



www.americanwhitewater.org

Dave Steindorf
California Stewardship Director
4 Baroni Drive
Chico, CA 95928
530-518-2729
dave@americanwhitewater.org

Tim Reed, Field Office Chief
USGS Redding Field Office
11075 Black Marble Way
Redding, CA 96003

Sent via electronic mail to: treed@usgs.gov

RE: USGS gage 11522500, Salmon River at Somes Bar, CA

Dear Mr. Reed:

Several of our members have contacted us to express concern with the pending decision to discontinue the USGS gage on the Salmon River at Somes Bar (Gage 11522500). In addition to the importance of this gage in providing a long-term data record of high value to hydrologists, it is extremely important for recreational river users. We urge you not to discontinue this gage.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have approximately 6,000 members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing thousands of whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization, American Whitewater has an interest in the Salmon River. A significant percentage of our members live in Northern California and Southern Oregon, and enjoy easy access to the Salmon River. Our members from across the country travel to experience this spectacular resource.

The Salmon River is a true gem with crystal clear water in a deep gorge that flows through incredible scenery and offers opportunities for viewing wildlife. It is nationally known to our community as a top destination for a backcountry whitewater experience. To safely enjoy this river, our community needs access to flow information. River gages are important in providing the whitewater paddling community with information on current river conditions and represent an essential piece of information for safe boating trips. Given the committing nature of a river trip on the Salmon and the inaccessibility of the gorge, a quantitative measure of flows is essential information.

The flow information is important for more than just recreation. It is an important indirect indicator of snowpack, water quality, and fisheries health. The long data set from this river provides information that can be used for trend analysis and forecasting, which is critical as we seek to enhance our understanding and plan for the future water challenges facing our state.

We understand that your office faces severe funding challenges and we will continue our advocacy at the federal level to support the US Geological Survey's Cooperative Water Program (CWP) and National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) through the federal appropriations

process. As you make the challenging decisions over the importance of individual gages, we ask that you consider our interest and the fact that this is one of the most important gages for river recreation in Northern California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dave Steindorf". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave Steindorf
California Stewardship Director