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*Rafters escape the flames of the 2011 Razorback fire on the Lower Deschutes River. Photo: Jim Beaupre*

## Smoke on the Water, *Fire in the Sky*

by Jim Beaupre

As I write this article we are in the prime river running season here in the Northwest. The air is warm, the water is just right, the salmon and steelhead are arriving in droves, everything is just perfect...except, it's a little smoky, and what is that strange glow coming from over the hillside? FIRE!!!

In addition to being at the height of river running season, we are also in the crux of wildfire season. This can complicate matters for river runners and river managers alike. River running takes a lot of pre-planning. From getting time off work, getting the gear together, renting boats, hiring shuttles, preparing food, our favorite activity is a lot of

work and takes a lot of time. So when wildfire kicks up and interferes with a trip it can be very frustrating. Managing rivers during times of wildfire activity can also be frustrating.

River managers have a lot to think about when fire impacts the river, especially when it comes to dealing with boaters already committed to the trip. What are the triggers you will use to determine if it is time to close the river to launching? Should you evacuate campers now? How do we contact those planning on coming in the next few days and gracefully let them know their plans may be ruined? Can the firefighters save that expensive compost toilet that was just replaced a few years ago after it burned

down in the last big fire? The questions go on and on and after dealing with wildfires on highly used rivers the past several years, I highly urge you to think about these questions ahead of time. Is this a topic that should be included in pre-season interagency meetings? Should you bring it up in meetings with guides and outfitters? Have you talked with fire staff in your area to determine who makes the decisions and when? The more prepared you are and the more conversations that have occurred, the smoother things will be for you and your river team when that fire comes creeping down the mountain.

So far this season the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had to close a

*(continued on page 12)*

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management issues in an open forum of  
communication and networking among the  
RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of  
view are those of the author and not RMS.

## Executive Director's Eddy

### The Event Formerly Known as 'Symposium'

As the 2014 River Management Symposium Planning Committee met to update our plans and projections in the late spring and early summer months, it became pretty clear that it was going to be tougher to recruit speakers and feel confident about our projected level of attendance among our traditional federal agency members and their colleagues than in past years. As discretionary budgets tighten, keen scrutiny will be applied to travel, lodging and attendance at symposia, conferences, briefings or other such information-sharing events that are perceived to be less than critical to enterprise operations.

At the same time, we are seeing a wholesale baby boomer evacuation of veteran staff ranks and the related, growing importance of training for incoming leaders among professional teams working on rivers and river-related projects. Whether preparing to conduct a river sweep after a flooding rain event or conducting a rescue; drafting a NEPA assessment or preparing to defend a river protection-related decision; or applying the tenets of a state recreational use statute or Americans with Disabilities Act to the closing of a launch point, we need to know stuff that does not arrive empirically, lives buried in a thick compliance manual, or both.

The timely convergence of our need to dispense with the moniker of our biennial hallmark event that, if unchanged, may prematurely deep six its success, we decided to shift the programming focus and change the name of our April 15-17, 2014 activity to *Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Tomorrow's River Professionals*. Trainings prefaced by plenary sessions and flanked by focused mini-workshops will partner strictly topical trainings with presentations that offer best practices and critical learning for river professionals. Attendees will be able to attend several training tracks that offer mini-immersion, an interface



with technical processes and experiential group breakouts that enable them to bring summary understanding and tools to use on the job, right away.

Reaction to this hybrid approach to a professional river training week from a focused group of past attendees and their managers has been excellent. In fact, one state agency chief commented that by shifting gears in this way we are "way ahead of the curve in responding to their new reality."

RMS will leverage technology to provide more information, more easily to attendees on site and off: there will be an option to participate virtually via one of the great distance learning tools available.

Are you a retired river manager who is still interested in contributing to the profession, mentoring youngsters filling your shoes and helping RMS at *Managing Rivers in Changing Climes*? Give a shout out to RMS at rms@river-management.org. We are looking for ways to welcome you and remind you that scholarships are available. You only need to promise not to brag too much about your much-deserved spare time. ♦



Risa Shimoda  
RMS Executive Director

# From the President

## Holding onto our anchor or setting the sail?

As I was getting ready for river season, some of my equipment reflected a time when military surplus stores were really great places for river gear. I was tired of listening to chatter about, “going old school,” and, “nice to see the classics still on the river.” I decided to use the RMS pro deal program and rediscovered that it was quick and easy, and I saved several hundred dollars. The traditional 5% suggested donation was paid to RMS and I launched a trip without feeling old and worn out.

Old river gear is easy to hold on to and comfortable to have around, even when it is past service life and technology has passed it by. Sometimes we hold on to things for sentimentality. It is the same with RMS: we must make decisions about what to keep and what to retire. As the organization was forming, state and federal river recreation programs were growing and every year we welcomed new river managers into the fold. Now, the reverse is true. At the federal level, staffs are shrinking; river management is devolving into a collateral duty rather than a career path. At the state level, budgets have been shrinking as well. In the southeast, some states have entirely eliminated river program staff, resulting in some of our members losing their jobs.

This shift has led to a healthy and ongoing diversification of our membership to include more members of academia, technical experts such as hydrologists and engineers, and others involved in river management who are not agency recreation specialists. Our River Manager of the Year is the Director of Public Utilities in Grand Junction, Colorado, and for the first time we presented a national award to a Bureau of Reclamation employee. Some RMS members questioned the appropriateness of those awards without knowing too much about the incredible leadership those individuals have exhibited on behalf of RMS. The awards were very well earned, as appropriate as modern dry boxes and drop bags instead of 20mm rocket boxes

and canvas duffels.

You may notice a change in communication about our biennial Symposium. This is our signature event, what RMS is best known for and what we like to think we do better than anybody else. That said, we have listened to our membership and the agencies we work with and it seems the word “Symposium” is a lightning rod. Due to excesses we have all read about involving GSA and IRS, government employee participation in conferences and symposia are under a magnifying glass and the magnifying glass is in the sun. For that reason, you will see the title of the event is now *“Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Tomorrow’s River Professionals”* (working title as of this writing). We are emphasizing the training aspects of the event while avoiding the word “symposium.” Rest assured that if you attend, it will provide the high quality, high energy product we have all come to expect at a national RMS event. There will still be great networking opportunities and informative, engaging field sessions that go along with the high quality presentations.

In these days of tight government budgets, it is increasing more difficult for many of our members to attend the biennial event. There are some things you can do to improve your odds of having your travel request approved:

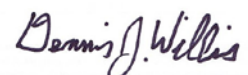
- Being an officer in the organization helps.
- Presenting ups your odds of getting the nod.
- Pointing out how specific tracks or sessions would fulfill a critical training need should really help.

Perhaps it just all comes down to travel ceilings and you are not approved

for expending agency travel funds. If the RMS biennial event is really important and worthwhile, you might consider traveling at your own expense. Many members are able to get their employer to pay salary for the duration of the event provided no government travel expense is involved. The travel then becomes a personal expense and personal investment in your career and professionalism. Those of us in private business attend these things at our own expense because they have value and are well worth it. Government employees are accustomed to having their travel paid for attending professional development meetings. That may be something we need to change our mindset about. Maybe clinging to the hope the old school travel funding will still work is like holding onto that 1981 Stearns Deliverance model PFD hanging in the garage. It was great in its day, but we cannot continue to dwell in the past. We need to utilize our present in order to have a great future.

We want to continue to encourage activity in our Chapters. As you can see in this issue of the Journal, the Northwest Chapter is very active: at last count, they have five river activities on the calendar and their program includes a membership campaign that offers an REI gift card prize for member recruitment. Their leadership is engaged with members, and chapter officers converse on a regular basis.

There are many ways to be active in a chapter. If you have an idea for an event, just do it! Maybe you have some management challenges on your river: what better way to get good advice than to host a Chapter float for your well informed peers who will be all too willing to contribute. Maybe you want to celebrate a success or demonstrate a successful management approach. Successful events tend to build on one another: it just takes one person to get the ball rolling.♦



Dennis Willis  
RMS President



# Bureau of Reclamation Brings *Water* to the West... *and Recreation!*

by Matt Walker

What do you think when you hear of the Bureau of Reclamation? Do you think of reclaiming land, dams or irrigation canals? Surely, you don't think of outdoor recreation? Think again because when you build a dam on a river and create a reservoir, visitors will come to play and pursue outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitors continue to come and enjoy premier recreation sites owned by the

Bureau of Reclamation in the western United States.

The Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was created to help sustain the economy, improve the environment, and improve the quality of life in 17 western states by providing reliable supplies of water and energy. Since 1902, Reclamation has developed an infrastructure of dams, hydroelectric powerplants, and water conveyance facilities to help accomplish this task. This infrastructure also provides flood protection, fish and wildlife habitat, river regulation, water quality protection and improvement and recreation. Reclamation plays a major role in meeting the increasing public demands for water-based outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. The 289 recreation areas developed as a result of a Reclamation water project are among the nation's most popular for water-based outdoor recreation. Reclamation projects include approximately 6.5 million acres of land and water that is, for the most part, available for public outdoor recreation.

Annually, over 90 million visitors participate in a wide variety of activities including camping, boating, fishing, hunting, wind-surfing, sailing, picnicking, wildlife viewing, swimming, hiking and sightseeing. Visitors enjoy the many facilities such as marinas, campgrounds, lodging, food service, rental equipment and golf courses that are provided by approximately 225 concessionaires. Reclamation project areas that do not have developed recreation facilities often provide the visitors with dispersed recreational opportunities such as hiking, bird watching, photography and sightseeing. Reclamation works



*Howard Prairie Reservoir Resort Marina in Southern Oregon. Photo: Lynette Ripley*

with Federal and non-Federal partners to provide quality recreation opportunities throughout the 17 western states. These partners have been, and will continue to be, the primary providers of recreation and concession-managed activities at authorized Reclamation projects. In addition to offering water-based outdoor recreation opportunities, these recreation areas often include important natural and cultural

resources and provide unique educational and interpretive opportunities. Eleven Reclamation water projects have been designated as National Recreation Areas that are managed by the National Park Service or United States Forest Service.

Reclamation also assists local communities in attracting recreation-related investments and involves local citizens in the decision-making process to ensure recreation developments meet public needs and expectations.

## **Goals and objectives for recreation management include:**

- Effectively protecting our nation's natural resources while accommodating the recreation desires of the public.
- Ensuring that recreation and concessions activities are developed, maintained, rehabilitated and offered on a consistent basis to the public through self-management and the use of managing partners.
- Maintaining a customer service focus to ensure a positive public image of Reclamation and the federal government.

In the Pacific Northwest Region, water plays a pivotal role. Since 1904, Congress has authorized 39 projects throughout the Pacific Northwest Region. There are 72 dams, dikes, diversions and more than 4,700 miles of canals. There are approximately 70 recreations sites in the Pacific Northwest Region which includes the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. The basis for conducting recreation activities on Reclamation land and water areas comes from a variety of sources, including:

- Original Reclamation authorizing legislation that included recreation as a project purpose.
- Subsequent recreation-related legislation at an existing Reclamation project.
- General legislation that applies to Reclamation and some of the other Federal land management agencies.
- Code of Federal Regulations and Executive Orders that, in some instances, apply specifically to Reclamation or, in some instances, multiple Federal agencies.

The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, Public Law 89-72, 79 Stat. 213 allows Reclamation to seek qualified non-Federal public partners to manage recreation at its water projects through a management agreement and to cost share in planning, developing, operating and maintaining the leased areas. Public Law 89-72 also allows Reclamation to transfer recreation and other land management responsibilities to another Federal agency if such lands are included or proposed for inclusion within a national recreation area, or are appropriate for administration by another Federal agency as part of the national forest system, as a part of the public lands classified for retention in Federal ownership, or in connection with an authorized Federal program for the conservation and development of fish and wildlife. Due to increasing public demand for outdoor recreation and the changes in the economic climate for Reclamation's non-Federal managing partners, Public Law 89-72 was amended by Title XXVIII of Public Law 102-575. Title XXVIII, among other things, updated the old provisions and changed some of the cost share requirements of Public Law 89-72 to allow the federal government to share a greater financial burden for recreation development and management. This program provides funds to non-Federal government agencies on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis. The non-Federal agency then administers the recreation development, absorbing the costs of operation and maintenance and retaining fees collected at the project.

Common managing partners for Reclamation include the United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife

Service, Bureau of Land Management, state parks & recreation departments, county parks and recreation departments, and concessionaires.

Over the past several years, we have noticed a significant change in the way we manage recreation due to the following items:

1. Water-based recreational opportunities seem to be receiving increasing pressure and demand, particularly in more arid regions, while the funding and staffing is decreasing.
2. Aging infrastructure and increasing deferred maintenance poses a risk to public health and safety and adversely impacts the recreation experience.
3. Other Federal and non-Federal agency's budgets are decreasing while the demand and use of recreational opportunities increase.

As a result, we are focusing on building and improving our partner relationships we have, and where possible, seeking new partnerships to assist in providing quality recreation. Due to limited Reclamation staffing in recreation, Reclamation needs to continue to work with managing partners in securing funding and simplifying the process to transfer funds to non-federal agencies. Our managing partners are key to our success in offering quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the public.

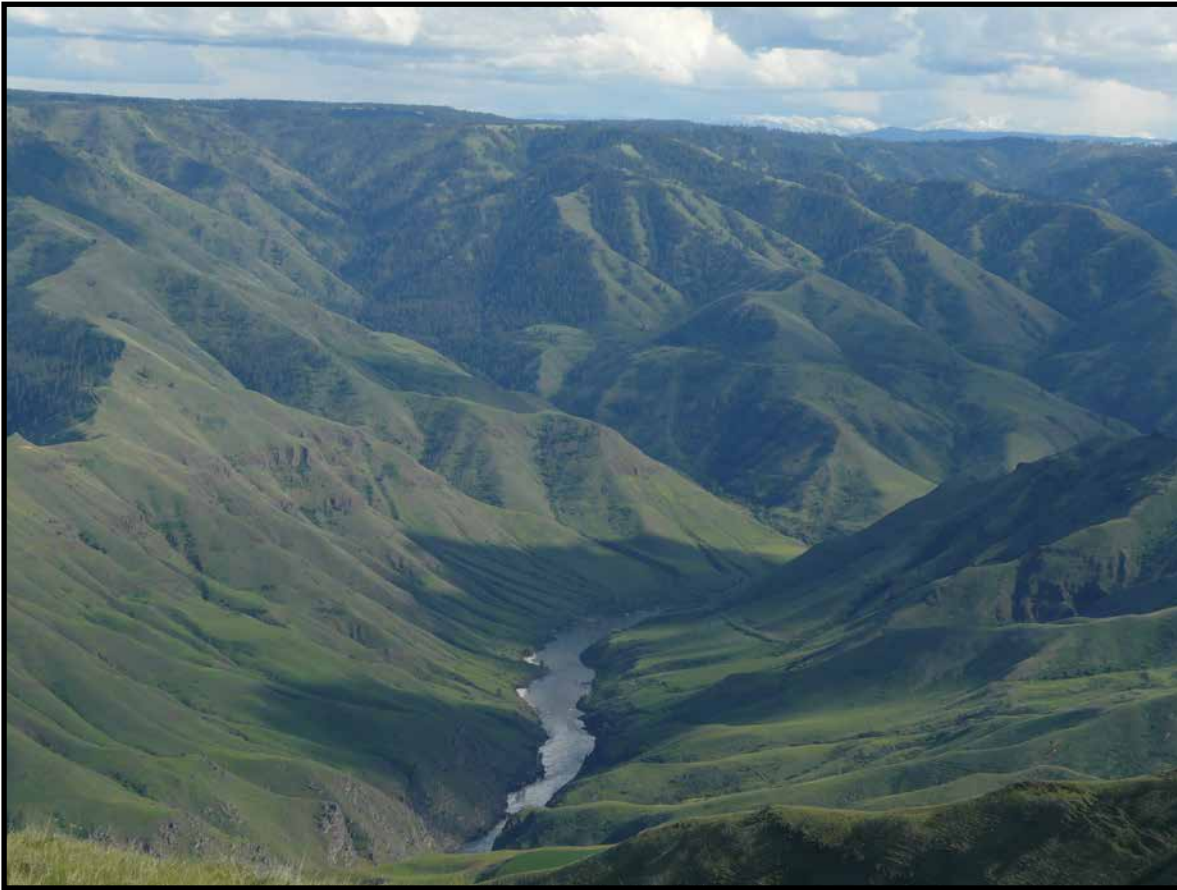
The next time you hear about the Bureau of Reclamation, even though it is not the Bureau of Recreation, remember that they offer premier outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities at reservoir projects in 17 western states. One of your favorite places just might be a Reclamation lake. ♦

*Camping at Howard Prairie Reservoir in Southern Oregon. Photo: Lynette Ripley*





# Preserving 112 Miles of Free-Flowing Beauty



*Salmon River, Idaho*

Because of these partnerships and designations, the Lower Salmon River is among Idaho's premier national outdoor recreation destinations, supporting 600,000 annual visitors including anglers, whitewater rafters, jetboaters, campers, picnickers, hikers, equestrian enthusiasts, hunters, and outfitters. The area offers exceptional diversity of cultural resources including a river crossing associated with the Nez Perce

by Jeff Cartwright

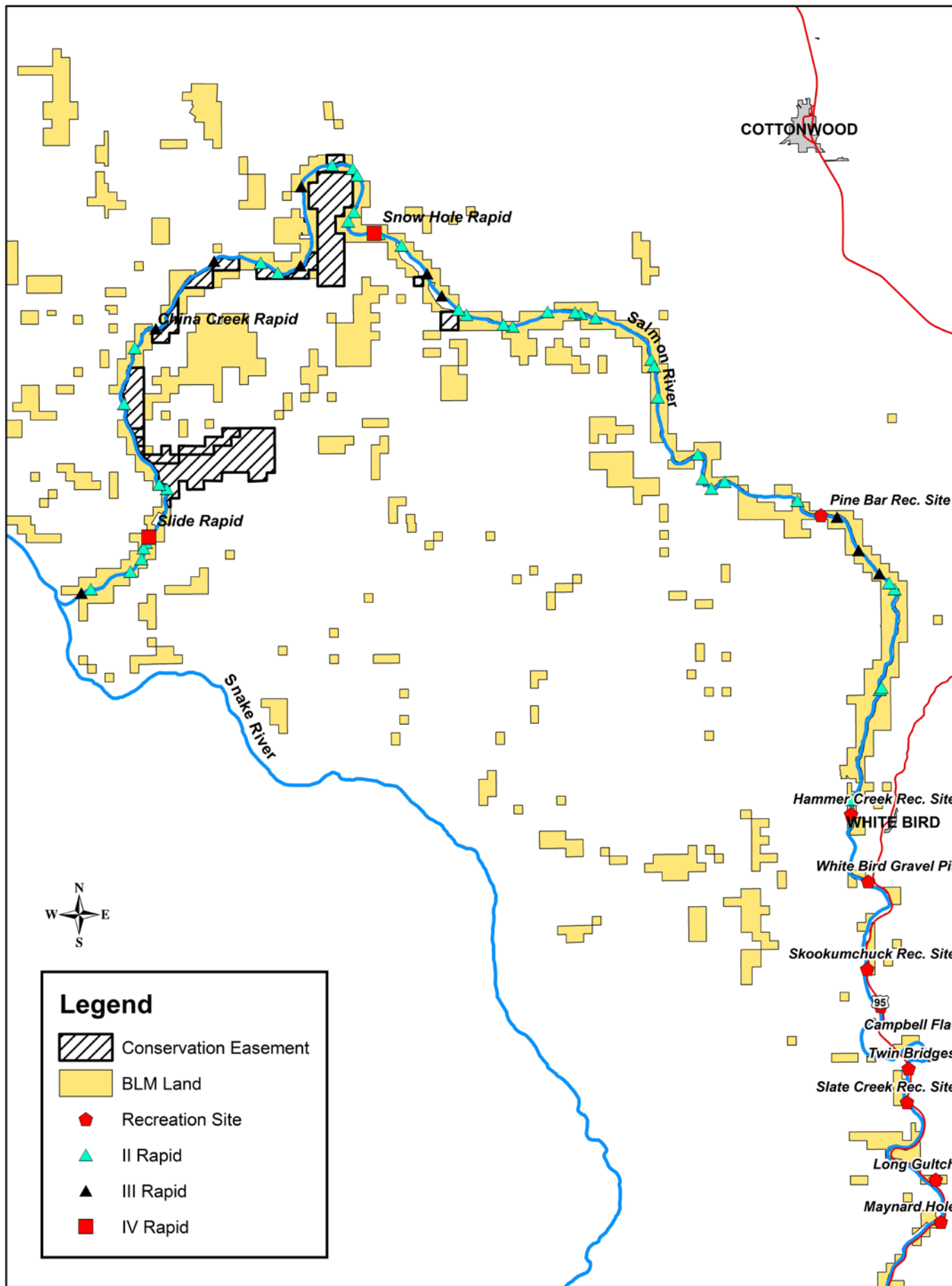
Carving its way through a canyon deeper than the mighty Grand Canyon, the Salmon River is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states. This distinction firmly secures its place among rivers with national and regional significance for its high quality scenic, recreational, cultural, and ecological resources. The BLM Cottonwood Field Office has been charged with managing the lower 112 river miles of the 425 mile long river, without congressional designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. Thus a partnership between the State of Idaho, local partners, commercial outfitters and various interest groups was born. For the past 40 years the BLM has been striving to preserve this river in a way that works for various user groups while maintaining a highly desirable place for river users to have a quality

experience.

Management of the river is accomplished through two systems that allow for maximum protection of the river while promoting continued custom uses. Designation of the Lower Salmon River is broken into two segments—Long Tom Bar to Hammer Creek (upper section) and Hammer Creek to the Snake River (lower section). Each segment has two distinct recreational users and characteristics. The upper section provides road access to all 59 river miles and flows through towns such as Riggins and White Bird, Idaho, while the lower 53 miles of the river is over 70% roadless and contains a few scattered structures. Each segment has two designations—Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) which allow for the best management of each section of the river.

National Historic Trail, and a 13,000-year old archaeological site (Cooper's Ferry, one of the oldest in the country) as well as numerous historic mining sites, all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These ancient cultural sites are recognized as unique, one-of-a-kind, regional storehouses of paleoenvironmental data including ancient freshwater mussel shells which reveal paleoclimate precipitation levels and plant phytoliths that tell the story of the millennia of vegetation changes since the last ice age. The river corridor provides critical habitat to a multitude of ESA-listed fish species, including sockeye salmon, spring/summer Chinook salmon, fall Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, as well as ESA-listed plants including Spalding's catchfly and MacFarlane's four o'clock.

*(continued on page 11)*



# Lower Salmon River

## Columbia River Tiger Beetle

by Craig Johnson

When Bureau of Land Management (BLM) river rangers were given a BLM sensitive species list and informed that the Columbia River Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela columbica*) was a rare and BLM sensitive species, they stated that they were common and everywhere. The river rangers were informed that all tiger beetles found along the Salmon River are not the same and no recent documentation of the species exists. Other species of tiger beetles are fairly common along the Lower Salmon River and a taxonomic examination is needed to determine differences. However, in 2010 the BLM river rangers photographed and documented the occurrence of *C. columbica* at two locations. Consequently, these recent finds resulted in an increased interest for the species.

Historically, the *C. columbica* was found along the Columbia

River from approximately The Dalles, Oregon, eastwards up the Snake and Salmon rivers up to at least Lucille, Idaho, a distance of approximately 400 river miles (Shook 1981). Inundation of shoreline with the construction of the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake rivers dams apparently resulted in extirpation (local extinction) of the species along much of this range (Beer 1971, Shook 1981). After extensive surveys in 1979 and discussions with coleopterists (beetle scientists), Shook (1981) concluded that the current distribution of *C. columbica* was confined to a 53 mile section along the Lower Salmon River between Slate and Eagle Creeks.

**“*C. columbica* is found  
nowhere else in the world  
beside this section of river.”**



Lateral view of *Cicindela columbica* Hatch 1938. Photo: Pacific Analytics, LLC 2005



Lower Salmon River, looking up river in the vicinity of China Creek, Eagle Creek, and Deer Creek.

The ecology of the Columbia River Tiger Beetle is poorly known. In general it is associated with well-established riverine sandbars and dunes along the Columbia, Snake, and Salmon rivers. It inhabits sites that are not completely flooded by normal spring run-off and extend back substantially from the shoreline (Shook 1981). Larval burrows occur in moist sands close along the river edge, while adults forage across entire sandbar systems.

Based on Shook (1981), most of the known distribution of *C. columbica* occurs on lands owned and managed by the BLM along the Lower Salmon River. The Lower Salmon River is very popular with recreationists, in particular white-water rafters, who camp on many of the sandbars. Within this area the BLM manages most of the activities that potentially

can impact *C. columbica* populations (i.e., recreation, grazing, mining, noxious weeds, etc.). This makes the BLM the primary entity responsible for the preservation and perpetuation of the species. *C. columbica* is a designated BLM sensitive species in Idaho. The BLM is currently cooperating in a Challenge Cost Share with Idaho Department of Fish and Game on a project to develop a survey and monitoring protocol and conduct surveys to determine distribution, abundance, and population trends of *C. columbica* along the Lower Salmon River. ♦

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# A Book Review

*"The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History through the Heart of the Grand Canyon"*

by Kevin Fedarko  
2013, Scribner, 416 pages.

by Steve Johnson

I grew up on the banks of the Pomme de Terre River on the prairie in western Minnesota and devoted much of my childhood to playing with boats and fish and all things river. It was the coolest place on earth.

It was really a muddy little river full of bullheads and carp, and it was years later before I learned that cool-sounding name meant, simply, "potato." But on the Great Plains where most of the landscape is row-crop agriculture, a real river—however humble—is pretty exotic. Even the Potato River.

Little did I know I would spend most of my adult life dealing with rivers, including the better part of a half-century on the Mississippi, a river that truly is exotic in a thousand different ways. And thanks to my experiences with RMS, I've met river people from across North America who have worked and played on some of the most spectacular streams you could imagine.

But even on the banks of legendary rivers from Maine to South Carolina to British Columbia to the deep canyons of Idaho, when river people talk there's only one river that gets them using hushed tones.

Because in this world there are rivers, and there is The Grand.

"I got a permit for The Grand," one would say around the camp fire. Another would talk about a trip next year, or a trip five years ago. The Grand Canyon has that kind of place on everyone's bucket list.

Kevin Fedarko has written a book on all things Grand, and it's not just about the great Colorado River or the spectacular canyon. It's also a great story about many of the famous characters who have found their way to the Grand Canyon.

*"... when river people talk there's only one river that gets them using hushed tones."*

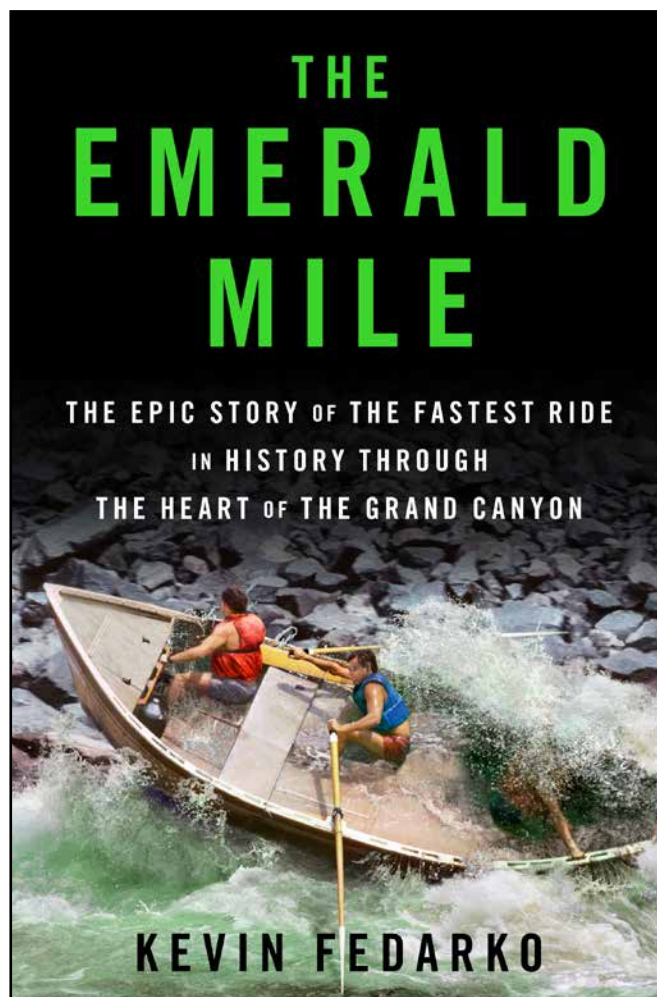
*"The Emerald Mile"* is at its heart a story of a 1983 speed run through the Grand during an epic flood, but the chronicle of that amazing event doesn't really get started until halfway through the book. To set the scene for that run through unparalleled whitewater for 277 miles—in 36 hours—we have to meet and get to know the characters who have left their mark on the river at the bottom of that incredible canyon. That starts with John Wesley Powell, of course, a story all of us have read before but Fedarko tells with new fascination. We all love to hate the Glen Canyon Dam, but it plays its own role in how the Grand is used today and it played a central role in the flood of 1983. Fedarko turns that story into a page-turner.

It's a story well-told, and we meet so many interesting characters that one of the region's most famous personalities—Edward Abbey—doesn't show up until page 194. First we have to get to know Martin Litton, who ran dories on the river for decades, and a whole canyon full of river guides from the golden age of rafting in the '60s and '70s. We also get to know the engineers who managed the dam and dealt with the dangerous flood in the spring and early summer of 1983 that led to the record release and nearly destroyed the dam.

Fedarko leads us deep into the lives of Kenton Grau, Rudi Petschek and Steve "Wren" Reynolds, the three men who would pilot the dory on its amazing and dangerous run. Even the little dory—the book's title comes from the boat's name—has its own story to tell (it was nearly burned on the beach years before its famous run).

Even if the Grand Canyon isn't on your bucket list—but especially if it is—Kevin Fedarko (himself a river guide) tells a great story about one of the world's most incredible places and many of its most colorful characters. But don't start reading it by the campfire on a riverbank, or you'll be up very late. ♦

*Steve Johnson is a Lifetime member of RMS, its former President and former Midwest Chapter President.*



# No Simple Recipe for Dam Removal

by Tom Gauntt

To remove a dam. First, with the whole world watching, blow a hole in the dam. Then, take it down piece by piece.

From the outset, it was an odd assignment for a utility like PacifiCorp that has long been identified with hydro power in the Pacific Northwest. But on October 26, 2011, after years of paperwork,

planning and anticipation, PacifiCorp contractors armed with 700 pounds of dynamite blasted through the last section of a 90-foot tunnel hewn in the base of the 98-year-old Condit Dam on the White Salmon River in south central Washington.

Streamed live via the Internet to satisfy curiosity while ensuring safety, the breach may have been seen by as many as 1 million people worldwide, according to media monitoring reports. Now, nearly two years afterwards, the canyon is quiet with natural grasses thriving where the two-mile long reservoir once beckoned boaters, and more than 13,000 native trees are taking root on slopes buried under water for nine decades. Only someone with knowledge of how lichen and moss grows on basalt cliffs can tell there was once a dam here.

“The rest of the work wasn’t as dramatic as the blast,” said Todd Olson, director of hydro compliance, who shepherded the process of removing Condit since 2006. “But it was no less important, as we helped the White Salmon River get on with its next phase.”

The history of Condit goes back to the



*Aerial view of the White Salmon Dam before removal, on August 30, 2011. Photo: PacifiCorp*

early 20th century. Electrifying the west was the call of the time. Condit, located about 60 miles east of Portland in the Columbia River Gorge was built to supply power to a nearby sawmill. There were no roads in the area and heavy machinery did not exist. Hundreds of workers and horses built Condit over an 18-month period between 1912 and 1913.

A fish ladder was included in 1913, but it washed out when the first major flood came. A second one met the same fate. From the 1920s onward, the dam blocked upstream migration of the steelhead and the large salmon that gave the river its name. The powerhouse produced about 14 megawatts of electricity—enough to supply about 7,000 present day Pacific Power customers.

“Condit was never a large hydro project,” said Olson. For comparison, PacifiCorp’s Lewis River project has a capacity of more than 550 megawatts. “But Condit was cost effective, efficient and a dependable part of the power supply for our customers. We wanted to keep it working for them as long as possible.”

But by the mid-1990s, it was clear

involved, PacifiCorp elected to seek a settlement in which the dam would be removed.

“It was really a business decision in the best interest of our customers,” said Olson. “Building fish passage in that narrow space would have cost \$100 million. In the end, we were able to remove the dam for \$38 million.”

In 1999, the agreement including local tribes and river groups was set. But it still took a dozen years to get permits, formulate plans and get them approved. The dam removers also had a tight window in which to do the work in order to not harm fish runs and allow winter rains to help remove sediment.

Part of the process throughout the removal was to manage public access and media coverage. Because this was one of the largest dam removal projects ever undertaken, public interest was high. Maintaining safety in the remote box canyon dictated that no one could be in front of the dam when the blast occurred.

“We needed to make sure that people could see this historic event but not be tempted to climb into the canyon to get

Condit’s days were numbered. As the project went through federal relicensing, the requirement to build fish passage, a long fish ladder with resting pools and powerhouse intake screens to divert downstream migrating juvenile fish around the dam became evident. Given all the elements



a vantage point,” said Olson. “We also wanted to be able to document the work for our own purposes and for science. We understood from the beginning that this was more than just PacifiCorp fulfilling its decommissioning obligations.”

Pre-positioned, automated cameras wired to stream a live webcast provided the solution. With cooperation from local law enforcement agencies, it was relatively simple to restrict access to the narrow box canyon. Working with key project stakeholders, PacifiCorp made arrangements for the dam breach to be aired live on several websites and made it available to local and national broadcast media. A theater in nearby Hood River broadcast the breach live to a standing-room-only audience. CNN also had a live feed.

These days, however, the only cameras in the canyon belong to rafters chronicling their journey through the canyon where Condit Dam once stood. ♦

## Condit Facts

Condit Dam was located in south central Washington on the White Salmon River, approximately 3.3 miles upstream from the Columbia River.

The dam was constructed between 1911 and 1913 and provided power to PacifiCorp customers for nearly a century.

The concrete diversion dam was 125 feet high and 471 feet long.

At the breach, approximately 10,000 cfs of water passed through the 13-by-18-foot tunnel, draining the reservoir in a couple of hours.

There were approximately 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment, primarily very fine silt, behind the dam. Approximately 1.7 million cubic yards of the sediment has been redistributed downstream of the dam.

*(Free-Flowing Beauty, from page 6)*

The BLM continues to protect this important destination river by acquiring 7,194 acres of fee title land and conservation easements using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which are congressionally appropriated dollars received from motor boat fuel tax and off shore oil leases. Another critical part of the protection of the river is preserving its scenic qualities through 6,457 acres of acquired conservation easements. The purpose of these easements is to prevent the construction of new structures and roads while keeping the land in private ownership. This is a win-win for all; the county keeps its tax revenue, local businesses thrive on river tourism, land owners continue using the land for its historical use and river users will be able to return with their grandchildren and visit the same beautiful river they see today.

Managing the river through designations and easements is no small task. Keeping facilities maintained and ready for all the river users is a year-round process.

The majority of the use comes in the summer float months, when the clear waters, remote canyons and warm white sand bars make for a memorable experience that is obtainable through a simple self-issued permit. In addition to keeping the river in tip top shape, the BLM spends a lot of energy working with land owners to keep the conservation easements in compliance and foster relationships for potential future acquisitions that would help preserve the river and all its unique beauty.

Professionally and as a RMS member, my goal is to continue the legacy of those that came before us, to meet the needs of all users, both old and new, while preserving the river for future generations. As a member of the team, I take the role of managing rivers very seriously, and feel there is a unique opportunity to help build an experience which will be enjoyed by many generations to come. ♦

*White Salmon Dam — before removal (top) and after removal (bottom), August 2013. Photo: PacifiCorp*







segment of the Lower Deschutes River to launching as the Sunnyside Turnoff fire roared through the Warm Springs Reservation and threatened to jump the river into the BLM campsites. By the next day, burnouts had successfully kept the fire from blowing up at the river level and it was determined it would be safe to allow boaters and campers back into the affected portion of the river. However, boaters were notified that helicopters could be dipping in the river and to pull tight to the bank and wait it out if they did encounter a copter.

It seems that annually a portion of the Lower Deschutes needs to be closed for safety reasons. Sometimes that decision does not go over well in the river communities that rely on tourist dollars to survive. I recall an instance where our local, little river town was put on an evacuation alert. Although, that evacuation never came to pass, the ire of the community was heard as the media released that the town was under threat of evacuation. No one wanted to come to town that day and many dollars were lost. However, the right call was made as the potential was there and if the winds had continued as they expected that little town might have lost more than tourist dollars that day. We have many models and prediction factors for wildfire, but when it comes down to it, fire is unpredictable by nature. Sometimes you will just have to be safe rather than sorry.

Today, as I write, wildfire is raging on the Rogue River and managers are working with the Lower Deschutes managers to allow for commercial trips being affected by the Big Windy Fire to run their trips on the Lower Deschutes River if their clients are willing and able to make the switch. Because the Wild section of the Rogue River is tightly controlled with the number of commercial launches per day and since this fire is currently large and unpredictable it could have a big impact on the lives of the commercial operators on the Rogue. Some will have the option to take their day trips to the North Umpqua or Klamath River, others can readjust to the non-permitted sections of the Rogue, and because of the joint effort of the Medford and Prineville BLM offices, some will be able to run their trips on the upper reaches of the Lower Deschutes that are currently not in a limited entry permit system.

These issues and questions arise as quickly as lightning storms whip up wildfires and river managers

need to move like initial attack; getting the red tape cleared and allowing people out on the water as soon as it is determined to be safe. If you have never thought of these issues on your rivers, maybe it's time. With increased drought conditions and changing climates, even rivers that have never seen wildfire may be in the crosshairs for a conflagration soon. The more you have thought it out and have spoken with your counterparts and river users, the easier the decisions will come. ♦



Photos posted on Westfly.com by visitors to the Lower Deschutes River.



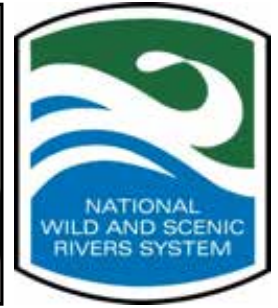
# Congratulations!

## “Up a river...with your camera!” Celebration of Wild and Scenic Rivers

Thanks go out to all who participated in the photo / video contest and ‘liked’ the RMS Facebook page, to raise awareness of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. RMS received over 80 entries and grew our ‘likes’ nearly 400%! Okay, so we started with a small base but heck, we are pleased to have grown the circle to this degree.

Participants were asked to ‘like’ the RMS Facebook page, then submit digital images and video that capture the unique qualities of rivers that have been protected by their federal designation as Wild, Scenic or Recreational to the contest group on flickr.com. We encouraged participants to submit images of river experiences that range from relaxing on the bank to swimming, paddling, fishing or hiking, and we helped them find Wild and Scenic Rivers by directing them to [www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov).

Our 1st Place photographer won a GoProHero3Black Camera, and the 1st Place videographer won \$100, with another \$100 donated to the charity of his/her choice. Honorable Mention winners received RMS logo caps or original art notecards.



## First Place Photo

*Salmon River, Idaho with smoke clouds from forest fires*

Peter Jacobson - Dresher, Pennsylvania

*“The photo was taken along the banks of the Salmon River in Idaho, east of Robinson’s campground. Two of my sons and I had spent the week in the Stanley area, in the river -- kayaking, swimming, fishing, and soaking in the natural creekside hot springs -- as well as hiking and mountain biking in the mountains of the Salmon watershed. All week, there were forest fires nearby; some days smoke would fill the entire valley. The day we headed east to go home, the smoke clouds formed a dense plume that poured over the adjacent hillsides, as can be seen in the photo.”*







## 7 Honorable Mention Photos

### ***Quiet Boat Dock, Wekiva River – Scenic***

Janine Edmondson - Apopka, Florida

*“Just a little ways down from Katie’s Landing on the Wekiva River is this quite little dock. It’s almost at the end of civilization. The canopy of trees here makes this area rich with vegetation.”*

### ***Relaxing on the Snake River, watching the clouds reflected off the water***

William Knecht - Moscow, Idaho

*“I took a ride on a float plane down the Snake River out of the Hell’s Canyon Marina in Clarkston, WA and was able to take some great scenic photos and some great video. Thanks to PAC Seaplanes.”*

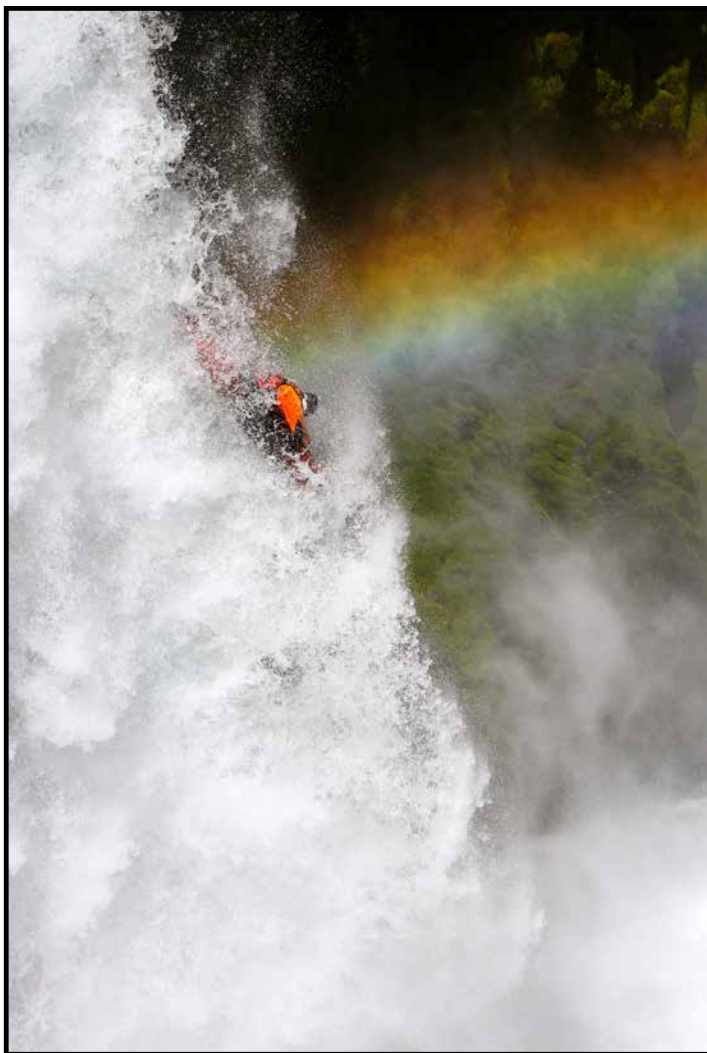


### ***Bruno Overlook, Bruno River Canyon, designated Wild in 2009***

Kevin Lewis - Boise, Idaho

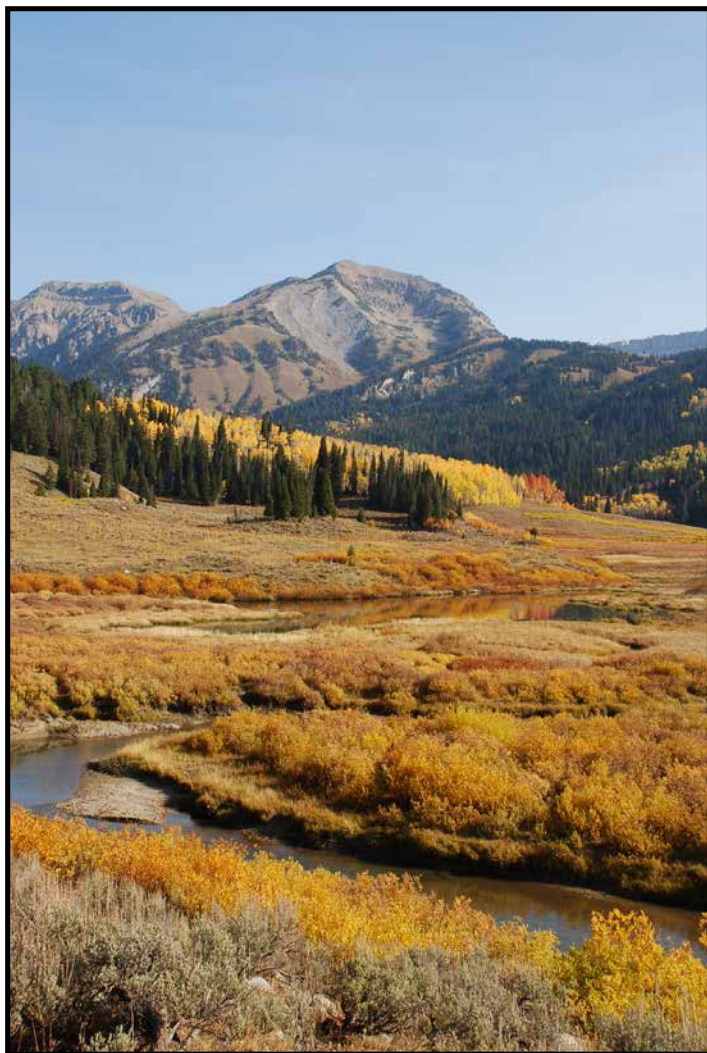
American Rivers gave this photo to Senator Mike Crapo in recognition for his tremendous support of the Owyhee Initiative which designated 517,000 acres of public land as the Owyhee-Bruneau Wilderness; released 199,000 acres of wilderness study areas to non-wilderness multiple use management; and designated 316 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers. Kevin Lewis is the Conservation Director for Idaho Rivers United.





***Lucas Reitman kayaking down Koosah Falls***  
William Saunders - Sisters, Oregon

This photo was taken on a Wild and Scenic section of the McKenzie River during an Oregon kayak trip.



***Shoal Creek Wild River, Wyoming***  
Susan Marsh - Jackson, Wyoming

View upstream to the Gros Ventre Range, early October, from the Shoal Creek trail.



***Upper Delaware River***

Thomas O'Keefe -  
Seattle, Washington

Aki O'Keefe fishing on the Upper Delaware Wild and Scenic River, New York / Pennsylvania.

*more on  
next page...*





### *Surfing the Snake River*

Max Mogren -  
Jackson, Wyoming

An evening season with friends  
at Lunch Counter Rapid on the  
Wild and Scenic Snake River in  
Wyoming.

*Enjoy...*

the photos and video submissions!  
Or, better yet, go out and enjoy one  
of these rivers yourself soon!

## *First Place Video*

*Snake River from the Air*  
Will Knecht - Moscow, Idaho

Seaplanes flying over the beautiful Palouse  
and Hell's Canyon and landing on the water.

[[http://www.flickr.com/photos/98460503@N08/9302850316/in/pool-rivermanagement\\_society](http://www.flickr.com/photos/98460503@N08/9302850316/in/pool-rivermanagement_society)]



Video contest winner, Will Knecht, chose **Idaho Rivers United** to receive the \$100 gift from RMS. Photos and video links will be posted at [www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov) and [www.river-management.org](http://www.river-management.org) from October – December, 2013. The River Management Society thanks RMS members and others who participated in the contest; awareness campaign sponsors at the National Park Service (Joan Harn) and Bureau of Land Management (Cathi Bailey); summer intern Joe Sullivan; and our creative, generous advisory committee members Mollie Wainwright Baumann, Christina Boston, Lisa Byers, Jimmy Gaudry, Lisa Machnik, and Joshua Nadas. **Congratulations to all winners!**

## *2 Honorable Mention*

*Wekiva River, Kelly Park, 2013*  
Josue Tortuno - Apopka, Florida

Wild — 31.4 miles; Scenic — 2.1 miles;  
Recreational — 8.1 miles; Total — 41.6 miles.  
Music: "There is Romance" by Kevin MacLeod.

[[http://www.flickr.com/photos/22440494@N07/9270839639/in/pool-rivermanagement\\_society](http://www.flickr.com/photos/22440494@N07/9270839639/in/pool-rivermanagement_society)]

*The Wild Clackamas River*  
Sergiu Ionita - Boring, Oregon

*"This video was taken on the Clackamas River near Austin Hot Springs. The steam you see rising from the water is due to the temperature being near boiling. At one point you can see bubbles rising from the ground due to the extreme temperatures of the water. The pool along the river is man-made near the edge of the river so that the hot water mixes with the cold water from the river. The shot where the guy is fishing was taken about a mile upriver from the hot springs and the shot of the white water rapids was taken about a mile downriver. I chose to shoot on this river because of the wide range of activities that can be done here. Near the city you can find people fishing, rafting, boating and hiking. The farther you drive down Highway 212 and enter Mt. Hood National Forest, the wilder the river becomes and the more frequently you'll see animals."*

[[http://www.flickr.com/photos/98602039@N02/9252269280/in/pool-rivermanagement\\_society](http://www.flickr.com/photos/98602039@N02/9252269280/in/pool-rivermanagement_society)]



# River Management Society's 2013 Summer Intern

## Reflections and Accomplishments

by Joe Sullivan

As the summer approached between my Junior and Senior year at SUNY ESF (State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry) I began my search for an internship. I applied to several internships knowing just how competitive they have become over the last few years. The River Management Society caught my attention early in the process. With my major in environmental science, focus in watershed science, and a minor in construction management, the project description seemed to fit me perfectly. An application and a few phone conversations later, I was D.C. bound.

This summer I worked for Risa Shimoda, Executive Director of the River Management Society. The main project Risa and I worked together on was the one that initially caught my attention, the revision of the National Park Service document called Logical Lasting Launches. This document provides readers with a decision making process of selecting a launch type to install that is appropriate for its intended use and site. Our goal was to recreate the paper copy into an interactive, user friendly, online document.

We created a 150-slide interactive Power Point which guides the user from the very initial stages of assessing a site, to the final stages of selecting a launch type. I was happy to be a part of this project from the very beginning stages to the point of handing it to communications team to polish the graphics and produce the final set of tools for our members and colleagues. I am looking forward to seeing the new document, *Prepare to Launch!* when it is released. I appreciate the support and enthusiasm offered by an advisory team led by Lelia Mellen and Corita Waters at the National Park Service. Special thanks go to Sue Abbott, Don Briggs, Alison Bullock, Charlotte Gillis, Angie Tornes, Barbara Rice, Duncan Hay, Karl Beard, Kathryn Nichols, Joan Harn, Ursula Lemanski, Peggy Pings, Susan Rice, Randy Thoreson, and Jerry Willis - National Park Service; Nate Hoogeveen and John Wenck - Iowa DNR; Erik Wrede - Minnesota DNR; Greg Rolf - American

Canoe Association; Kate Rudasille - Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority; Walter Opuszynski - Northern Forest Canoe Trail; and Randy Welsh and Janet Zeller - USDA Forest Service.

I assisted with two other projects during my summer with RMS. One included the marketing and follow-ups for our Wild and Scenic photo/video contest, "*Up a River With Your Camera! A celebration of Wild and Scenic Rivers,*" a video and photo contest. We received numerous high quality entries and reached out to many future potential RMS members throughout the country. The third and final project I worked on this summer, related to the photo and video contest, was to increase traffic on our Facebook page. Through regular posts and outreach

to current RMS members, our Facebook family has more than tripled in the past two months. I thank efforts by Molly Baumann and other RMS members who 'liked' the page and posted to it!

This internship has been an incredible experience preparing me for the professional world of Environmental Science. I would like to personally thank Risa for this opportunity, and everyone who has contributed to making my stay in D.C. so wonderful. Thank you all. ♦

*Note: RMS was extremely fortunate to have Joe work as a summer intern this year. His contributions were real, and they will serve the organization and our project sponsors ably for years to come!*

*Joe Sullivan, Oneonta, New York*





# The Big Shakeout and a New Water Ethic:

## An Essay

by Daniel McCool  
April 30, 2013

The U.S. is on the cusp of what I call “the big shakeout.” Demand for water from burgeoning cities exceeds supply; invasive species have infested many river basins while the list of endangered species grows longer; climate change is creating havoc; our new amenity economy needs more water for tourism and recreation; pollution from agriculture, cities, and industry remains a huge problem despite forty years of control efforts; water infrastructure is obsolete and crumbling and will cost billions to replace at a time when the government is broke; groundwater mining is threatening water supplies in areas ranging from the Great Plains to central Florida; subsidence is literally dropping the bottom out of some communities.

The way we currently manage water is nonsustainable. Indeed, the system is collapsing at an unprecedented rate. The big shakeout is a time of convulsive change when we re-order priorities and adjust allocations. This will create both winners and losers, but it is absolutely essential if we are to maintain an adequate water supply and an ecosystem centered on healthy, ecologically functioning rivers, lakes, and streams.

*The phrase  
“never waste a good crisis”  
is entirely relevant here.*

These unprecedented challenges present an opportunity to rethink how we relate to water and rivers, develop new institutions, and adjust our belief system to comport with reality. The phrase, “never waste a good crisis” is entirely relevant here. At the heart of this effort will be the creation of a new water ethic. Ethics is the overarching system of values that

drives our choices and behaviors; it tells us what is right and what is wrong, and it changes over time. Many of society’s past institutions and values are now considered abhorrent (slavery, child labor, prohibiting women from voting, for example). Some of today’s obsolete beliefs will meet the same fate.

Ethics of all kinds are ever-changing, but the ethics regarding the relationship between humans and the natural world have evolved at an exceptionally rapid rate. There was a time, not so long ago, when it was considered ethical for factories to pour their waste directly into a watercourse, dump trash out the car window, or dynamite “trash fish” (i.e. native species) to make room for sport fish. As these past beliefs become untenable it creates a vacuum that must be filled by new values—a new system of ethics. The big shakeout is about creating this new ethic to drive our choices and guide how we re-structure our relationship with America’s rivers and other sources of water. I see three elements that are critical to the formation of a new ethic.

Central to any new ethic is the concept of *stewardship*. We are caretakers of other people’s, and other species’, heirloom. Stewardship requires us to manage water resources so that they are unimpaired for future generations. It is

no longer acceptable to build water systems that provide benefits today at the cost of creating massive problems for future generations. A case in point is Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River. The

dam, without doubt, generates numerous benefits. But all parties, including the dam’s most ardent defenders, agree that the dam has a finite life. One day Glen Canyon will fill with silt—some say in 700 years, some say much sooner. With additional upstream diversions, and the impact of climate change, the water level in the reservoir is dropping and is

projected to effectively reach dead pool within a half-century. In effect, the bottom of the reservoir is rising up while the water surface is going down; when the two meet some unfortunate future generation will have to solve a problem of our making. An ethic focusing on stewardship would not create such a predicament for unborn generations. It is incumbent upon us to improve the quality of our rivers, make our water supplies sustainable, and live within our water means so that future generations, both human and non-human, can enjoy the Earth to at least the same extent as its current caretakers.

A second ethic has to do with how we *value* water. The U.S. government built hundreds of dams at taxpayer expense, and many water delivery systems are heavily subsidized. Subsidizing water supply for farmers, industry, and municipal users encourages waste and an attitude that water is unlimited and of low value. It also distorts the true cost of products produced with large amounts of water. But recent shortages and increasingly virulent political conflicts over water make it obvious that water is an irreplaceable, essential resource; we cannot live without it. Subsidies do not make water cheaper; they simply mask the cost by hiding it in federal and state income taxes and property taxes. A new water ethic would price water for what it really is—a highly valued resource, and recognize that in the U.S. today water demand exceeds water supply. The true cost of water would force society to make the hard choices necessary to create a sustainable water system.

Higher water costs could mean that low-income individuals and poor communities could no longer afford to buy clean potable water. Thus, in addition to making water allocation efficient we must also assure that every person on the planet has a right to enough drinking water to maintain their health. This requires a certain level of subsidy but most of the



world's water is not allocated to poor communities; indeed, impoverishment forces a high level of water conservation. A new ethic requires us to eliminate subsidies for those who can afford to pay the true cost of water—agribusiness, energy companies, urbanites with big lawns, golf courses, etc.—while still providing for the drinking water needs of all peoples.

A third element in the new water ethic relates to how we make *policy*. For the first 200 years of our nation's history, rivers and water policy were controlled by a small clique of stakeholders, often referred to as the "water iron triangle." This consisted of congressmen and senators serving on water authorization and appropriation committees, federal water agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers, and favored constituent groups that were primarily interested in diverting water for their own narrow interest. The result was a water policy that focused on heavily subsidized structural solutions (big dams, levees, locks and barge channels), and funneled both water and money to an increasingly narrow slice of the American people, but ignored long-term environmental or economic impacts. The larger public interest was not a priority, including non-consumptive uses such as habitat preservation and instream flow, moving-water recreation, environmental protection, and urban amenity use.

The new ethic focuses on public participation at all levels of water decision-making. It is citizens, from all walks of life, who should determine the fate of their rivers and their water supply. This new ethic will ensure that public values will be considered in all aspects of water policy. Rivers will increasingly be treated as a public commons rather than the private domain of a few. This progression from iron triangle to participatory democracy began with the rise of the environmental movement, and was enhanced by laws such as the Administrative Procedures Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. It has given rise to literally hundreds of river restoration and protection groups formed by citizens. Today there is a "Friends of" non-profit advocacy group for nearly every major river in the U.S. The result has been an increasing effort to restore rivers, improve water quality, protect riparian areas, and enhance wildlife

habitat. The benefits of these changes in policy tend to be distributed widely across society. Water and power have always tended to flow together; as we broaden the power base, we also enhance the diversity of water users, increase access to rivers, and democratize the allocation process.

These three ethical impulses are driving much of the change in America's attitudes and public policy regarding rivers and water supply. There are of course tensions between these values. Finding the balance between paying the true cost of water while also ensuring a human right to clean drinking water will require a delicate process of stakeholder-driven decision-making. Protecting an adequate water supply for cities will compete with efforts to restore rivers and protect habitat. Providing sufficient water for the new economy, based on high-tech industry, amenity services, and tourism will conflict with efforts to protect traditional water users such as agriculture, the energy industry, and barge companies. In the past, this last group of users made all the decisions; with the new ethic we will all have a voice in water policy.

The United States does not have a water crisis; we have an ethical crisis. We are not running out of water, but we are short on new ideas and innovative management. Future policies must abandon the piecemeal, narrow approach

everyone to get what they need, but not enough for everything they want. The challenge is to create a new water policy that is inclusive, efficient, and fair. It is a shared resource and must be governed as such.

Is this vision of a new water ethic the mere blathering of an out-of-touch academic? I don't think so; scarcity forces action, even from those who have spent their entire professional lives defending the status quo. One's interest in reforming water policy is in direct proportion to how much water comes out of the tap. A single day without clean water will turn anyone into a reformer. And the idea of a renewed and revitalized river obviously has an innate appeal to a broad range of people, hence the thousands of river restoration projects across the land. The big shakeout has already started; our only choice now is to get in front of it and shape it to meet our needs, or be steamrolled by it and left in its wake. The new water ethic is about choosing the former rather than the latter. ♦

*Daniel McCool is a professor of Political Science and Director of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program at the University of Utah. He is the author of River Republic: The Fall and Rise of America's Rivers (Columbia University Press, 2012).*

## The United States does not have a water crisis; we have an ethical crisis.

that has Balkanized our rivers and led to vicious water conflicts between states and other jurisdictions. Water is part of an ecosystem; it does not recognize political borders, thus water policy must transcend those borders, and that requires a collaborative, open process that considers the needs of all stakeholders while recognizing the immense value of ecosystem services—services that will last forever if we adopt sustainable policies.

The old concept of water as a right that can be exercised without regard to its impact on others must be replaced by an ethic of *consideration*. We have a responsibility to use water, and watercourses, in a way that minimizes impact on the resource, other people, and other species. There is enough water for

For additional reading:

Sarah Bates, David Getches, Lawrence MacDonnell, and Charles Wilkinson, *Searching Out the Headwaters: Change and Rediscovery in Western Water Policy*.

Robert Glennon, *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It*.

Fred Pearce, *When the Rivers Run Dry: Water—The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-first Century*.

James Lawrence Powell, *Dead Pool: Lake Powell, Global Warming, and the Future of Water in the West*.

Diane Raines Ward, *Water Wars: Drought, Flood, Folly, and the Politics of Thirst*.

# Life on the Thu Bon River

by Dennis Willis

Hoi An, Vietnam. It is four thirty in the morning; I am in a group of a dozen Americans and Vietnamese, walking six blocks to the waterfront of this ancient port city. We headed to meet the crew of a tour boat, a recently converted fishing scow. Near the river, silent streets give way to bustle of the fishing fleet setting out to check nets, traps and lines left soaking overnight. Just a few hours before, this place was hopping with a larger more boisterous crowd. Last night was the full moon. Every 14th day of the lunar calendar is full moon festival in Hoi An. The old town streets close to vehicles and become one big street party with a choice of venues for music, plays, street art and performers. Oriental lanterns and the moon provide all the lighting. The river is fairly alight with paper boats holding candles, drifting in the lazy currents and the old bridge is party central.

Hoi An was one of the largest ports in Asia in the first century. It is located on the Thu Bon River about seven kilometers upstream of the South China Sea. Currently it is home to about 120,000 people. The buildings are an eclectic mixture of distinctly Asian, French colonial and old Soviet bloc cast concrete architecture.

The old town area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was a bustling port though the 19th century until the bigger, deep draft vessels requiring deep water ports became the norm for sea trade. Now the port is home to a local fishing fleet, a nascent tour boat industry and the very occasional kayak rental. Of course, most great cities exist because of their river. Unlike many modern, industrial cities, Hoi An has never forgotten the role and importance of the river in daily life.

Arriving at the dock, we meet our two-man crew and scope out the vessel that will be our community for the next several hours. The scows are the largest of the local fleet. From twenty to thirty feet long they have graceful lines somewhat reminiscent of a drift boat profile— fairly flat bottom, gunnels low amidships raising gracefully to an upturned prow and narrow, squared off transom. Smaller boats in the fleet are narrow beam, canoe-like craft that are skulled or powered by a small outboard. The smallest of these carry but one person, the largest, two or three. Most all the boats have eyes painted on the bow. Our host explains the eyes look for safe passages, look for fish, and fool the fish into thinking the fisherman has friendly intentions.





Upon boarding a quick look around reveals an open locker with what appears to be enough PFD's. It is best to forget everything else I know about vessel inspection... suffice it to say the fleet would not fare well in a USCG inspection regimen. We launch at the start of an all too short tropical twilight.

This is lowland, coastal river—slow, silt laden, innumerable braided channels, islands and backwaters. Our captain is a skilled waterman, navigating this maze based on a lifetime of local knowledge without the benefit of GPS, charts, or compass. We pass by a channel dredging operation that would be at home on the Mississippi. We visit with men and women checking their various tackle and collecting the catch of the day. A woman tosses us a nearly transparent, six inch long shrimp; we give some candy in return. What does one do with one shrimp? It cannot be shared among so many people. After much admiration it is safely returned to the river and advised to beware of boats with large eyes.

We stop at a village located on the edge of large backwater. There is only one small dock so we wait our turn to unload. Tourists ashore, the captain moves away from the dock and anchors so the next boat can unload two water buffalo. A five minute walk inland takes us to the village market. This is a daily affair, somewhat like an American farmers market and flea market combined. There is no electricity or refrigeration here so shopping is an almost daily chore. Everything in the market was grown near this village or brought in by boat. Eggs fresh daily.

Great variety of produce. The butcher is cutting to order off a pig. The meat is shockingly red, not the pale, "the other white meat," sold in the USA. This pig obviously worked for a living. Ducks and chickens with their feet tied, sit in baskets awaiting their fate. The bounty of the river is here, too. Fresh shrimp and fish still flipping. Want eel? An old lady will take one of the writhing creatures out of a five gallon pail and neatly chop it with a cleaver that could be over a hundred years old. Terry and I purchase some bananas, dragon fruit and lychees to share with shipmates.

Arriving back at the dock in Hoi An, the riverfront is still teeming with activity. Waterfront shops are open and street vendors ply their trade. The fisherfolk are off-loading their boats. Some of the catch is walked over to local fish markets and restaurants. When we dine on spring rolls this evening, there will be no question where the shrimp came from. The rest is loaded into baskets the size of bathtubs that are mounted on motor scooters. The baskets are layered with fish and ice and sent off to villages and markets in the surrounding country side. Life in Hoi An centers on the Thu Bon River. The riverfront is the gathering spot. Time is marked by the cycle of moon and tides. It is sweet for an RMS member, being in a place that appreciates and celebrates its river and has done so for two thousand years. I have not examined their river management and I have suspicions about the water quality. But the local appreciation of their river is a great start.♦



# Cataract Canyon — “The Standing Man Affect”

by Judy Culver

Individuals seek out river trips as a way to express themselves, challenge the unknown, bond with loved ones, honor an important event in their lives, enjoy moments of a simpler life or take the time to enjoy their passions in life. On the Cataract Canyon 6-day Oars trip that Mary Crockett and I had the joy to win at the Asheville, TN RMS 2012 symposium auction, the group we traveled with touched on all the reasons why one would go on a river trip. Professional river manager, geologist, photographer, a mother-daughter bonding experience before the daughter entered the Naval Academy, a set of grandparents who allowed their grandson to pick the trip he would go on with them, a single explorer from Australia and those on family outings to get away from it all.

Having never been on a commercial trip in which Mary and I were not working as guides or as representatives of the government, our personal mission was to sit back and relax. Of course, we couldn't resist plugging the benefits of RMS to both the guides and the passengers, many of whom are of the perfect age to recruit for river management careers, but that technically didn't count against our mission to relax.

A consequence of Lake Powell water levels dropping is the invasion of Russian thistle in the lower reaches of Cataract Canyon. According to the guides, the thistle invasion has moved upriver at the speed of light, in many cases impeding the movement of duckies and rafts through the water as tumbleweeds the size of cars move around the canyon like pinballs hitting the bumpers. The thistle completely covers bench after bench of riverbed for miles on end. Last year, most of the thistle could be found below Dark Canyon but this year, the issue was confronted at our 4th campsite.

Arriving at our 4th campsite there was a beautiful expanse of beach just downstream of the landing site hidden by Russian thistle that had not yet flowered. As I climbed up onto the beach I noticed that the bare areas that weren't subject to calving into the river ten feet below were claimed by other campers with other folks shifting around like cattle waiting to bed down at night. Searching for that perfect spot to lay my head, I realized I would need to remove thistle before I could set up camp. Setting down my gear I set to work reaching under the smaller thistles scraping away sand to reach the root and escape most of the spikes. Within moments Mary came over to see how I was pulling the buggers trailed by our enthusiastic Australian friend wishing to make their spaces bigger. Lars, the lead guide, provided us with fire gloves, a shovel and a second pair of leather gloves to aid in the task along with another pair of hands.



*The “new” campsite created by the OARS clients and crew on the 4th night of floating Cataract Canyon, on the Colorado River. The wall of thistle can be seen on the right side. Photo: Mary Crockett*

Within a short time, the clear spaces became obvious and those that had yet to find their perfect campsites decided they would just make them. A family of four, the geologist and her partner and the grandparents came over and created spaces for themselves. Eventually more than half of the group was clearing thistle off the beach. By the time the guides had appetizers ready, the entire beach was cleared and ready for horse shoes and camping although sandals were still needed for all but the hardest as small clusters of thistle spikes were still hidden by the sand. My actions of cleaning up a place to put my tent sparked an unintentional chain reaction, including unexpected conversations and group bonding.

That night as we enjoyed a dinner of roasted pork loin, the geologist mentioned that what had happened on the beach was similar in effect to the standing man of Turkey in which a Turkish man stood silently for 6 hours to show solidarity with Gezi Park protesters and was joined by 300 hundred other individuals. The solidarity of our group and the dynamics of the evening gatherings had changed and we were rewarded with a moonlit canyon and shooting stars.

The next evening, we arrived at our final campsite to find that it was nearly impossible to beach the boats as every available surface was covered in thistles, a mixture of tumbleweed 6 feet high or green plants. Although there was a slight rumble from some, the entire group began to create spaces for their campsites along the mud flats learning from those who had cleared the beach the night before while a few of us began to clear a space for the evening circle and serving tables while the crew worked on clearing a space for the groovers and the kitchen. When the group that cleared the evening circle began clearing spaces to sleep, a trickle of folks came over to help each person with the arduous task of making space. After an evening filled with poetry,



by Judy Culver

### Day 5

Quarter Moon rising on Cataract  
Big Drop II a memory  
A duckie caught unaware  
Dumping its driver overboard  
Guides dinner resting in bellies  
Cocktails in hand, shuffling chairs  
Pee buckets stashed by bed rolls  
Cleared tumble weeds piled high  
Stories passed, poems read  
Voices echoing off towering cliffs  
Moon shadows on the rim  
Shadows shift, allusions abound  
Snow capped mountains or shimmering walls  
River Time  
Cities Forgotten  
River Time  
Living in the Moment

### Two Friends

Spitting clouds, 360 degree view  
Green Mesas, white towers, red cliffs  
Imprinting the vision  
A moment of creativity  
Watercolors on paper  
Moments captured  
Scents of pinion and juniper  
Cool breeze on sun touched shoulders  
Gentle voices floating  
Sun sinking behind San Rafael Swell  
Highlighting hidden depths, angles and colors  
Candlelit scenes of unremembered national parks  
Stark brilliance for a southern girl  
Sense of place for an eastern transplant  
Mysticism, magical spaces, no names needed  
A hint of civilization hidden by the blazing sun  
As it settles in for the night

a few loud late night revelers and more shooting stars, our final night on the river ended with pee buckets in hand as we headed off to bed.♦

## *New RMS Members!*

### **Lifetime**

Martin Hudson, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Bureau of Land Management, Pinedale WY  
Mary Crockett, Land Protection Director / Conservation Planner  
Congaree Land Trust, Columbia SC

### **Associate**

Jenna Whitlock, Associate State Director  
Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake City UT  
Alison Zmud, Student  
University of Montana, Missoula MT

### **Organization**

Peg Furshong, Director of Operations  
Clean Up the River Environment (CURE),  
Montevideo MN  
Dan Gilfillan, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Bureau of Land Management, Vernal UT  
Britt Hornsby, River Permit Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management, Bluff UT  
Cindy Lowry, Executive Director  
Alabama Rivers Alliance, Birmingham AL  
Dusty Vaughn, Recreation Specialist  
USDA Forest Service, Groveland CA  
Charlie Holtz, River Ranger  
Bureau of Land Management, Vernal UT

### **Professional**

Jeff Campbell, River Staff  
OARS, Moab UT  
J.M. Castillo, Natural Resources Manager  
National Park Service, Chinle AZ  
Seth Davis, River Staff  
OARS, Moab UT  
Jessie Dubuque, Wildlife Biologist  
USDA Forest Service, Gold Beach OR  
Colin Evans, River Staff  
OARS, Moab UT  
Lars Haarr, River Staff  
OARS, Moab UT  
Annie Johnston, Professional Chef  
Annie's Custom Catering, Bend OR  
Daithi Martin, Student  
University of Montana, Missoula MT  
Steve Speegle, Teacher  
Gadsden Schools, Las Cruces NM  
Tom Styran, River Staff  
OARS, Terlingua TX  
Gary Williams, Manager  
River Center, Soldotna AK  
Jim Wright, River Ranger  
Bureau of Land Management, Price UT

### **Student**

Ellen Bechtel, Greater Research Opportunities Fellow - Intern,  
Environmental Protection Agency, Anchorage AK  
Marina Metes, AmeriCorps OSM/VISTA  
Harpeth River Watershed Association, Franklin TN

# RMS Chapters

## Southeast by Mary Crockett

No one person knows everything there is to know about managing a river or a conservation program. Today's professionals working on our rivers are a diverse group of people who have degrees in a variety of programs, including hydrology, forestry, recreational planning, landscape architecture, geomorphology, geology, one of the various biology's, environmental law, and even financial/business professionals. Thus, our training workshops and symposia are a wonderful opportunity to learn and network with others.

As you think about the year ahead, please make plans to attend a workshop or training in your area, or join us for our national training in April. Denver in 2014 will be a chance for you to learn about what is working elsewhere and who you might want to call for help and advice. In Denver, as in Asheville in 2012, there will be a silent auction. In Asheville, we had a live auction with some wonderful items, such as a new set of rowing oars, an inflatable kayak, a raft trip on the Colorado River, and a week's stay in a cabin in some wonderful natural setting. I was bidding on the Colorado River along with other folks until there were just two of us bidding. So we talked to each other and decided to split the trip and become traveling companions for a week. Fast forward to June 2013 and this Southerner's trip to the Southwest. RMS member Judy Culver and I met up in Malad, Idaho, and drove to Moab, Utah, with a short side trip on US 6 near Price to about 12,000 feet above sea level for me to stand in some snow. Living in South Carolina we do not have mountains that high, nor do we have very much snow.

Once in Moab we spent the first day hiking and touring Canyonlands with a great NPS guide named Mark, who took us on one of the canyon roads where you had to close your eyes, hold onto the car and pray not to meet another vehicle. The next seven days we enjoyed the view of the cliffs from the vantage point of a raft on the Colorado River. After a day of hiking, riding in a raft, swimming and eating well prepared meals, I highly recommend sleeping on a sandbar without a tent so you can enjoy the great show of stars and meteors as you fall asleep. On two sandbars, Judy and I instigated a volunteer invasive weed removal work project where we reclaimed a sandbar from the invasive plant known as Russian thistle, aka tumbleweed. We had such a grand time with a great group of people, experiencing the river landscape and having conversations about river issues. I highly recommend a river trip with O.A.R.S. Outfitters.

After the river trip we took our time heading back to Salt Lake City by camping in national forests and visiting state and federal parks along the way, viewing great landscapes and interesting cultural areas.

Please consider donating a service, river trip or vacation house as a unique experience for your fellow river managers at the 2014 silent or live auction. Contact your chapter president or RMS Executive Director (Risa Shimoda). I look forward to seeing you all in April, 2014 in Denver, Colorado.♦

## Northwest by Lynette Ripley

### Hey RMS River Fans!

There is still plenty of boating season left to wet your paddles and oars. We have three chapter river trips remaining this year to enjoy the fall before you put away your boat this winter.

#### Main Salmon River Trip

North-Central Idaho  
September 13-18, 2013  
\$250 per person (\$300 for non-members)  
82 river mile trip – 6 days/5 nights  
Contact Ryan Turner at 208-962-3687

#### Rogue River Trip

Grants Pass, Oregon  
October 18-20, 2013  
\$325 per person (\$375 for non-members)  
40 river miles through the Rogue Wild section  
Popular lodge to lodge accommodations!  
Contact Becky Brown at 541-479-3773  
*Trip space is currently full. If interested, contact Becky in case of a cancellation.*

#### McKenzie River Trip

Near Eugene, Oregon  
October 13, 2013  
\$60 per person  
12 mile guided day trip with RMS Board Members  
Contact Risa Shimoda at 301-585-4677  
*All Northwest Chapter members are invited to join RMS Board Members on this day river trip during their annual board meeting in Oregon.*

Hope you are enjoying the last days of summer!

Check out who is taking home \$100 from REI by winning our "New Members" contest this year—stay tuned for the winner in our next RMS Journal!

Your Northwest Chapter Prez,  
Lynette Ripley  
Bend, Oregon

Life Is Short,  
Eat Dessert First!





# MANAGING RIVERS in CHANGING CLIMES

## TRAINING TOMORROW'S RIVER PROFESSIONALS • APRIL 15 - 17, 2014 DENVER, COLORADO

### APRIL. DENVER.

Find out what your peers are doing. Learn how to do it yourself. *Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Tomorrow's River Professionals* is shaping up to usher in an updated format for the River Management Society's biennial hallmark event. In response to feedback from members, attendees will be able to learn from peers as in the past, and receive hands-on training that they can apply to their jobs when they return to work...a new aspect about which we are very much pleased and psyched!

Northwest Chapter President Lynette Ripley has been a welcome catalyst for change, noting increasingly spare resources for federal staff to travel to conferences, particularly across state borders. RMS Symposia (if you are wondering if the plural should be 'symposia' either is correct) in the recent past have been programmed with panel discussions, case study examination and talks about policy and precedent, none of which are the substance for which an 'on-the-river' staff person would be able to request attendance. Separately, Lynette and others believe events that provide needed training are still welcome and very much a part of most technical and field staff annual schedules. While much training can take place virtually, others require an irreplaceable on-site format in order to experience an effective, interpersonal learning dynamic.

*Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Tomorrow's River Professionals* will offer both specific training tracks and plenary panels on evolving precedent-related topics. The program is not complete at the time of this writing, but what we have scheduled thus far is substantive and exciting. The tracks in place or anticipated are looking something like this:

- Wild and Scenic Rivers – Overview to Section 7, Section 7 Evaluation, ORVs, Capacity and WSR Management (at least some of these), with focus on Utah's first Wild and Scenic (Virgin) River
- Hydropower – Recreational Capacity Assessments for hydropower dams and a moderately in-depth introduction to the hydropower relicensing process, 'FERC 101'
- Invasive – Aquatic: Training users, developing best practices / Riparian – training staff and volunteers regarding removal and revegetation

- Water Law – State, federal and 'administrative or regulatory' tools to put and keep water in rivers we work on, in order to have water to manage. Administrative tools would include hydro licenses, Endangered Species Act, NEPA, and 404 permitting
- Water Rights – State Recreational Use Statutes and the implications of a navigability designation
- Water Trails – Preparing launches, interactive maps, and outreach plans as well as addressing adaptability requirements at federal and non-federal access points

We will also have sessions to provide updates or insights into hallmark RMS projects that have been underway for some time:

- River Studies and Leadership Certificate – a collaboration between Utah State University, Prescott College and Colorado Mesa University, to be offered in 2014-2015
- National Rivers Database: how hydrologic data sets are being used, integrated and improved
- Accessibility for disabled and aging users – Accessibility guidelines that are new, issues related to over regulation (e.g., launches not being maintained because they are not suited to adaptive access upgrades)
- Hiring, training and mentoring river professionals

If you have not attended a symposium recently, consider joining us in Denver in April! Registration will open mid-to-late fourth quarter, so look for announcements in your weekly RMS digest regarding what we believe will establish a new, exciting 'formerly known as Symposium' that reflects the needs of today's river professionals.

Remember that scholarships are available to RMS members, and applications are due December 31st: we anticipate seeing many applications in the fourth quarter. If you are planning to go, you can also apply for a scholarship in September, 2013 [hint: you'll have less competition!]. See the Scholarships tab at [www.river-management.org](http://www.river-management.org), visible once you log in to the Members' side. Your User Name is your email address and default password is your member number, printed on the address portion of your most recent RMS Journal. If that doesn't work, email [rms@river-management.org](mailto:rms@river-management.org) for a password reminder. ♦

# RMS and the Digital Age

*Do you receive digital communication from the River Management Society? We hope so!*

*This is a recap of the standard array of email sent since spring 2012 from the RMS main office.*

## RMS News Digest

RMS sends announcements about the organization, as well as news and articles of interest weekly. We used to send the digest on the weekends and were encouraged to send them during the week, so that's when they are now emailed. These are sent to members for whom we have valid email addresses.

## Special Surveys and Announcements

These are sent as special requests to participate in a project, or as a reminder about important upcoming dates or deadlines. These are also sent to members for whom we have valid email addresses.

## Listserve

If you are a member of RMS (including 'Organizational Staff' members) you can sign up to participate in the RMS Listserve. This communications tool allows members to ask questions of one another and respond easily. RMS also sends messages about job opportunities, federal and other grants, and random opportunities to pick up used gear (sometimes for free).



Once you hit 'submit' the moderator will see it and approve it straight away, usually within a few hours and sometimes within minutes. Your message will go to all subscribers from the membership. They can respond by hitting 'reply' and the message will go to the moderator, who will post responses. When several responses come in, they are held for a few days to post together.

You can also send an email message to [rmsmoderator@river-management.org](mailto:rmsmoderator@river-management.org) and a listserve message will go out

from RMS or Risa Shimoda.

You can post messages to the entire membership by following these steps:

1) Log-in on the RMS website: [www.river-management.org](http://www.river-management.org) — *username* is your email address — *password* is the one you set up or were assigned when you joined (you can change this at any time).

2) When you are greeted on the landing page, click on:

- My Profile
- My Features
- E-lists
- RMS Listserve
- Click the 'plus' icon to add a post

This sounds scary, but your computer won't bite your hand when you try it out, and it's easy after you've done it once or twice.

Regardless of who the initiator is, you can always log-in and search the listserve archives for historical responses to questions and answers—the archives go back to the early 2000s.

If you do not receive email from RMS on a weekly basis and would like to receive anything mentioned above, one or more of the following is occurring:

- 1) Your spam filter is blocking RMS email
- 2) You have not subscribed to the listserve
- 3) We do not have your correct address

We would be delighted to adjust any of the above to suit your preferences. If you have any questions or requests regarding your communications with RMS, please email [rms@river-management.org](mailto:rms@river-management.org) or call (what? use a telephone? yes, ours still works!) 301-585-4677 p/f, (alt) 301-502-6548.♦



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# To Join RMS

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Duties/interests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rivers you manage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (please check one)

- ☐ Professional \$50/yr (\$200 for 5 years)
- ☐ Associate \$30/yr
- ☐ Organization \$120/yr (government/corporate)
- ☐ Organization \$60/yr (NGO/non-profit)
- ☐ Student \$25/yr
- ☐ Lifetime \$500 (for individuals only)

Who referred you to RMS? \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to "RMS"  
RMS also accepts VISA or Mastercard:*

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Exp date:  
Amount:

*Send this form, with payment, to:  
RMS, P.O. Box 5750, Takoma Park, MD 20913-5750  
(301) 585-4677 • rms@river-management.org*



River Management Society

RMS, P.O. Box 5750, Takoma Park MD 20913

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Next Journal Deadline - Northeast Chapter - Submissions due November 1, 2013

# MANAGING RIVERS in CHANGING CLIMES

TRAINING TOMORROW'S RIVER PROFESSIONALS • APRIL 15 - 17, 2014  
DENVER, COLORADO

