

# WINTER APPEAL

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## FROM THE BOARD

### *Why I Support American Whitewater*



Chris Bell takes flight for an aerial view of our nation's rivers.  
Photo by Mark Singleton

Anyone who rafts, canoes, kayaks or floats a whitewater river has American Whitewater to thank for providing important leadership on river stewardship efforts around the country. The organization's intimate connection to flowing water has made paddlers a force in river conservation for 60 years. On behalf of the Board of Directors, as you make your end of year contributions, we encourage you to consider the value of an investment in American Whitewater. Your membership or donation will support efforts that lead to on-the-ground results that benefit the rivers you enjoy.

— Chris Bell, American Whitewater Board President,  
Asheville, NC

*AW Board Member Megi Morishita leads the way on Oregon's Rogue River during American Whitewater's 2014 summer trip. Photo by Thomas O'Keefe*

## Wild and Scenic

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is one of the strongest tools American Whitewater uses to protect freely-flowing rivers for future generations. We are actively working on protecting rivers as Wild and Scenic throughout the country—from the rivers of the northeast including the Tariffville Gorge section of the Farmington River through the White Mountain and Green Mountain regions of **Vermont** and **New Hampshire**, and rugged rivers like the Gallatin and North Fork of the Blackfoot in **Montana**, to **Southern** gems like the Nolichucky River. In the **Pacific Northwest**, we're leaders with the Wild Olympics Campaign on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, and are engaged in protecting the Molalla River and major tributaries of the Rogue River in Oregon. We're also using Wild and Scenic alternatives to protect rivers in **Colorado**, including the Upper Colorado River. With your support, American Whitewater will continue to work to protect these freely flowing whitewater rivers for future generations.

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After years of work, operations of McPhee Dam on the Dolores River (CO) have recently been revised to ensure that important downstream environmental and recreational flows are delivered to over 120 miles of river. Photo by Kent Ford

## FROM THE BOARD...

I've seen American Whitewater projects come to fruition that were in the pipeline for 15 years and more. This persistence all comes on behalf of rivers that we get to boat. Whether it is any FERC re-licensed river, the Deerfield, Gauley, or Ocoee, or the fight to protect our right to float in Colorado, American Whitewater provides tremendous stewardship to the rivers we all love. Please support American Whitewater—literally for the rivers we paddle!

— Kent Ford, Durango, CO

Since joining American Whitewater over 10 years ago, I've seen how the organization has saved and resurrected countless rivers that had been brutalized or left for dead. I want future generations to experience what I've experienced on America's headwaters—many of which have been protected or restored because of American Whitewater's dogged persistence and patient action. When I revised my will last year I included a bequest to American Whitewater, becoming part of the Enduring Rivers Circle. I encourage you to pay it forward by joining the Enduring Rivers Circle too. It's one gift—and one form of effective activism—you'll never regret.

— Chris Hest, San Francisco, CA

## Flow Protection

As big water utilities propose new dams and pipelines across the **Colorado River Basin**, American Whitewater is fighting to ensure that our rivers and the recreation opportunities that they provide are protected. Sustaining boating and angling activities go hand in hand with protecting and enhancing river health—and we are accomplishing these goals by securing permanent legal protections and negotiating policies that keep our rivers flowing. We're working alongside local governments, states, and federal agencies and hundreds of paddlers to define stream flows necessary to support recreation. With your support, we'll ensure that protecting these flows is a priority shared by all.

## Flow Restoration

For the past two decades American Whitewater has consistently advocated for restored flows in rivers impacted by dams, and 2015 will be another active year. In the **South** we'll finally see progress on the Catawba River, where lawsuits have delayed releases for nearly a decade. This deep south playboating treasure follows last year's restoration of the mountain creeking classic, the West Fork of the Tuck. In **California**, the license for the Upper American River Project was issued last summer, and we'll be busy working out the logistics of monitoring and take-out plans before flows begin next spring, if there's enough water. In the **Northeast**, American Whitewater is working to restore flows to dewatered sections of the Connecticut River, where hydropower dams have disrupted fish passage and eliminated whitewater boating for more than a century. The benefits of restoring flows to rivers impacted by hydropower continue to stack up, and all told have a profound effect on river recreation and river ecology nationwide.

## Dam Removal

As we watch the Elwha and White Salmon Rivers (WA) heal after the removal of dams that were in place for a century, American Whitewater continues to seek opportunities to restore more rivers and remove deadbeat dams. Over the coming year we will be preparing for the 2018 removal of Mill Pond Dam on Sullivan Creek (WA) under a plan that we played a key role in negotiating. Efforts to remove outdated dams on the Similkameen (WA) and Nooksack Rivers (WA) will require our continued investment and commitment over the coming year. On the Snake River (OR/WA/ID), we will continue to remain engaged as the primary non-profit organization who can speak to the recreational benefits of restored rivers.



AW Board Member Chris Hest enjoys flows secured by American Whitewater on the Pit 5 reach of the Pit River in California. Photo by Dave Steindorf

## FROM THE BOARD...

I ventured into whitewater in a canoe as a Boy Scout, and fell in love with kayaking in the 1980's. Back when I joined American Whitewater, there was no Cheoah, Tallulah, or West Fork Tuckasegee. Today, we have these and other whitewater rivers to enjoy thanks to the organization's hard work. I am now 55 years old and a Lifetime Member of American Whitewater. In all of my years as someone who loves whitewater, I have always placed American Whitewater high on my pedestal of favorite charities. No other organization represents my interests in rivers and whitewater paddling better.

— Brent Austin, Lexington, KY

I love kayaking and want to protect and expand whitewater opportunities for both myself and future generations. I support American Whitewater because I have seen firsthand how the organization supports Pacific Northwest paddlers when issues threaten river access or health. In 2014, American Whitewater supported local boaters as they advocated for improved access to Oregon's rivers, and continued to monitor the recovery of Washington's White Salmon River since the removal of Condit Dam. I'm very thankful for American Whitewater's expertise and support, and consider my membership the right thing to do to support the rivers I love to paddle on.

— Courtney Wilton, Portland, OR



AW Board Member Brian Jacobson in action on the West Fork Tuckasegee (NC). Photo by Clinton Koontz

## River Management

American Whitewater is a national leader in advocating for the public in river management issues. Our work to open the **Chattooga River** to the public continues both in the Federal Court system, where a decision on our appeal is expected in the coming months, and in the Forest Service planning process in **North Carolina**. In **California**, we'll be working with the National Park Service to reconsider boating bans on certain river reaches in Sequoia-Kings National Park. And in **Virginia**, **South Carolina**, and **Colorado** we continue to advocate for the basic right to float rivers. American Whitewater serves as a partner to river managers across the country on your behalf, and the result is sustainable river management that welcomes you to enjoy our nation's rivers and streams.

## Safety

American Whitewater is working to improve safety on rivers on the right and left sides of the country. On the Pit River in **California**, we are working to develop safer solutions at the dangerous low-head Pit 7 Afterbay Dam. And in the **Northeast**, we are advocating for the removal of a similar low-head dam on the Connecticut River at Bellows Falls that is not only a safety hazard, but is also eliminating recreation opportunities and blocking fish passage. With your support, we'll continue to keep the rivers you enjoy safe to paddle.



AW Board Member Courtney Wilton paddles the White Salmon River (WA). Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

*AW Board Member Susan Hollingsworth Elliott SUPs on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, near Tuckup Camp. Photo by Adam Mills Elliott*



## FROM THE BOARD...

The importance of flowing rivers in the Pacific Northwest goes beyond my personal affliction for paddling whitewater. I moved to Oregon to not only call these rivers my home, but to also be a part of their conservation for whitewater recreation, for fisheries preservation, for clean water conservation and much more. American Whitewater's work on projects like the Wild and Scenic Olympics, the removal of the White Salmon's Condit Dam, and improving access to the Snoqualmie River make my paddling experience easier and richer. For me, river stewardship means maintaining paddling opportunities that are true to their natural environment for years to come. I can't imagine where our whitewater rivers would be without the hard work of American Whitewater.

— Susan Hollingsworth Elliott, *Corvallis, OR*

## American Whitewater's Charity Navigator Rating



charitynavigator.org

*Charity Navigator recently awarded American Whitewater 95 points (out of a possible 100 point system), indicating that American Whitewater adheres to good governance and other best practices in carrying out our river stewardship mission in a fiscally responsible way. This top rating from Charity Navigator differentiates American Whitewater from our peers and validates our commitment to transparency and efficient management.*

## 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!



To Join or Donate Online

[americanwhitewater.org/join](http://americanwhitewater.org/join)  
[americanwhitewater.org/donate](http://americanwhitewater.org/donate)



To Join or Donate by Mail

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



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