

SUMMER APPEAL ²⁰/₁₄



The Arkansas River in Colorado is targeted for hydropower development in the newly issued Department of Energy Report.

Photo by Nathan Fey

Last month the Department of Energy set an ambitious goal to work with hydropower developers to double this country's hydropower production by 2030 by damming over 3 million river and stream reaches. If this vision is realized, over 1,700 whitewater runs and entire freshwater ecosystems would be destroyed. We disagree with this vision, and with your support we will continue to push hard for a future that includes wild and free-flowing rivers.

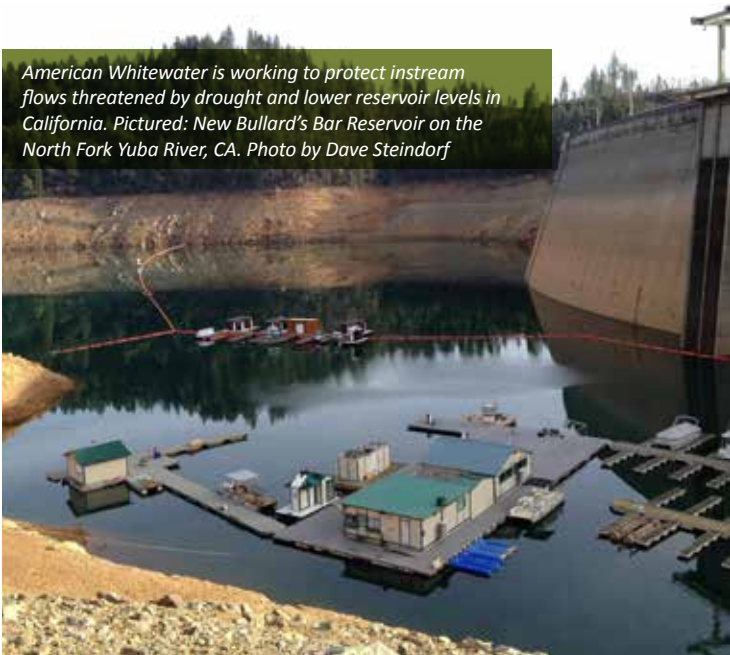
While we need energy, we do not need to dam every river, or to build new dams at all. We have vast potential to improve efficiency and capacity at existing hydropower dams. Additionally, the Department of Energy found in 2012 that the potential exists to increase hydropower production by 12 GW at existing non-power dams. While hydropower generation can increase in our country, the river miles impacted by hydropower should not. This is where we draw the line. American Whitewater opposes new dams, and works hard to minimize the already massive impacts of dams on our nation's rivers through dam removal and flow restoration.

The Department of Energy has affirmed its intent to work with hydropower developers to advance the goal of doubling hydropower production in this country by 2030. As American Whitewater celebrates our 60th year of bringing together conservation-minded paddlers, we affirm our intent to continue to protect and restore our precious whitewater resources and enhance the ability for everyone to enjoy them safely. We will push harder than ever to safeguard our nation's wildest rivers from new dams using Wild and Scenic and other protective designations. At the same time, we will directly oppose new dams, like the nine proposed dams that we defeated in Montana, Idaho and Washington last year, and several we are still fighting in Washington State.

As a whitewater lover and fierce defender of rivers, your support is more important than ever to help us see these projects through. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation or joining American Whitewater today!



American Whitewater is working to keep Ernie's Gorge on the North Fork Snoqualmie freely flowing in the face of a proposed hydropower development. Photo by Daniel Patrinellis



American Whitewater is working to protect instream flows threatened by drought and lower reservoir levels in California. Pictured: New Bullard's Bar Reservoir on the North Fork Yuba River, CA. Photo by Dave Steindorf

California

DEFENDING FLOWS IN DRY TIMES | Record-setting drought conditions have created significant challenges in California. Dam operators across the state have been asking for changes to flow requirements, and American Whitewater has diligently been reviewing these requests, supporting appropriate changes and pushing back when necessary to protect river health and recreation opportunities. In the long-term, the drought is heightening calls to build and raise more dams while rolling back Wild and Scenic protections. Building more and higher dams won't make the rain come, and with your help, American Whitewater will continue to work to defend the remaining freely-flowing reaches in California.

Pacific Northwest

PROTECTING FREEFLOWING RIVERS THROUGHOUT THE PNW This summer, American Whitewater will continue to work to preserve and strengthen the Protected Areas program, which protects over 44,000 river miles throughout Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho from future hydropower development. As the Northwest Power and Conservation Council considers the future of the Protected Areas program, we will continue to speak up for these important protections. Our efforts here will impact the outcome of our work to keep Ernie's Gorge on the North Fork Snoqualmie and Sunset Falls on the South Fork Skykomish River freely flowing in the face of active proposals for new dams.



Charity Navigator

For the third year in a row, American Whitewater has been awarded the highest rating (4 stars) from Charity Navigator. This shows that American Whitewater adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities, and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 9% of the nonprofits Charity Navigator rates have received three consecutive 4-star evaluations, and this "exceptional" designation demonstrates to the public American Whitewater is worthy of the public's trust and support!

Southern Rockies

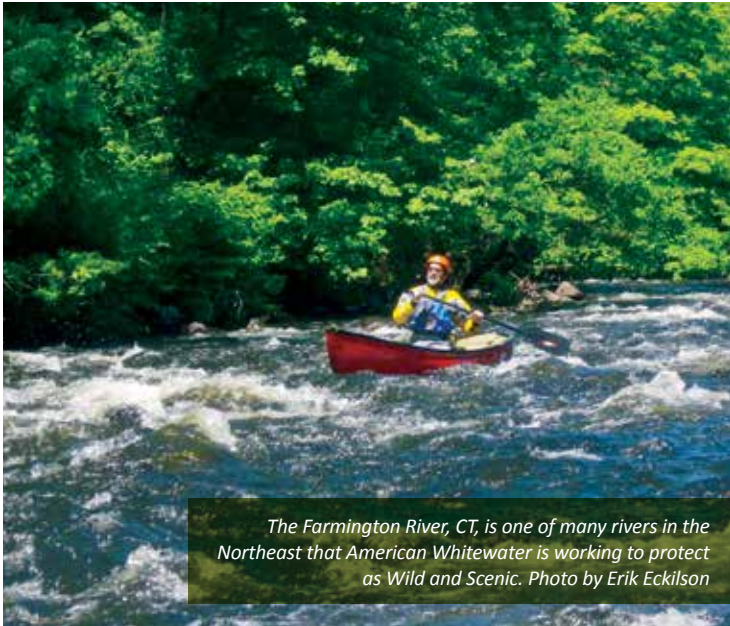
KEEPING WATER IN RIVERS | This year, American Whitewater will be working to secure recreational water rights for the Colorado River in communities that depend heavily on recreation as a major economic driver. We face huge challenges as we work to establish legal protection of streamflows that sustain world-class recreation, particularly from urban water providers and large water utilities that believe these flows must be dried-up to meet future demands. Our strategy builds on the partnerships we have built with cities and farms that recognize protecting streamflows is good for everybody, and together we can protect and enjoy water in our rivers.

Northern Rockies

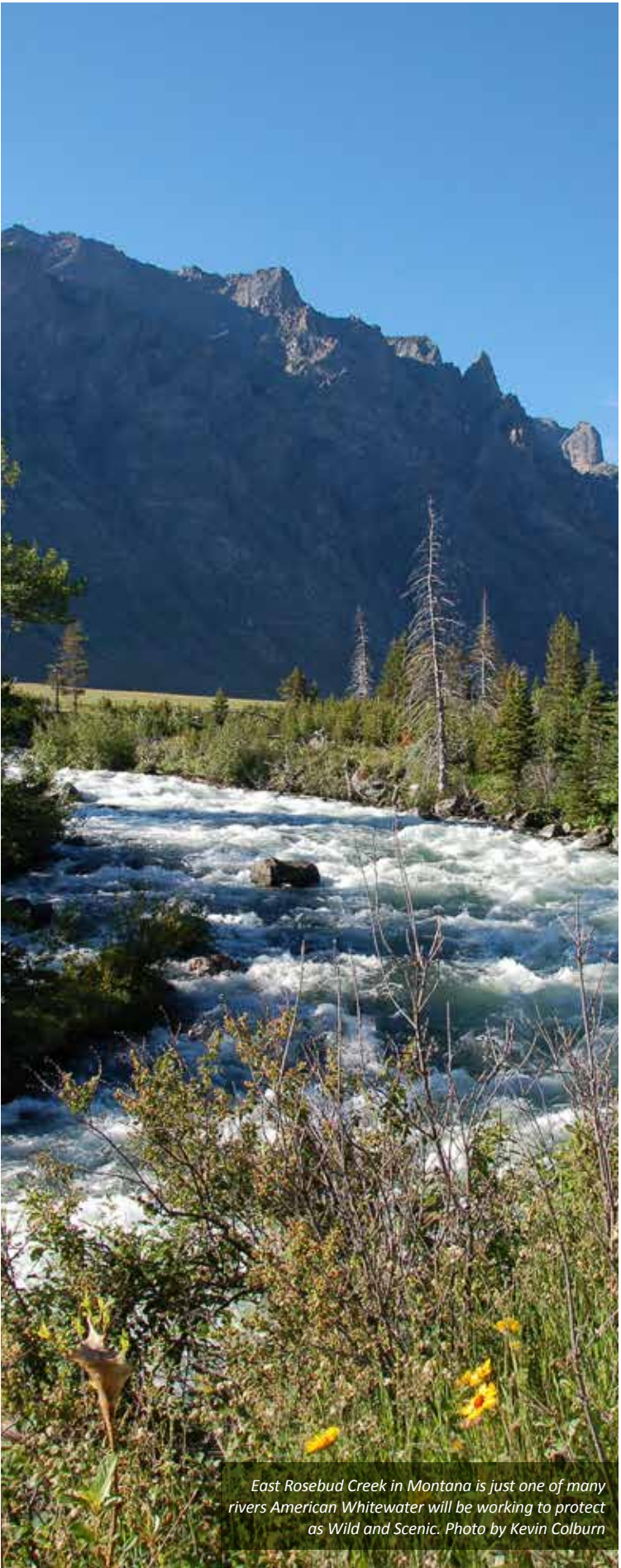
PROPOSING WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATIONS | American Whitewater is one of the leading organizations proposing that over 600 miles of Montana's most cherished rivers be protected as federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. As a steering committee member of Montanans for Healthy Rivers, we will be presenting the public with a formal Wild and Scenic Rivers proposal this summer and will need all the paddler support we can get throughout 2014 and into 2015. Expect to hear more from us about this exciting effort, which is unquestionably the most significant river conservation campaign in the region in decades.

Northeast

ROLLING BACK LEGACY IMPACTS OF DAMS | With more than 7,000 significant dams, the Northeast has among the highest concentration of dammed rivers in the country. These dams have obstructed fish passage and eliminated recreational opportunities, and American Whitewater is working to restore flows to dewatered rivers reaches on the Connecticut River, and improve recreational opportunities at hydropower projects in the region such as the Green River in Vermont. We're also working to expand the inventory of Wild and Scenic Rivers in the region. In the coming year, we'll be working to support efforts to designate rivers in Connecticut and Vermont, and initiating an effort to protect eligible rivers in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Green Mountains in Vermont.



The Farmington River, CT, is one of many rivers in the Northeast that American Whitewater is working to protect as Wild and Scenic. Photo by Erik Eckilson



East Rosebud Creek in Montana is just one of many rivers American Whitewater will be working to protect as Wild and Scenic. Photo by Kevin Colburn

American Whitewater worked with local paddlers to negotiate this wave and two others below Holtwood Dam to replace freestyle paddling opportunities lost when the power company added more hydropower capacity to the dam. Photo by Matt Samms

Mid Atlantic

CREATING SOLUTIONS THAT WORK FOR ALL | When a dam owner on the Susquehanna River wanted to increase hydropower capacity at their existing dam and to improve fish passage we wanted to be supportive. The only major impact was on paddling, and we helped the local crew negotiate a whitewater park and releases to mitigate opportunities lost to this otherwise good project. We'll spend the next few months collaborating on the site design and negotiating flows, and we'll see you on the water in October and November of this year!

Southeast

SHIFTING TO A CONSERVATION EMPHASIS | Now that we've reduced the impacts of many Southern Appalachian hydropower dams like those on the Cheoah, Tuckasegee, and Tallulah, American Whitewater will be focusing in on time-sensitive conservation opportunities this summer and fall. The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are crafting a new roster of rivers that they will protect as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation, and with your support, we'll be working with regional paddlers to ensure that list protects as many whitewater gems as possible.

Wilson Creek is one of North Carolina's 5 Wild and Scenic Rivers, and American Whitewater believes the state deserves more. Photo by Kevin Colburn

Support American Whitewater Today

Your membership or donation to American Whitewater is what makes our work protecting and restoring rivers possible. Our regional approach to river stewardship teams up our professional staff with committed volunteers. Together, we work to tackle challenging issues on the rivers we all enjoy paddling. Please make a donation or become a member of American Whitewater today!



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



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