



spring stewardship update | 2018



Your dedication to the rivers you love makes our work possible. We only love what we know, and what better way to get to know a river than to paddle in its waters. So get fired up, get out and enjoy some wild rivers this spring, and let's work together to turn that love into lasting protections, improved access and strong flows for our nation's rivers.

American Whitewater is urging the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to evaluate the South Umpqua as a State Scenic Waterway in 2018. | Photo: Priscilla Macy

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American Whitewater is building support for a new Wild and Scenic bill designating Desolation and Labyrinth Canyons of the Green River (UT). | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe

PROTECTING 5000 NEW MILES UNDER THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

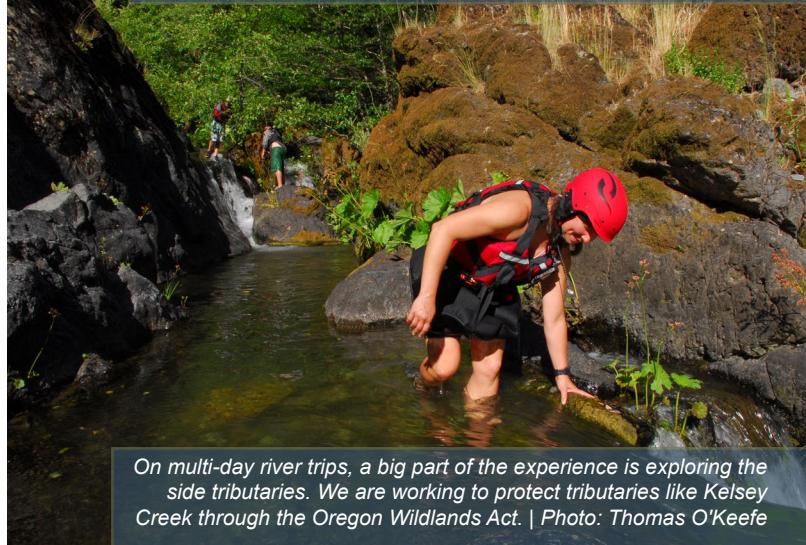
In celebration of this year's 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, American Whitewater is aiming to protect 5,000 miles of rivers with our partners. Our top priority is passing Wild and Scenic designation bills that are pending in Congress, including legislation for Wild Olympics (WA), East Rosebud Creek (MT), Farmington (CT), Oregon Wildlands (OR), and several rivers in California. We are also building grassroots support for new Wild and Scenic bills designating rivers in Montana, Desolation and Labyrinth Canyons of the Green River (UT), the Nolichucky River on the NC-TN border, the Gila River in New Mexico, and exploring opportunities for the Nooksack and rivers of the North Cascades in Washington. Additionally, we are working closely with local paddlers to secure new Forest Service and BLM protections for rivers the agencies deem "eligible" and "suitable" for Wild and Scenic designation in their management plans. This work is playing out on public lands across the country, and with your support, stands to ensure thousands of miles of whitewater streams remain dam free and are ready for permanent designation.

RESISTING THE NEW HYDROPOWER PUSH

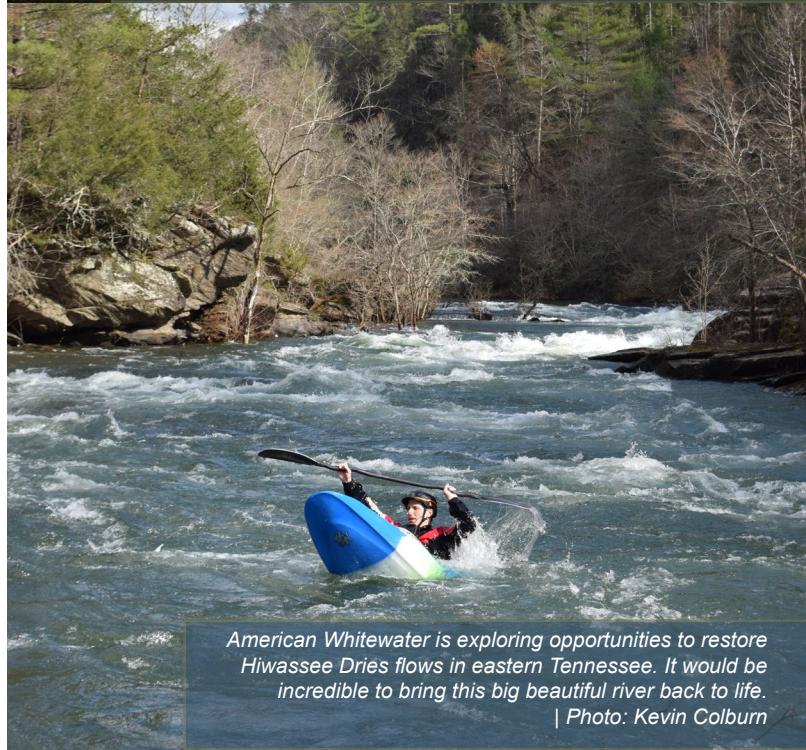
Think about this: Dam builders and paddlers both want rivers that have gradient, constriction, flow, and little or no development. The most serious current dam building threat we see is the proposed Temperance Flat Dam (CA). American Whitewater is supporting an effort to protect the San Joaquin River from this project, as it would inundate 10 miles of quality whitewater in the San Joaquin River Gorge. Meanwhile in the nation's Capitol, utilities and developers are working aggressively to undermine the hydropower licensing process to give less authority to the agencies we partner with in restoring flows for fish, wildlife, and recreation. Legislation has already passed the House, but with your support, we will work in the coming months to hold the line in the Senate.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO WHITEWATER RESOURCES

American Whitewater is constantly on the lookout for opportunities to protect and improve river access. This spring we began legally defending important river access at Wards Ferry Bridge on the Tuolumne River (CA). On the Great Falls of the Catawba (SC), instead of building a long portage trail, Duke Energy adopted our proposal for



On multi-day river trips, a big part of the experience is exploring the side tributaries. We are working to protect tributaries like Kelsey Creek through the Oregon Wildlands Act. | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe



American Whitewater is exploring opportunities to restore Hiwassee Dries flows in eastern Tennessee. It would be incredible to bring this big beautiful river back to life. | Photo: Kevin Colburn

a whitewater chute through a dam that will let paddlers and water flow into the Great Falls. Around Harpers Ferry (WV), we continue to seek improved access to the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers by working with the National Park Service. In Vermont, we are working to secure permanent access to the Mad River, the most frequently paddled intermediate whitewater reach in the state. And finally, in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah we are closely tracking right-to-float issues and will weigh in on behalf of the public interest when it is strategic to do so. Connecting paddlers and communities to rivers is core to American Whitewater's work plan. With your support, we'll continue to meet the challenges that come with protecting and ensuring river access.

RESTORING FLOWS TO FLOAT YOUR BOAT

What does American Whitewater do best? Restoring flows below dams is certainly near the top of the list. At any given time we are working on restoring flows that are good for paddlers and the river's health on over 50 dams across the country. Based on our ongoing work, nine new releases will begin and a suite of new access areas will open on the New River Dries (WV) next summer, or maybe even late this summer. A positive final decision on the Ocoee releases is expected this fall, and we continue to explore restoring flows to the 8-mile Class III/IV Hiwassee Dries (TN). Additionally, American Whitewater recently appealed a bad decision from the state on the Green River (VT) and our efforts could lead to improved flow releases as soon as this fall. We'll also continue our work on the Connecticut River (MA) to secure releases within the next few years. And finally, in California, we'll be focused on negotiating for improved flows on the Big Creek 4 Hydropower Project on the San Joaquin River. Your support will fuel these efforts in the coming months to restore flows to rivers impacted by hydropower.

STATE LEVEL PROTECTIONS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

American Whitewater uses a variety of tools to protect rivers, including state designations that are similar to the federal Wild and Scenic program. In Oregon, American Whitewater is working with partners to advocate for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to designate the Nehalem River as a State Scenic Waterway. Additionally, the agency initially set out to evaluate the South Umpqua but stopped their process. We're working to urge OPRD to do the right thing and evaluate the river in 2018. In Tennessee, we recently advocated for legislators to amend the State Scenic Rivers Act in a way that opens the door for more designations in the future, and we will be actively seeking new designations in the coming years. In Colorado, we are



In Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah we are closely tracking right-to-float issues and are preparing to weigh in on behalf of the public interest | Photo: Scott Carpenter

working to apply state tools to protect flows in the Colorado, Dolores and Yampa, among other rivers. In the next year, we anticipate reaching agreement with our partners on how these tools will be applied at the local, state, and federal levels, and what the long-term measurable outcomes for success will be. And in California, we supported the California Natural Resource Agency's draft study that made the recommendation to designate 37 miles of the Mokelumne River as a State Wild and Scenic River. Once this draft study is finalized, the real work will begin to find the State Assemblyman or Senator who can sponsor a bill to include the Mokelumne River in the California Wild and Scenic River System.

PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS AND RIVERS

We are in the middle of one of the greatest assaults on our public lands and rivers since the time when many of the laws and tools protecting our public lands were established. National monument reductions, which affected over 30 miles of river protections in Utah, have been in the spotlight, but attacks on the Roadless Rule, Clean Water Act, and Antiquities Act all have the potential to negatively affect our rivers. Regionally, changes in public lands planning and a more open attitude towards development on protected lands have the potential to create major impacts on our favorite whitewater destinations. In the Rockies, federal agencies are trying to circumvent the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, illegally removing streams protections by crossing them off Wild and Scenic eligibility lists. In Alaska and across the West, numerous runs are in jeopardy from potential changes to the Roadless Rule. American Whitewater is committed to being on the front lines of these battles. We'll work in concert with our partners and community to defend our designated national treasures and the water that flows through them.



Wild and Scenic eligibility protections for Colt Killed Creek and dozens of Idaho's other best streams are at risk of agency efforts to strip away protections. American Whitewater is pushing back. | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe



Ten Miles of classic California whitewater on the San Joaquin River face the real threat of inundation by the Temperance Flat Dam Proposal. | Photo: Paul Martzen



BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO RIVERS THROUGH DAM REMOVAL

There is nothing we can do for rivers that is quite as profoundly beneficial as removing a dam. As you read this, Sullivan Creek in northeastern Washington State is scouring the last bits of sediment from where Mill Pond Dam was removed last fall. Vegetation is springing out of the muddy banks, fish are swimming through the old dam site, and soon paddlers too will be able to enjoy a healthier Sullivan Creek. We are seeking a similar outcome on Washington's Similkameen River where we have unfortunately had to resort to litigation to support our efforts towards removing Enloe Dam (pictured). Our other dam removal priority is across the country in Vermont, where we are seeking the removal of an old dam that serves no purpose in the Bellows Falls reach of the Connecticut River. | Photo: Thomas O'Keefe

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—80% of every dollar we receive 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 eighth straight 4-Star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for our financial practices and transparency. Only 2% 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!