



WINTER APPEAL ²⁰/₁₂



Montana's headwater streams are clear, cold, and support a stunning array of fish and wildlife - yet many remain under-protected. American Whitewater and our partners are exploring river conservation opportunities across the state. | Photo Kevin Colburn

Protecting and restoring rivers requires persistence, skill, teamwork and passion. It also requires the support of river-loving people like you. As you determine your charitable gifts for the end of the year, please consider the value that American Whitewater's work brings to you and the whitewater paddling community.

Nothing compares to a free-flowing river, and designating one as Wild and Scenic is one of the strongest ways to protect it. American Whitewater has big plans for 2013, including a project to ensure that 217 streams in Montana, Idaho's Panhandle and Wyoming's Shoshone National Forest are protected from dams and other impacts by working to have them listed as "eligible" for Wild and Scenic designation.

Projects like the one above, and others in this appeal, require resources. American Whitewater's strict financial accountability has earned us a Four Star rating from Charity

Navigator - the highest possible - for two years in a row. And, we are able to leverage \$5 in total funding for river stewardship for every dollar received. American Whitewater has demonstrated tremendous success in advocating for the restoration of whitewater rivers. These successes deliver results that benefit the whitewater paddling community now and into the future.

There's never been a better time to support our work with an end of year tax deductible financial contribution to American Whitewater. Thank you for your support!

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Olympic Peninsula's North Matheny
Creek North Fork to FR 21 Bridge, WA.
Photo by Thomas O'Keefe



PACIFIC NORTHWEST

We have just witnessed the remarkable restoration of the **White Salmon River** with the removal of Condit Dam, but after more than two decades of work on this project our most important work remains—working with the tribe, resource agencies, and the local community to develop a future vision where we all share and enjoy this remarkable new resource. The coming year will be a critical time as we work together to shape this vision, and with your support we will be able to continue to represent the interests of the paddling community.

On the **Olympic Peninsula**, we reached a critical milestone in 2012 with the introduction of a Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers bill, which will designate 19 new rivers and their major tributaries as Wild and Scenic. With the long-standing support of the Conservation Alliance and the region's outdoor recreation businesses, protecting these rivers has long been a priority for American Whitewater. Introducing a bill in Congress is an important step, but we need your support more than ever to get this bill passed.

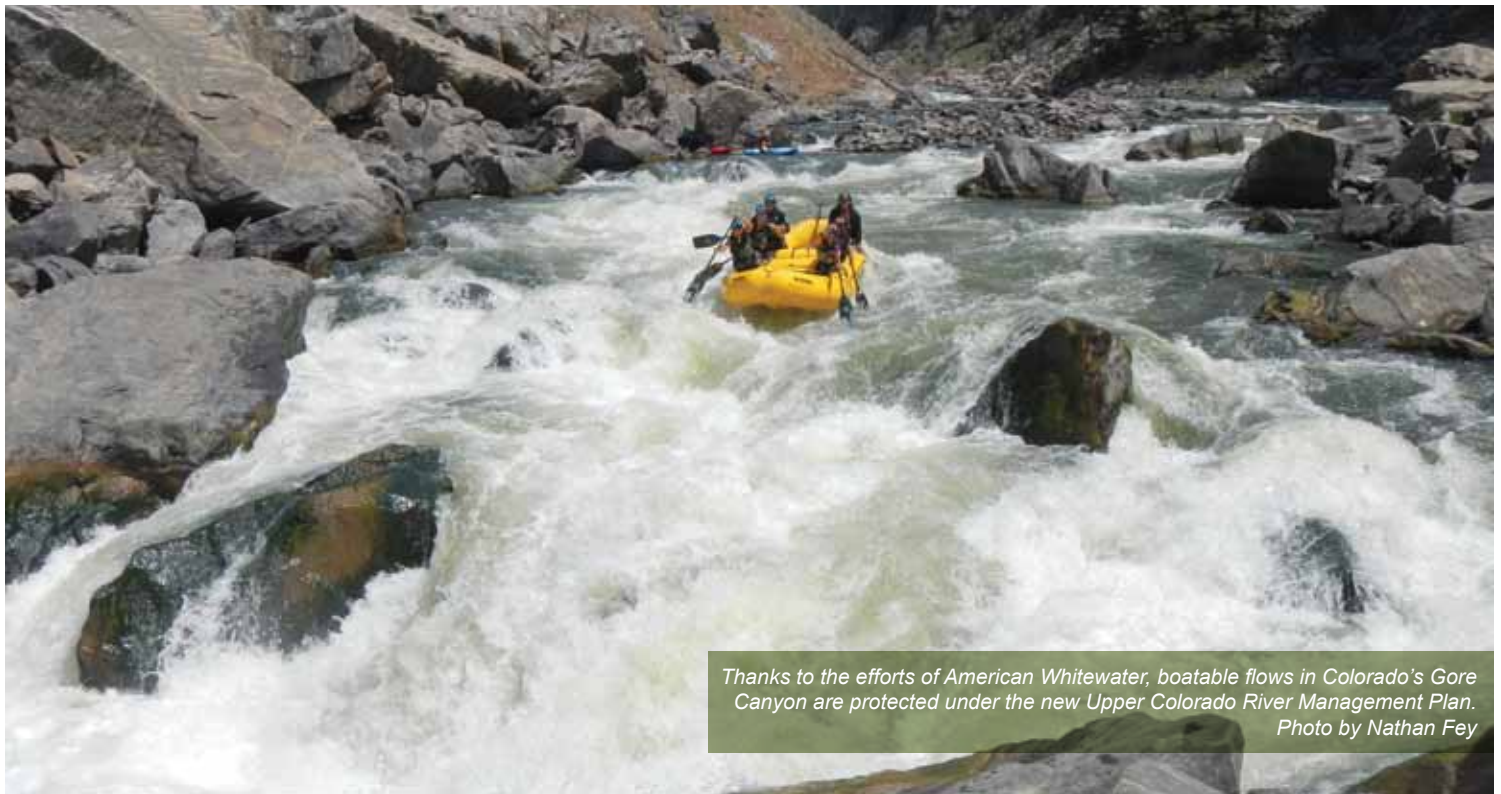
CALIFORNIA

American Whitewater is doggedly pursuing outcomes that are good for river systems and their enjoyment through our long-term commitment to river restoration in California. We are engaging the court system to question a lose-lose agency decision that ends summer paddling opportunities on the **Pit River** in an attempt to help endangered shasta crayfish, yet leaves the crayfish at risk from other far more significant ongoing impacts. We are seeking an outcome that both truly protects the crayfish and allows paddling. On the **Feather River**, paddlers will notice a new put-in for the Rock Creek reach in 2013, and an improved flow regime that will enhance paddling opportunities and aquatic health. We have painstakingly negotiated these exciting new provisions, and will work to ensure they are implemented correctly this year. In the **Yuba watershed**, after six years, hundreds of meetings and thousands of hours, American Whitewater has successfully negotiated exciting new flow regimes through the relicensing of one of the largest and most complicated hydroelectric projects in the country. Flows that benefit fish and frogs while offering a stunning array of paddling opportunities will start as early as 2013. We'll work to help this incredible river restoration initiative happen as soon as possible!

NORTHERN ROCKIES

In addition to our work to list streams in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation, American Whitewater will continue our efforts to restore sustainably managed paddling to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. We have been encouraging the Parks to reconsider their boating bans on 5 newly designated Wild and Scenic Rivers that flow through them. These bans were created in 1950 to prevent over-fishing, and they now are outdated and unnecessary. These regional river protection and management efforts will really heat up in 2013 as agencies seek public input and make critical decisions.

*Protecting flow agreements, like guiding difficult rivers, requires skill and coordination. Tobin reach on the Feather River.
Photo by Elisabeth Schirmers*



*Thanks to the efforts of American Whitewater, boatable flows in Colorado's Gore Canyon are protected under the new Upper Colorado River Management Plan.
Photo by Nathan Fey*

SOUTHERN ROCKIES

AW is a leading stakeholder in the management of the outstanding 80-mile section of the **Colorado River** between Kremmling and Glenwood Springs, which includes Gore Canyon. We have worked for the past five years on a precedent setting agreement to protect flows needed for whitewater recreation and the river's ecology, and are getting ever closer to reaching this goal. AW is the only voice of public recreation in these efforts, and we are diligently defending the Colorado River from efforts to reduce flows in this grand river to a trickle. On the **Dolores River**, we've just completed a management plan with our partners that will provide better native fish habitat and enhanced recreational flows with more advance notice below the McPhee Dam. With this major milestone under our hat, AW is turning our focus towards addressing a series of proposed dams and new hydropower projects in the basin, as well as working with our partners to introduce federal legislation that will protect the remote canyons and world-class whitewater boating opportunities along 120 miles of wild river corridor.

NORTHEAST

American Whitewater is working to restore whitewater opportunities on the **West River** in Vermont. The West is a favorite of many, and American Whitewater is working to inspire a fresh look at river management that will restore whitewater releases in the spring and fall. With your support, we will work to maintain existing agreements throughout New England and New York that allow for whitewater paddling opportunities. We'll also be breaking ground on new projects, like negotiating for releases on the Class IV-V Green River in Vermont.

Many rivers in the Northern Rockies are under-protected and at risk of hydropower development and other impacts. Paddlers are documenting these river's values and advocating for protection with AW's leadership.

*Photo of Cassidy and Alta Randall on Montana's Dearborn River
Photo by Kevin Colburn*





AW is working to ensure Mid-Atlantic rivers like the Youghiogheny are managed in ways that support kayaking, canoeing, and rafting by co-managing access areas, negotiating flows, and supporting strong river access laws. | Photo by Kevin Colburn

MID-ATLANTIC

Like to surf? If so we are pretty sure you are going to love the new whitewater features and releases at the Holtwood Project on the **Susquehanna River** (PA) that are going live in 2013. AW helped a team of local paddlers negotiate this creative outcome as mitigation for the unavoidable loss of natural rapids nearby, and we will be actively keeping tabs on the success of the project for the next couple years. If river-running is more your style, you will appreciate the access work we are doing in PA and VA, and our continued efforts to collaboratively manage the **Gauley** and **Youghiogheny** rivers.

SOUTHEAST

Get ready for the most exciting year of paddling since we brought you the Cheoah River. In 2013 you will be able to slide down the West Fork of the Tuck on 7 release days, boof your way down the Cascades of the Nantahala on 8 release days, cruise the Upper Nantahala on 2 release days, and explore 15 miles of the incomparable Wild and Scenic Upper Chattooga River. These new paddling opportunities took over a decade to secure, and the work is far from over. AW will be working to fix the remaining illegal Chattooga limits in court, and will be working closely with Duke Energy to build access to the Tuckaseegee and Nantahala rivers and to implement and monitor the releases for the next several years.



Our work in the Southeast will restore flows and/or access to over 30 miles of superb Class III, IV and a touch of V whitewater in 2013, including the West Fork of the Tuck. | Photo by Rob Siegel

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our Stewardship work is possible only through your support, and your contribution plays a vital role in protecting and restoring the special rivers that you love. We are a lean and efficient organization, with 84 cents of every dollar going to directly support our river stewardship work. With your support, we will be better equipped to meet the challenges ahead.

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



Online

To make online giving more user friendly we've totally revamped our donation page:
<https://americanwhitewater.org/donate>



Mail

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



Phone

Call us at 1.866.262.8429.