



AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Conservation • Access • Events • Adventure • Safety

BY BOATERS FOR BOATERS
WINTER 2022

The Top Ten River Stewardship Issues of 2022

PICKING UP AFTER OTHERS
ONE PADDLER'S COMPULSION TO CLEAN RIVERS



A KAYAK FOR EVERY
ADVENTURE



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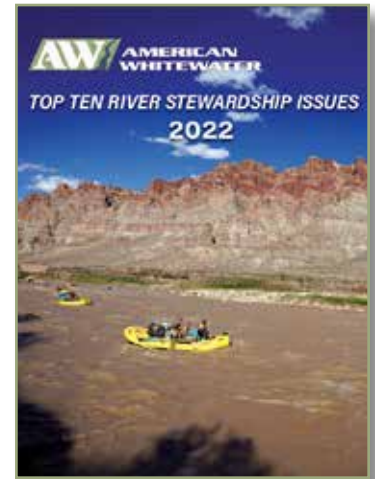
AMERICAN WHITewater

A VOLUNTEER PUBLICATION PROMOTING RIVER CONSERVATION, ACCESS AND SAFETY

American Whitewater Journal Winter 2022 – Volume 62 – Issue 1

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Cover Photo

The forthcoming Nantahala Pisgah National Forest Plan will do a lot to improve river protections and access to rivers and creeks, but easing the paddling bans and limits on the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, is unlikely to be one of them. There is a wellspring of collaborative and scientific support for opening up greater access for river recreation to the Chattooga and American Whitewater will likely mount a legal challenge to the prohibitions if they remain.

PHOTO BY KEVIN COLBURN

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PURPOSE

RIVER STEWARDSHIP: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Our mission: "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely," is actively pursued through our conservation, access, safety and education efforts under the umbrella of River Stewardship. The only national organization representing the interest of all whitewater paddlers, American Whitewater is the national voice for thousands of individual whitewater enthusiasts, as well as over 100 local paddling club affiliates.

AW's River Stewardship program adheres to the four tenets of our mission statement:

CONSERVATION: AW's professional staff works closely with volunteers and partner organizations to protect the ecological and scenic values of all whitewater rivers. These goals are accomplished

through direct participation in public decision-making processes, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, empowerment of volunteers, public outreach and education, and, when necessary, legal action.

RIVER ACCESS: To assure public access to whitewater rivers pursuant to the guidelines published in its official Access Policy, AW arranges for river access through private lands by negotiation or purchase, seeks to protect the right of public passage on all rivers and streams navigable by kayak or canoe, encourages equitable and responsible management of whitewater rivers on public lands, and works with government agencies and other river users to achieve these goals.

SAFETY: AW promotes paddling safely, publishes reports on whitewater accidents, maintains a uniform national ranking system for whitewater rivers (the International Scale of Whitewater Difficulty) and publishes and disseminates the internationally-recognized American Whitewater Safety Code.

EDUCATION: AW shares information with the general public and the paddling community regarding whitewater rivers, as well as river recreation, conservation, access, and safety. This is accomplished through our bi-monthly AW Journal, a monthly e-news, americanwhitewater.org, paddling events, educational events, and through direct communication with the press.

Together, AW staff, members, volunteers, and affiliate clubs can achieve our goals of conserving, protecting and restoring America's whitewater resources and enhancing opportunities to safely enjoy these wonderful rivers.

AW was incorporated under Missouri nonprofit corporation laws in 1961 and maintains its principal mailing address at PO Box 1540, Cullowhee, NC 28723; phone 1-866-BOAT-4-AW (1-866-262-8429). AW is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

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Founded in 1954, American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization (Non-profit # 23-7083760) with a mission "to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely." American Whitewater is a membership organization representing a broad diversity of individual whitewater enthusiasts, river conservationists, and more than 100 local paddling club affiliates across America. The organization is the primary advocate for the preservation and protection of whitewater rivers throughout the United States, and connects the interests of human-powered recreational river users with ecological and science-based data to achieve the goals within its mission. All rights to information contained in this publication are reserved.

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the features and editorials of American Whitewater are those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily represent those of the Directors of American Whitewater or the editors of this publication. On occasion, American Whitewater publishes official organizational policy statements drafted and approved by the Board of Directors. These policy statements will be clearly identified.

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PADDLE WISE

a responsibility code
for river runners



PADDLE SMART

- Paddle within your ability • Keep your skills sharp • Communicate with your team on the river • Think for yourself • Don't let bad decisions compound • Go big, but come home safe



PADDLE PREPARED

- Plan ahead • Consult existing beta • Understand International Scale of River Difficulty and your chosen river's rating
- Carry proper equipment including medical kit, spare paddle and emergency food/layers



PADDLE INCLUSIVE

- Share it • Everyone with the proper skillset is welcome • Find a mentor • Be a mentor • Acknowledge indigenous stewardship and land • Be a positive part of the community



PADDLE SAFE

- Wear your PFD • Carry a throw rope, knife and other safety gear • Practice safe river running technique • Set safety where appropriate • Take a swiftwater rescue course
- Practice whitewater rescue skills regularly



PADDLE NO TRACE

- Leave no trace • Always be a river steward • Use existing access areas, trails and campsites • Pack it in • Pack it out • Use restroom facilities or bring your own waste disposal • Be aware of and remove micro-trash



PADDLE AWARE

- Check weather and flow conditions • Check for closures and river regulations • Know your ability and your group's ability • Understand surrounding landscape and escape routes
- Research existing hazards, portages and critical features



PADDLE RESPECTFUL

- Consider impacts to gateway communities • Consider impacts on other paddlers • Drive slowly • Park in designated areas • Respect closures • Be friendly and represent the whitewater community positively • Appreciate cultural resources but leave undisturbed

AW AMERICAN WHITewater

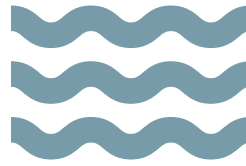
With 12 Staff Our Stewardship Success in 2021

1,259 Public Messages sent to lawmakers

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act **10.85 Billion** Dam Removal, River Restoration and Access

25

American Whitewater Expert Testimony Letters



Wild and Scenic Legislation Introduced

1,041 Rivers, 6,485 Miles

Public Land Units We're Working to Identify Eligible Wild and Scenic Segments on

11



48

Administratively Protected Rivers

25 Meetings with Lawmakers

National Monuments Restored



2

7,035 Public Comments Sent to Land Management Agencies

2

Clean Water Act Victories



6 Whitewater Flow Release Studies

32 Rivers, 624 Miles of Managed Flow Restoration

2 Basic Whitewater Safety Films Released

Basic Whitewater Safety Films Released



River Safety Sign Toolkit

1

Navigability Toolkit **Updated**



1

Dam Removed



3

Campaigns Against New Dams



1

New iOS App Released

2

New River Access Areas



1

Guide to Evaluating Access on Public Lands



Applications to Block River Access Denied (NM)



5

Your support is our fuel!

Membership - 6,900

Supporters - 70,000

Affiliate Clubs - 91

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WELCOME TO THE New Year! It's hard for me to write about the year ahead without first looking back at the last two years. Covid, and its related uncertainties, created an environment of social unease and isolation. In our case here at American Whitewater, even though our staff works remotely, we still feel a sense of loss over our ability to gather as a group. At the board level that sense of distance was more noticeable. I interact with many nonprofits in the outdoor and conservation space; most of their executives shared similar observations. So rather than schedule yet another Zoom meeting the staff and board gathered for a six-day river trip on the Colorado through Canyonlands and Cataract Canyon back in October prior to the current onslaught of the Omicron variant.

I had two driving reasons for selecting Cataract as the destination for a staff/board retreat. First was the "three-day effect," which is a notion that being in nature allows the prefrontal cortex, the brain's command center, to dial down and rest. It's why you might feel like it takes three days to get into the groove of an 18-day river trip in the Grand Canyon or other longer experience in nature. Research by David Strayer, Ph.D. of the University of Utah has confirmed increased attention capacities can be restored by interacting with nature over time. Another reason for selecting Cataract was it provides an ideal classroom to see how water shortages in the West affect places important to our community. In the fall of 2021, Lake Powell held just 30 percent of its capacity. With the lake at historic low levels and reduced streamflow over the past 20 years, many of the rapids in lower Cataract Canyon are coming back to life. The riparian ecosystem is also changing as otters and beavers have returned downstream and native trees are sprouting along the banks. Two members of our river community, Mike DeHoff and Peter Lefebvre, launched an effort to monitor the emerging rapids. Their Returning Rapids Project is designed to document the changing river through lower Cataract Canyon as Lake Powell's water level drops. Our group studied their maps and documents to better understand returning rapids as the river cuts through reservoir sediment, or the Dominy Formation, as the Project calls it.

An unforeseen benefit of being in Canyonlands back in October was paddling through a section of Bears Ears National Monument. As you may recall, under reduced Bears Ears Monument boundaries, 13.6 miles of the Colorado River below Moab lost the protections it enjoyed under original Monument boundaries. Midway through our trip we camped at Spanish Bottom, below the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers, with a plan to hike up to the Dollhouse in the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park the next morning. The hike allows you to rim out

above the Colorado River for spectacular views of the surrounding area; La Sal Mountains, Needles District, Island in the Sky, and Bears Ears. Being on the rim also allows for cell phone service. Despite my best intentions to limit technology during the trip for a full three-day effect impact, email was checked. Undeterred by the kibitzing of our group, the offending email-checking staffer asked, "So you want to hear the news?" The announcement was straightforward and propitious: the original boundaries for Bears Ears National Monument had been restored that day, Indigenous Peoples Day, by Executive Order.

To be in that place, looking out over Bears Ears National Monument and having floated through a section of the Monument that had been removed and was now restored, was surreal. Our community rallied when the boundaries were reduced, as many of you sent email comments and made your voices heard. To get the news while in that place made it all seem so tangible. I know that sometimes the stewardship issues we work on seem distant or wonky, like they just affect something inside the DC Beltway or somewhere far away. Standing on the rim of a magnificent canyon scanning the horizon through formations of red rock, needles, and distant mountains, it all seemed so real.

That's my message for the coming year: we are going to keep it real and work on stewardship projects where we have an authentic voice and something to say about how our public lands and waters are managed. In this issue of the American Whitewater Journal you will find our Top Ten River Stewardship Issues of 2022. You can see what's important to us as an organization and also what we were able to achieve last year. When public comments and feedback are needed we will let you know. Our superpower is being able to rally the river community as an authentic voice for the appropriate management of our public lands and waters.

I do want to thank you all for the support you provide American Whitewater with your memberships and contributions. We have an awesome community of supporters that stands behind the organization. In our own ways and on our own scale, I hope all of us can find our own three-day effect in the coming year and use the power in nature to make some sense of a complicated world.

Take care of our rivers and paddling will take care of you,





TOP TEN RIVER STEWARDSHIP ISSUES 2022



1. CLIMATE

IMPLEMENTING THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS ACT AND FUTURE GOALS

FOLLOWING OUR SUCCESS with the inclusion of \$2.3 billion for dam removal, dam safety, and improvements for environmental performance and recreation into the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, American Whitewater will be working to make sure that funding for these benefits gets out the door. This funding will also help to transform the current hydropower fleet into one with reduced impacts on river ecosystems and one that is better integrated with other energy sources. With \$150 million dedicated to Forest Service Roads through the newly-authorized Legacy Roads and Trails program, we will be working to ensure smart investments are being made to address access and water quality issues that result from poorly maintained roads on our National Forests. This means investments in larger culverts and improved drainage controls to improve resilience during extreme weather events. Climate change, overuse, and inefficient management has meant that the Colorado River has rarely reached the sea since the 1960s. With the first ever shortage declaration this past summer and significant funding from the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, American Whitewater is working with partners across the water community to ensure healthy river flow.

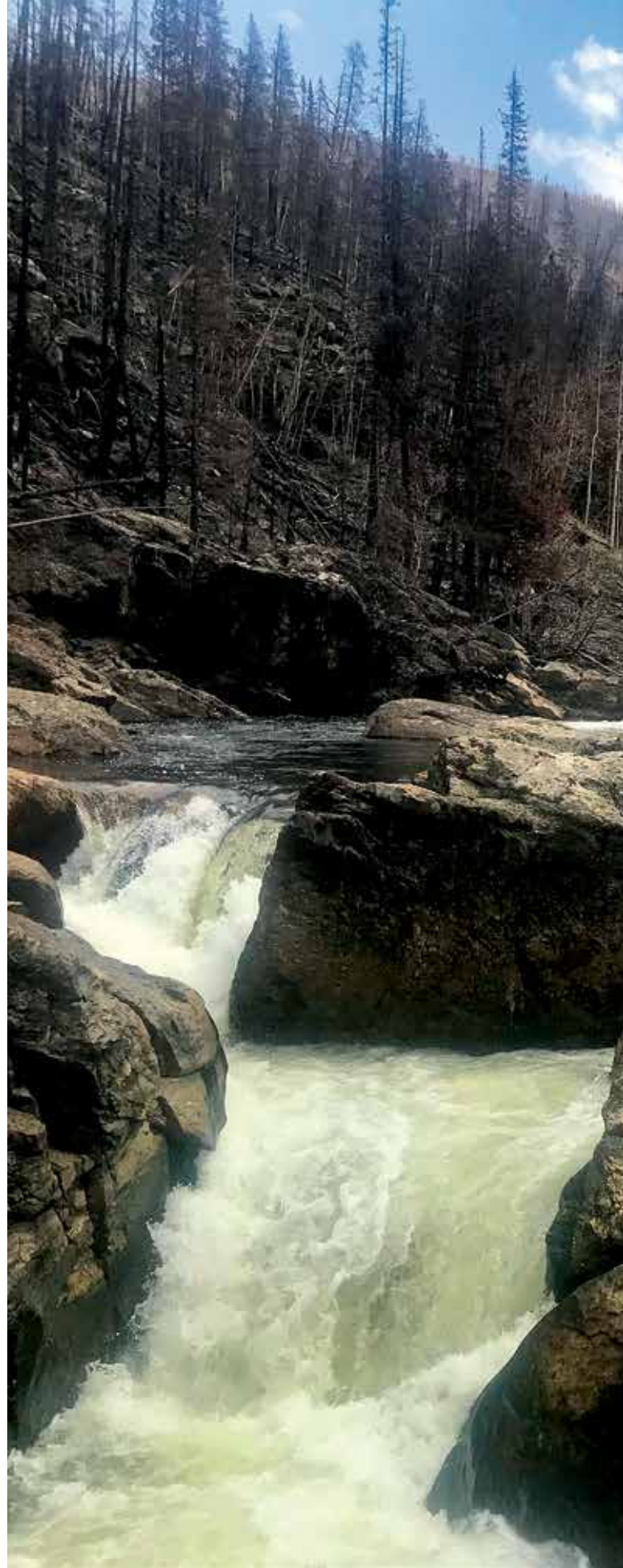
Returning rapids Colorado River below Cataract Canyon (UT).
PHOTO BY EVAN STAFFORD

TOP TEN 2022

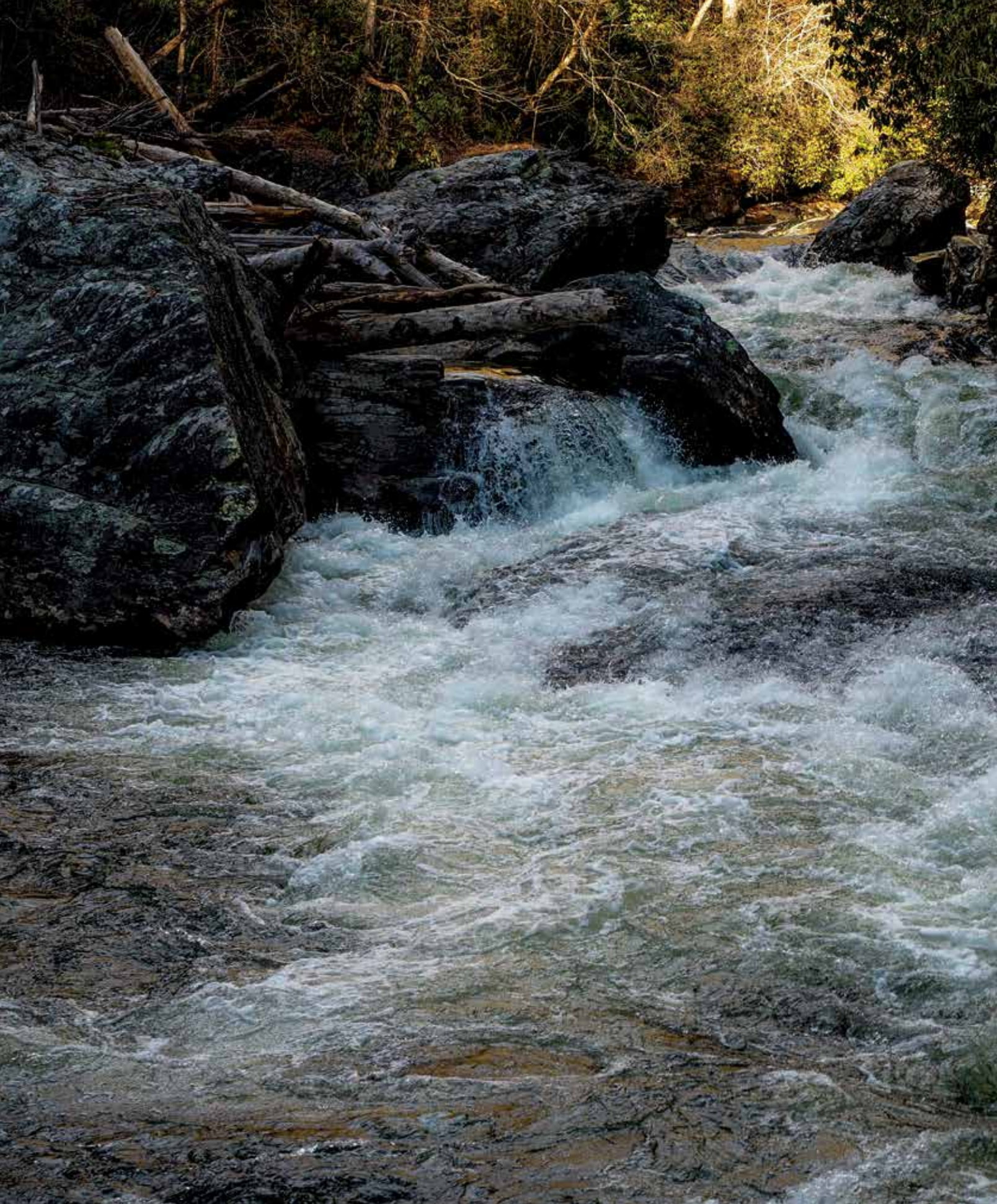
2. WILDFIRE

WILDFIRES ARE INCREASINGLY affecting whitewater rivers across the West, and paddlers are now familiar with extended river closures and the impacts of high intensity fires on the landscape. While we continue to advocate for sensible public access to rivers following fires, we are also supporting efforts to restore watersheds and improve fire resiliency.

Left: Big South, Cache la Poudre (CO).
PHOTO BY EVAN STAFFORD
Below: Clackamas River access stairs (WA).
PHOTO BY THOMAS O'KEEFE







3. ACCESS TO RIVERS ON PUBLIC LAND

REMEMBER THE UPPER Chattooga? That's right, the Wild and Scenic River that the Forest Service banned paddling on until we pushed for greater access. The new Nantahala Pisgah Forest Plan will do a lot of great things, but easing the paddling bans and limits is unlikely to be one of them, even though there is vast collaborative and scientific support for doing so. American Whitewater will likely challenge the prohibitions if they remain. In New Mexico we helped to defeat five applications that would have blocked access and passage to rivers that flow through private land. We're still working towards a positive outcome in the state supreme court case that will decide the state constitutionality of these access-denying permits in New Mexico. On the White Salmon River in Washington we supported the acquisition of SDS Lumber Company lands that are critical to access for recreation in this important river corridor. We will continue to rally our community to ensure a future for conservation of these lands and continued opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

Section 1, Upper Chattooga River (NC, SC, GA).
PHOTO BY JACK HENDERSON

4. CLEAN WATER ACT

WHICH RIVERS AND streams the Clean Water Act should cover is back up for debate. The prior rule was thrown out by a court, and it's a good thing because that rule eliminated protections for many rivers. Now a new rule needs to be drawn up, and American Whitewater will be there advocating to ensure the Act protects the health of paddlers and aquatic ecosystems on whitewater rivers. Outstanding National Resource Waters is a designation under the Clean Water Act that protects rivers with existing high water quality from degradation. The Act directs states to identify and protect qualifying streams. In Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, American Whitewater is working to protect dozens of streams as Outstanding National Resource Waters and final decisions on these protections are expected to be made in 2022. Following our successful effort to overturn new Clean Water Act related regulations pushed through by the prior administration that limited the ability of states to protect rivers at hydropower dams, we will be working to shape new regulations that protect the ability of states to mandate protections for river habitat and recreational boating opportunities downstream of dams.

Middle Fork Flathead (MT).
PHOTO BY KEVIN COLBURN

5. WILD AND SCENIC

THERE ARE CURRENTLY five Wild and Scenic bills working their way through Congress that American Whitewater has played a role in developing and worked to see introduced this session. These pieces of legislation would designate 6,485 miles of 1,041 rivers in WA, OR, CA, NM and MT as Wild and Scenic and will continue to need the professional advocacy from American Whitewater and our partners alongside strong voices from our community so that we can see them become law in 2022. The Nolichucky River (NC/TN) Wild and Scenic efforts are essentially stalled in the three county commissions, though we'll continue pushing for this and other designations in Western North Carolina throughout 2022 and beyond. The Crystal River in Colorado remains one of the few free-flowing rivers in Colorado and we're working with a broad and diverse stakeholder group to ensure it stays that way. With numerous threats mounting for the South Fork Salmon (ID), American Whitewater has joined a coalition of local and national organizations who'll be continuing to explore introducing a bill to secure permanent Wild and Scenic protections for the South Fork watershed and a handful of other streams in the state.

South Fork Crystal River (CO).
PHOTO BY AUSTIN SEBACK

6. FOREST PLANNING

ACROSS THE COUNTRY we're working to ensure and improve river access and administrative Wild and Scenic protections for rivers in National Forests that are developing new management Forest Plans. These plans are blueprints for how landscapes, rivers, and resources will be managed for the next 15-20 years. We'll be continuing to work closely with our partners at Outdoor Alliance to ensure that sustainable human-powered recreation and river conservation are top priorities in these final plans. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (CO), the Tonto National Forest (AZ) and Gila National Forest (NM) will all be releasing their final Forest Plan in 2022 after receiving extensive comments from American Whitewater and our members. We are advocating for over 50 rivers to be protected as eligible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, many of which have incredible paddling opportunities, like Oh Be Joyful Creek, the Taylor River, and Tonto Creek. The final Forest Plan is expected this summer for the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest, and all signs indicate the plan will abandon protections for vast miles of Lochsa area rivers. American Whitewater is prepared to challenge this decision. The final plan is also due in 2022 for the Nantahala Pisgah National Forest and should be a good win for rivers. We'll see if we pick up a couple of really important eligible streams like the North Fork of the French Broad and the upper Tuckasegee. The final plan for the Sierra/Sequoia National Forests are also due in 2022. American Whitewater identified 228 miles of rivers to be evaluated for Wild and Scenic eligibility. In a win for whitewater and wilderness rivers, the Sierra National Forest has indicated key sections of Dinkey Creek will be included in the eligibility inventory.

Hellsgate Wilderness Tonto National Forest, Tonto Creek (AZ).
PHOTO BY EVAN STAFFORD









7. FURTHERING OUR SAFETY PROGRAM

A MERICAN WHITEWATER WAS proud to introduce the first 12 chapters in our new film series covering basic whitewater safety material for viewing and for community wide use. These new films offer up-to-date and easily digestible tips to help keep river users of all skill and experience levels safe on the water. In 2022, we'll be producing two more river safety films with a focus on SUP, river surfing, packraft safety, and rescue planning and methods. We'll also be encouraging river managers installing safety signage and kiosks to utilize the guidelines in our new river safety sign toolkit. In a wide-reaching initiative, we'll be working on implementing funds already designated and securing more funding for the removal of hundreds and potentially even thousands of dangerous low-head dams across the country. Finally, we'll be working with the Bureau of Land Management and other managing agencies to restore flows to the river that will address public safety within the San Joaquin River Gorge Recreation Area.

Filming for the river safety film series in Trout Lake (WA).
PHOTO BY EVAN STAFFORD

8. FLOW RESTORATION, PROTECTION, AND ENHANCEMENT

THE RIVERS OF the Adirondacks and northern Maine will be a major focus of our river advocacy efforts in the Northeast in 2022, with hydropower dams on the Beaver, Black, Moose, and Penobscot rivers in the forefront during the coming year. We are also looking forward to the start of our expanded whitewater releases on the Mongaup River in New York. In Utah, the government is considering funding a new dam in the East Fork of the Virgin River watershed that would largely dewater the Wild and Scenic River downstream as it flows through a backcountry canyon. We aim to protect the flows in this important river. Following years of working on the relicensing of the dam, we expect the first recreational releases to begin on the Weber River (UT) in 2022. Our first step will be development of a recreation plan, followed by implementation of the first few releases. Great Falls of the Catawba in South Carolina is going to start running in 2022, likely in August, with releases roughly weekly. This is a 20-year project and a big deal! In Colorado, American Whitewater's Boatable Days analysis has become the standard metric used across the state to identify and monitor the availability of recreational opportunities based on flow. To better advocate for boatable flows and flow protection, we are developing a tool to define the economic value of a boatable day to the region.



Catawba River (SC).
PHOTO BY JACK HENDERSON

9. DAM REMOVAL

THE PROJECT TO remove four dams on the Klamath River (CA/OR) continues to move forward with the environmental review process set for completion in 2022 and dam removal in 2023. When completed, this large project will address declines in fish populations, improve river health, benefit tribal communities, and open four new sections of whitewater in a 37-mile reach. We continue to actively support this effort and advocate for flows that improve river health and for public access points that provide opportunities to experience a restored river. As a bold new vision for the Snake River (WA/OR/ID) comes into focus, American Whitewater is committed to working with stakeholders to remove the series of dams that are responsible for a downward spiral in salmon accessing the high quality habitat of the upper Salmon River (ID) watershed. We'll be supporting a proposal to breach the four Lower Snake River Dams while making significant regional investments in salmon conservation, recreation, transportation, agriculture, and energy.

Prime spawning habitat, Middle Fork Salmon (ID).
PHOTO BY EVAN STAFFORD



10. ENGAGING WITH AND DIVERSIFYING RIVER RECREATION PARTICIPANTS

AT AMERICAN WHITEWATER we recognize that rivers find the strongest support for their stewardship through the intimate connections that individuals make with them while enjoying floating on their waters, playing on their beaches, exploring their shores, and generally relying on their clean water, fish resources, and the habitats they provide for plants and animals. In 2022, we'll be continuing and strengthening our support for organizations introducing diverse participants to paddlesports and our relationships with tribes who've historically been stewards of the rivers and their watersheds where we recreate and work. These lands and waters are the homeland of Native Americans represented by various tribes and bands since time immemorial. As the primary guardians of the land and waters throughout the millennia, indigenous peoples have a spiritual connection and obligation to the land, water, plants, and animals that have sustained and continue to sustain these communities. Our work moving forward will be aimed at honoring these relationships, aiding in the protection of these resources, and providing a platform for these communities to tell their stories in their own words.

San Joaquin River (CA).
PHOTO BY MELISSA DEMARIE - CALIFORNIA
WATERSPORT COLLECTIVE

STEWARDSHIP

1. IDENTIFYING PROJECTS FOR GAOA FUNDING

American Whitewater helped secure federal funding for maintaining recreational infrastructure on public lands and we're putting it to work. We've worked with agencies to highlight needs and shape projects that will benefit paddlers. Examples include improving access on the French Broad River (NC) and the Tellico River (TN).

2. WILD AND SCENIC LEGISLATION CLOSE TO BECOMING LAW

This year we secured reintroduction of all of our primary Wild and Scenic River bills, and are positioning them for passage in 2022. This year is shaping up to be a big deal for the Wild and Scenic River program!

3. IDAHO'S WILD RIVERS AT RISK

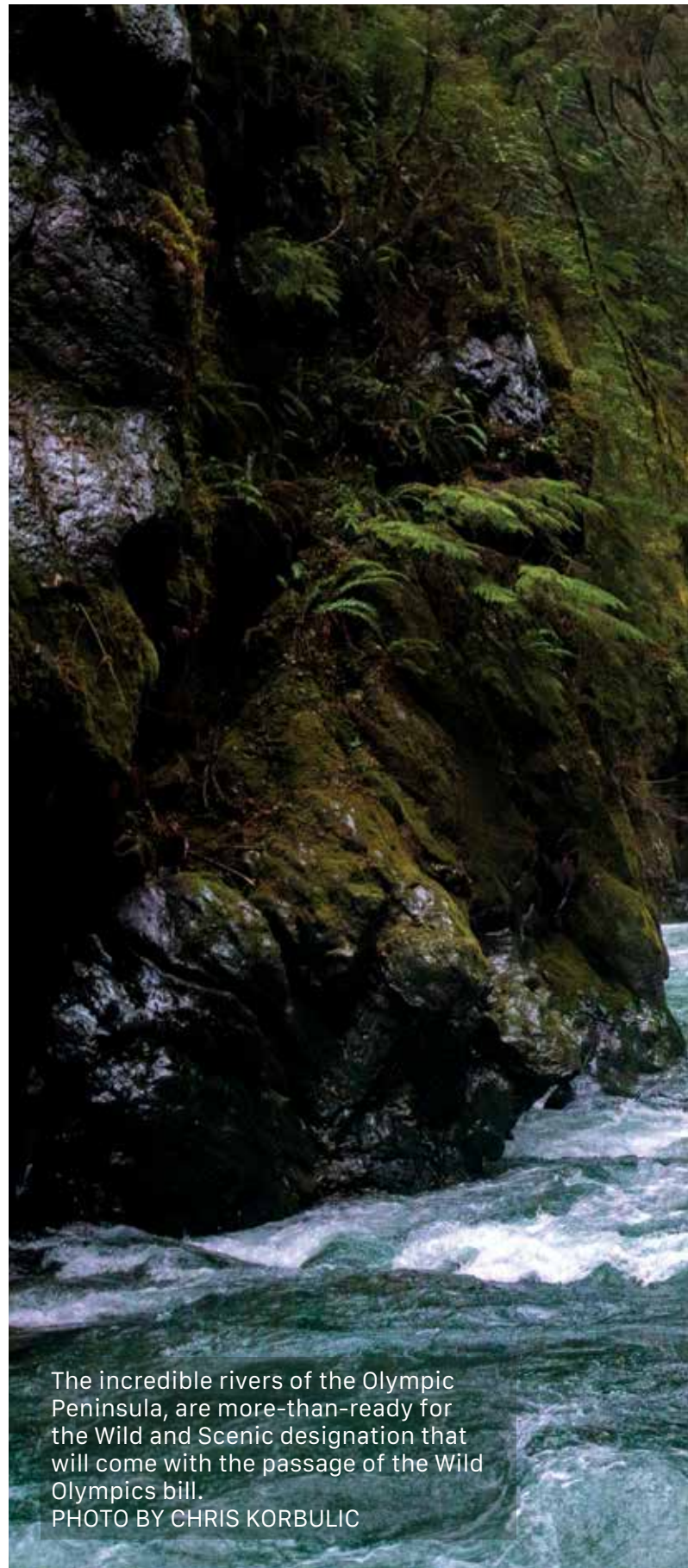
Thanks in large part to an outpouring of public comments from paddlers and groups like American Whitewater, the Forest Service was forced to slow down and take a harder look at both the proposed mine on the South Fork Salmon, as well as the Nez Perce National Forest management plan. We expect major milestones on both projects in the coming years.

4. QUANTIFYING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF WHITEWATER RECREATION IN COLORADO

We've spent 2021 refining our study methodology to collect and analyze flow and spending data that will provide a science-based estimate of how streamflows that support recreation impact the regional economy. Rivers across Colorado provide recreational opportunities that have created an important and growing economy and support a quality of life that is highly sought after. By better understanding what those economic impacts look like, we can better advocate for flows, plan for changes in use patterns, and help rural communities plan for their futures.

5. KLAMATH

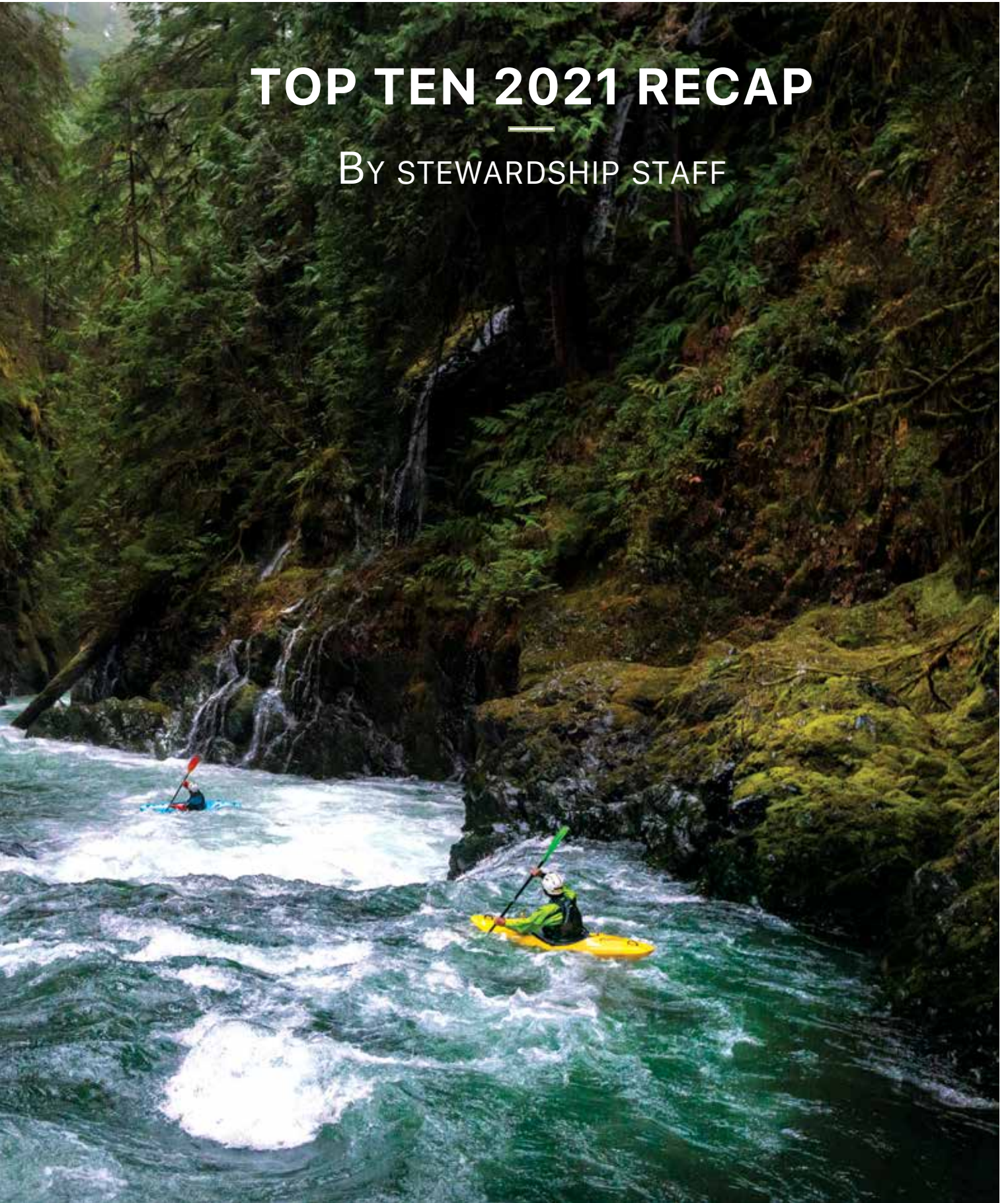
American Whitewater filed comments in support of Klamath River dam removal as federal regulators initiated a final environmental review of the project. We also secured the support of the National Park Service to convene a visioning process for the river corridor and future opportunities for recreation and stewardship of a restored river.

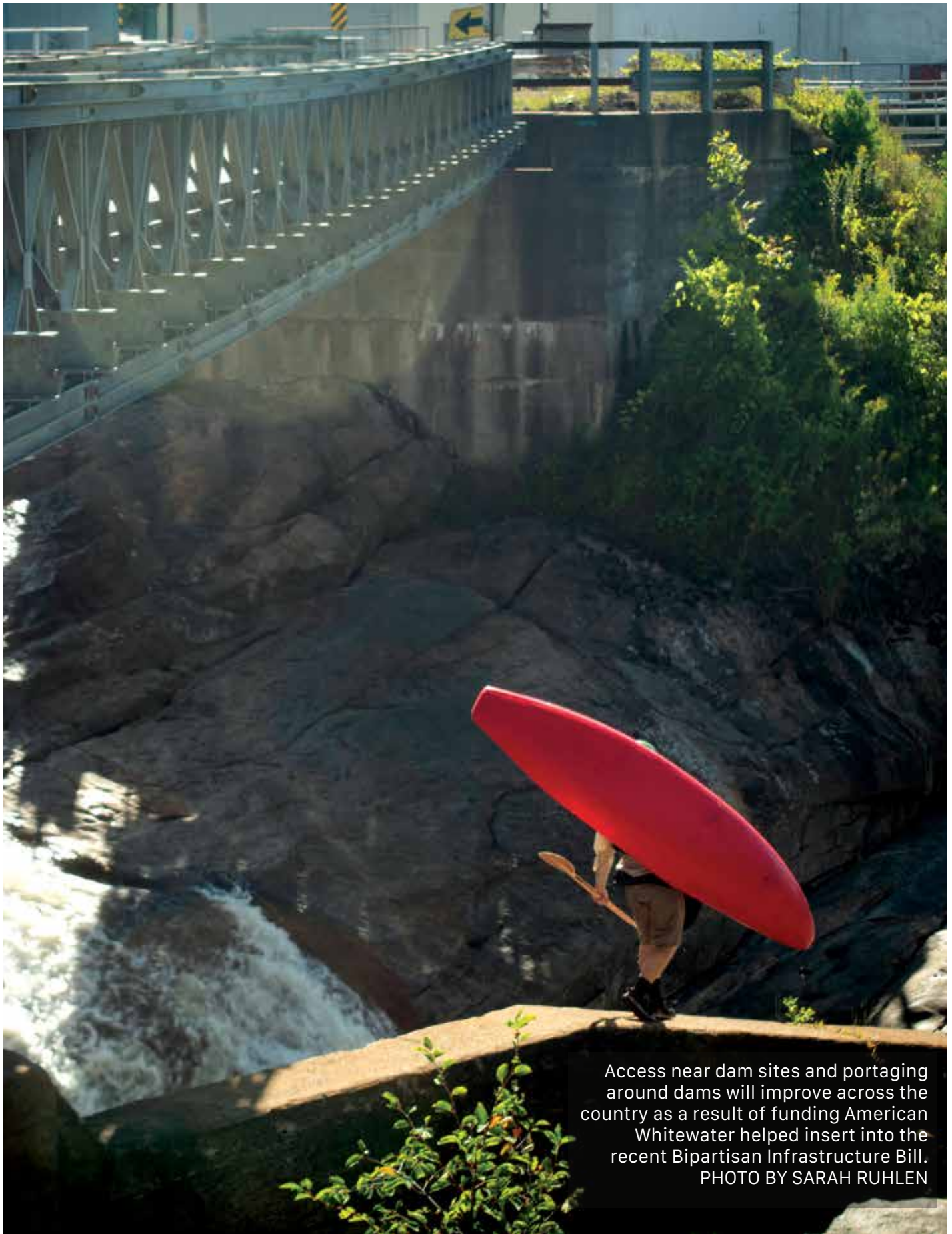


The incredible rivers of the Olympic Peninsula, are more-than-ready for the Wild and Scenic designation that will come with the passage of the Wild Olympics bill.
PHOTO BY CHRIS KORBULIC

TOP TEN 2021 RECAP

BY STEWARDSHIP STAFF





Access near dam sites and portaging around dams will improve across the country as a result of funding American Whitewater helped insert into the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.
PHOTO BY SARAH RUHLEN

6. ANOTHER SPRING PADDLING/ MAINTAINING ACCESS IN A PANDEMIC

It appears that the pandemic boom in recreation has subsided somewhat, and we are working with agencies to use newly available funding to improve access and trails, and to better communicate river safety messages to newer paddlers through our new film series, the Recreate Responsibly toolkit, our Paddle Wise program, and other tools we've helped develop.

7. NEW YORK WHITEWATER

From NYC to the Adirondacks, American Whitewater's northeast river advocacy in New York was cranking in 2021. On the Mongaup River, just north of the city, we more than doubled whitewater boating opportunities through a settlement agreement on the dam relicensing. Our boating study on West Canada Creek promises to deliver a new river reach with a runnable waterfall and extraordinary chasm. In the Adirondacks, we took on 19 dams on the Beaver, Black, and Moose rivers that began their 5-year dam relicensing process. We are working to protect and expand these releases on some of the most treasured rivers in the region that gave birth to our decades-long success in opening up whitewater rivers for paddling.

8. STATE LEVEL PROTECTIONS FOR RIVERS

In Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, American Whitewater is working to protect dozens of streams under state Outstanding National Resource Waters protections and final decisions on those are expected in the following year. Clean Water Act related regulations pushed through by the prior administration that

limited the ability of states to protect rivers at hydropower dams were successfully overturned by a team of advocates including American Whitewater. We will be working to shape new regulations that preserve the ability of states to mandate protections for river habitat and recreational boating opportunities downstream of dams.

9. WILDFIRE IN THE WEST

For the third consecutive year, wildfires significantly affected rivers and watersheds across the West and we continue to work to ensure that access to rivers is reopened following fires and that post-fire land management actions adequately protect rivers and water quality. We also are continuing to refine a programmatic approach for our ongoing work related to wildfires and whitewater resources.

10. BROADENING THE BASE FOR RIVER STEWARDSHIP

Our partnership and support of the NF Mono Tribe within the hydropower relicensing process on the San Joaquin river continues. In June 2021, Pacific Gas & Electric included their Traditional Cultural Landscape map for the Tsootebau and North Fork Mono Trail in the final Historic Properties Management Plan. This map is a significant milestone in the relicensing process to the North Fork Mono Tribe recognizing cultural resources that have been impacted but previously ignored within the project. The first California Rivers Through Native Eyes piece is highlighted in this issue of the American Whitewater Journal (page 28).



Cascade River (WA), a candidate for state level Outstanding Waters protection.
PHOTO BY THOMAS O'KEEFE

CALIFORNIA RIVERS THROUGH NATIVE EYES

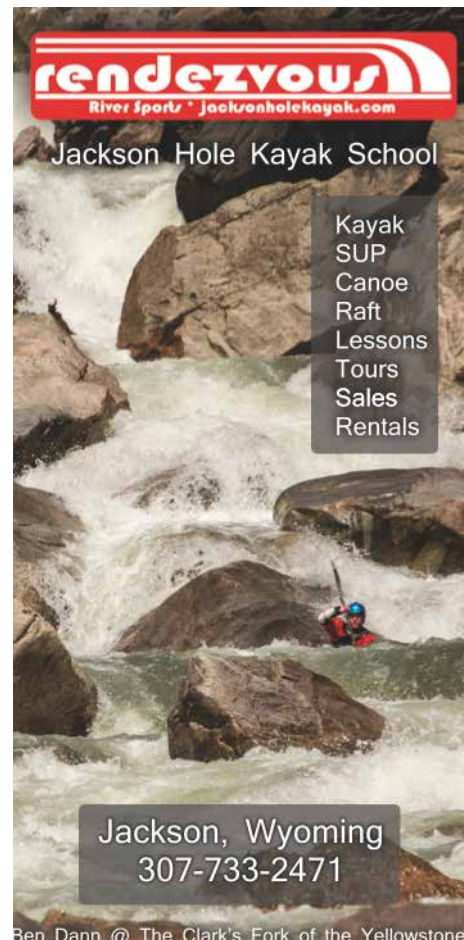
BY THERESA LOREJO-SIMSIMAN

WHETHER NAVIGATING THE gnar on a big expedition or splashing around familiar rapids at the local haunt, paddlers naturally fall into a ritual of giving for the mutual benefit of the group. Every paddler will bring a different level of experience to share, some will volunteer to carry the spare paddle or first aid kit, and they will all make sure to stock the take-out cooler with favorite beverages. When boats finally hit the whitewater, loose relationships on shore transform into a river team. Everyone watches out for each other, soaks in the wonders of their surroundings, and bands together to make sure every paddler enjoys the adventure on the river they love.

This kind of reciprocity is the touchstone of the stewardship work we do here at American Whitewater. We never paddle solo when we enter a process to negotiate new hydropower licenses, defend river access, or speak out against detrimental dam proposals. We actively seek collaboration with individuals and groups mutually sharing our time, expertise, and resources for the protection of the watersheds we hold dear. Often these key partners include Native Communities who bring to the table the traditional knowledge of the lands and waters they have stewarded for time immemorial.

Yet what do paddlers really know about the Native Communities stewarding many of the lands and watersheds we recreate on a regular basis? American Whitewater would venture to guess not much. In fact, to date there is scant Native information to be found in our National Whitewater Inventory of over 5,500 rivers. So, in the spirit of reciprocity, American Whitewater is offering our river database as a platform to share the Indigenous narratives of the rivers we enjoy. Specifically, in California, we have partnered with Redbud Resource Group to research, interview and chronicle stories of Native Communities. Redbud is a Native-led 501c3 non-profit focused on improving education and public health outcomes for Native communities. Redbud's programs

increase the public's knowledge of local Native existence, and prepare organizations to support Tribal sovereignty through the development of respectful and reciprocal relationships. Their work includes organizational training, curriculum development, and public health research. In this issue we start with the North Fork Feather River from the Rock Creek Reach down through the Poe, homeland of the Konkow Valley Tribe of Maidu.



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TRIBAL

SPOTLIGHT

KONKOW VALLEY BAND OF MAIDU INDIANS

BY TAYLOR PENNEWELL, REDBUD RESOURCE GROUP AS TOLD BY MATTHEW (GRAMPS) WILLIFORD SR., KONKOW VALLEY BAND OF MAIDU

LOCATION

The Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians are a California State Native American Community tribe whose traditional territory loosely ranges from Belden, California in what is now Plumas County, down to Table Mountain in Butte County. Since time immemorial, community members lived and thrived in much of the areas lining highway 70 in the Plumas National Forest. Territorial boundaries are shared with Tyme Maidu, Mechoopda Maidu, and Mountain Maidu communities. As original stewards of the land and waterways, tribal leadership works tirelessly to protect, restore, and advocate for the cultural resources of the region.

HISTORY & SETTLEMENT

California's diverse tribal communities do not always agree with one another. Even so, most Natives agree that history books rarely get Native history, culture, or existence right. For example, Konkow Maidu tribal communities are often described as docile, simple, unintelligent, and dirty in historical and anthropological records. Even so, the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians know that their people have always been politically and economically complex.

Community maps kept by local tribal members show dozens of villages, such as Kojomk'awi and Kimsewa, as well as special locations for harvesting tobacco, soap root, redbud, and more. Along the North Fork Feather River, maps show the locations of once flourishing fishing camps, such as Tail Motion of a Spawning Salmon fishing camp and Wonomi Camp Knee Print. Clearly, these communities have an intimate and timeless connection to the land and water that has been preserved despite colonization through maps, stories, and oral histories.

While community members continue to enjoy these traditional natural resources, access has become increasingly difficult as development along the river increases. Natural resources that were once regularly used for baskets, regalia, food, medicine, and tools, are impacted by regional development and engineering of the waterways.



Doctor Charlie Gramps
PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATTHEW (GRAMPS)
WILLIFORD SR.

SETTLER VIOLENCE

The Konkow Maidu way of life was deeply impacted by California's Gold Rush, which started in 1849. The discovery of gold and influx of foreign settlers caused many Konkow communities to go into hiding. Due to their location in the valley and along the North Fork Feather River, the Konkow Valley community was visible, and vulnerable, to settler violence.

One example of this violence is the Nome Cult Walk of 1863. Following a violent skirmish between a few Native people and settlers, the US Calvarymen rounded up most of the Konkow community at Yankee Hill and surrounding region. Konkow families, along with Nomlaki, Wintu, and other Native groups, were forcibly marched across the state to what is now Round Valley Rancheria in Mendocino County. Referred to as the Nome Cult Walk or Maidu Trail of Tears, many survivors continued to live in Mendocino and Butte Counties and passed down this history through their families.

Many community members died along the way due to starvation, dehydration, and violence. Tribal members note that doctors, tribal leaders, and respected teachers were targeted first by settlers. By removing cultural leaders and knowledge bearers from the community, the strength of the community was compromised quickly and dramatically.



Vice Chair Matthew Williford Sr giving presentation and singing at Earth Day 2021 Konkow Rancheria. PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATTHEW (GRAMPS) WILLIFORD SR.

Despite state-sanctioned violence, the Konkow Valley community found ways to advocate for itself. Prior to the Nome Cult Walk, Molayo, the tribe's headman, met with settler leader John Bidwell and put his mark on a treaty that was intended to provide the Konkow land, sovereignty, and basic protection from violence. This treaty was a part of a series of treaties that were signed across the state of California, which were designed after similar treaties signed by plains Indians tribes in the east and southwest.

Soon after the treaty was signed at Bidwell Ranch, California economic and political leaders had a change of heart. Concerned that providing Natives with large reservations would jeopardize economic development, the U.S. Senate chose not to ratify these treaties. The decision left many Native communities landless, houseless, without citizenship, and with zero protection from violence. These treaties are now known as California's 18 Unratified Treaties.

Since the Konkow Valley community's unratified treaty, they have remained without Federal Recognition. This means that the community does not receive aid, protection, or land from the federal government, despite having survived genocide and the destruction of their territory at settler hands.

While the Gold Rush ushered in an era of violence and ecological destruction, modern water engineering projects have continued to bring about challenges to the community. The hydroelectric development of the Feather River began with the construction of the Big Bend Dam and Las Plumas Powerhouse in 1908. The last project, Oroville Dam, completed in 1968, along with the Belden Dam, Canyon Dam, Poe Dam and others, have brought about unique culture and ecological struggles. For example, only the Big Bend Dam had a fish ladder to allow salmon access to the upper watershed.

Recently, the power towers built in the 1920's have been named as a potential cause of the 2018 Camp Fire, which charred much of the ancestral land of the Konkow Valley Band of California Indians.

Additionally, dam construction has led to irregular water levels in both the North Fork Feather River and Lake Oroville. Tribal cultural monitors note that fluctuating water levels cause erosion of the riverbanks and shorelines, which can result in sensitive cultural items, and even ancestral remains, floating to the water's surface.

Items that have been put to rest through ceremony and traditional cultural practices are being disturbed and deeply mistreated as a result of this engineering.



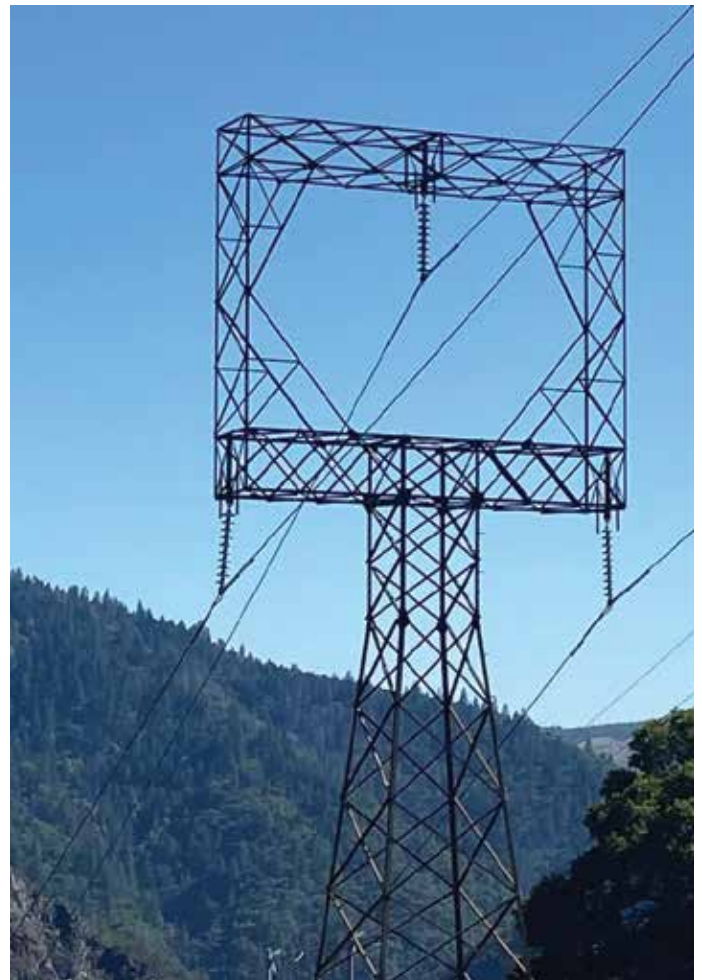
While being a guest on their own land is less than ideal, building partnerships with the surrounding community is an essential part of improving the tribe's visibility, influence, and ability to interact with the land they have called home since time immemorial.

Tribal Council: Wallace Clark, Tracy Gramps, Matthew (Gramps) Williford Sr, and Jessica Lopez.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATTHEW (GRAMPS) WILLIFORD SR.

IMPROVING VISIBILITY

The Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians continue to fight for their federal recognition to this day. To receive the protections that federal recognition affords, the tribe must document their cultural practices for as long back as it can remember, proving its ancestral relationship with their own land. While the tribe has experienced forced removal, family separation, mass violence and assimilation, it must now put the pieces of their collective cultural puzzle back together, to protect future generations.

Tribal leaders are working hard to develop trusting relationships with private landowners whose property sits on Konkow Valley territory. Offering cultural monitoring services, Tribal monitors are invited to survey private land for signs of Konkow presence. Culturally significant items like arrowheads, beads, tools, as well as village sites, ceremonial grounds, food preparation sites, and more, are identified and documented. With this tribal documentation, the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians improves their chances of one day gaining their federal recognition. In return, private landowners gain a more accurate understanding of the history of the land they now occupy, and can avoid any major cultural missteps. In addition, Native cultural monitors have location specific perspectives on how to steward their territory that can provide invaluable insight into the needs of the plant and animal communities in the ecosystem.



The electrical towers at Pulga, cited as one of the causes of the 2018 Camp Fire.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATTHEW (GRAMPS) WILLIFORD SR.

CALL TO ACTION

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT TRIBES ON THE SOUTHERN NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER:

As tribes like the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians revitalize their land and cultural lifeways, it is important that the non Native community observe respect, reciprocity, and support of Native peoples. Together, Native and non Native communities can practice norms that protect our ecosystems, encourage cultural revitalization, and bring collective healing for the violence inflicted onto Native peoples.

- Treat all plant, animal, and inanimate natural resources as cultural resources that must be protected. Consider the role that your actions have on the ecosystem balance and access of cultural resources.
- Consult tribes and follow through with feedback when designing programs and building infrastructure. Do not construct infrastructure on top of, or at, significant cultural sites.
- Take responsibility for the hydroelectric damming projects already in place. Advocate for the removal of projects that cause destruction to the ecosystem and to Native culture, or enforce maintenance of existing projects to avoid accidents
- Uplift local Native communities and support the fight for federal recognition when applicable.

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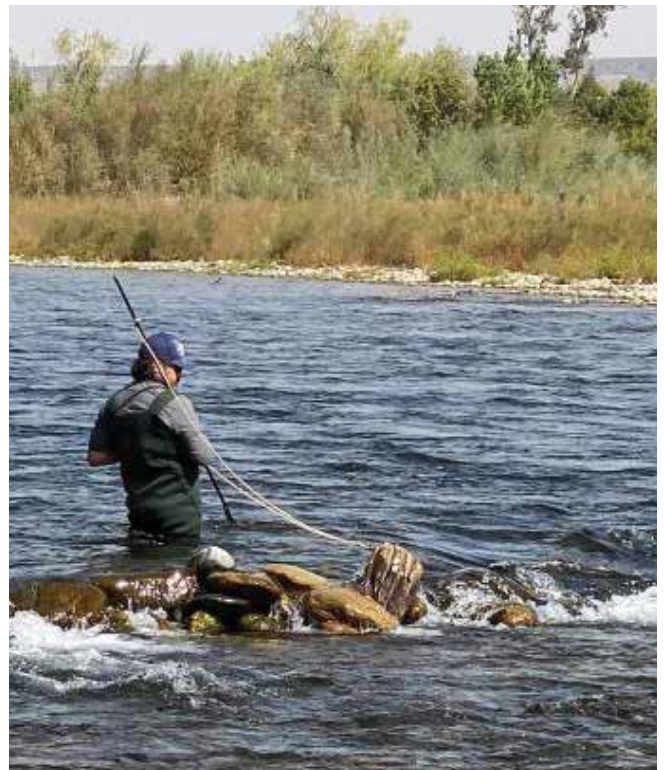
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J. Clark Jr. Annual Spear Fishing in Feather River
PHOTO PROVIDED BY MATTHEW (GRAMPS)
WILLIFORD SR.

VOCAB

SPOTLIGHT

LIST OF TERMS

NATIVE: Referring to a person or thing whose ancestral roots are in a specific place. This term does not refer to specific tribal groups to which a person might belong. When possible, many Native people prefer to be called by their specific tribal name.

INDIGENOUS: Referring to something that originates from a specific place. For something to be Indigenous, it usually means that it has not migrated from its original homeland. Many Indigenous people throughout the world have been forced to migrate from their Indigenous homelands, however due to political, economic, and climate related conflict. These people remain Indigenous to their original homeland.

TREATY: A formal, legally binding agreement that has been ratified, or approved by the US Senate. Between 1778-1871, the United States signed 368 treaties with Native tribes across the continent, and many more that were never ratified. Native community leaders were often forced or coerced into signing these treaties, and the U.S. government broke many of them.

SOVEREIGNTY: The right to self-government. Native tribes have exercised sovereignty over their territories and communities since time immemorial. Tribal sovereignty was recognized by the U.S. government through the treaty signing process, however many tribes did not sign treaties with the U.S.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION: Tribes that entered into treaties with the U.S. government usually have Federal recognition, and therefore are recognized as independent, sovereign nations. The President of the U.S. may also grant Federal recognition through executive order. Tribes with Federal recognition can set laws and regulations that apply to their land, however, tribes are still subject to certain oversights by the U.S. federal government. Many Native tribes do not have federal recognition, but may have state recognition, or no recognition at all.

RANCHERIA/RESERVATION: An area of land owned by Native tribes, that is a part of the tribe's political and legal jurisdiction. In California, rancherias are usually very small parcels of land.

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE:

A body of cultural, spiritual, and scientific knowledge that explores the relationships between living beings and the environment, operating from the understanding that all things are connected. Traditional Ecological Knowledge is passed down generationally through communities and families, and is inseparable from the cultural worldview of specific tribal communities.

TRIBAL COUNCIL: Tribal councils are usually the primary legislative and governing body within a tribal nation. Tribes have different methods for selecting council members, and distribute power to their tribal citizens according to their own needs and values.

HOW TO SHOW **RESPECT & RECIPROCITY** ON NATIVE LAND

All elements of the natural world, including humans, are related to one another. We are one large community. One responsibility we have as humans is to support the health of our entire community in order to maintain a biodiverse and balanced ecosystem that sustains us all. To show respect and reciprocity to the communities in which you recreate, consider:

1. Picking up your trash and waste before leaving an outdoor recreation space.

2. Learning about the importance of the indigenous plants and animals in the place where you are recreating. Indigenous plants and animals are not only important to the balance of ecosystems, they are also culturally significant to Native populations, who may rely on them for cultural items, medicines, spiritual practices, or practical purposes.

3. Leaving archeological items untouched and unharmed. You may choose to call a local tribal office to notify them about a discovered item, so that it can be returned or cared for by the tribe itself.

4. Researching the ecological and cultural impact of hydroelectric dams and water engineering projects on the ecosystems and local Native peoples of the place in which you are recreating.

5. Avoiding overfishing, overhunting, or over gathering of any plant or animal species. Take just what you need.

6. Consulting tribes when designing programs and building infrastructure related to outdoor recreation. Do not construct infrastructure on top of, or at, significant cultural sites.

7. Supporting tribes in the place you are recreating financially and politically.

8. Insisting the US government uphold its treaty agreements to tribal nations, which often include access to land, and education and health care support.

9. Inviting Native communities to share their experiences, needs, and perspectives, in spaces where Native voices are not usually included.

10. Educating others about the existence of Native communities in the place in which you are recreating!

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"CaveMan" by Larry Meisner, 2021 Still Image Winner

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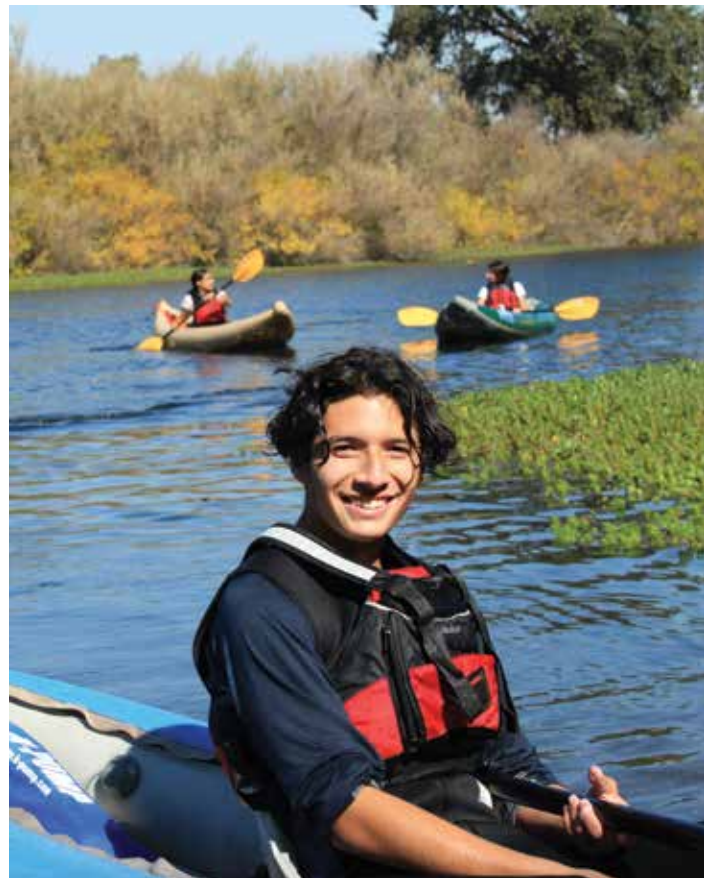
BY THERESA LOREJO-SIMSIMAN

American Whitewater Partnered with California Watersport Collective and Fresno Building Healthy Communities to give youth and their families an opportunity to learn first-hand about the amazing 22-mile natural recreation area they have in their own backyard. Located in between the cities of Madera and Fresno within the floodplain of Friant Dam to Highway 99, it is a diamond-in-the-rough called the San Joaquin River Parkway.

During our adventure on the Parkway, young paddlers learned how to squeeze into a wet suit, secure the straps of their PFD, hold a paddle right side up and how to hop nimbly into an inflatable kayak. Friends and families also joined in, listening to the on-shore river safety talk, watching shenanigans of boater tag (NOT IT), and enjoying lunch under the pavilions.

American Whitewater would like to thank the sponsors of this event including the California Canoe & Kayak Youth Paddle Fund and Diversify Whitewater. Also, a big thank you to Anita Lodge and the San Joaquin River Conservancy for providing the logistics needed for a safe and successful day of paddling.

Our work to ensure youth and families discover and enjoy the San Joaquin River Parkway will continue at another Fresno Building Healthy Communities event planned for this spring.



San Joaquin River (CA).
PHOTOS BY MELISSA DEMARIE - CALIFORNIA
WATERSPORT COLLECTIVE



Paddler: Axel Hovorka
Photographer: Aidan McManus
Location: Sahalie Falls - WA

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PICKING UP AFTER OTHERS

BY BOB TYLER

HAVE A friend who shall remain nameless—let's call him Cowper, because that's his name. Cowper is arguably one of the best whitewater boaters in the state of Arkansas, paddling mainly in a kayak but also in a canoe or raft, equally skilled in each. On cleanups, he has been known to paddle speedboat hulls, very large (450-pound) tires, outhouses, and even a campground dumpster on one occasion.

But it's not those skills alone that prompt me to write this article. Instead it's his undying compulsion to clean rivers, and rid them of debris. This desire, since his retirement, has developed into more of a job than the one he retired from.

He has a small band of devotees to assist in the effort, but if no one else can join him, he goes off on his own either paddling or using a small johnboat. These are generally not large organized

cleanups but instead small, more-or-less spontaneous pick-up trips (forgive the pun).

Cowper has adapted a GPS app which allows others to simply take a picture of river trash and the app sends him the picture and a GPS location so he can retrieve said trash. Let him know where it is, and he will go remove it. A refrigerator was reported and retrieved in the same week, hauled up 30 feet of bluff wall. The dozen or so rivers he regularly cleans are located hundreds of miles apart and he bears most of the travel expenses out of pocket.

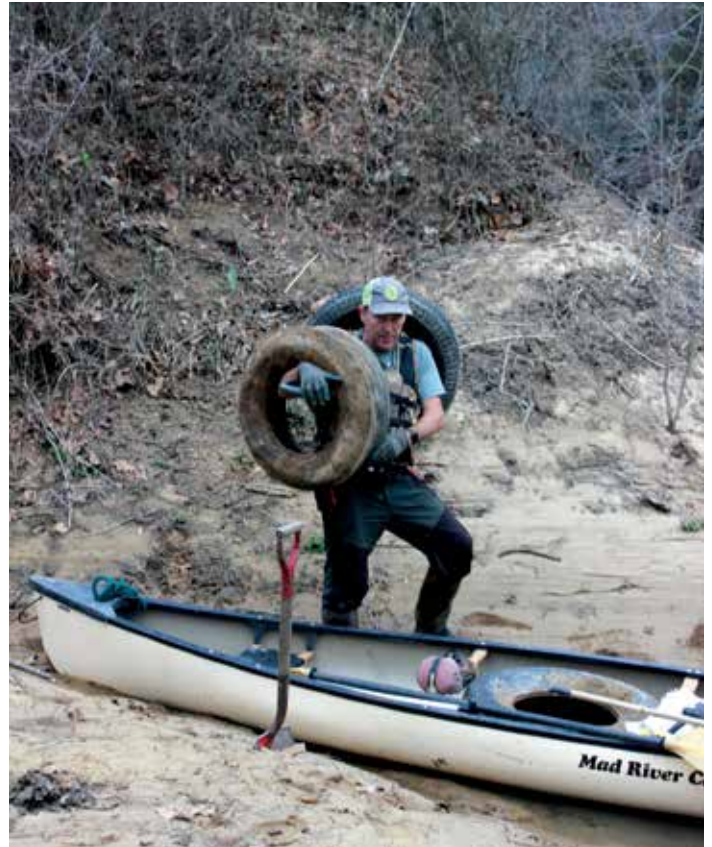
Also, with Cowper the bigger the challenge, the higher the priority. So speedboat hulls and dumpsters—that's right, a 970-pound dumpster upside down over a rock—will generally be eliminated before cans, bottles, and Styrofoam. Although all trash will be



The city of Glenwood Arkansas has given us a place to put the trash we find, and we keep it pretty full.

PHOTO BY BOB TYLER

RIVER VOICES



picked up, if not today, it's already on Cowper's mental list for the future. He also takes requests. If I mention that there is a tire that was too large and heavy for me to get by myself, a few days later I'll get a call about when we can get together to gather it.

He started a Facebook group within the Arkansas Canoe Club called ACC BOATR. Here he posts all things cleanup: pictures of his recent collections, dates of future activities, and discussions of container and tire deposit laws we would like to see enacted, along with environmental posts of interest—even if they are not river-oriented.

Cowper and his wife Debbie have been involved in conservation for decades. Debbie was the Arkansas Canoe Club's Conservation chairwoman for almost a score of years. Although no longer the club's conservation spokesperson, she remains the most knowledgeable in our club and is still very involved.

Debbie and Cowper are featured in the 1997 documentary *The Buffalo Flows: The Story of our First National River*. Cleaning up Fourche Creek in Little Rock also brought media coverage. They both have been all over the controversial issue of the C & H hog farm on Big Creek, a tributary of the Buffalo National River. Cowper patrols the Internet correcting any justification for the farm with cold hard facts.

Don't approach this pair unprepared. They fight rumors, misinformation, and innuendo with reason, science, and documented evidence. Even though they often travel hours to get to them, they are both familiar faces at statewide meetings and are, again, uncompensated for time or mileage. They post petitions and publicize assemblies so that larger numbers can participate. They're always there when conservation issues arise.

So much for the good deeds; what else is unique about Cowper? For one, if I didn't go paddling with Cowper regularly, I would not have half of my favorite river campfire stories.

Let's start with his transportation. It's a 2000 Dodge diesel pick-up with over 500,000 miles on it. It sports a camper top with sturdy roof racks and no back hatch door (the easier to carry boats and trash with). Before you'll see it, you'll hear it's coming for at least a half-mile. And you'll probably be listening for it because he is

Top Left: Loaded boats at the end of the day.
Top Right: Cowper with a couple of tires from the Caddo River.

PHOTO BY BOB TYLER

usually running late. Because in his zeal to clean the river, he has talked others into coming by offering free rides, free boats, in other words, by overcoming all objections.

Now that we've made it to the river, we need tools. Once again Cowper is brilliant. A short list of what he would bring: several pin kits with extra anchors and slings used for attaching large trash (dumpster, tractor frame, hot tub, etc.); several six-inch PVC pipes for rolling large pieces up on shore or across shallow gravel bars, just like the Egyptians; a battery-operated Sawzall for cutting up or cutting out large items (he also uses this for cutting the sidewalls out of tires to clean out debris); a battery-powered drill along with eyebolts and backing plates or washers, to aid in attaching to sharp or difficult items; a 10-foot bamboo pole with a long wood screw in one end, for gathering plastic bags from trees (this also works for reaching items far up on the riverbank); a shovel and a five-foot, two-inch pipe, for digging and prying trash (mostly tires) out of gravel or sand bars and banks; a gardening trowel for smaller digs and cleaning out the inside of tires; he carries not one but several types of grappling hooks for snagging things in the water, including many tires (he has been known to find tires in the river on Google Earth); also a four-foot-long mechanical

grabber for gathering smaller trash and things under the water; a toolbox carries the rest: pliers, wire cutters, river knife, sling blade, folding saw, Gorilla Tape, and extra contractor bags.

This year he won a new Buffalo Canoe and a SUP paddle. He now paddles that boat standing up, the better to spot even more trash, and he doesn't miss much.

Me? I paddled right past a queen mattress without seeing it this year; Cowper pointed it out after I was a 100 feet downstream. The mattress was one of the most difficult items we have ever retrieved.

SO I CONCLUDE WITH THE GARBAGE TOTALS:

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-2017	66,685 pounds	Tires 1,282
-2018	61,733 pounds	Tires 1,217

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He expects no gratitude and only publishes what he does to encourage others to join him. The Buffalo National River has awarded him volunteer of the year. Twice.

So if you're paddling down one of Arkansas' rivers and you spy a boat piled over the gunnels with trash and its occupant is standing up to paddle, say hi and thanks. Cowper Chadborn is a one-of-a-kind member of the paddling community and deserves recognition, whether he wants it or not.

I am proud to be one of his minions.

Bob Tyler has been paddling white water and cleaning river for more than 35 years, and is the author of Canoeing Adventures in Northern Illinois.



Cohen Sacomoni paddling a refrigerator down the Saline River.
PHOTO BY BOB TYLER

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SHAPING
ADVENTURE

FIVE KEY POSITIONS

BY TERESA GRYDER, ND

MY FRIEND IS stuck in a whirlpool eddy against a basalt wall. I'm running sweep for a club trip, following a string of paddlers through a rapid, and I see him going around in circles upside down in his kayak. Then his head pops up, recirculating in the vortex. His boat pins for a moment then washes downstream. There are people downstream to fetch things, so I go to get him out of the whirlpool. I go to Position 1.

In spite of the name having nothing to do with sex, the idea of Five Key Positions has stayed with me ever since I saw Charlie Walbridge's slide about it in a Zoom safety talk last winter. These Positions are where you go to rescue a person who is stuck in the river. Where and how they are stuck is beside the point. They could be on a rock or log, or in a hole, whirlpool, or cave.

The outcome in desperate river situations often depends on the actions of other group members. We know there is risk. Most of us have a strong sense of self-preservation that keeps us from

diving in too fast. But when a person is struggling to get air, fast is the only speed that helps.

I land downstream from the rock that's making the whirlpool and scramble up the bank to lay on my belly and reach into the whirlpool. He's been in there nearly a minute, which is a long time to be whirled. I want to grab him regardless of whether he is conscious or unconscious. If you can get hands on a person, their odds of getting out improve. Unconscious people don't grab ropes. Position 1 is first for a reason; it's where simple and quick saves are made.

When it's hard to get to a person who is stuck, you get more creative. A boater might be able to land near them, or a climber climb to them. If you wear a rescue vest, you're a candidate for Position 1 because you might be able to swim to them, grab them, and get both of you hauled out by folks on shore. Those who know how to wade as a group might be able to get there. If

Five Key Positions need to be filled:

- ❑ ***The first person gets as close to the accident site as possible***
- ❑ ***The second person lands on a nearby rock or shore with throw bag***
- ❑ ***Someone lands on the opposite side of the stream or chute (if possible)***
- ❑ ***One person becomes the upstream lookout (In boat or on shore)***
- ❑ ***One person becomes the downstream safety (In boat or on shore)***

**Don't wait to be told what to do!
Look for the job that needs to be done, then do it!**

**First Aid and Evacuation happens
AFTER the recovery!**

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it's possible and not unduly risky, getting someone to the stuck person is the obvious first step in many rescues.

Position 2 is also really important. If someone has hands on the trapped person, another person right there might be able to help get them out. In my situation, if my friend passed out, I'd need help hauling him out of the water and resuscitating him. If nobody can get to them, a grip extender (rope, paddle, webbing) could come in handy from Position 2. Get close, assess, and do the next thing.

If your stuck friend isn't out yet and there's a spot across the water where you can get to with a rope, that's Position 3. You might be able to hit them with the rope or help set up whatever is needed to get them out. At the very least you'll have a different view. Position 3 often ends up being valuable so it's good to get there early.

An experienced crew will cover the first three Positions in a matter of seconds. People see there's a problem and act. There is no leader, no boss. You all have the same objective: get them out. The rest of the plan develops as you go. You may need more than one person in any Position. Everybody has a rope. You see what needs to happen next and get in Position to do it. Boater ingenuity has saved many of us.

If the rescue isn't over within a couple of minutes, and there are people to spare, cover Positions 4 and 5. Upstream and downstream safety aren't always key; it depends on the location. Downstream safety (Position 5) is essential when there's something dangerous downstream. The goal is to get any swimmer out pronto using ropes, boats, or both. Upstream safety (Position 4) is key when there is river traffic that could complicate your rescue. This person stops river traffic and directs help where it's needed.

Most rescues depend on a team forming quickly and acting decisively. Everyone can help. You may pull on a rope, or you may have a skill or perspective that helps guide a rescue attempt. If you were the one stuck, you'd want everyone to put their minds and bodies to the project of getting you out.

The usual caveat applies that you should not work outside your own abilities or risk tolerance. Do your best not to become a rescuer who needs to be rescued. You do not have to risk your own life.

If you are like me, you want to help. Thinking ahead about the Five Key Positions will help you act faster when it counts. I hope that you'll know where to go and spring into action the next time someone is stuck out there. Your friends will be forever grateful even for minor saves.

CHARLIE'S TALK ON ACCIDENT REPORTING (where I learned about the 5 Key Positions)

<https://www.lowercolumbiacanoecub.org/calendar-of-events/accident-reporting> (the link AND the password are on the canoe club website)

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Become a member of the American Whitewater Enduring Rivers Circle, created exclusively to honor and recognize people who have helped to continue our river stewardship efforts through a gift to American Whitewater in their estate plans.

For more information about making a bequest to American Whitewater
CONTACT Bethany Overfield : 1.866.262.8429 or bethany@americanwhitewater.org

AW ROGUE TRIP 2022

BY MARK SINGLETON



FOR THE PAST several years, the staff of American Whitewater has joined with a number of our members to participate in a four-day float trip on the Rogue River in Southern Oregon.

This trip has been a great opportunity to connect with members in ways that build a lasting understanding of the role of recreation in fostering a stewardship ethic. As one of the original eight Wild and Scenic rivers in the country, the Rogue is an outstanding classroom for American Whitewater's river stewardship program. Staff members share current projects, their challenges, and successes, as well as highlights of national policy work that affects Wild and Scenic rivers like the Rogue. The trip is made possible through the support of Northwest Rafting Company. They provide professional guides, exceptional food, transportation to and from Galice (the put-in), and group equipment.

In June 2022, American Whitewater members will again have an opportunity to join American Whitewater staff and board members for this exclusive trip on the Rogue. We invite you to come learn more about what we're up to while having a great time enjoying one of our nation's first Wild and Scenic rivers. You will have the option of bringing your own boat, renting a boat, or joining as a passenger on one of the rafts. The price for the

trip will be \$1345, with a portion of the trip proceeds going to American Whitewater to support our work.

The trip, which will take place June 16-19, 2022, will be fully outfitted by Northwest Rafting Company with professional guides and all group equipment. The trip is suitable for all skill levels. Last year we had paddlers representing the full range of skill levels from experts who are out every weekend, to folks who had not been in a boat for a while, and some who were just getting into an inflatable kayak or raft for the first time. Everyone is welcome on this trip—the only experience you need is a love of rivers. One of the most important concepts the Rogue trip will reinforce is what we all know firsthand—it is our common love of whitewater that makes us such passionate defenders of rivers. Oh yeah, and the food is excellent and the camping superb. Last year, we had a full trip, so make your reservation soon to ensure a spot on the Rogue trip with American Whitewater this summer.

Make your reservation directly through Northwest Rafting Company's website today at www.nwrafting.com/rogue and select the June 17-20 trip with American Whitewater under "Dates and Prices." We hope to see you on the Rogue River this June!

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\$2,500 - Wave



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: THE NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER

By BETSY BEVIS (NOC) AND BETHANY OVERFIELD (AW)



THE NANTAHALA OUTDOOR Center (NOC), founded in 1972 by Horace Holden and Payson and Aurelia Kennedy, started out as a small gas station and motel called the Tote' n Tarry in Bryson City, North Carolina along the banks of the Nantahala River. It has since grown to offer more than 120 land- and river-based itineraries of adventure and activities for families spanning seven locations in four southeastern states. The founders shared a passion for the river and its camaraderie and believed that their enthusiasm for the outdoors could change lives.

NOC outpost river locations have long been a fond meeting place for families and friends, a practice spot for Olympic athletes and aspiring paddlers, and home to decades of alumni and staff. Guests return year after year, often bringing friends, grandchildren, and loved ones to embark on their next river adventure.

The dedicated staff at each outpost, all deeply passionate about rivers and outdoor recreation, is one of NOC's greatest assets—the guides and river managers are second to none. NOC has long been committed to training and hiring guides to be the best in outdoors and hospitality professionalism, knowledge, and personal accomplishments. Guides are fueled by a passion for the river and are renowned for connecting guests to the natural world through fun, engaging and authentic interactions. They work extremely hard to make outdoor experiences accessible to everyone, regardless of age, skill level, or background.

The guiding principle at NOC is focused on exposure—participation in outdoor activities will naturally lead to conservation and protection of natural resources. By guiding and supporting people

on river- and land-based outdoor adventures, they're more likely to protect the places that they love. NOC has introduced scores of people to the great outdoors and will continue to do so for decades. 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of NOC—celebrations throughout the year will commence, so stay tuned and go celebrate with them!

NOC has been a tremendous supporter of American Whitewater for decades. Most recently they initiated a 'Round Up' program in April 2021 where NOC guests/customers were offered the opportunity to "Round-Up" their purchase amount to the nearest dollar at three of NOC's retail locations, River's End Restaurant on the Nantahala Campus, as well as six Outpost store locations in the Southeast. A total of \$15,000 was raised for American Whitewater's Southeast Forests and Flows initiative.



AFFILIATE CLUBS

AW'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

BY BETHANY OVERFIELD

American Whitewater's original purpose since 1954 has included distribution of information among its Affiliate Clubs. We have over 100 current AW Club Affiliates and they are all doing great work on your behalf; if you don't belong to a club, consider joining one.

American Whitewater has two levels of Affiliate Clubs - a Supporting Affiliate Club or an Affiliate Club. Affiliate Clubs that choose AW's \$100 annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual \$100 contribution.

Affiliate Clubs that choose AW's \$400 Supporting Affiliate Club annual level are recognized in the AW Journal, on our website club page, and in our annually published Honor Roll as well as being listed as sponsors of an AW stewardship presentation each year. In order to be recognized at this level, a Club needs to maintain an annual \$400 contribution. A Supporting Affiliate Club can revert to the \$100 Affiliate Club annual level at any time.

An Affiliate Club that is already being recognized as an AW Lifetime member is recognized in the annual Honor Roll as a Lifetime member. They do need to contribute either at the \$100 or the \$400 level annually to be recognized as an Affiliate Club in the AW Journal and under the Affiliate Club heading of the published Honor Roll. Is your club missing from this list? It might have expired. Contact me at membership@americanwhitewater.org to square your club membership away!

SUPPORTING AFFILIATE CLUBS

Alaska

Fairbanks Paddlers, Fairbanks

Colorado

Dolores River Boating Advocate, Dolores

Georgia

Georgia Canoeing Association Inc, Winston

Kentucky

Bluegrass Wildwater Association, Lexington
Viking Canoe Club, Louisville

New York

KCCNY, Brooklyn

North Carolina

West Asheville Canoe and Kayak Organization (WACKO), Asheville

Ohio

Keelhaulers, Cleveland

South Carolina

Foothills Paddling Club, Greenville
Palmetto Paddlers, Columbia

Washington

Paddle Trails Canoe Club, Seattle
Washington Kayak Club, Redmond
Washington Recreational River Runners, Renton

AFFILIATE CLUBS BY STATE

Alaska

Nova River Runners Inc., Chickaloon

Alabama

Coosa River Paddling Club, Wetumpka
Huntsville Canoe Club, Huntsville

Arizona

Outdoors Unlimited, Flagstaff

Arkansas

Arkansas Canoe Club, Little Rock

California

Gold Country Paddlers, Placerville
Redwood Empire Paddlers, Santa Rosa
River City Whitewater Club, Sacramento
Smith River Alliance, Crescent City

Colorado

Diversity Whitewater, Fort Collins
Friends of the Yampa, Steamboat Springs
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, Buena Vista
Royal Gorge River Initiative Org, Canon City
San Miguel Whitewater Asso, Telluride
Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club, Longmont
Upper Colorado Private Boaters Asso, Glenwood Springs

Connecticut

Housatonic Area Canoe & Kayak Sq, Lakeville

Delaware

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

Idaho

Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise

Indiana

Hoosier Canoe Club, Brownsburg
Ohio Valley Paddlers, Evansville

Iowa

Iowa Whitewater Coalition, W. Des Moines

Kentucky

Elkhorn Paddlers, Lexington

Maine

Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society, Freeport

Maryland

Baltimore Canoe & Kayak Club, Baltimore
Blue Ridge Voyagers, Rockville

Minnesota

Rapids Riders, Eagan

Missouri

Missouri Whitewater Association, St. Louis
Ozark Mountain Paddlers, Springfield

Montana

Beartooth Paddlers Society, Billings

Nevada

Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club, Reno

New Hampshire

Ledyard Canoe Club, Hanover
New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association, Contoocook

New Jersey

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)

New York

ADK Schenectady, Schenectady
Kuyahoor Valley Paddlers, Middleville
Zoar Valley Paddling Club, Machias

North Carolina

Carolina Canoe Club, Raleigh
Landmark Learning, Cullowhee
Mind Body Play, Asheville

Ohio

Friends of the Crooked River, Akron

Oregon

Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Portland
Northwest Rafters Association, Roseburg
Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Portland
Oregon Whitewater Association, Tigard
Willamette Kayak and Canoe Club, Corvallis

Pennsylvania

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter, Oaks (PA)
Benscreek Canoe Club, Johnstown
Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg, Harrisburg
Conewago Canoe Club, York
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Lehigh Valley
Three Rivers Paddling Club, Bridgeville

Tennessee

Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts,
Jonesborough
Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville
Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee,
Sevierville
East Tennessee Whitewater Club, Oak Ridge
Eastman Recreation Club, Kingsport
Tennessee Scenic River Association, Nashville
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club, Knoxville

Texas

Houston Canoe Club, Houston

Utah

High Jim and the A.S.K., Salt Lake City
Utah Whitewater Club, Salt Lake City

Vermont

Vermont Paddlers Club, Montpelier

Virginia

Blue Ridge River Runners, Lynchburg
Canoe Cruisers Association, Middlebury
Coastal Canoeists, Richmond
Float Fishermen of Virginia, Roanoke

Washington

Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club, Spokane
Yakima River Runners, Selah

Washington, DC

Canoe Cruisers Association

West Virginia

Dbl Z! Whitewater Club, Fayetteville
Friends of the Cheat, Kingwood
Mason Dixon Canoe Cruisers, Bolivar
WV Wildwater Assn, S. Charleston

Wisconsin

North East Wisconsin Paddlers, Inc., Neenah
Rapids Riders, Eagan
Sierra Club/John Muir Chapter, Madison

Wyoming

American Packrafting Association, Wilson
Jackson Hole Kayak Club, Jackson

Ontario

Kawartha Whitewater Paddlers, Toronto

National

Team River Runner

DISCOUNTED AW MEMBERSHIP FOR AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERS

AW offers a discounted Affiliate Club membership of \$25, a \$10 savings. If you are renewing your AW membership or joining as a new member, select the Affiliate Club Discounted Personal Membership online at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/> Or, if you are renewing or joining by mail or telephone just mention the name of the Affiliate Club you belong to and you can take advantage of the \$25 membership.

A list of AW Affiliate Clubs can be found on our website at <http://americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-AW/>. If you do not see your Club listed here please encourage them to renew their Club membership or to join AW as a new Affiliate Club. Your Club's membership and your personal membership enable our staff to be active and engaged in the process of river stewardship. When you join or renew your membership your support is helping to meet the many challenges whitewater rivers face.

If you have any questions about the Affiliate Club membership, please contact me. I can be reached at 866_BOAT-4AW or membership@americanwhitewater.org.

JOIN AMERICAN WHITewater AS A CLUB AFFILIATE!

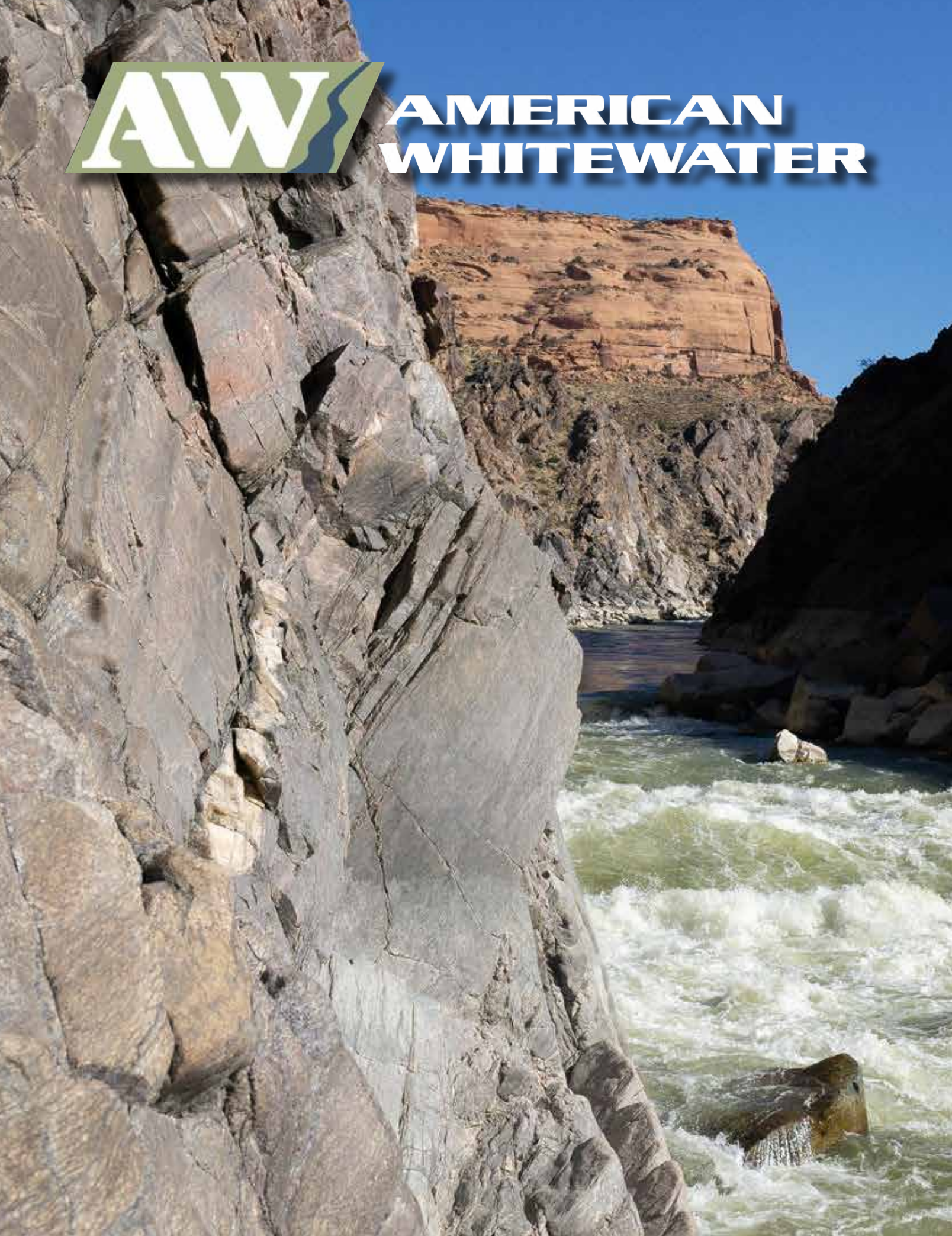
10 REASONS TO JOIN AW AS AN AFFILIATE CLUB

1. Support river access and restoration through the AW River Stewardship Team.
2. Be part of a national voice for the protection of the whitewater rivers your club values.
3. Tap into the professional expertise of AW staff for river issues that come up in your backyard.
4. Your club's members can become AW members for \$25. A \$10 savings!
5. Receive the American Whitewater Journal, the oldest continually published whitewater magazine.
6. Your club is recognized in the list of Affiliate Clubs posted to the AW website.
7. Recognize your club in the list of Affiliate Clubs noted in each bi-monthly AW Journal.
8. Post Club information on the AW Website to help paddlers find you.
9. Gain Club satisfaction from lending support to AW's stewardship efforts.
10. Improve your club members river karma.

For more information, contact Bethany Overfield at membership@americanwhitewater.org or sign-up on line at www.americanwhitewater.org/membership.



AMERICAN WHITEWATER



The Strength of Our Voice is Your Membership

Standard w/AW Journal	\$35
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