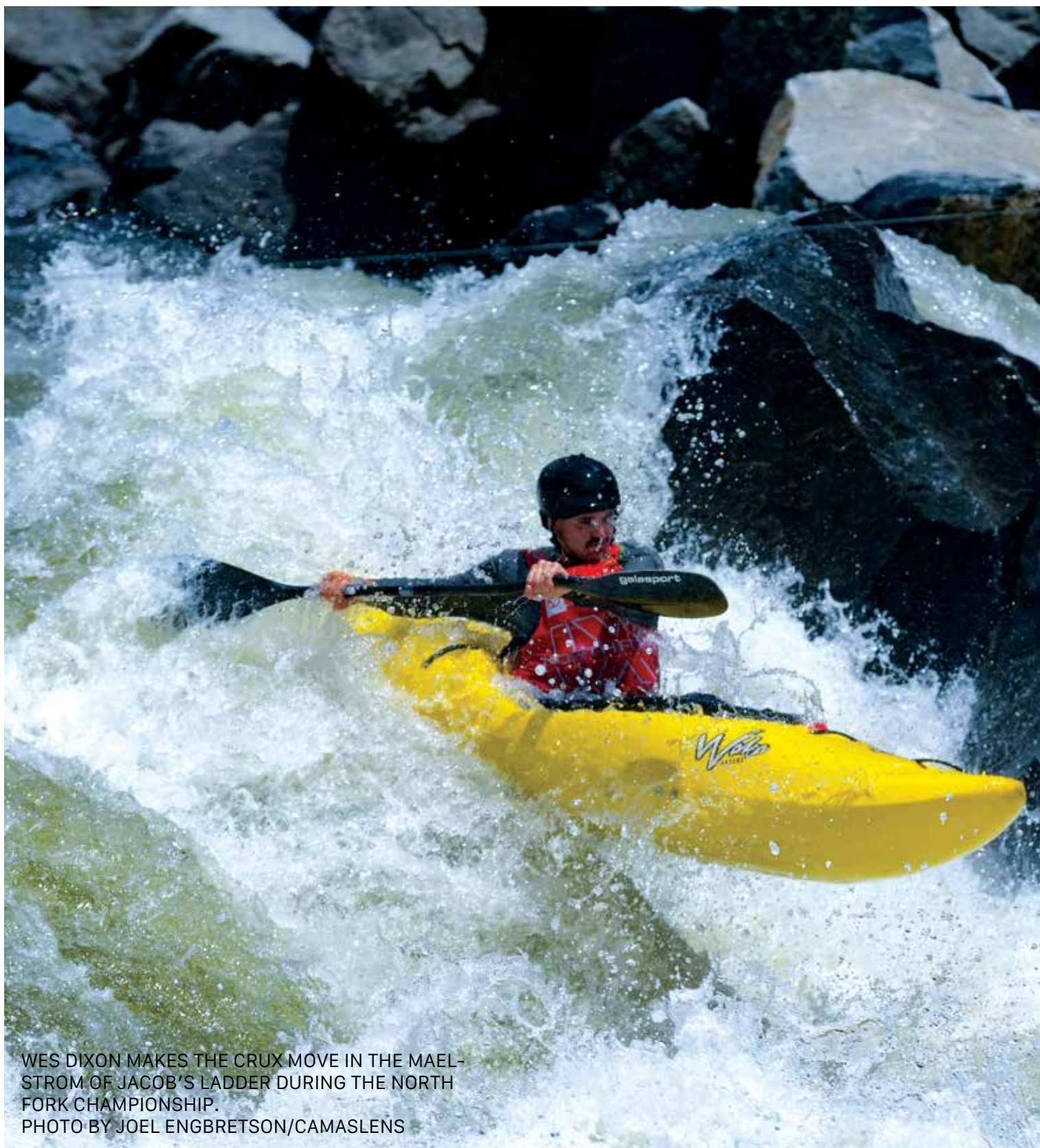
- **Membership Appreciation Event**
- **September 17-19, 2021**
- **Food, Games, Stewardship & Shwag at the Legg Field**
- **No Organized Camping & Party at Veterans Memorial Park**

Tobin Downriver Race & Rock Creek Slalom (CA) *

- **September 25-26, 2021**
- **Online Registration Required**
- **No Organized Camping & Film Festival
at "Indian Jim" School**

* go to americanwhitewater.org for event details

EVENTS



WES DIXON MAKES THE CRUX MOVE IN THE MAELSTROM OF JACOB'S LADDER DURING THE NORTH FORK CHAMPIONSHIP.
PHOTO BY JOEL ENGBRETSON/CAMASLENS



NORTH FORK CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDUP

JUNE 17-19 MARKED the return of the North Fork Championship to Idaho's Class V+ North Fork of the Payette River. The ninth iteration of the event was a joyous reunion after the previous year's pandemic-induced interruption. The event drew many people, who gathered along Highway 55 to compete, celebrate, or simply to take in the action. Over 150 racers took part in the competition, spread over three days, leading to the crowning of the winners as Queen (Sage Donnelly) and King (Dane Jackson) of the 2021 North Fork Championship.

Racers attempted to qualify for the event's second and third days by racing one at a time down the upper North Fork's formidable S Turn rapid. The final rounds, eventually constricting the field down to the top 5 women and 30 men, were conducted on the North Fork's most fearsome mile of whitewater: Jacob's Ladder through Golf Course.

You can check out some of the impressive highlights in video recaps on social media [@northforkchampionship](#). For a more immersive experience, consider attending the 10th annual event in Banks, Idaho.

AW PARTNERS

\$7,500 - Class II

\$20,000 - Class V



\$5,000 - Boof



NEW BELGIUM.



EST. COLORADO U.S.A. 1991



\$15,000 - Class IV



\$15,000 - Class IV

\$2,500 - Wave



MADAWASKA KANU CENTRE CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



KNOWN AROUND THE world for its unique approach to canoe and kayak instruction, the Madawaska Kanu Centre (MKC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021. Founded in 1971 by Christa and Hermann Kerckhoff, MKC's mission was to create a safe, fun learning environment where beginners can learn the basics and expert paddlers can refine their skills. The common thread was to instill in everyone a love for the outdoors and the wonders of whitewater paddling. MKC also pioneered a landmark agreement with the hydroelectric authority that operates a dam on the Madawaska River, which guarantees water releases on weekdays so paddlers have consistent flows to play in.

MKC has been a family affair since the day it opened. Christa and Hermann's oldest daughter Claudia took over operations in 1982, along with her husband Dirk Van Wijk. And, just recently, a third generation, Claudia and Dirk's youngest daughter Stefani, assumed responsibility of the Centre with her sister Katrina heading up graphic and web design, including the 50th anniversary logo. Together, they are eager to build on the solid foundation laid by MKC's 50 years of introducing students to the thrills and joys of whitewater paddling. New Director Stefi Van Wijk says, "This river has been gathering paddlers for decades; I'm grateful to call it both my home and my career."

AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY BETHANY OVERFIELD

American Whitewater's original purpose since 1954 has included distribution of information among its Affiliate Clubs. We have over 100 current AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf; if you don't belong to a club, consider joining one.

American Whitewater has two levels of Affiliate Clubs - a Supporting Affiliate Club or an Affiliate Club. Affiliate Clubs that choose AW's \$100 annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual \$100 contribution.

Affiliate Clubs that choose AW's \$400 Supporting Affiliate Club annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll as well as being listed as sponsors of an AW stewardship presentation each year. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual \$400 contribution. A Supporting Affiliate Club can revert to the \$100 Affiliate Club annual level at any time.

An Affiliate Club that is already being recognized as an AW Lifetime member is recognized in the annual Honor Roll as a Lifetime member. They do need to contribute either at the \$100 or the \$400 level annually to be recognized as an Affiliate Club in the AW Journal and under the Affiliate Club heading of the published Honor Roll. Is your club missing from this list? It might have expired. Contact me at membership@americanwhitewater.org to square your club membership away!

SUPPORTING AFFILIATE CLUBS

Alabama

Coosa River Paddling Club, Wetumpka

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

Colorado

Colorado Whitewater Assn, Denver
Dolores River Boating Advocate, Dolores

Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Association Inc, Winston

Kentucky

Bluegrass Wildwater Association, Lexington
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

New York

KCCNY, Brooklyn

North Carolina

West Asheville Canoe and Kayak Organization (WACKO), Asheville

Ohio

Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, Columbus
Keelhaulers, Cleveland

Oregon

Oregon Whitewater Association, Tigard

South Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Washington

Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Redmond
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

AFFILIATE CLUBS BY STATE

Alaska

Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

California

Chico Paddleheads, Chico
Gold Country Paddlers, Placerville
Redwood Empire Paddlers, Santa Rosa
River City Whitewater Club, Sacramento
Shasta Paddlers, Redding
Smith River Alliance, Crescent City

Colorado

Diversity Whitewater, Fort Collins
Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, Buena Vista
Royal Gorge River Initiative Org, Canon City
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride
Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club, Longmont
Upper Colorado Private Boaters Asso, Greenwood Springs

Connecticut

Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq, Lakeville

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

Idaho

Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Brownsburg
Ohio Valley Paddlers, Evansville

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Freeport

Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore
Blue Ridge Voyagers, Rockville

Minnesota

Rapids Riders, Eagan

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Association, St. Louis
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

Ledyard Canoe Club, Hanover
New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association, Contoocook

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

New York

ADK Schenectady, Schenectady
Kuyahoor Valley Paddlers, Middleville
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Machias

North Carolina

Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee
Mind Body Play, Asheville

Ohio

Friends of the Crooked River, Akron

Oregon

Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland
Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg

Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)
Benscreek Canoe Club, Johnstown
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Keystone Canoe Club, Mertztown
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley
Philadelphia Canoe Club, Philadelphia
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Bridgeville

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association,
Hope Valley

Tennessee

Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee,
Sevierville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Eastman Recreation Club, Kingsport
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Nashville
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Knoxville

Texas

Houston Canoe Club, Houston

Utah

High Jim and the A.S.K., Salt Lake City
Utah Whitewater Club, Salt Lake City

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynchburg
Canoe Cruisers Association, Middlebury
Coastal Canoeists, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke

Washington

Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane
Yakima River Runners, Selah

Washington, DC

Canoe Cruisers Association

West Virginia

Dbl Z! Whitewater Club, Fayetteville
Friends of the Cheat, Kingwood
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Bolivar
WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin

North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc., Neenah
Rapids Riders, Eagan
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson
Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

Ontario

Guelph Kayak Club, Elora
Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, Toronto
Ontario Voyageurs Kayak Club, Otonabee

National

Team River Runner

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

AW offers a discounted Affiliate Club membership of \$25, a \$10 savings. If you are renewing your AW membership or joining as a new member, select the Affiliate Club Discounted Personal Membership online at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/> Or, if you are renewing or joining by mail or telephone just mention the name of the Affiliate Club you belong to and you can take advantage of the \$25 membership.

A list of AW Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>. If you do not see your Club listed here please encourage them to renew their Club membership or to join AW as a new Affiliate Club. Your Club's membership and your personal membership enable our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. When you join or renew your membership your support is helping to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face.

If you have any questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please contact me. I can be reached at 866_BOAT-4AW or membership@americanwhitewater.org.

JOIN AMERICAN WHITewater AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

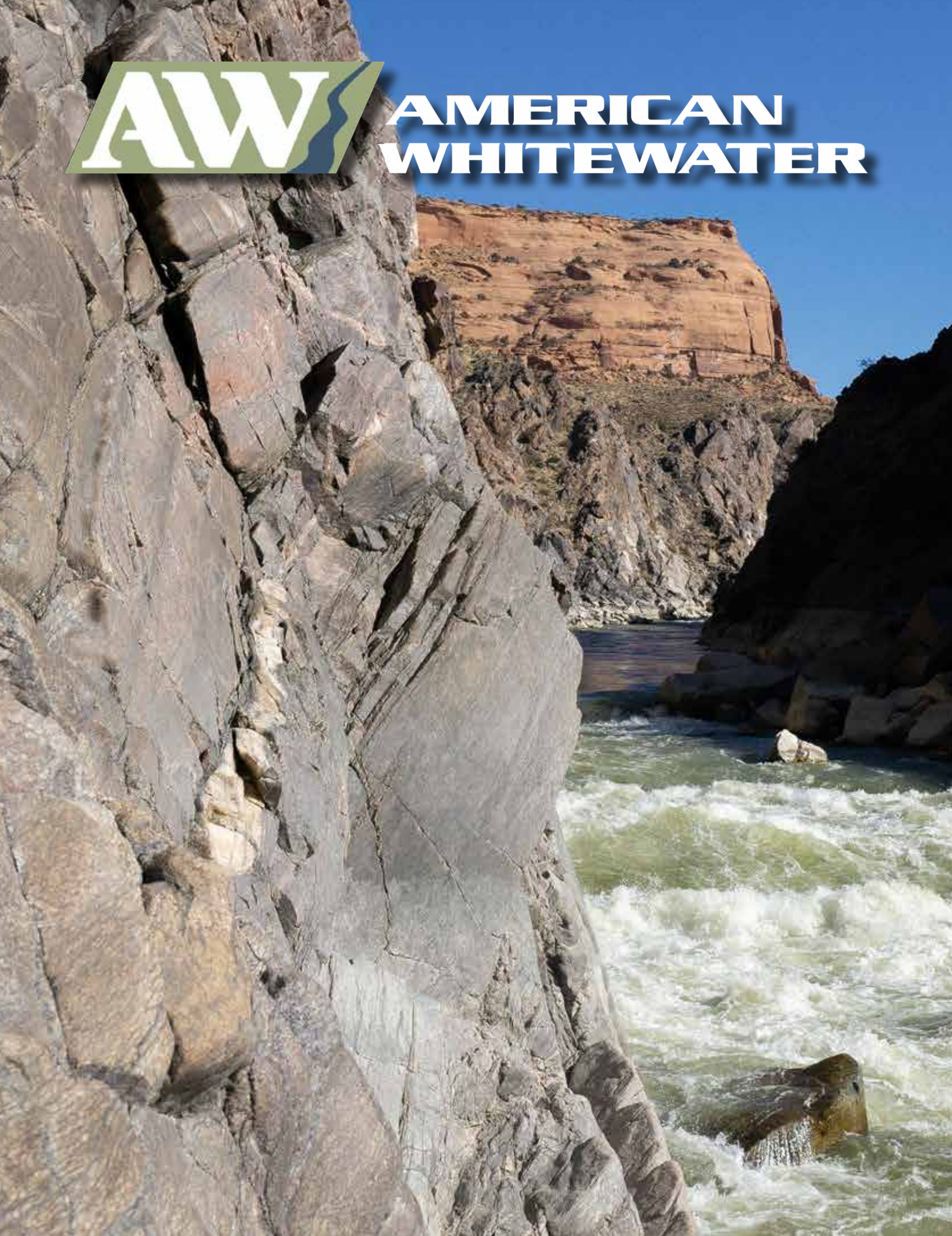
10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

1. Support river access and restoration through the AW River Stewardship Team.
2. Be part of a national voice for the protection of the whitewater rivers your club values.
3. Tap into the professional expertise of AW staff for river issues that come up in your backyard.
4. Your club's members can become AW members for \$25. A \$10 savings!
5. Receive the American Whitewater Journal, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
6. Your club is recognized in the list of Affiliate Clubs posted to the AW website.
7. Recognize your club in the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly AW Journal.
8. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
9. Gain Club satisfaction from lending support to AW's stewardship efforts.
10. Improve your club members river karma.

For more information, contact Bethany Overfield at membership@americanwhitewater.org or sign-up on line at www.americanwhitewater.org/membership.



AMERICAN WHITEWATER



The Strength of Our Voice is Your Membership

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Standard w/AW Journal | \$35 |
| Family w/AW Journal | \$50 |
| Ender Club w/T-Shirt | \$125 |
| Platinum Paddler w/Hoodie | \$250 |
| Explorer w/Watershed Bag | \$500 |
| Lifetime | \$1,000 |
| Steward w/\$400 Kokatat Gift | \$2,500 |



*Incentive gifts change from time to time, please check the website for the latest rewards.

Join @ americanwhitewater.org/join

Donate @ americanwhitewater.org/donate



Membership Driven River Stewardship
americanwhitewater.org/join

Whitewater River Defenders

Since 1954

Salmon River, ID – By Evan Stafford

