



# SUMMER APPEAL 20 16



*While the Owyhee River has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River, we are part of a coalition working to protect the broader Owyhee Canyonlands landscape in Oregon. | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe*

Spending time on whitewater rivers brings us so much, from adventure, fun and community, to solitude and connecting with wild places. It also gives us intimate knowledge of and passion for the headwater reaches of this country's major river systems. These are the very things that make American Whitewater so effective in our work to protect and restore whitewater rivers, and ensure that everyone can enjoy them safely. Your experiences and passion make our stewardship efforts relevant.

You are a key part of what allows us to advocate for whitewater rivers in another very important way. Your membership and donations are crucial to ensuring that we're able to bring this knowledge and passion to our stewardship work, and keep the conversation real with policy makers and river managers over the long-haul. In the pages that follow, we've outlined just a few of the projects across the country that we'll be working on through the rest of 2016. Keep in mind that many of these efforts can take decades to complete. They require a long term view...and ongoing support.

Rest assured, your membership and donations will go a long way towards protecting and restoring the rivers that you enjoy. Each membership dollar that AW receives is leveraged to generate \$4 in total funding directed at supporting river stewardship. The \$1 to \$4 ratio is achievable because American Whitewater is able to attract support from foundations, private donors, advertising opportunities, events and partnerships. As a result, your dollar goes four times as far in the protection of whitewater rivers. Where else can you stretch your money like that?

As you'll see in the pages that follow, we've got a lot of important work to do throughout the rest of 2016. We'd be honored to have your continued support.

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*The exceptional water quality of the Smith River is threatened by mining proposals in the headwaters. American Whitewater will work to bring comprehensive watershed protections to all the great rivers of the Kalmiopsis region in Southwest Oregon. | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe*



*Santeetlah Creek is one of many North Carolina streams American Whitewater is working to protect. | Photo: Kevin Colburn*



*American Whitewater will remain vigilant to protect the SF American River (CA) from costly water storage projects. | Photo: Pete Delosa*

## NATIONAL

American Whitewater is working with our friends at Outdoor Alliance to defend your public lands and rivers from a shocking movement that aims to sell off vast swaths of iconic Western landscapes. We're also advocating for reasonable funding for the agencies that manage these lands, and for sound recreation policies at the national level. Chances are you don't just paddle, but also hike, mountain bike, ski, or rock climb, and through Outdoor Alliance we amplify the voices of people like you that know and love the mountains. We are also working closely with our partners in the Hydropower Reform Coalition to defend whitewater rivers from legislation that would make it easier to dam and de-water rivers, providing a vital counterpoint to the hydropower industry's quest for lax regulation.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

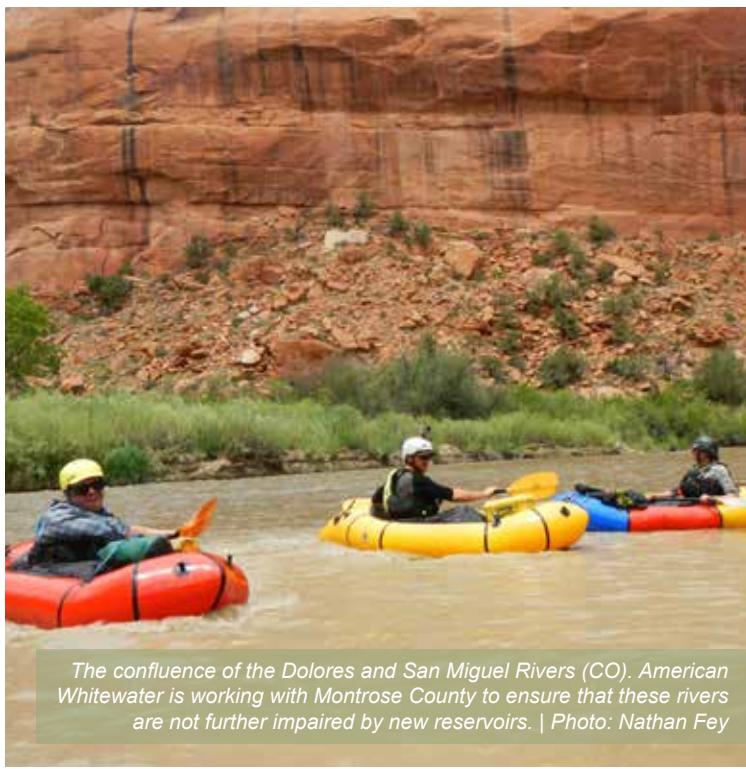
American Whitewater has several major conservation priorities in the Pacific Northwest, including advocating for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic protections on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, and for the Rogue and Molalla Rivers in Oregon. We will also continue to focus on larger landscape-scale conservation opportunities, including Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands, and protecting the headwaters of the rivers of the Kalmiopsis (OR) and Methow (WA) regions from mining threats. Additionally, we will continue the fight against new hydropower development in Washington on Sunset Falls on the Skykomish River and Ernie's Gorge on the Snoqualmie River. Finally, our access work will continue with a focus on water trails for the Nisqually and Skykomish Rivers and completing access projects on the Clackamas River.

## CALIFORNIA

American Whitewater will continue to work to protect California's rivers from costly storage projects in 2016. Temperance Flat Dam and Alder Reservoir are among the deadbeat projects competing for a piece of the \$2.7 billion available under California's 2014 Water Bond (Proposition 1). The overpriced Temperance Flat Dam would flood the San Joaquin River Gorge, and the Alder Reservoir project would dewater a significant portion of the Upper South Fork American River drainage. With your support, American Whitewater will be working to oppose these dams and advocate for cost effective alternatives.



Montana's Boulder River is one of roughly 50 streams American Whitewater is working to designate as a Wild and Scenic River. Photo: Kevin Colburn



The confluence of the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers (CO). American Whitewater is working with Montrose County to ensure that these rivers are not further impaired by new reservoirs. | Photo: Nathan Fey

## SOUTHERN ROCKIES

With its first Statewide Water Plan, Colorado is now looking to study and build several new water projects that will have direct impacts on river health and paddling opportunities across the region. American Whitewater is working with the State and several proponents of these projects to model how streamflows will change as they take water out of our rivers, and we are negotiating terms and conditions that will protect paddling, fish, and healthy flows. With the support of our members, we are tackling several stream and watershed management plans being launched under the Colorado Water Plan, and we will ensure that across the state, our rivers and our economy remain healthy.

## NORTHERN ROCKIES

Having recently defeated several proposed dams in the region, American Whitewater's sights are now firmly set on protecting some of Idaho and Montana's last best rivers from new dams and other impacts. In the coming months we will be ramping up our push for legislation to permanently protect over 500 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers in Montana, and will continue our efforts to secure interim protection for streams throughout Idaho and Montana.

## SOUTHEAST

This year has brought a number of stream access challenges in court in North and South Carolina, where American Whitewater is defending the right to paddle rivers. At the same time, we are working hard to build grassroots support for new Wild and Scenic River protections in North Carolina and Tennessee, and advocating that our National Forests be managed in a way that welcomes sustainable forms of recreation, including paddling. Also big in 2016, we've kicked our preparation for new water releases in the Great Falls of the Catawba into high gear.

## MID ATLANTIC

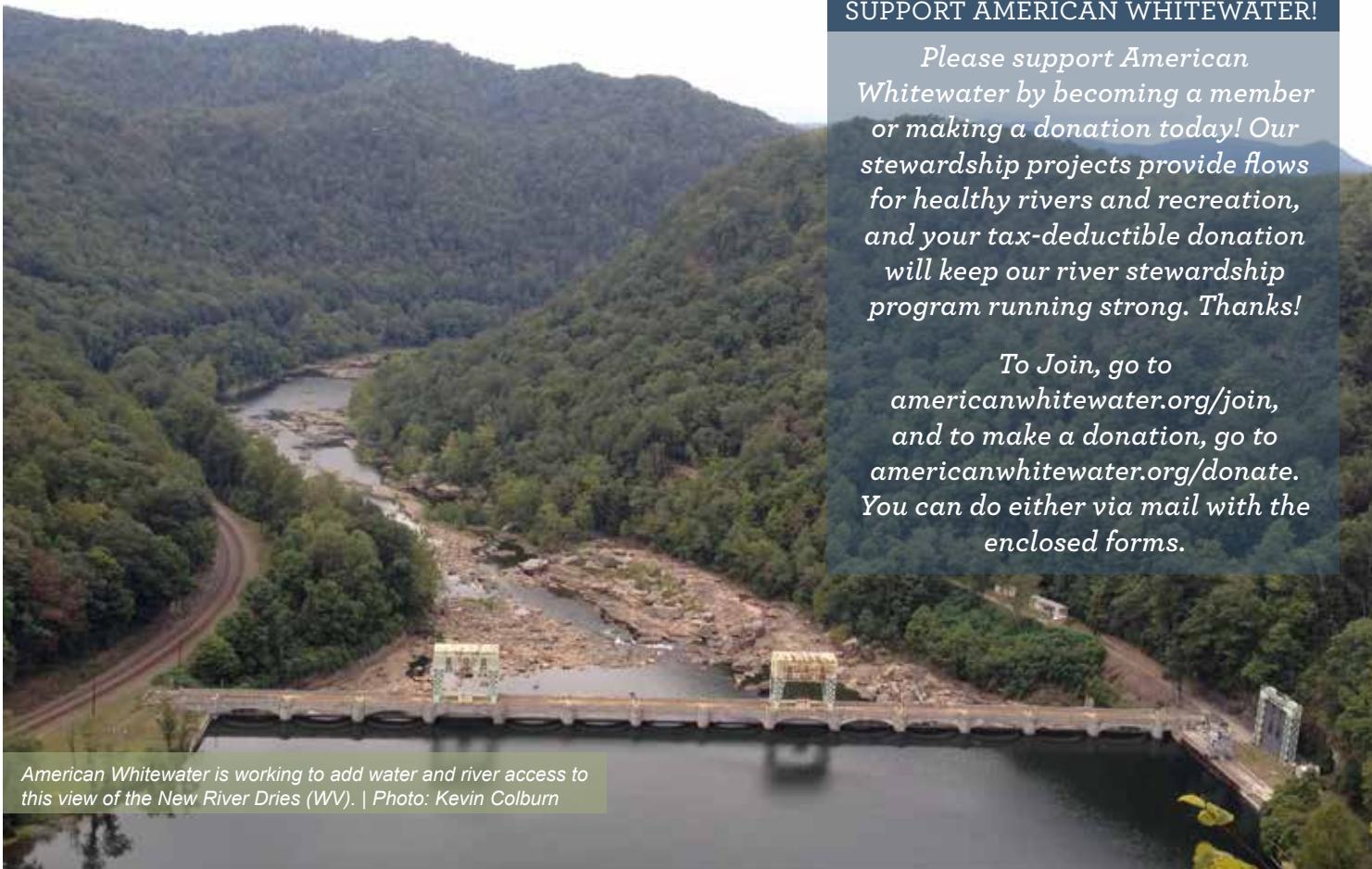
The right to paddle in Virginia's classic Johns Creek is being threatened by landowners who recently filed a lawsuit, and American Whitewater is working to defend the public's rights in a potentially precedent setting case. This summer is also a vital window for us to advocate for restored flows to the New River Dries, where we hope to create new outstanding intermediate paddling opportunities. We'll also continue our work to improve access to the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers near Harper's Ferry, WV.

## NORTHEAST

Federal relicensing of hydropower projects throughout the northeast will continue to be a priority for American Whitewater in 2016. From the Green River in northern Vermont to the dams and pumped storage projects on the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers, American Whitewater will continue working to restore flows and access to dewatered and restricted river channels. With your support, this work will restore recreation opportunities and aquatic habitat in the region while bringing economic benefits to river communities.



Restoring flows to a dewatered section of the Connecticut River (MA) will be a priority for American Whitewater in 2016. | Photo: Bob Nasdor



American Whitewater is working to add water and river access to this view of the New River Dries (WV). | Photo: Kevin Colburn

## SUPPORT AMERICAN WHITEWATER!

*Please support American Whitewater by becoming a member or making a donation today! Our stewardship projects provide flows for healthy rivers and recreation, and your tax-deductible donation will keep our river stewardship program running strong. Thanks!*

*To Join, go to [americanwhitewater.org/join](http://americanwhitewater.org/join), and to make a donation, go to [americanwhitewater.org/donate](http://americanwhitewater.org/donate). You can do either via mail with the enclosed forms.*



*American Whitewater recently received our sixth straight 4-Star Rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for our financial practices and transparency. Only 3% 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 result in tangible gains for river stewardship! To learn more, visit [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).*

## SUPPORT AMERICAN WHITEWATER TODAY!

Our Stewardship work is possible only through your support, and your contribution plays a vital role in protecting and restoring the special places 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 **tax-deductible** donation to American Whitewater. Everything you'll need is included with this letter. **Thanks for your support!**



### Online

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



### Mail

If you've received this appeal by mail, just fill out the enclosed reply form and return it in the envelope provided.



### Phone

Call us at 1-866-262-8429.