

Impact Report 2021

Our Mission & Vision

As a national river conservation nonprofit, our **mission** is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

Our **vision** is that our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates.



Letter from the ED and Board President

Dear Fellow Members,

When I look back over the last couple years at American Whitewater the word that comes to mind is “resilience.” The capacity to recover quickly from difficult situations is a hallmark of our ability to weather uncertainty and thrive in challenging conditions. The following 2021 Impact Report outlines our accomplishments, the goal of this report is to provide membership with a solid overview of organizational performance and tangible achievements.

The coming year will be one of change for the organization. After 18 years as your executive director I have announced my departure from American Whitewater at the end of June. As I write this, there was a national search taking place for the next leader. For me personally, it’s been a highly rewarding experience to serve you and our community of conservation oriented river lovers. The modern version of American Whitewater was built from a notion that we could do important stewardship work and make a difference in the health of rivers. Collectively, we’ve done that!

The right time for a leadership transition is when an organization is at its peak; as this report highlights, American Whitewater is clearly there. The organization is stronger than it has ever been and the staff know how to punch way above their weight. I’ve accomplished more than I ever dreamed was possible in my role here; this is the right moment to usher in a new leader, and I’ll be working closely with our board to make this a smooth transition.

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



Mark Singleton
Executive Director

To my fellow beaters and between-swim boaters,

It’s a great time to be a boater in the world of American Whitewater. Membership, financial positioning, and overall engagement have crested heights never before reached. Your regional stewards continue to maintain Super Hero status by protecting and restoring your favorite paddling corridor. Enjoy!

Certainly the transition from 18 years of exemplary leadership under Mark to a new Executive Director gives us great reflection and gratitude for his service. However, looking past this horizon line to the prospect of a new leader, is an exciting process full of new organizational development. Mark will be missed and we wish him well on his new retirement journeys.

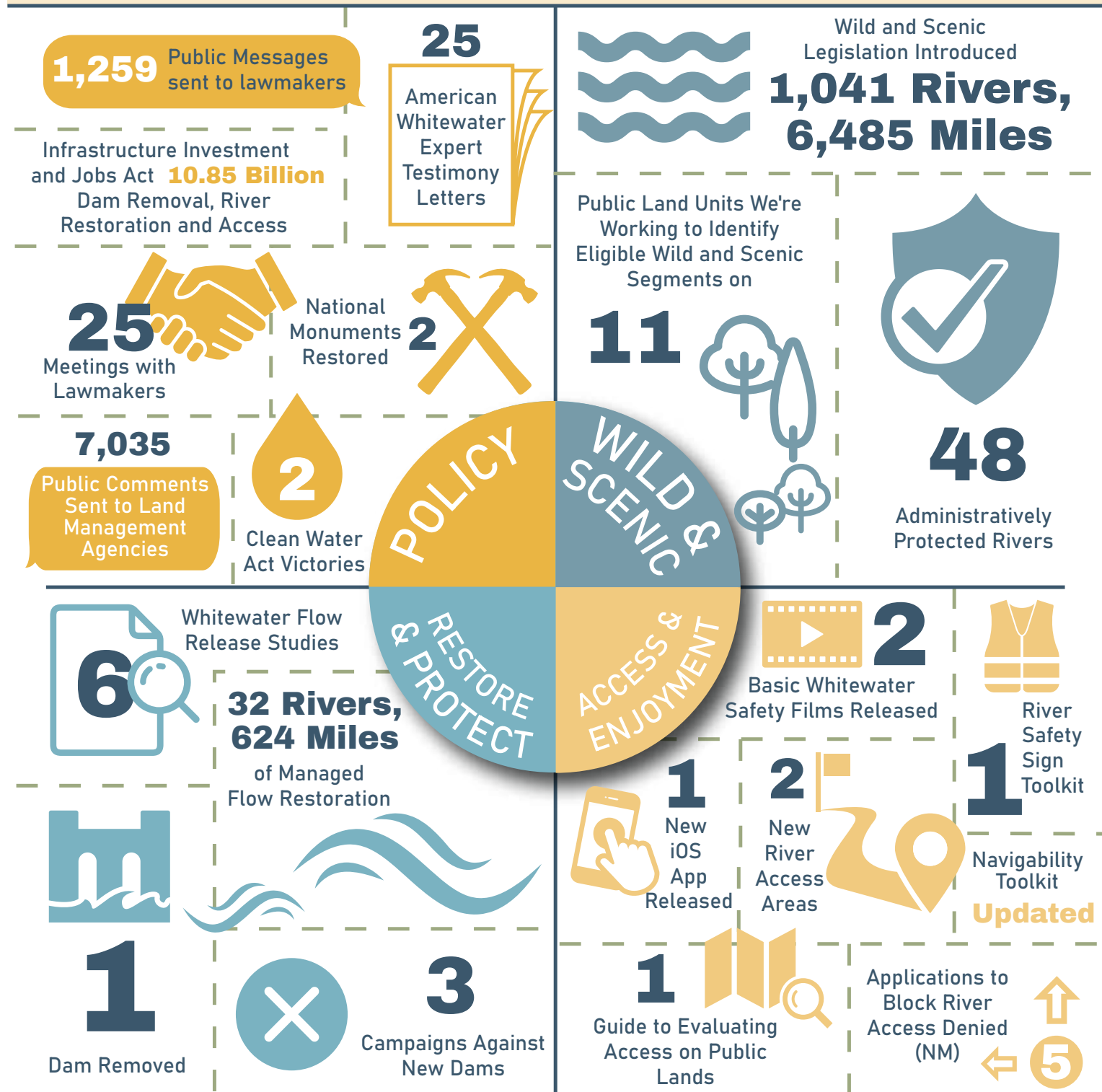
We are thankful for your confidence in AW to be the premier leader in whitewater advocacy. Our tent is large for the community of folks that love recreating on and around the rivers we love. Come on in, the water’s fine!



Chris Neuenschwander
President, Board of Directors



With 12 Staff Our Stewardship Success in 2021



Your support is our fuel!

Membership - 6,900 Supporters - 70,000 Affiliate Clubs - 91

11 Years Running of ★★★★★ Charity Navigator Ratings



The Wigston Family – Platinum Paddler Members
 “American Whitewater provides our family with flows and beta, paddling safety and etiquette knowledge, and peace of mind that the rivers we love and our access to them are being protected and improved all year long.”



Jordana Barrack – Lifetime Member
 “Being a fellow river runner it is easy to love the resources American Whitewater provides our river community, however as a professional directing philanthropic funding toward watershed protection, American Whitewater provides an invaluable perspective on the economic and environmental value that our waterways provide.”

Megi Morishita – Board of Directors Member
 I support American Whitewater because kayaking changed my life. I grew up poor without exposure to the outdoors until my final year of medical school when I took a kayaking lesson. The river opened up a new world and passion. Our rivers are worth fighting for and the AW staff are the best at protecting what I have come to love.



Mary and Phil DeRiemer – Enduring Rivers Circle Members
 “All rivers, but especially wilderness rivers, provide an opening to that which is bigger than the small person I think I am. It is this experience that I wish for everyone. It is for this that we give to ensure free-flowing rivers with access to all through the work of AW.”



Attain higher engagement with us!

Our Community

AMERICAN AW WHITEWATER

Champions - 100+
 (Board members, Key volunteers, Regional coordinators)

Patrons - 1,700+
 (Major donors, Upper-tier partners, Affiliate Clubs, Enduring River Circle Members)

Contributors - 4,500+
 (Members and small donors, Contributing partners, Volunteers, Web contributors)

Endorsers - 43,000+
 (Newsletter subscribers, AW web user accounts, Action takers, Event attendees)

Followers - 150,000+
 (Social media followers, Unique website visitors)

River Stewardship Highlights 2021

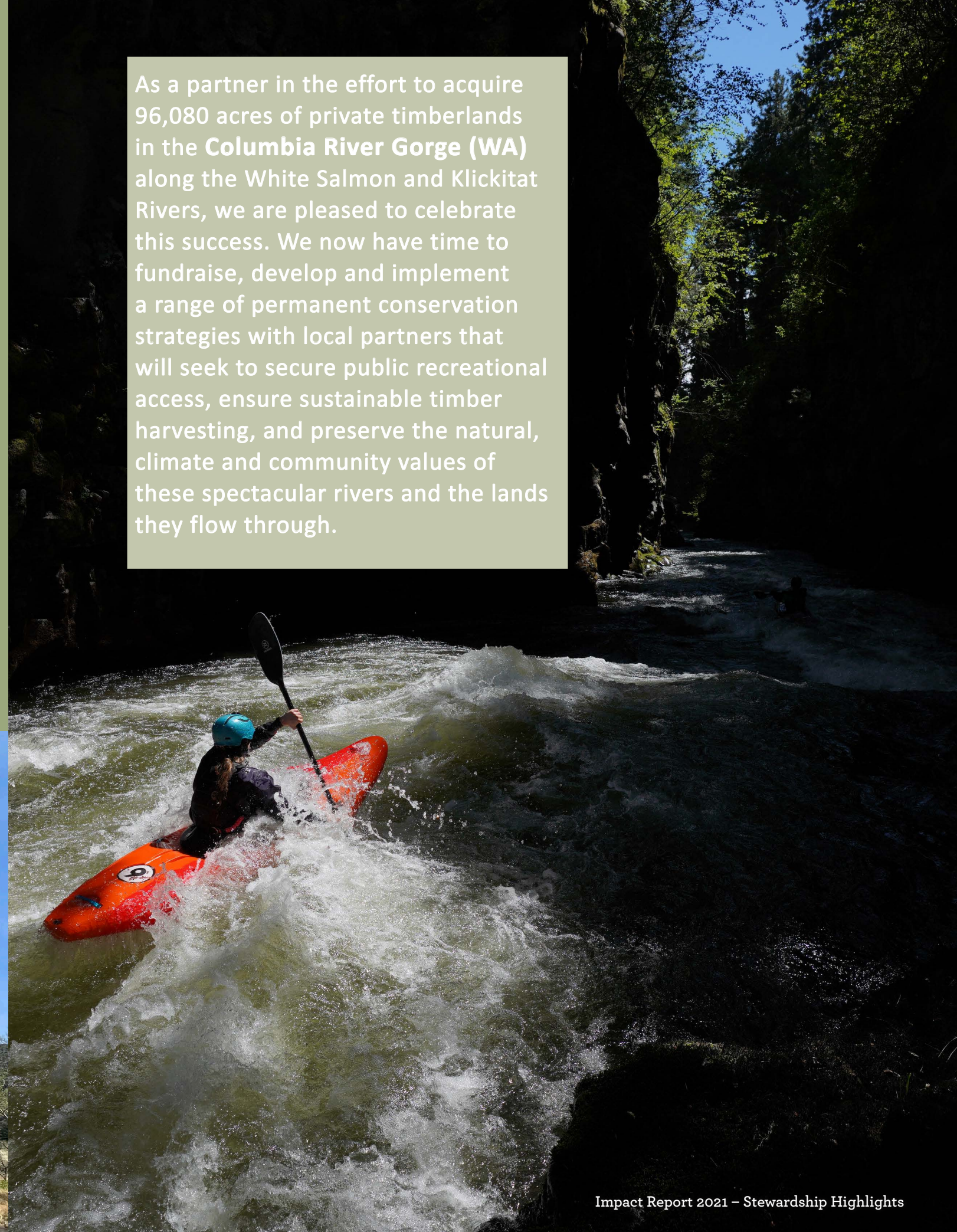


American Whitewater revitalized our **river safety program** in 2021 with the release of two short films introducing aspiring and newer paddlers to safe river practices and with the development of the Paddle Wise program which reminds and inspires all paddlers to enjoy rivers in a way that reflects the best of our community.



American Whitewater helped secure an unprecedented \$2.3 billion for **environmental and recreation enhancements around and below dams, dam removal, and dam safety improvements** in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

As a partner in the effort to acquire 96,080 acres of private timberlands in the **Columbia River Gorge (WA)** along the White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers, we are pleased to celebrate this success. We now have time to fundraise, develop and implement a range of permanent conservation strategies with local partners that will seek to secure public recreational access, ensure sustainable timber harvesting, and preserve the natural, climate and community values of these spectacular rivers and the lands they flow through.





American Whitewater and our partners advocated for the protection of 26 high quality streams in Colorado as **Outstanding Waters**, including Escalante Creek, Wolf Creek, and the Taylor River. In 2021, we made it through a critical hearing for our proposal, which was finalized in June of 2022.

Public access to New Mexico's rivers was affirmed by the state Supreme Court in a huge win for recreation, after American Whitewater and a group of partners fought a State Game Commission system that authorized private landowners to "close off" boatable sections of the Upper Rio Chama and the Upper Pecos River.

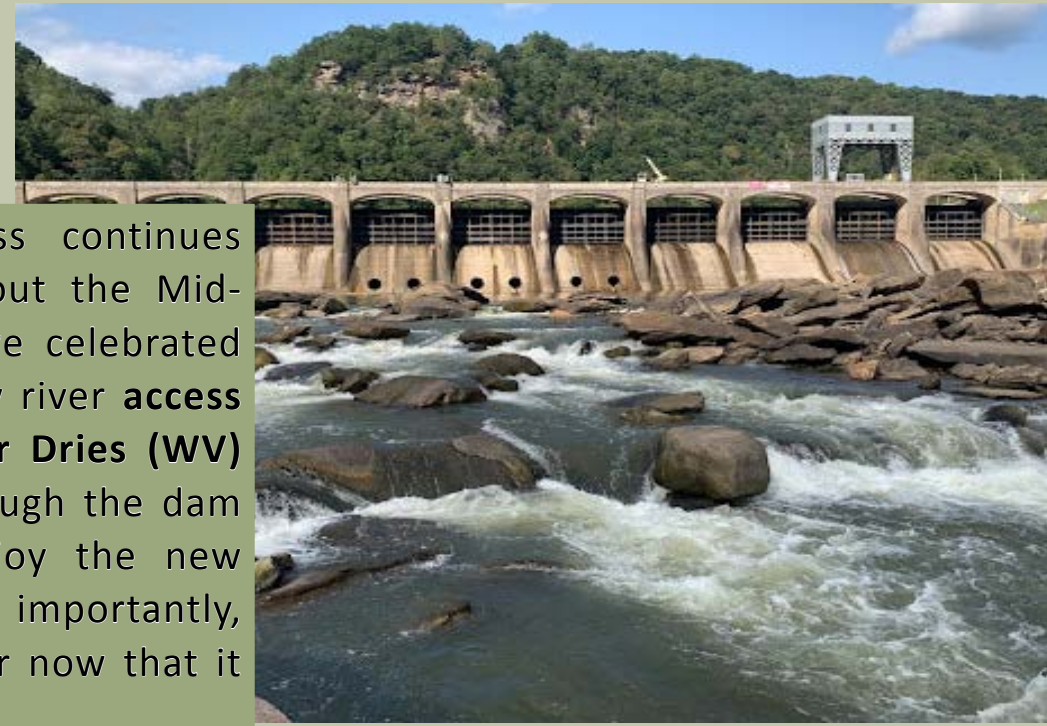
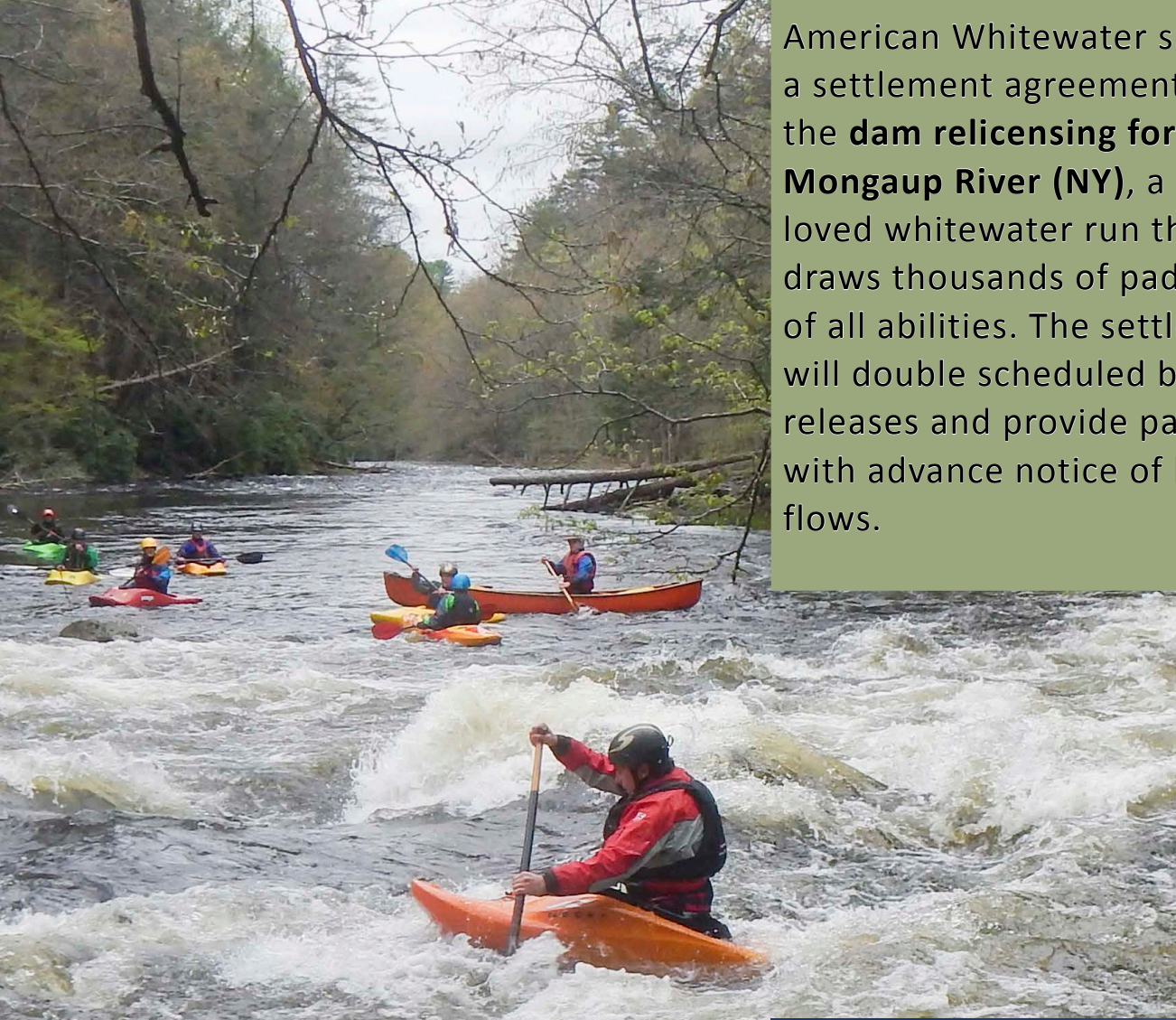


Based on a decade of community organizing by American Whitewater and our partners, Senator Jon Tester introduced the **Montana Headwaters Legacy Act** late in 2021 to designate 20 new Wild and Scenic Rivers. Introduction marks a major milestone in our Northern Rockies river protection efforts and has garnered an impressive and ever growing tally of endorsements.





American Whitewater signed a settlement agreement on the **dam relicensing for the Mongaup River (NY)**, a well-loved whitewater run that draws thousands of paddlers of all abilities. The settlement will double scheduled boating releases and provide paddlers with advance notice of boatable flows.



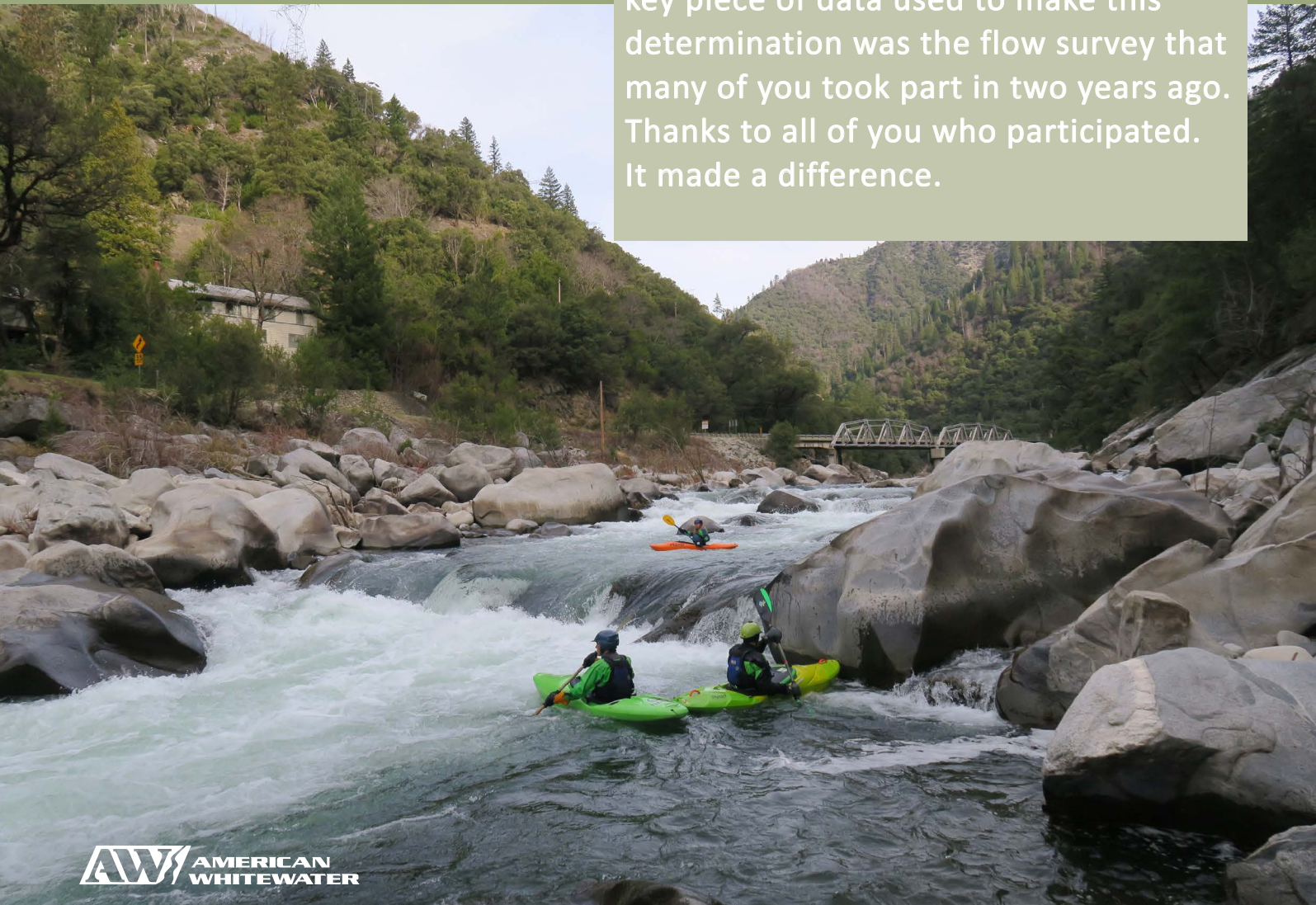
Improving public access continues to be a focus throughout the Mid-Atlantic, and in 2021 we celebrated the creation of two new river **access areas on the New River Dries (WV)** that we negotiated through the dam relicensing process. Enjoy the new access site, but most importantly, enjoy this beautiful river now that it has additional flows.

Dry for a century, American Whitewater worked with Duke Energy to prepare the **Great Falls of the Catawba (SC)** for flow restoration throughout 2021. Access areas, boat passage channels, and trails were designed and built in a collaborative manner based on past agreements.



The Rock Creek / Cresta hydropower license on the **North Fork Feather River (CA)**, issued in 2001, was crafted as an adaptive management process, meaning the utility was to collect data for 15 years and determine a final flow schedule based on the data. We are pleased to announce that after two years of data analysis, and substantial negotiations, flows on the North Fork Feather will largely stay the same for the remainder of the license. Tobin/ Lobin summer weekend releases and boatable base flows will continue every day during the spring and summer in all but Critically Dry Water Years. A key piece of data used to make this determination was the flow survey that many of you took part in two years ago. Thanks to all of you who participated. It made a difference.

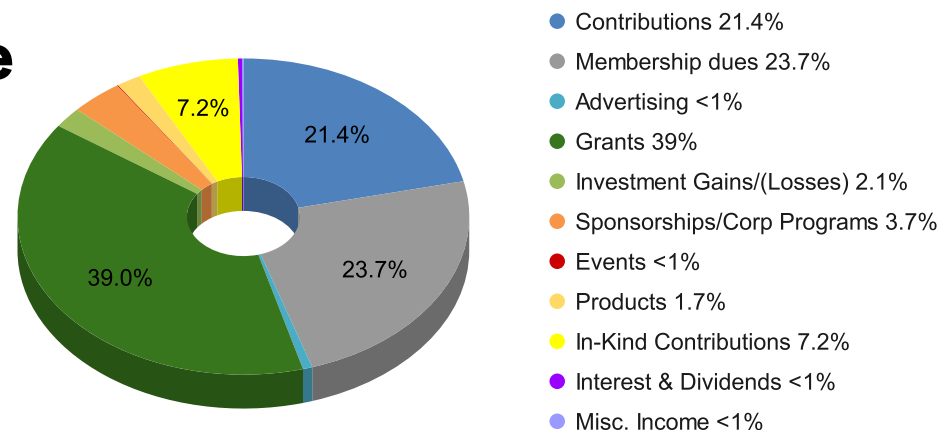
Membership Driven River Stewardship Since 1954



2021 Statement of Activities

REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
PUBLIC SUPPORT				
Membership dues	\$ 534,052		\$ 534,052	\$ 518,525
Grants	\$ 255,773	\$ 623,941	\$ 879,714	\$ 673,943
Contributions	\$ 424,963	\$ 58,226	\$ 483,189	\$ 397,668
Sponsorships/Corp Programs	\$ 84,019		\$ 84,019	\$ 124,062
Events			\$ 1,601	
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 163,353		\$ 163,353	\$ 58,096
Products	\$ 39,657		\$ 39,657	\$ 14,077
Advertising	\$ 15,376		\$ 15,376	\$ 650
Investment Gains/(losses)	\$ 23,270	\$ 24,189	\$ 47,459	\$ 6,918
Interest & Dividends	\$ 454	\$ 6,117	\$ 6,571	\$ 6,169
Misc. Income	\$ 2,247		\$ 2,247	\$ 1,065
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 646,773	\$ (646,773)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 2,191,538	\$ 65,700	\$ 2,257,238	\$ 1,801,173
EXPENSES				
Program Services:				
Total Program Services	\$ 1,586,033		\$ 1,586,033	\$ 1,510,135
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
General & Administrative	\$ 320,521		\$ 320,521	\$ 198,144
Fundraising	\$ 53,006		\$ 53,006	\$ 14,905
Total Supporting Services	\$ 373,527		\$ 373,527	\$ 213,049
Total Expenses	\$ 1,959,560		\$ 1,959,560	\$ 1,723,184
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 231,978	\$ 65,700	\$ 297,678	\$ 77,989

2021 Revenue Sources

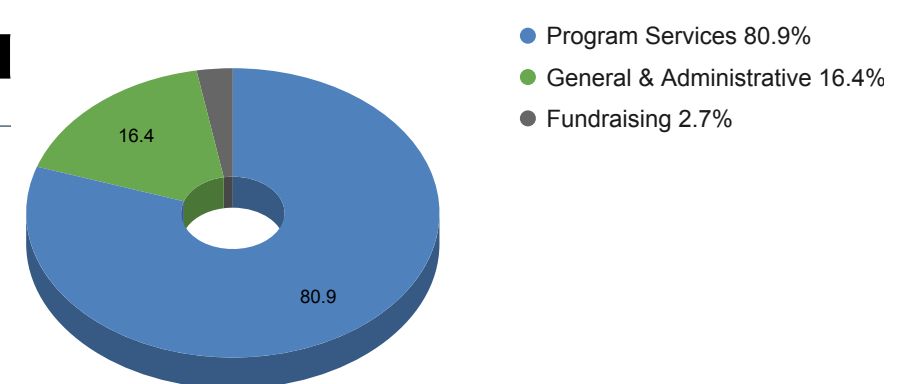


ASSETS	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 952,410	\$ 863,567
Accounts Receivable	\$ 8,510	\$ 7,739
Grants Receivable	\$ 47,841	\$ 33,633
Investments	\$953,371	\$ 924,707
Prepaid Expenses	\$27,097	\$ 35,255
Intangible Assets	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,004
Inventory	\$ 18,996	\$ 14,408
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,008,225	\$ 1,884,313
LONG-TERM ASSETS		
Lands held for protection	\$ 58,317	\$ 58,317
Computer equipment, net	\$ 122,631	\$ 96,484
Total Long-Term Assets	\$180,948	\$ 154,801
Total Assets	\$ 2,189,173	\$ 2,039,114

2021 Statement of Financial Position

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	2021	2020
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 34,424	\$ 34,110
Note Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 171,700
Deferred Revenues	\$205,666	\$ 185,925
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 52,408	\$ 48,382
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 292,498	\$ 440,117
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,449,408	\$ 1,217,430
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 447,267	\$ 381,567
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,896,675	\$ 1,598,997
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 2,189,173	\$ 2,039,114

2021 Functional Expenses



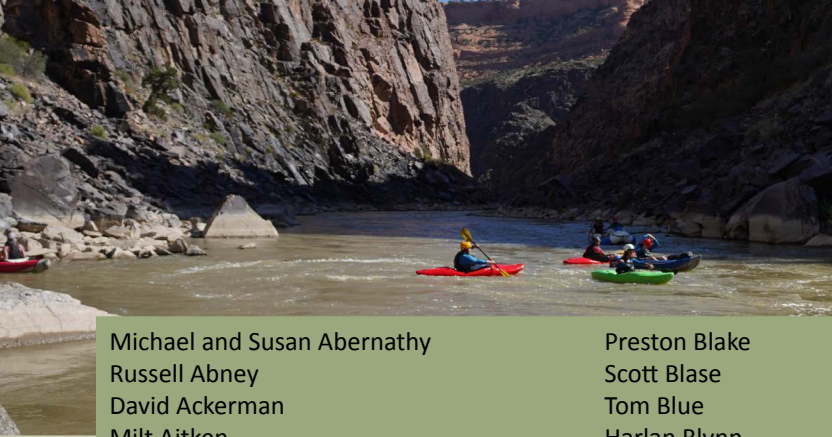
Enduring Rivers Circle 2021

Leave a lasting legacy to the rivers that made a difference in your life. American Whitewater would like to thank the following individuals for making legacy gift commitments.

Barry Adams
Rich and Stephanie Bowers
Bob Brewer and Jonna Hussey
Thomas J. Christopher
Melissa and Joe Driver
Kent Ford
Jennie Goldberg
Rorie Lin Gotham
Joseph Greiner
Christopher Hest
Chris Hipgrave
Dennis and Ginny Huntley
Bob Brewer and Jonna Hussey
Brian and Maria Jacobson
Seth Kallman
Karl and Jo Ann Koenig
David Mason
Megi Morishita
Carol Nelson and
Douglas Wallower
Douglas Pineo
Norwood Scott
Peter N. Skinner
Peter Stekel

*For more info about planned giving opportunities visit americanwhitewater.org





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Michael and Susan Abernathy
 Russell Abney
 David Ackerman
 Milt Aitken
 Charlie Albright
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 Jon Almquist
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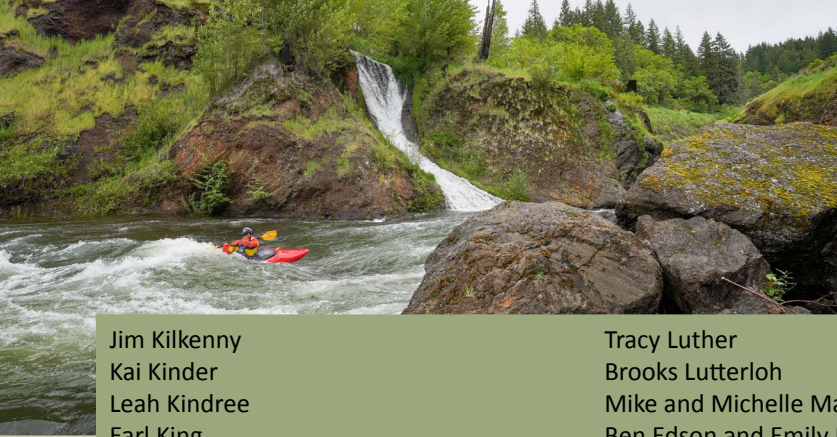
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 HellBender Paddle Boards
 Christopher Fox

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 Emerson Clauss
 Ed Clerke
 Jeff Clewell
 Chuck Cloninger
 Friends Cloud Mountain Foundation
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 Trey Coleman
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 Craig Ziegler
 Andy Zimmerman
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In Honor of

Madeline and Ciaran Andres-Brown
Joshua Buchanan
Bud Bud
Dan Cook
Emily Cureton and Russ Cook
Phil & Mary DeRiemer
Henry Dorris
Sean and Kim Finigan and Gills
RDH Foundation
John and Susan Franklin
Jennie Goldberg
Geoff Harkness
Jason Hodge
Daniel Holzman
Timmy Johnson
Nori Kayak
Tom Kennon
Scott & Devan Koehn
Bruce Lessels
Brik Miller
Leta Millsap
Megi Morishita
Thomas O'Keefe
Bethany Overfield
Rick Patrinellis
Paul Pettyjohn
Craig Quigley
Brian Russell
Katie Selin
Amy Shipman
Mr. and Mrs. Clay Smith
Brant Smith
The Great Spaghetti Monster
Nathan Sullivan
Eric Swanson
Yaw The Movie
The Vickers Family
Charlie Walbridge
Deanne Whiteside
Jordan Yeager

In Memory of

Alan Baldwin
John A Banks
Dugald Bremner
Alec Bruno
John Clark
Bob Cooper
Frank Daly
Daniel DeLaVergne
Randy Elam
Joseph Hatcher
Herm Hoops
Taylor Hunt
Patsy Isley
Logan Jauernigg
Cally Kaynine
Mac Kelsall
Chuck Kern
Katie Lee
Ellen Levine
Herman Lion
Beth McVay
Dean Munroe
Ricky Brandon Owens
Craig Quigley
Peter Weingarten
Gary West
Betty White
Christian Wood
Josh Wright

**Thank You To Our Entire Community
For Your Engagement in 2021**

Board of Directors & Staff 2021

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Melissa Driver
Mills River, NC
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