



spring stewardship update | 2017

American Whitewater is working hard to amplify your voice in Washington DC as proposals to weaken vital river protection laws are considered. We are defending the hydropower laws that allow us to negotiate releases and access at dams. We are defending the Clean Water Act, which protects flows and keeps us safe from water pollution. And we are defending public lands and rivers

from threats of sale, deregulation, and defunding. While these national policy issues are keeping us busy, we are also keeping steady pressure on some great proactive projects like designating new Wild and Scenic Rivers and negotiating new dam releases. We hope we can count on your activism and support as we strive to protect and restore whitewater rivers.

"You know, hydropower is a great, great form of power... but we don't even talk about it anymore because the permits are virtually impossible." "[Hydropower] is one of the best things you can do, but we don't even talk about it anymore."

—President Donald Trump, April 2017 White House Town Hall Meeting



Goosenecks at dawn, San Juan River, UT | Photo: Evan Stafford

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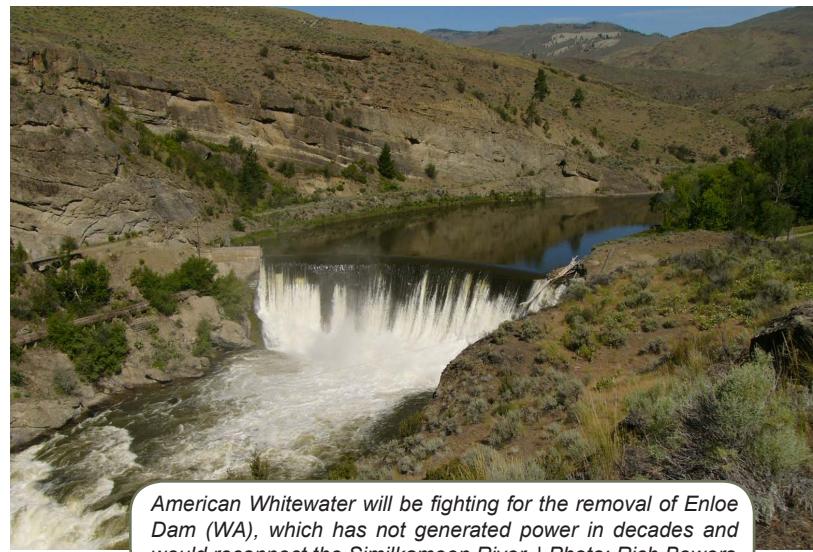
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In March, AW Special Projects Director Dave Steindorf delivered Congressional testimony on the future of hydropower. You can count on us to speak up for rivers and paddlers as Congress considers proposals to roll back long standing protections. | Photos: Alex Miller

RESISTING THE NEW HYDROPOWER PUSH

Hydropower is 100-year-old, built-out technology that is not going away soon. Building new dams doesn't make sense. As we look into the future, wind, solar, and storage batteries are radically outpacing hydropower development. In fact, we see ample opportunities to start removing dams as their value plummets. Hydropower developers don't share our view though, and are hoping to eliminate regulations so they can try to profit from damming rivers and releasing less water for fish and recreation. American Whitewater and our friends in the Hydropower Reform Coalition are the primary, and often the only, resistance to the hydropower industry's aggressive lobbying for weaker rules. We expect to be fighting legislation this year that could hamstring our ability to negotiate releases and defend free flowing rivers. Your support will help us bring your voice to leaders in Washington DC in this pivotal year for hydropower policy.



American Whitewater will be fighting for the removal of Enloe Dam (WA), which has not generated power in decades and would reconnect the Similkameen River. | Photo: Rich Bowers

LINING UP RELEASES TO FLOAT YOUR BOAT

One of the coolest things your contributions do is help us restore flows to dewatered rivers. It is a tangible and profound result that literally floats your boat. This year you'll be helping us negotiate releases on West Virginia's soon to be classic New River Dries. We'll be advocating for a renewed plan for wildly popular Ocoee River releases since the current agreements expire in 2018. And what about some more releases on North Carolina's Cheoah River or Georgia's Tallulah River? Yep, we are working on it. American Whitewater will start negotiations this spring on California's San Joaquin Horseshoe Bend to provide whitewater flows that could even start late this summer if talks goes well. In New England we are focused on securing releases on some great reaches of the Connecticut River. And this is just the tip of the iceberg! From Class I to Class V you can count on us to advocate for flows wherever dams block rivers.



This spring American Whitewater will be advocating for a low head dam removal and recreational releases on three different sections of the Connecticut River (MA, VT, NH). | Photo: Bob Nasdor

PROTECTING DESERT RIVERS LIKE THE COLORADO AND DOLORES

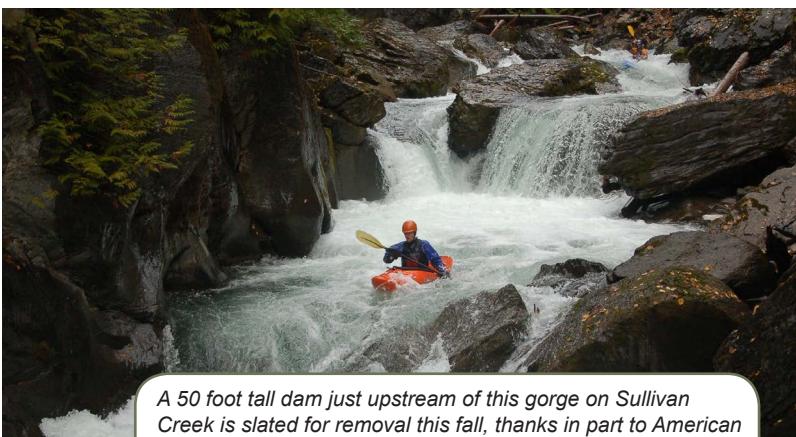
The rivers of the desert Southwest represent some of the most unique opportunities for multi-day river trips in the entire world. While the Grand Canyon stands as the most classic of these, opportunities exist throughout the Colorado and beyond, including the San Juan, Green, and Yampa Rivers. While mining, resource extraction, and massive water development projects have dominated the way of life in this part of the country for the last century, outdoor recreation has become increasingly important. We are working to protect the most special places and flows in rivers throughout the region. In the coming months we anticipate a need to defend Bears Ears National Monument along the San Juan River. We'll also be leveraging the lessons learned from this year's historic Dolores River releases to secure protections for this incomparable river.

THWARTING THE PUBLIC LANDS HEIST

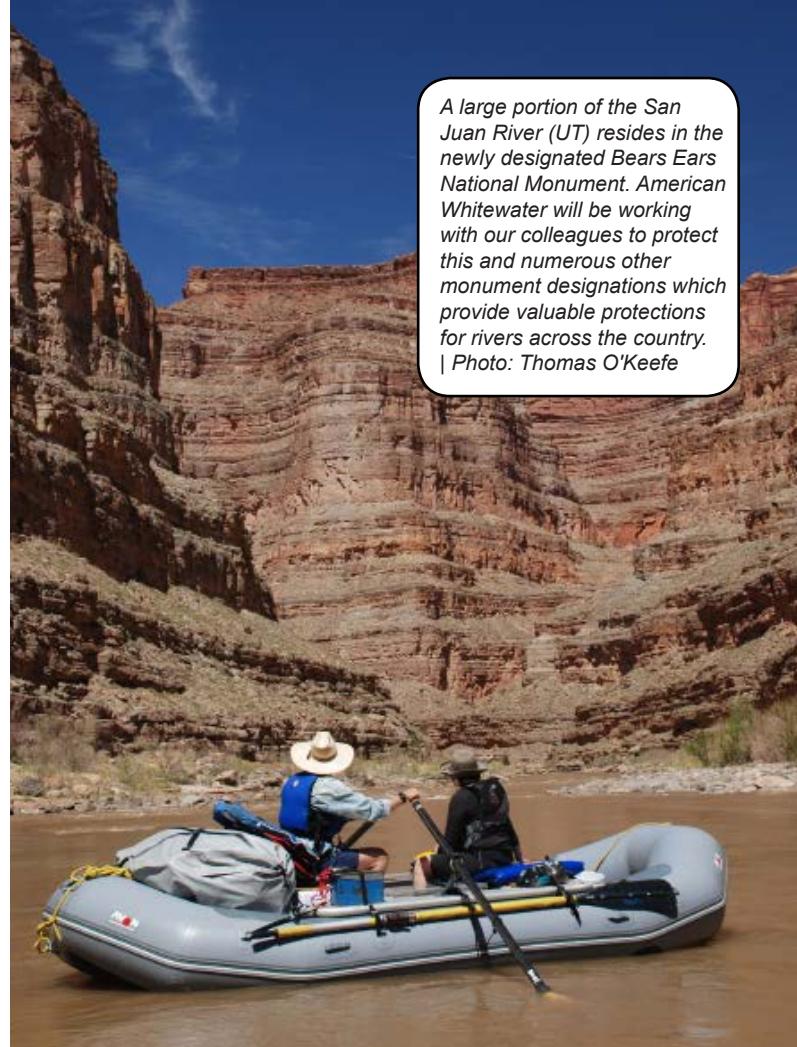
Our public lands are home to some of the most spectacular and popular whitewater rivers in the US and support a vibrant recreation economy and millions of jobs. More importantly, our shared enjoyment of public lands and waters is a way of life for our generation and the next. Powerful members of Congress are intent on selling off vast swaths of our public lands and starving remaining public lands of funding. While it seems unthinkable, this movement has gained serious traction. American Whitewater has been defending our cherished public river corridors from efforts to sell them off and we won't back down.

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO RIVERS THROUGH DAM REMOVAL

Among our most exciting projects are those where we blast a giant concrete plug and free a river that has been buried under a reservoir. Projects on the Elwha and White Salmon in Washington, and Tuckasegee in North Carolina all demonstrate the ability of river systems to quickly heal, aquatic ecosystems to recover, and new recreational opportunities to emerge. With your continued support we will bring more projects to completion and line up new opportunities. We are looking forward to the dramatic demolition of a dam on Sullivan Creek in Washington State this fall. The nearby Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River will be a heavier lift but we are actively engaged in an effort to remove this dam that has not generated hydropower in decades. We'll also be advocating for the removal of a dam blocking some good whitewater on the Connecticut River, and are always on the lookout for dams that no longer make sense.



A 50 foot tall dam just upstream of this gorge on Sullivan Creek is slated for removal this fall, thanks in part to American Whitewater's advocacy. | Photo: Courtesy of Kevin Colburn



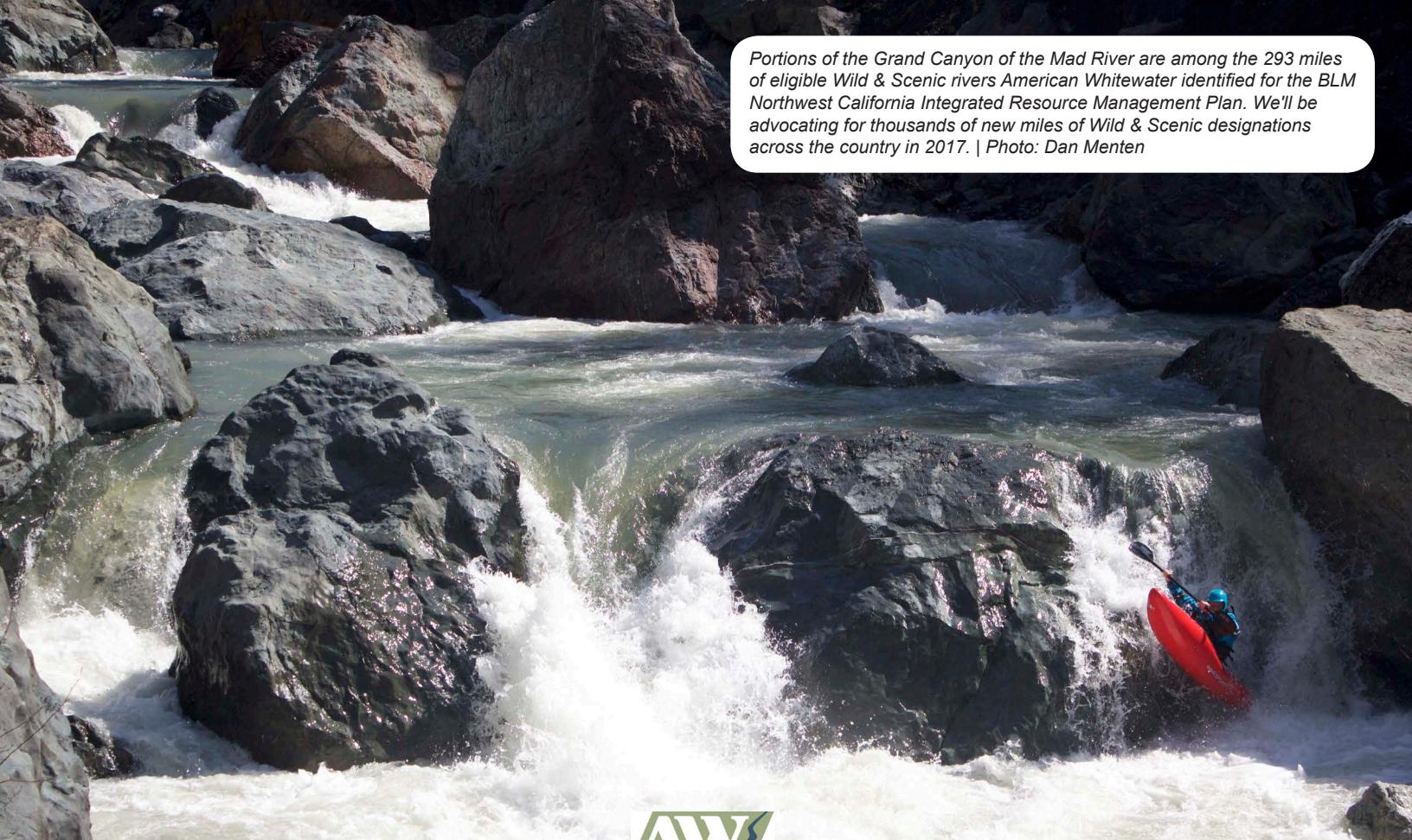
A large portion of the San Juan River (UT) resides in the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument. American Whitewater will be working with our colleagues to protect this and numerous other monument designations which provide valuable protections for rivers across the country. | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe

BUILDING OFF SUCCESS

We have enjoyed some great successes over the past several months including defeating a hydropower project that would have dewatered Ernie's Gorge on North Fork Snoqualmie in Washington, the withdrawal of a lawsuit threatening access to Johns Creek in Virginia, a new boat passage on the Green River at Tusher Dam in Utah, and a success in securing a 20 year moratorium on new mining claims in the headwaters of the Rogue and Smith River watersheds in Oregon. As we celebrate these important achievements, we build momentum for future success and remain deeply committed to dozens of additional projects to improve access, restore rivers, and protect our most sacred places. We are really excited about what we have planned for 2017 and hope we can count on your financial support and activism.



We had great success defending Johns Creek (VA) from a lawsuit threatening access to this excellent creek run. | Photo: Bill Hildreth



Portions of the Grand Canyon of the Mad River are among the 293 miles of eligible Wild & Scenic rivers American Whitewater identified for the BLM Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan. We'll be advocating for thousands of new miles of Wild & Scenic designations across the country in 2017. | Photo: Dan Menten



SUPPORT AMERICAN WHITEWATER TODAY!

Join or make a donation today! Our Stewardship work is possible only through your support, and your financial contribution plays a vital role in protecting and restoring the special rivers that you love. We are a lean and efficient organization—79 cents of every dollar goes directly to our river stewardship work. With your support, we will lean forward and 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



We've totally revamped our donation page to make online giving more user friendly! Check it out at: <https://americanwhitewater.org/donate>

Mail



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



Phone

Call us at 1-866-262-8429.



American Whitewater recently received our seventh 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 seven consecutive 4-Star evaluations, showing that American Whitewater outperforms most other charities in America. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates American Whitewater from our 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!

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