

SUMMER APPEAL ²⁰/₁₅

After seven years of intensive work by American Whitewater, the iconic Yosemite Valley in California can finally be enjoyed by boat. Photo by Dave Steindorf

American Whitewater is the only national non-profit organization exclusively focused on conserving and restoring whitewater rivers. Each day, we work to protect free flowing rivers, restore flows to rivers impacted by hydroelectric projects, secure access, and advocate for new Wild and Scenic rivers throughout the country. Your memberships and donations are a key part of what makes our efforts possible.

We recently celebrated the opening of the Merced River in Yosemite National Park, where paddlers can legally enjoy paddling for the first time in decades. Your support allowed us to participate in the Wild and Scenic River planning process over the course of several years, bringing on-the-ground results that we'll enjoy for generations to come. This remarkable success story is emblematic of the great work we can do thanks to the support of paddlers like you. Your contribution

this summer will help us meet other challenges protecting and restoring some of our nation's finest rivers and streams. With just ten staff, American Whitewater is a small organization that leaves a huge footprint in the world of river stewardship, and your support and memberships play a big part in our success.

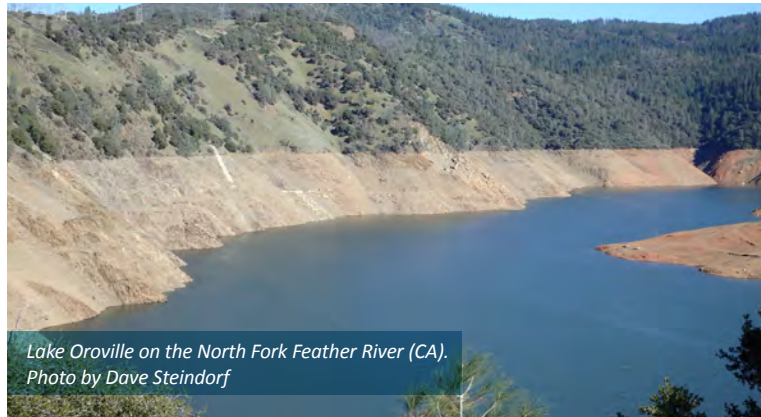
You can learn more about our current stewardship efforts inside this appeal, and we ask that you please consider making a tax-deductible donation to American Whitewater. Everything you'll need is included with this letter.

Thanks for your support,



Mark Singleton
Executive Director

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Lake Oroville on the North Fork Feather River (CA).
Photo by Dave Steindorf



Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River (WA) has not generated power in over half a century and is a prime candidate for removal. Photo by Thomas O'Keefe

California Drought – It Starts With Rivers

The 4th year of drought in California has put incredible strains on water use. While the drought has brought about a crisis for many water uses in the state, these conditions are nothing new for the vast majority of upper watershed rivers across California. Hydroelectric diversions and various consumptive uses have left most rivers in a perpetual drought for the past 50 to 100 years. Now that these drought conditions are being pushed upon everyone by Mother Nature, we are all being forced to evaluate all of our water uses. American Whitewater believes that putting more of our rivers behind dams is not a long-term solution, and that the discussion of how to move forward must start with the health of our rivers and streams. With your support, American Whitewater will be in the thick of discussions about how we make water use in California more sustainable.



Fighting Siskiyou Mining (OR/CA)

The Siskiyou region is home to the headwaters to some of the most treasured rivers of the Wild Rivers Coast of Southern Oregon and Northern California—the Wild and Scenic Illinois, Rogue, Chetco, and Smith. While these wild free-flowing rivers are known for their pristine water quality, world-class salmon runs, rich botanical biodiversity, and outstanding recreation, the headwaters are threatened by proposals for nickel strip mining. With your support, this summer and fall American Whitewater will continue to work to protect these cherished river systems from mining and ensure that future generations can enjoy them.

The exceptional water quality and classic whitewater of the Smith River (CA) are threatened by mining proposals in the headwaters. Photo by Thomas O'Keefe



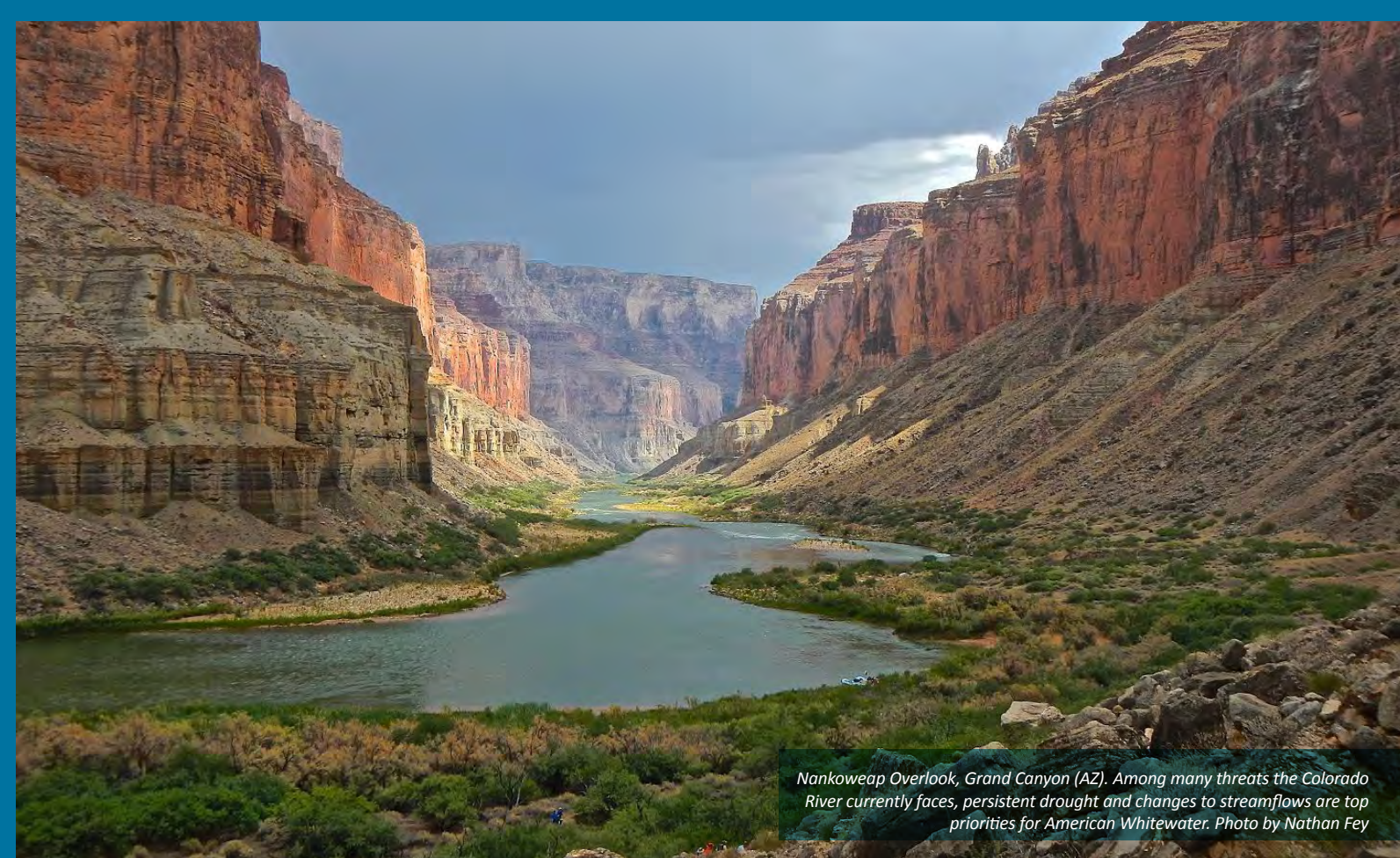
Charity Navigator

American Whitewater recently received our fifth straight 4-Star Rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for our financial practices and transparency. Only 4% of the charities Charity Navigator rates have received at least five consecutive 4-star evaluations, showing that American Whitewater outperforms most other charities in America. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates American Whitewater from its peers and demonstrates our commitment to best management practices. This means that you can be assured that your donation will be put to good use and will result in tangible gains for river stewardship!

charitynavigator.org

Dam Removal

One of American Whitewater's top priorities is removing outdated deadbeat dams that no longer serve a useful function. We're following on our success in removing several dams and restoring rivers on tributaries to the Columbia River Gorge, like removing Condit Dam from the White Salmon River in 2011. Today, we're actively helping to lead efforts to remove hydropower dams that have not generated power in over half a century in the Pacific Northwest, including Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Sullivan Creek Dam, and a dam on the Middle Fork of the Nooksack. While we continue our work to remove outdated dams, we are also working hard to make sure new dams are not constructed. Our work to designate new Wild and Scenic rivers through legislation such as Wild Olympics, and campaigns like Montanans for Healthy Rivers, is key to protecting rivers that are threatened by new hydropower.



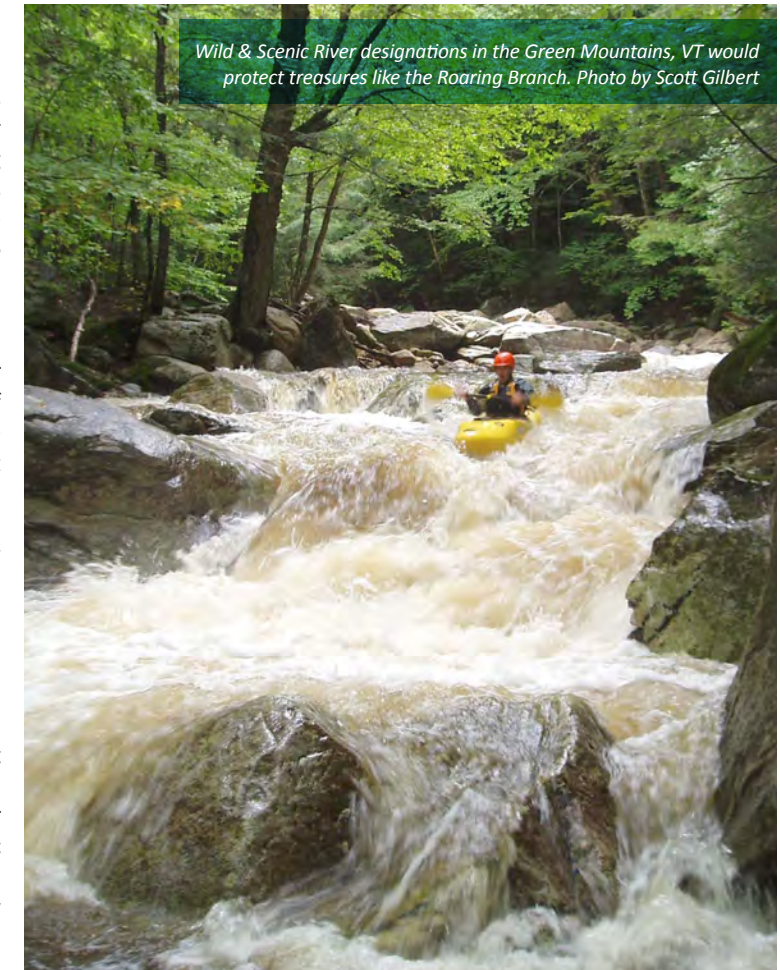
Nankoweap Overlook, Grand Canyon (AZ). Among many threats the Colorado River currently faces, persistent drought and changes to streamflows are top priorities for American Whitewater. Photo by Nathan Fey

Water Allocation in Colorado

As the drought-stricken Southwest considers new dams and pipelines in response to dwindling water supplies, American Whitewater remains heavily invested in crafting new approaches for protecting and restoring the Colorado River and its tributaries. On the Dolores River, we have worked with state and federal agencies to change the way McPhee Dam is operated to improve downstream flows for native fish populations and world-class whitewater recreation. Building on this, we are currently working to designate the Dolores River Canyon as Wilderness and create the Dolores River National Conservation Area. These designations will protect the river from new water diversions, and get us closer to restoring flows to over 120 miles of the river. Additionally, our work to protect flows for 80 miles of the Upper Colorado River continues, as well as leading an effort to protect Colorado's Yampa River as the West's last wild and free-flowing river. Across the region, we'll keep working with federal, state and local governments to coordinate reservoir operations to meet the flow needs of a growing recreation economy.

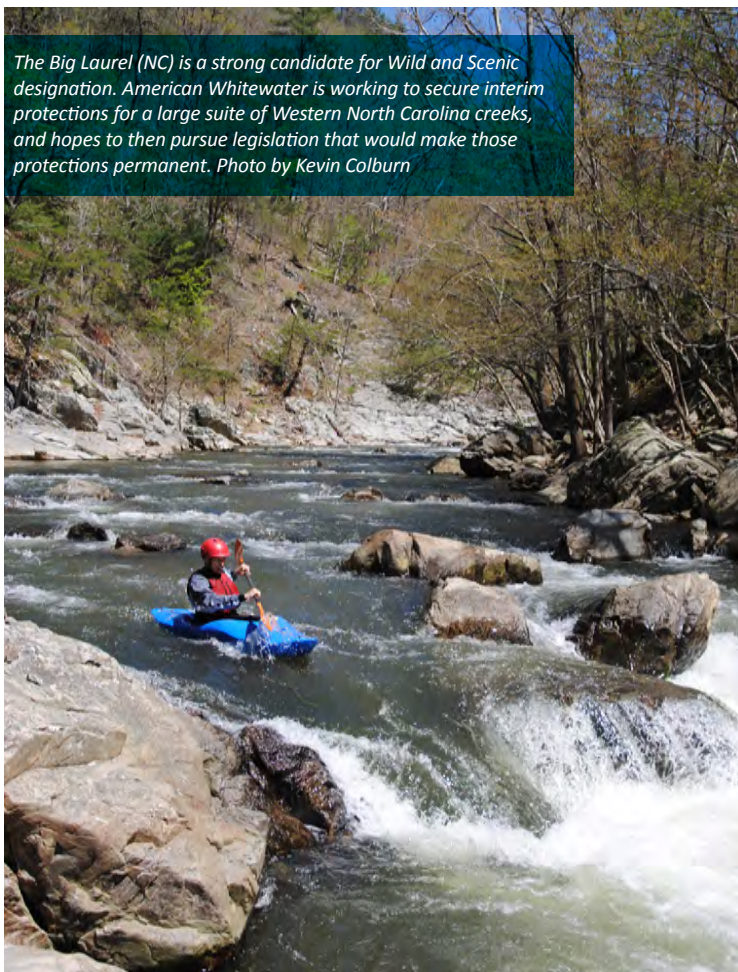
Wild and Scenic Rivers in Vermont and New Hampshire

As hydropower developers in Vermont seek to expand operations at existing dams and limit environmental review of new ones, American Whitewater is working to protect the region's few wild headwater streams. We've launched a regional campaign seeking Wild and Scenic protection for the last best rivers in the White Mountains and Green Mountains National Forests. With your support this summer, we'll lay the groundwork for a successful campaign by building appreciation and support for protecting these headwater streams.



Wild & Scenic River designations in the Green Mountains, VT would protect treasures like the Roaring Branch. Photo by Scott Gilbert

The Big Laurel (NC) is a strong candidate for Wild and Scenic designation. American Whitewater is working to secure interim protections for a large suite of Western North Carolina creeks, and hopes to then pursue legislation that would make those protections permanent. Photo by Kevin Colburn



Running Zoar Gap on the Deerfield River (MA). FERC relicensing begins again this year. Photo by Bruce Lessels



Protecting North Carolina's Wildest Streams

American Whitewater is actively engaged in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest planning process. We seek a significantly expanded roster of 24 rivers to be protected as "eligible" for Wild and Scenic designation, using strategies and techniques that have proven successful on other National Forests. At the same time, we are fully participating in the Nantahala Pisgah Partnership, which is a collaborative group aimed at creating a conservation and management vision for the Forests that will influence forest planning and possibly future protective designations. The result will be interim—and hopefully permanent—protection for some of Southern Appalachia's wildest rivers and streams.

Hydropower Relicensing on the Deerfield River (MA)

It's been more than 20 years since we signed the historic settlement agreement on the Deerfield River, reviving this classic whitewater river with 106 days of whitewater releases a year on the Class III Fife Brook section and 32 days on the Class IV Monroe Bridge section. The agreement also involved fish and wildlife enhancements and land conservation. We celebrate our success on the Deerfield each summer with the Deerfield Fest, and in 2015 we begin a new five-year relicensing process where we'll seek to expand recreational opportunities on the river. With your support, we'll improve the experience that is enjoyed by 50,000 people every year and is a major contributor to the local economy.

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
americanwhitewater.org/donate



To Join or Donate by Mail
 Just fill out the enclosed reply form and return it in the envelope provided.



Phone
 Call us at 1.866.262.8429.