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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1978

Vol XXIII, No 5



The
American
Whitewater
Affiliation

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**Board of Directors
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Robert Burrell
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Murray M. Johnson
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10 Boulder Rd.
Lexington, MA 02173

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Editor: Bill Kirby, PO Box 541, Fairfax, VA 22031

Editorial Committee: Ed Alexander, O.K. Goodwin, Rose Mary Gabler, Geo. Larsen, Ray Gabler, Bob Lantz, Fred Dietz, Joel Freund, Joe Bauer, Phil Vogel, Connie Thorburn, David Smallwood, Iris Sindelar

Business Manager: Rose Mary Gabler, 10 Boulder Rd., Lexington, MA 02173

Circulation Manager: Phil Vogel, PO Box 1483, Hagerstown, MD 21740

KCCNY Circulation **Liaison:** Connie Thorburn, 105 Riverview Ave., Longmeadow, MA 01106

Safety Code Distribution: David Smallwood, Box 1261, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Midwest Membership **Chairman:** Fred Dietz, 1590 Sleepy Hollow, Coshocton, OH 43812

Advertising Chairman: Joel Freund, 440 Mission Blvd, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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Send Race Schedules and results to the Editor.

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Publication is planned at 6 times yearly. **Single copies**, 51.30 each. Surplus back copies are available at reduced prices. **Write Geo. Larsen**, P.O. Box 584, **San Bruno, CA 94066**.

The Staff and committee members listed above are unpaid Whitewater enthusiasts who volunteer their time and efforts to bring affiliate/member subscribers this journal. Your contribution of articles, letters, race results and schedules, photos and drawings are essential for their continued efforts and the timely publication of the **American Whitewater Journal**.

Vol. XXIII, No. 5 = 1978 **American Whitewater Affiliation**. All rights reserved.

COVER: Moxie Falls, Kennebec River, Maine. See story p. 164 Photo by Deborah Van Brunt.

BACK COVER: Coal Creek Rapid in Desolation Canyon on the Green River, Utah. Photo by Verne Huser, courtesy of ARCC.

LETTERS

Gentlemen:

American Whitewater is a great magazine; but I was disappointed by the lack of pictures in the May/June 1978 issue.

Pictures add vitality to the magazine, and they are something we can all relate to and drool over. Pictures add romance and sex appeal to the magazine, which seems dull without them.

Keep up the good work.

Very truly yours,

Joe Weigel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Bill,

As each new issue of *American Whitewater* arrives, I invariably find myself anxiously searching the pages for the latest series of exciting whitewater photographs. Not until I have studied in detail every one at least several times am I able to turn my attention to the written articles. I daresay, I am not alone in this.

The fun, the beauty, and especially the excitement of whitewater paddling simply cannot be conveyed effectively without a camera. Ours is a highly

photogenic sport and blessed with countless shutterbugs who haul their cameras to, and often down, the river. I have enjoyed many a vicarious trip through the numerous and excellent photos in *American Whitewater*, which likewise have afforded my non-paddling friends a close-up glimpse of our sport.

The new format is great. A full-page cover photo is striking. But where are the rest of the pictures?

One more thing. The list of AWA affiliated clubs and organizations is probably unnecessary in every issue. But I hope it hasn't disappeared completely. I found it very useful when I began paddling and later after moving to another state, as well as when planning trips in unfamiliar areas. I think it also promotes a feeling of unity and camaraderie among the member groups.

Keep up the good work; and, of course, keep paddling.

Sincerely

Jay Johnson
Slidell, Louisiana

Thanks for the comments, Jay and Joe. Many people have commented on the lack of photos in the magazine and I agree wholeheartedly with you. The problem however, is that we are being beat out of quality photos by the commercial magazines. I have spoken with many photographers over the past year and the story is always the same: They just can't afford to give the AWA something for free when they may get \$25-\$100 for the same photo from Canoe, River World or Wilderness Camping. It is interesting to note that the Wildwater Designs-AWA Photo Contest, with a grand prize of \$100 has received to date (Nov. 1) ONE (count 'em, one) entry. The same condition is denying us of much good writing. The market for whitewater writing is expanding daily and magazines such as Mountain Gazette, Mariah and Outside are snatching away the most talented writers in the field. If we are to still see the AWA Journal in the future we must find writers and photographers to produce material. Every member must aid in this effort. Otherwise, American Whitewater may soon be a fond memory. —Ed.

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the

FLUVIAL NEWS

In New York for instance, roller skating is legal on such an easement. Why shouldn't boat carrying be considered another non-consumptive use of a highway easement?

It is clear that a negative decision in this case could have far-reaching ramifications. First, Tommy would receive a criminal record and a substantial fine, and secondly, any other boater putting in on Maryland easements would be liable for similar sanctions. In addition the precedent would have significance nationwide as a determination of the definition of valid highway purposes.

Therefore, AWA has committed some of its savings to the support of non-profit CCA Fund. This fund will help Tommy defray the costs of prosecuting this case. We will also help in researching decisions in other State's which could be used in his defense. AWA will also provide a model law for paddlers in their own states to clarify the meaning of Highway purposes in favor of boaters.

The trial will have been held (if the schedule holds) on November 6, the day before the elections. One doesn't have to be too smart to see how politicized this issue has become in the Youghioghehy Valley. One is not even granted the right to a jury trial in the district court there. It seems to be a real

case of frontier justice AWA cannot stand for. We will therefore move strongly in defense of Tommy's and our own rights and keep our readers informed as to the progress of the case.

OPEN CANOE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING SEMINAR

A canoe instructor training seminar will be held April 20-22, 1979 at Farmington, Connecticut under the sponsorship of the American Canoe Association.

According to Lloyd Siewers, Coordinator, the seminar is designed for open canoers who wish to learn the latest advanced teaching methods for training canoeists in safe Class II whitewater boating. Those who complete the course and meet current ACA requirements will be certified by the ACA as instructors. This is the fifth such session in the Northeast, Siewers noted.

A combination of instructor training clinic and evaluation, the course uses materials developed by the ACA, the American Red Cross and the Coast Guard. Attendance is limited to twenty persons who hold Class III boating skills, are river leaders or open canoe teachers.

The Seminar is under the supervision of competent and certified ACA Instructor Trainers who have

the FLUVIAL NEWS

devoted many hundreds of hours to developing successful teaching techniques and related materials.

After receiving certification, Instructors will be qualified and expected to organize and conduct ACA endorsed local training for basic river canoeing through Grade II whitewater.

The Seminar will run from 7:30 p.m. Friday evening, April 20, 1979 through Sunday afternoon April 22, 1979 on a Connecticut whitewater river. Camping and other facilities will be at Farmington, Connecticut. Registration deadline is April 1, 1979.

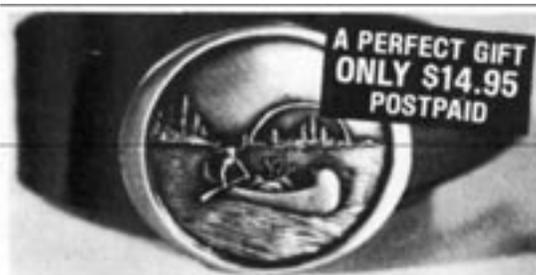
For further information and applications, qualified canoers contact and include SASE:

American Canoe Association
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35 Colton Street
Farmington, CT 06032
Tel. (203) 677-2335 (nights)
(203) 289-9301 (days—ask
for Lloyd)

New River-Tripper in Alaska

A new river outfitter has sprung up in the state of Alaska. The new group is Watershed, operated by Chuck Carpenter. Watershed offers excursions on such rivers in the Great Land as the Nenana, Gulkana, Susitna and Copper. The

prices for the trips range from \$55.00 for the one day Nenana trip to \$750.00 for the 7 day Susitna journey, with a discount of 1/3 for kayakers who bring their own boats! Those interested in an Alaskan river adventure should contact: Watershed, P.O. Box 312, McKinley Park. AK 99755.



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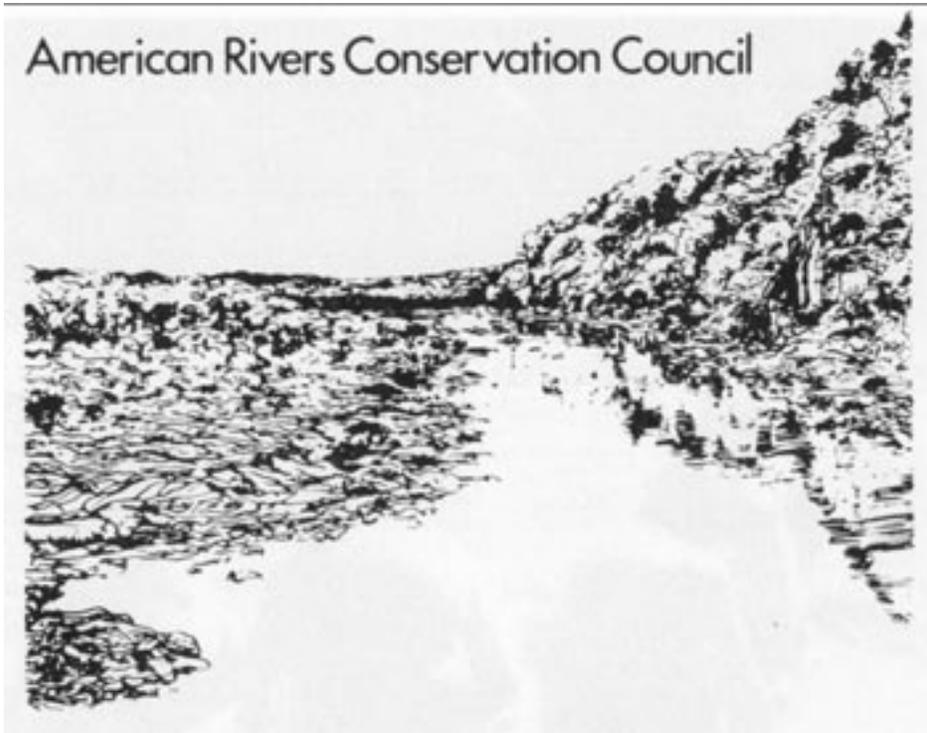
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RAFTING DOWN



BY Deborah Van Brunt

EAST

Vol. XXIII/5

Does the call of the wild beckon you—but not in a kayak? I've tried both of the options that generally present themselves when accompanying my more aquatic friend on kayak trips. Too many times have I been misplaced in a kayak! I have the dubious distinction of having swum some of the big rivers in the East. And shuttling somehow only frustrates my self-image of an adventurer—albeit a mild-mannered one. Besides, I like to share the sensation of the river with my friend . . . something hard to do snapping pictures from the shore.

I've found a happy alternative in rafting. It provides all the thrill, chill and satisfaction of having "conquered" the river that I intuit one finds in successful kayaking . . . but from the security of a more stable rubber ducky. I won't go on to describe the innumerable advantages of rafting over kayaking since I presume it would get edited out by the kayaking editor of this journal. But, a recent trip we took down the upper Kennebec River in the interior of Maine typifies the happy arrangement that can be worked between a kayaker and her/his less natatorial friend.

It was a serendipitous tip we got at Ed Webb's General Store in The Forks, Maine that sent us looking for a little yellow school bus with a raft towed behind. My first thought had been to locate some company for my kayaking friend who intended to run this river with a class 5

reputation. But after meeting Jim Ernst, the bus driver, raft guide and sole proprietor of Maine Whitewater, I was keen to board the raft with the rest of the group. I've met other raft guides before, but Jim struck me as one of special mettle.

Jim is Maine born and bred. A very laid back, gentle fellow who truly loves the river and the wilderness. He started as a river guide in 1968 on the Colorado River. But the crowds of people on the Colorado disenchanted him and by 1976 he headed back home for the relatively untouched wilds of Maine. He often points out with pride—in a Maine accent I only wish I could capture—that "when you boat around here, you don't see anyone." And yet its funny, because Jim is clearly a "people person." He takes delight in helping others partake of and enjoy the river. In a low key way he teases, clowns and chews the fat with all of his customers.

And serindipitous was our timing, because this September 6 run was the last of the season on the Kennebec. This was a taste of Maine few experience. Deep, dense forests (with surprizingly good shuttling roads thanks to the logging industry.) Wildlife abound like moose and even coyotes (Canadian, not Western). The trees were just on the brink of bursting forth in New England's famous autumnal colors. The air was brisk, but the water unexpectedly warm because of the power project upstream of the put in.

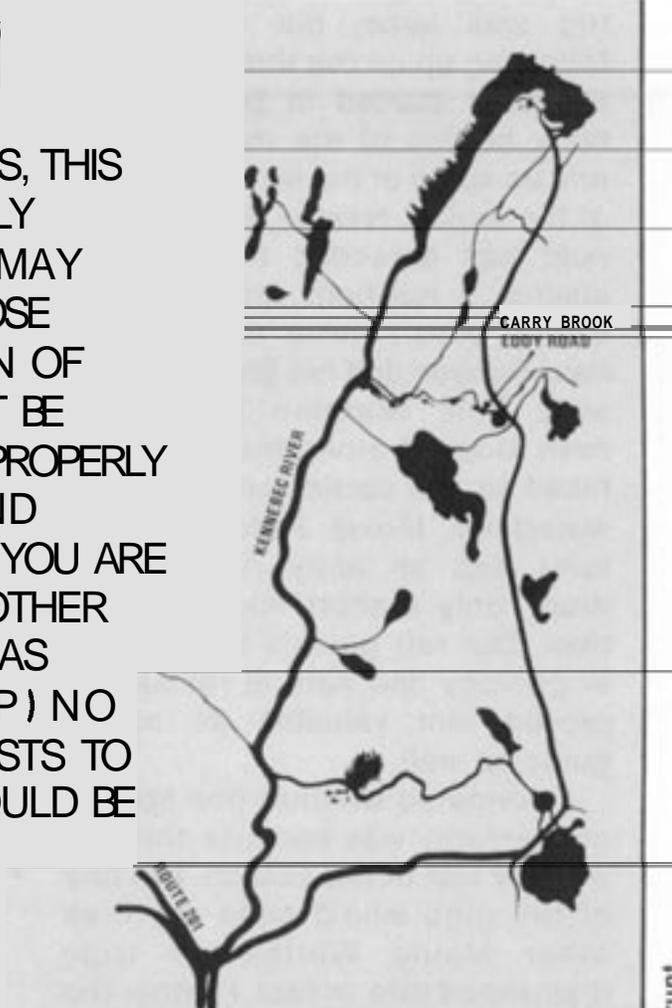
The flow of this stretch of the Kennebec is controlled at Harris Station, the hydroelectric power source for the immediate region. The Augusta office of the Central Maine Power Company determines the output each weekday morning by 10:30. Because there are not regular discharges on the weekends, Maine Whitewater usually runs weekend expeditions on the West Branch of the Penobscot River (another kayaking 'piece de resistance', I gather). But it does mean you can call the Augusta office for daily information on the levels of the Kennebec. And I understand that, in the Spring, the run off is sufficient to make the Kennebec exciting independent of the utility's calculated whims.

For my kayaking buddy, who has done his share of Western super rivers, September 6 was not a big water day. Although Harris Station had let out 8,000 cfs the day before, today the river was barely over 3,000 dgs. Me? I was humming! In spite of the stern warning on the sign at the put-in, we took off and were soon careening... right through the worst of "Three Sisters" (3 standing waves). And at "Maytag" we were churned and degromulated. My friend says this would be "an excellent introduction to big water kayaking": lots of big holes, but few keepers; fast, furious flow; and no major drops. But don't let him fool you—I distinctly saw of grin of delight and exhilaration at the end of Maytag.

WARNING!

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FISHERIES AND GAME

Photo by Deborah Van Brunt

After a hearty lunch midway through the river, we loaded back in our gawky looking vessel while my friend paddled sleekly down stream. At his point very impatient kayakers could take out up a steep incline to the only road into this stretch of the river. The rest of the trip was tame, but perfect for following up on the threads of conversation started in between the hurly burlies of the morning. Jim told us some of the history and lore of the region. Nearby, Benedict Arnold had defended the colonies against a northern attack by the British. And I never realized that Paul Bunyon and his Blue Ox Babe were from Northern Maine. We even stopped along the shore and hiked to see particularly beautiful waterfalls. Moxie Falls (see picture) was an aptly named "big drop" only a short hike from the river. Our raft guide's background in geology and natural resources, proved him valuable as nature guide as well.

I wondered whether this special congeniality was because this trip was the last of the season. But one of the girls who'd been on three other Maine Whitewater trips disclaimed this. In fact, I gather the summer trips are even more of a lark with swimming off the side of the raft. No matter. I am sold on rafting as the best way to get down a big river. My kayaking friend and I left The Forks as two who had shared the river—each in our own

way. Jim says he will stay in Bingham, Maine and wait for new customers next Spring.



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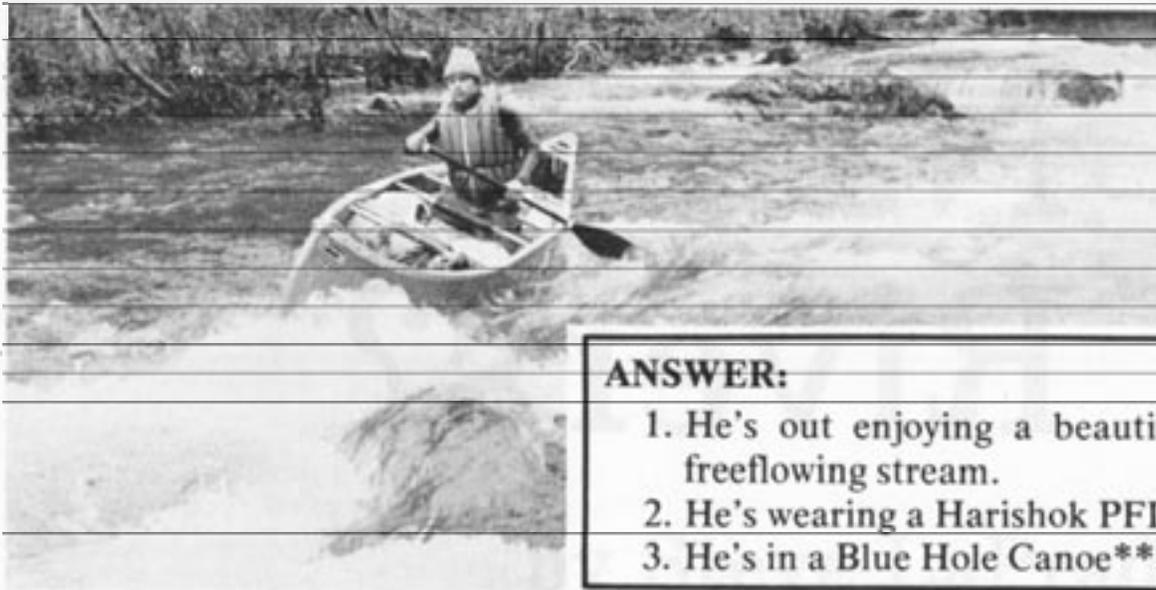
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and Stream" magazine cited the peril facing the Rio Grande in New Mexico—molybdenum. The Rio Grande's 48 miles in northern New Mexico plus four miles of the Red River that empty into it were the first official designations into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Kline explained the Molybdenum Corp. operates a mine near Questa near the Red River but on the unprotected section. Spills from the mining firm's operation have adversely affected the Red River, reported Kline, who said the firm paid \$6,000 in one federal action for not reporting a 1975 spill.

Even worse, Kline reported, the Environmental Protection Agency has given the corporation until

1983 before it has to reduce its discharges into the Red River! The EPA, Kline said, had reported it had no data it could use in a court of law to prove molybdenum was harmful to a stream.

Incidentally, molybdeum, used for strengthening steel, is according to my dictionary, a metallic substance resembling chromium and tungsten. If discharges keep flowing down to the protected section of the Red and into the Rio Grande, what will be the fate of the Rio Grande?

"National Wildlife" in a 1976 issue reported the plight of the Allagash in Maine, noting some critics are now calling it a "wilderness slum."

The Allagash was added to the system in 1970, but after that, 8,000

The Middle Fork of the Salmon near Marble Creek, one of our Wild and Scenic Rivers. Photo by Verne Huser, courtesy of ARCC.





The Dolores River in Colorado, recommended for Wild and Scenic River Status. Photo by Verne Huser, courtesy of ARCC.

people per summer (nearly 100 a day!) were all permitted down the waterway, resulting in littered riverbanks and overrun campsites.

The ARCC had to go to court in 1977 to save the Middle Fork of the Clearwater in Idaho.

Section II, subsection f of the 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act reads: "Nothing in this Act shall affect existing rights of any state, including the right of access, with respect to the beds of navigable streams, tributaries, or rivers (or segments thereof) located in a national wild, scenic or recreational river area."

A lease was issued to Idaho's State Transportation Department to mine gravel from the bed of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater. The gravel would have been used for

highway construction. The ARCC lawsuit blocked such mining but the decision was based on another Idaho statute. So the issue could come up on other rivers in the system.

Now let's take the case of the Flathead River in Montana which was added to the system in 1976. The North Fork of the Flathead (west boundary of Glacier National Park) faces two threats.

In his 1973 book "Wild Rivers of North America," Michael Jenkinson, in discussing a trip on the North Fork of the Flathead, noted that a lightly used gravel road paralleled the river but river runners, by camping on the other side of the river could "have the illusion of pure wilderness."

But what is to keep more traffic,

especially noisy motorcycles, from coming down the river and shattering the quiet of the wilderness? After all, Glacier National Park has more than one million visitors per year. What will prevent later paving of that gravel road, bringing in more campers and people to the area?

And the American Canoe Association, in its October 1977 issue has warned of another danger to the North Fork of the Flathead: weak Montana laws.

Remember the Clearwater case? Montana has no effective laws to stop alteration and destruction of streambeds. In addition, some strip mining and oil and gas exploration has been proposed in the Flathead watershed.

"Flowing Free" noted of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, "Full maintenance of the chemical and biological integrity of river waters requires controlling activities in entire watersheds, areas that may take in thousands of acres. The wild and scenic rivers system, on the other hand, was designed to take in only as much of the river corridor as is needed to protect its values, so as to minimize costs as well as infringements upon private property rights."

The 1968 bill also leaves protection somewhat hanging when it comes to the Middle Fork of the Clearwater, Middle Fork of the Salmon, the Eleven Point in Missouri and the Middle Fork of the Feather in California. For the

law states those four rivers come under the administration of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 10, subsection d states, "The Secretary of Agriculture, in his administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system area, may utilize the general statutory authorities relating to the national forests in such manner as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act."

The Secretary of Agriculture, no matter who he is, cannot be considered a real river friend. For he is mainly responsive to farmers when it comes to matters like pesticides that could get into a wild and scenic river—even if the spraying was not in the protected area of the river. Remember how DDT and such, gradually made its way into Everglades National Park.

But even worse, consider how the Agriculture Department has managed the national forests. And the four rivers mentioned go through national forests.

Remember how the Forest Service dragged its feet in studying areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System after Congress set it up in 1964?

And remember the excessive clearcutting in some areas?

To show the mismanagement of our national forests (which also indicates wild rivers in the national forests may be in danger), consider what Jack Shepherd, a former senior editor at "Look" magazine, reported in an article appearing in

the November 1977 issue of "Outside."

Shepherd reported that from 1950 through 1976, the national forests, which had only 48,000 miles of roads to start with, increased to 222,300 miles, much of the increase due to logging roads being established.

But even worse, said Shepherd, was what happened in that period to the national forests trails at a time when backpacking became big.

The trail system declined from about 150,000 miles in 1950 to 96,393 miles in 1976, "largely because logging roads were laid over hiking trails."

In Montana's Bitterroot and West Virginia's Monongahela National Forests, areas up to 1,000 acres big were clearcut into eyesores.

That information does not inspire confidence in the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture or National Forest Service to handle wild and scenic rivers in its jurisdiction.

Too much clearcutting near a National Wild and Scenic River could be catastrophic.

The Sierra Club, in its classic book, "The Last Redwoods," gave a classic example, in a redwood setting, of what could occur.

The Save-The-Redwoods League and John D. Rockefeller Jr., were able to purchase the choice 9,400-acre redwood stronghold around Bull Creek Flat in California. Seemingly, these classic big

trees had been saved.

But loggers cut down the trees all around the "protected" ones.

In December 1955, heavy rains fell on the nearly stripped Bull Creek watershed, and became floods. The walls of water toppled more than 300 major trees in the "protected" Rockefeller Forest and undercut 99 others so badly, they had to be cut down. Debris and silt poured into Bull Creek.

But the worst wasn't over.

A 1964 storm wiped out nearly 400 more redwoods in that area.

Could too much clearcutting threaten the wild rivers with the fate of Bull Creek and its forest cover?

These river threats show more inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System is not enough, by itself to protect great rivers. Vigilance by river runners and conservation groups is vital.

Keep informed about the status of your river. To completely save a river in the national system, concerned citizens may have to get the river also placed in a state river system, buy up unprotected private land, and be ready to sue polluters or the National Forest Service, if necessary.

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