



RESTORING INSTREAM FLOWS FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT



Beaver River (NY) | Photo Patrick Rodgers

WILL YOU WRAP UP THE YEAR WITH A GIFT TO AMERICAN WHITEWATER?

Your financial contributions propel the work we do to protect the rivers you love. Our staff is working diligently on projects across the country and our members are integral to our success! If your membership is current, please consider an additional end-of-year donation. If you have already renewed your membership this year, thank you for your reliable support! Please consider an additional donation this holiday season to help propel the work ahead!

Make sure your membership's current! An added bonus: All current American Whitewater members will be entered to win an NRS Drysuit in an end of the year drawing!

Please renew and give generously with a tax-deductible donation to American Whitewater by visiting our website americanwhitewater.org or by mail using the enclosed reply envelope.

Join or
Renew



Donate



Thank You for Supporting the Rivers You Love.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE WINTER 2023



WHAT DOES CLEAN WATER MEAN TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

Without significant congressional action we may be experiencing **PEAK CLEAN WATER**, the time when 50 years of water quality improvements ends and the safety of the water in our rivers begins to backslide. Earlier this year, the US Supreme Court ruled that many wetlands and streams should not be protected under the Clean Water Act. The Court has put boaters and river communities at risk, and it is now up to us as river protectors, to demand Congress re-codify into law clear coverage for connected water bodies, preserving the original intent of the Clean Water Act and keeping our waterways safe.

Big Creek (NC) | Photo Evan Stafford



North Fork Feather River (CA) | Photo Scott Harding

Top: The California Public Utilities Commission, Pacific Gas & Electric is proposing to spin off all their non-nuclear assets including all hydropower projects to a separate subsidiary. This puts at risk 500 river miles that American Whitewater has spent nearly 30 years of work to protect. American Whitewater is advocating to State and Federal agencies to oppose this application unless there are strict conditions and accountability for the public interest, dam safety, and the protection of our rivers across California.

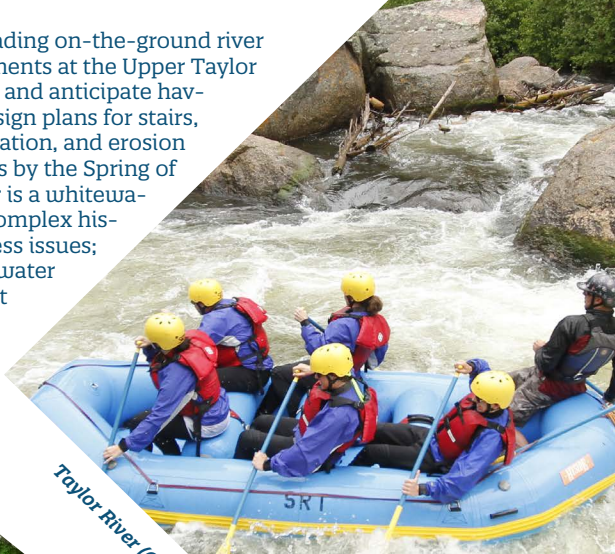
Bottom: Following our success securing Wild And Scenic eligible status for the NF French Broad, we're aiming to honor the local citizens who fought and defeated dam proposals on the North Fork several times over the last 60 years by seeing through a National Wild and Scenic designation for the river. Paddlers know and love the river's classic rapids like Boxcar and Submarine, but will the county commission and other key stakeholders support protecting the river? Your voice may be the difference!

Left: Our efforts in the Northeast are focused on protecting iconic whitewater rivers like the Beaver and Penobscot, and we are also working to expand access and restore flows on 10 river reaches that have been locked away and hidden behind hydropower dams. Through mastery of law and science, decades of experience, and unrivaled perseverance, we are bringing Northeast rivers back to life.

Right: We are leading on-the-ground river access improvements at the Upper Taylor River (CO) put-in and anticipate having complete design plans for stairs, raft slides, restoration, and erosion control measures by the Spring of 2024. The Taylor is a whitewater gem with a complex history of legal access issues; American Whitewater is also working at the state level to secure the public's right to access rivers.



Beaver River (NY) | Photo Patrick Rodgers



Taylor River (CO) | Photo Dustin Brown

Top: Completing the effort to bring the Northwestern Park Access on the White Salmon River (WA) into public ownership is a top priority for early 2024. This is one of several projects ->



Cache la Poudre River (CO) | Photo Evan Stafford

Top Left: We've had incredible success working with partners like Diversify Whitewater and Paddle Tribal Waters to put on events and programs with the intent of expanding opportunities to enjoy our country's rivers. We look forward to continuing and growing these partnerships in 2024.

Center: Much of our work in the Mid-Atlantic is focused on improving river access opportunities. One example is on the Meadow River (WV), where a popular access area was closed and we've been working with the climbing and economic development communities to explore options for improving access in ->



North Fork Blackfoot River (MT) | Photo Kevin Colburn (both)



White Salmon River (WA) | Photo Evan Stafford

-> along the river to enhance public access while ensuring that riparian lands and upland forest are protected, essential watershed protection ensuring the consistent, clean flows that the White Salmon is known for.



Meadow River (WV) | Photo Dylan McKinney

-> the coming year there and more broadly in the region. We take the long view on access, and intend to steadily work to secure both access and land conservation on important regional rivers.

Top Right: Relicensing of the hydropower projects on the Montreal River (WI/MI) is well underway. Having completed flow studies and establishing in-stream flow needs for recreation, American Whitewater will be working to ensure flows to enhance recreational experiences, improved notification of flows that support recreation, and better access are all included in the new license.

Bottom Left and Right: Over 1,000 miles of exceptional rivers are currently under consideration for protection as "eligible" for Wild and Scenic Rivers status. American Whitewater is focused on promoting new protections early in the process for national forest plans around Jackson, WY and Missoula, MT. We're also pushing back against some sketchy efforts by National Forests in central Idaho and Utah to subvert this standard river protection process in the final stages of producing their management plans.

