

## Pacific Chapter Focus

Amargosa River Song Bird Project.....	4
Endangered Amargosa Vole.....	6
Enhanced Paddling in Yosemite.....	8
California Drought.....	9
Riparian Restoration - Virgin River.....	10
River Management Law Conference..	14
RMS Denver Training - Agenda.....	18
FERC Form 80 Workshop.....	21
RMS Denver Training - New App!.....	21
Merced River Management Plan.....	22
Letters to RMS - Rebuttals.....	24
The Role of the River Ranger.....	26
RMS 2013 Treasurer's Report.....	28
RMS Chapter Updates.....	30



*Bull elk near Orick, California. Photo: Dave Payne*

## Roosevelt Elk along the Klamath River

by Dave Payne

We begin our journey some thirty years ago sitting in the cab of a pickup truck in the parking lot of a National Park Service maintenance yard outside of Orick, California. We are watching a 12 foot high, circular wooden fenced area with a guillotine style door that is remotely controlled. A livestock loading chute is attached to one side of the “stockade.” This is an elk trap that is located on private property. We are part of a joint team from the National Park Service, Forest Service, and California Fish & Game that are trying to capture wild Roosevelt elk that have wandered out of Redwood National Park and taken up winter range on private land just east of Orick.

Our vantage point is about a half mile away and gives up a clear view of the elk trap and the surrounding open pasture.

The trap has been stocked with grains, apples, and other assorted goodies that elk would find irresistible to eat. My memory fades as to the exact particulars of how many evenings we spent watching the traps. Sometimes they would approach the entrance, sometimes not. Over time the elk accepted the trap and eventually they would enter the trap.

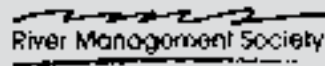
These elk were surplus animals from Redwood National Park that would leave the park’s forest land during the winter and set up “winter range” on private land. They were considered a nuisance by the private landowners and needed to find a new home. The Klamath National Forest once had Roosevelt elk roaming across the forest until they were extirpated by the early miners and European settlers. So, we have extra elk that need a new

home and a large public forest that could provide that home. We just needed to get lucky and catch some elk. The trap gate was controlled by remote control. At some point elk actually entered the trap and we were lucky enough to capture some animals!

The next step was to load the captured elk into horse trailers. The elk were herded into the loading chute and into the horse trailers. We packed them tightly so they could not thrash about and injure themselves. The windows were covered to make the horse trailer dark so the animals would be somewhat calmer for traveling to their new home on the Klamath National Forest.

The captured elk were then hauled through Redwood National Park over the

*(continued on page 12)*



#### RMS Main Office

Risa Shimoda, Executive Director  
PO Box 5750, Takoma Park, MD 20913  
Ph / Fax (301) 585-4677  
executivedirector@river-management.org  
rms@river-management.org

#### National Officers

Dennis Willis, President  
Price, UT (435) 650-0850

Linda Jalbert, Vice President  
Grand Canyon, AZ (928) 638-7909

Jorjena Daly, Secretary  
Anchorage, AK (907) 267-1246

Helen Clough, Treasurer  
Juneau, AK (907) 321-4004

#### Ex-Officio Advisors

Gary G. Marsh  
Mountain City, TN (423) 768-3621

Randy Welsh  
Washington, DC (801) 625-5250

Ken Ransford  
Basalt, CO (970) 927-1200

#### RMS Listserve

rmsmoderator@river-management.org

#### Web Page Coordinator

Cheston Crowser (406) 273-4747  
ccrowser@mt.gov

#### Pro Deal Coordinator

Scott Springer (541) 490-5289  
sspringer@usbr.gov

#### Merchandise Coordinator

Dan Haas (509) 546-8333  
daniel\_haas@fws.gov

#### RMS Journal

Caroline Kurz (406) 549-0514  
caroline@river-management.org

RMS is a non-profit professional organization.  
All contributions and membership dues are  
tax-deductible.

*The mission of RMS is to support  
professionals who study, protect, and  
manage North America's rivers.*

Editorial Policy: Articles are not edited for  
content and may not reflect the position,  
endorsement, or mission of RMS. The  
purpose of this policy is to encourage the  
free exchange of ideas concerning river  
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 term 'river management' bugs me sometimes. I'm saddened to think that *river managers* view people like they do cows and weeds...discreet populations that need to be counted and cleaned up after. As a river user, I like to think that members of my hood deserve a little more respect, for we pick up trash to ward off bad karma and put our dollars in the voluntary permit envelopes. Well, I admit to also seeing recreationists who act as though they think little about the river's health or those they encounter, particularly once they've slipped back into street clothes and drive home. Hmm, the river managers' attitude may be well founded.

The similarity between us and weeds is that we usually go where it's easiest to be with whatever works for the activity in which we are engaged. The *difference* between us and weeds is that we behave along a wide spectrum of awareness, expertise, flexibility and expectation. We often modify our plan if we learn that change is possible and worth some level of discomfort to reach a better place, or that it's required in order to avoid a negative situation. We live in communities that can rally in the face of losing rivers and water-related resources if alerted by knowledgeable and charismatic leaders, or threatened with an imminent loss of safety, health or quality of life.

In the *Art of War* Sun Tzu advises, "In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity." I love the guy. He also suggests:

*If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.*

You and our RMS colleagues are more qualified than anyone on the planet to integrate institutional knowledge, best practices and good policy to allow our rivers to thrive and be enjoyed. You are also the best-equipped to meet our rivers' enemies, whether they are environments dominated by individuals who suffer from bad hair days year-round; outdated policies; or your own fear of the unknown. Challenges facing us are impossible to



tackle solo, and we owe it to our rivers and our jobs to reach out to those who say they care about the same things we do who happen to wear a different uniform and drink from a different favorite label.

You know already that it is easy to hate a stranger and really, really hard to hate a friend. A sea change is possible if you reach out of your box to the bad-hair day person or author of the policy that is choking your sensibility and the person in the cubicle next to yours does the same thing. Try it in Denver. It might make your palms sweat, but it will prove to be a pretty shrewd investment if our rivers run farther for it.

On a lighter note: the meeting app **RMSDenver2014** will allow registrants to see the names of everyone who is attending (and who has downloaded the app onto their phone, tablet or laptop), as well as the programs, bios, photos and maps of the activities. If you see the name of someone you'd like to meet, you can get in touch with them before you even get to Denver! We are doing away with the "it was so busy, I just didn't see her" excuse for not meeting. We are trying to take advantage of the swell technology we've been lucky enough to find and invite you to use it to put a face with names of people you ought to know, proving that we can be more proactive than our rivers' expertly managed weeds. ♦

Risa Shimoda  
RMS Executive Director

## From the RMS President

### Symposia of Future Past

As I write this, I am looking ahead two months toward *Managing Rivers in Changing Climes*, our biennial symposium in Denver. By the time you are reading this, the symposium will be over and done. In the meantime I am hoping to see many of you there.

Normally, the symposium timeline is rather linear. Lots of things come together, we hold a symposium and start the process for the next. This one is a little different. We have real questions about the future of RMS symposia. They have been important events, not only for the information exchanged and our professional development, but also because they are a vital source of funding for RMS. A good symposium will help us out with a year or two of operational expenses.

Unfortunately, we have not made good money on a symposium since Portland, Oregon, in 2010. Tight agency budgets, travel woes and limitations on meeting attendance have made it ever harder for our members to participate in symposia and workshops. This has us questioning the viability of future events of this type. For the upcoming Denver meeting, the committee has worked hard at increasing the levels of sponsorship and encouraging attendance beyond the typical RMS audience. We won't know until it is over the true success of those efforts and whether the event is a financial success.

While financial success is important to maintaining a healthy organization, it is not our only consideration. First and foremost is *how well are we serving the membership?* Denver will be a great opportunity to get a large number of members from around the country to one location to exchange knowledge and fellowship with one another. We will be looking at the attendance by members. If we cannot get at least 100 of you there, we have to question the value of the enterprise in serving the needs of members. Personally, I love the symposium even though I am now retired and attend at personal expense. It is wonderfully invigorating to participate in the gathering of the clan and hear of your wonderful victories and occasional

defeats. There are many good stories with something to be learned from every individual we encounter. So it is with trepidation, I contemplate Denver might be the last opportunity for a nationwide audience of members to attend an event together. Much as your board would love to start planning for the next symposium, the simple truth is if it won't cash flow, it cannot happen. Hopefully, Denver will be a roaring success and we can get on with the next one.

We need your help in answering some important questions: Has the time of big national meetings simply gone the way of wood winged airplanes and IBM typewriters? If you would like to attend and don't, what are the obstacles in your way and how can they be defeated? Even if national symposia are not our future, members still need to develop, gather, and share knowledge. Where should RMS put its efforts to best serve the professional development needs of its members? Tell us what would be most effective for you. Perhaps more emphasis on regional or chapter level activity? Would some manner of distance learning such as webinars or other interactive media serve better than a symposium? Is there a creative use of social media applications that might serve the purpose? Your professional and personal needs are what matter here. How can we best provide you with opportunity to develop professionally?

In the Winter Journal, I wrote about some contemplated changes to the structure of your board. RMS is a membership organization, the members own and control the corporation. You delegate governance to a board made up of the four elected national officers and the elected chapter presidents. The four national officers and a chapter president's representative constitute the Executive Committee that has authority for most day to day business. In order to increase the diversity of the board and provide more

opportunity to participate, the Board has been discussing the addition of some at-large positions on the board. Right now, we are looking at two alternatives:

1. Membership would continue to elect their chapter officers, the four national officers and an additional four, at-large board members.
2. Membership would elect their chapter officers plus eight, at-large board members. The board would then select the executive committee from within the board membership.

So what say you? Discuss it within your chapters and among your RMS friends and let us know if you have a preference or opinion. If you show up in Denver, we will be discussing this with the membership in person. One of the reason

### "Has the time of big national meetings simply gone the way of wood winged airplanes and IBM typewriters?"

for the change is we need some skills on the board beyond river management. Your board has some great river managers, to be sure, but there are members out there with skills in finance, law and other disciplines any non-profit organization needs. It is hard to get them on the board because they may not be well known within our usual professional circles. This leaves us in the position of having to recruit these skills as ex-officio, non-voting advisors. We have been blessed with some really great advisors, but it is a bit of an insult we expect them to participate in board activity yet deny them the ability to make motions and vote.

As you can see, we have much RMS business to discuss. I am ever hopeful there will be enough of us in Denver to decide these things. ♦

  
RMS President





*Amargosa River upstream of Amargosa Canyon.*

## Amargosa River Song Bird Project: Tracking Avian Breeding Response to Tamarisk Removal and Cowbird Management

by Christopher Otahal

The Amargosa River flows through one of the hottest and driest regions in the western United States. As one of only two large rivers in the Mojave Desert, the river supports a wide array of valuable resources and represents a unique addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Summer temperatures often rise above 120 degrees and rainfall seldom reaches this part of the river. The approximately 180-mile Amargosa River begins its southerly, largely underground flow near Beatty, Nevada. A short segment near Oasis Valley in Nevada supports shallow, perennial water flow, but the river then generally flows in a sub-surface fashion as it bisects the remainder of the Amargosa Desert in Nevada. Near the towns of Shoshone and Tecopa, California, the river again peaks above the parched desert surface. In this area water flows above ground year around supplied by an extensive underground aquifer system and provides an island of lush green in the vast desert sea. This isolated oasis provides a home for many sensitive and endemic plant and animal species.

In recognition of its importance, this stretch of the Amargosa River was designated by the Bureau of Land Management as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in 2002 and Congress designated 26 miles of it a Wild and Scenic River in 2009. The unique biological resources in this area have been identified as one of the rivers Outstanding and Remarkable Values, and in particular, this region is a haven for a variety of bird species. Over 250 bird species use this site for wintering, migratory stopover and breeding habitat leading the Audubon Society to designate it as an Important Bird Area.

Avian breeding success associated with rivers in the southwestern United States has been adversely affected by the establishment of non-native species such as tamarisk (an invasive non-native tree) and the brown-headed cowbird (a bird nest parasite). The Amargosa River is no exception—large numbers of cowbirds frequent the area and dense stands of tamarisk abound. In order to enhance bird breeding habitat, the Barstow Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, in conjunction

with several partners including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, The Amargosa Conservancy, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Natural Resources Conservation Service and local land owners established a Tamarisk Removal / Cowbird Management program in 2005.

Initial monitoring results of a 120-hectare study area have shown a significant reduction in the density of cowbirds and a significant increase in the productivity of several avian species in the study area, including the federally endangered Least Bell's Vireo, as a result of these management efforts. Prior to our management efforts, no Least Bell's Vireo nested in the canyon, however by 2011 our efforts lead to successful nesting and the fledging of 21 or 22 young. Before the management program began, there was an average of 80 nesting territories (all species combined) observed in the study area and this had risen to 109 nesting territories in 2011. Cowbird management has reduced songbird nest parasitism rates from 40% to 0%. Prior to management efforts, an average of only 40% of the bird nests observed produced young (due to high parasitism rates from cowbirds) in contrast to the 90% success rate achieved in 2011 after management efforts were put in place. The federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher has also started to show interest in the site. Though breeding has not been confirmed, we remain hopeful that breeders will establish themselves over time. Researchers associated with this bird monitoring project have noted slight decreases in productivity of all bird species in 2012 and 2013 and hypothesize that this may be a result of the recent severe droughts hitting California. The

BLM Barstow Field Office looks forward to continuing to foster the breeding opportunities for the Amargosa River birds into the future by cultivating our strong private/federal partnerships.♦

To learn more about the Amargosa ACEC/WSR go to:  
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/amargosa.html>

*Chris Otahal works as a Wildlife Biologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Barstow, CA. He can be reached at (760) 252-6033 (or) cotahal@blm.gov.*



*Amargosa Canyon showing a section of the riparian corridor that is dominated by invasive tamarisk.*

*Nest with young Least Bell's Vireo chicks.  
Photo: Chris McCreedy - Point Blue Conservation Science*





# The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River: Protecting the Highly Endangered Amargosa Vole

by Christopher Otahal

The Amargosa Vole (*Microtus californicus scirpensis*), one of the most endangered mammals in North America, finds its home nestled within extremely specialized bulrush marsh habitat of the Amargosa River Wild and Scenic River near the towns of Tecopa and Shoshone in Inyo County, California. Over the last 5 years the Barstow Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management has been working cooperatively with a large number of partners including the California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Geological Survey, University of California Berkeley, University of California Davis, the nature Conservancy, the Amargosa Conservancy, and private land owners to study this rare creature and to work cooperatively to develop a management plan to help prevent the potential extinction of this species.

The Amargosa Vole was discovered in 1900. Soon after, based on a few field surveys, the species was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in the 1930's. The species was listed by the State of California as endangered in 1980 and as a critically endangered subspecies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1984. The list of threats to this species is long and includes such things as loss of its specialized habitat; predation by natural predators such as coyotes and hawks and domestic predators such as cats and dogs; and potential competition with wild and feral animals such as the house mouse; and the invasion of the marsh areas by the non-native tamarisk tree. Amargosa voles typically live in marshes dominated by three-square bulrush, with thick bulrush mats serving as protective cover against predators. As a result of past land uses such as cattle grazing, floods, and channelization, Shoshone wetlands are now largely dominated by cattails and unsuitable for Amargosa voles.

Recent works conducted by some of our partners have discovered that the vole is suffering from low genetic diversity and previously unknown diseases. University of California Berkeley researchers have observed that the species suffers from very low genetic variability probably due to extremely low population sizes leading to inbreeding and causing a genetic bottleneck in the recent past. Field work started in 2010 by University of California Davis identified a new parasitic mite that causes a skin disease which infects a large number of voles. Other newly identified diseases and parasites are being reported as well, but their ultimate prevalence and effect on the vole population is as yet undetermined.

By far, the most serious threat to the vole is loss of habitat from development and the loss of ground water resources. The portion of the Amargosa River which was designated by Congress as a Wild and Scenic River in 2009 is unique in that it is one of the few places along the river where water remains on the surface the year around. The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River, and the patches of marsh habitat supported by this free flowing water, provide the only remaining habitat for this endangered species.



Endangered Amargosa Vole.

According to the 1997 Recovery Plan, the estimated habitat for this species consisted of no more than 500 acres and the population of voles was unknown at that time. Recent surveys conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and State of California have now determined that the current suitable habitat for this species hovers around 200 acres. Even more troubling is that the total worldwide number of voles fluctuates from a possible low of a few dozen individuals in winter to no more than a few hundred by spring. These remaining voles are scattered across 55 small scattered habitat patches across their range, with 90% of them existing in one small, highly threatened, habitat patch consisting of approximately 5 acres. This apparent habitat contraction is especially concerning in that the area is expected to move toward a drying regime as climate change takes place into the future. Because of the extremely low population size, current suite of threats, and risk of stochastic events such as drought, fire (including arson), or flooding, this species has an extremely high risk of extinction. Most of the remaining viable habitat and populations is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, with a few additional habitat patches being owned by state and private individuals.



CA Department of Fish and Wildlife employees doing vole surveys in the Grimshaw Lake area of the Amargosa WSR.  
Photos: Bureau of Land Management

In an effort to reverse this population decline, the Barstow Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management continues to work with its partners on the long-term monitoring and research programs which are feeding into its adaptive management plan for the Amargosa River Wild and Scenic River. Urgent actions being contemplated and implemented by the BLM include habitat protection, enhancement and creation; translocation into restored or unoccupied but suitable habitat areas; and the potential for engaging in a captive breeding program. The cooperative federal/state/private partnership which has grown over the last five years

has provided crucial insights into the management issues facing this rare animal and the continued cooperative endeavor will hopefully lead to the survival and recovery of this species. With this continued group effort, the vole may avoid the fate of the Tecopa Pupfish – which has the notorious distinction of being the first species to be lost to extinction under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. ♦

More information can be found at:  
[http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/foley\\_lab/vole/index.cfm](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/foley_lab/vole/index.cfm)





## Enhanced Paddling Opportunities Coming to Yosemite National Park

Merced River through Yosemite Valley, best Class I run in the world. Photo: Dave Steindorf

by Megan Hooker

Rowing or paddling on a river can be one of the most powerful ways to connect with a landscape. As a recreational pursuit, paddling is human-powered, place-based, low impact, quiet, non-consumptive and Wilderness compliant. Some of the best places to connect with breath-taking scenery and the natural landscape can be found within our National Park System. Earlier this year, Yosemite National Park released their final Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, announcing that it will expand and enhance opportunities to experience the Park by boat.

The new plan places paddling on equal footing with other activities in the Park by managing visitor numbers similar to hiking and other backcountry uses. Rather than treat paddling as a separate activity, these numbers fit within the established trail and wilderness capacity

numbers outlined for the Park. The plan considers river segments as “water trials” or backcountry routes. Because many of the river segments will be open to boating for the first time, Yosemite has set initial capacities to allow for reasonable access while protecting river values. Responsible boating use that is below the capacities outlined in the plan will likely require little management beyond use monitoring. On certain reaches, visitors boating in the Park will declare the river reaches that they will be boating on when they obtain a permit.

Within Yosemite Valley, boating levels on the popular reach between Lower River Campground and Sentinel Beach will remain similar to current levels. In addition, 45 private boaters will be able to run the river through the length of Yosemite Valley. Outside of the Valley, daily use limits and management action vary by river reach.

- Merced River above Nevada Falls (Wilderness): 25 boats per day with permit.
- Merced Gorge (Scenic): 10 boats per day with self-registration.
- Merced River at El Portal (Recreational): 50 boats per day with self-registration.
- South Fork Merced River (Wild): 25 people per day with permit.
- South Fork Merced above Wawona (Wild): 25 people per day with permit.
- South Fork Merced at Wawona (Recreational): 50 people per day with self-registration.
- South Fork Merced below Wawona (Wild): 25 people per day with permit.

While these numbers allow a certain number of boaters per day, hydrology will manage boating use too. Boatable flows rarely extend through the end of July, and

(continued on page 34)

## What the California Drought Means to River Runners in 2014

by Dave Payne

California is in the midst of a historic drought. Recent rains have only just begun to soften the effects. The short term forecast is predicting a series of storms so hopefully we have broken the drought cycle and will be able to salvage some sort of creek boating season here on the Klamath National Forest. As a river runner, one needs to know about current and projected water levels to be able to make intelligent decisions about committing to a river trip.

The USGS Waterwatch website provides realtime data that is available to the modern river runner. One can go to the Waterwatch homepage (<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov>) and find data on four national maps—Current Streamflow, Flood, Drought, and Past Flow/Runoff.

The **Current Streamflow** map allows visitors to click on the state of their choice. They are given a state map with all the gauge stations that report realtime stream flow conditions in different colors. They can click on a gauge dot on the map and a smaller box opens with Summary, Hydrograph, Peak, Forecast, and Rating tabs for that particular gauge. Also shown is a highlighted gauge number and gauge name. A summary dropdown box gives additional info such as Drainage Area (square miles); Discharge (cfs); Stage (ft); Date (year/month/day and time); Flood Stage (ft); Percentile (%); Class Symbol (colored dot representing flows from low to flood); % Normal (median); % Normal (mean). As you can see, the **Summary** tab is chocked full of information.

If you click on the **Hydrograph** tab you are given a graph with the realtime flows for the last eight days.

If you click on the **Peak** tab you are shown a bar graph with *Stage, Feet* on the vertical line and *Date* on the horizontal line. Current stage, recent maximum stage, and highest recorded peak stages for the date are all shown. A red flood line is also shown. This is a fun tab for history buffs tracking floods of yesteryear and comparing to the current flow for that day.

If you click on the graph on the **Forecast** tab you are directed to the National Weather Service and the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service website page. You are shown a NOAA graph that has *Stage (ft)* on the vertical bar and *Site Time (PST)* on the horizontal bar. Nine days are shown, the past four and the future five days. The observed or past flows are shown in blue, while the forecast is shown in a red purple line. The time the forecast is issued is also shown. This seems like very good info for the boater who is trying to plan a float a few days out and has major concerns about low water conditions or if a high river is at risk of still rising to flood stage or above.

Under the **Summary** tab, if you click on the highlighted number you are directed to a website page for that particular river gauge. I will use the gauge for the Klamath River @Seiad Valley as my example. That particular page allows you to select *Current / Historical Observations* and other tabs. Clicking on *Current / Historical Observations* gives you this page: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site\\_no=11520500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site_no=11520500). You are shown a graph

of most instantaneous value or **Discharge**, cubic feet per second. A second box gives **Daily Discharge**, cubic feet per second based on 75 years of record. A third graph is shown, **Gauge height, feet** that shows the most recent instantaneous value in feet. This graph tracks the last eight days of data collected. This is a fun one to watch when heavy rains show up and you are tracking river levels.

So what does all this mean to the river runner? It gives you the power of knowledge of current conditions on which to make an informed decision about whether or not to run a river trip. Since this issue of the RMS Journal is about the Pacific Chapter (California & Hawaii) I will provide some links that may help folks become acquainted with the USGS Waterdata sources available.

Here is the link for the state of California: <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=ca>

Since I work along the Klamath River, I will provide the links I use to plan my daily floats on the river. There are three gauges that give Klamath flow information.

The first is the **Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam**. This site gives the dam release data that affects the popular Tree of Heaven run near Interstate 5: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site\\_no=11516530](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site_no=11516530)

The second is the **Klamath River at Seiad Valley**. This flow combined with Indian Creek data will give you a flow for the popular Happy Camp run: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site\\_no=11520500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=11520500)

The third is the **Klamath River at Orleans** which gives flow info for the river in the Six River National Forest: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site\\_no=11523000](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/uv?site_no=11523000)

For folks interested in running the tributary creeks around Happy Camp there is the **Indian Creek** gauge: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site\\_no=11521500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=11521500). Comparable flows can be guesstimated for Elk Creek and Clear Creek by checking out the Indian Creek gauge. If Indian Creek is running then so should be Elk Creek and Clear Creek.

I will also include the gauge for the California Salmon River @ Somes Bar: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site\\_no=11522500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=11522500). This information should be quite useful as the California Salmon River is to host the “Whitewater Nationals” in early May. Details may be obtained from the Six Rivers National Forest in Eureka, California.

The information from these websites should allow paddlers to make informed decisions about whether or not to plan that vacation river trip on a river near you.

There are three more maps (Drought, Flood, Past Flow / Runoff) on the USGS Waterwatch website mentioned at the beginning of this article. If this article has sparked some curiosity and the desire for more knowledge about water conditions past and present, then I would suggest you spend a bit of time to explore these different maps and become familiar with what they offer the river professional.♦



# An Ecohydrological Approach to Guiding Riparian Restoration on the Lower Virgin River

by Bruce Orr, Glen Leverich, and Tom Dudley

## Virgin River: A Natural Treasure in Need of Restoration

Like other large rivers in the American Southwest, the 150-mile (240-km) Virgin River is a flood-prone and ecologically rich water course that simultaneously supports critical native wildlife and fish habitat, dense infestation of non-native tamarisk (saltcedar; *Tamarix ramosissima* and *T. parviflora*), regionally important agriculture, and growing urban developments. The river is unique, however, in maintaining a mostly unregulated flow regime due to the lack of any on-channel reservoirs on the main stem from its headwaters near Zion National Park down to its terminus in Lake Mead. This condition has helped maintain a relatively natural channel form with ample capacity to accommodate frequent flooding along much of its length. Unfortunately, these same natural river dynamics resulted in two successive large floods in 2005 and 2010 (return periods of ~50 and ~40 years, respectively) that have challenged restoration managers by destroying a number of riparian restoration projects.

The river is also unique for being the first river system in which the range of the introduced tamarisk leaf beetle (*Diorhabda carinulata*) overlapped with critical breeding habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The leaf beetle was released in the upper watershed in 2006 to control tamarisk via repeated defoliation events that will eventually lead to plant mortality, thus potentially allowing native woody species, such as Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*) and Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) to re-establish in the riparian corridor. The beetle has since spread downstream to Lake Mohave on the lower Colorado River, causing regular defoliation events in late spring/early summer. While it is widely acknowledged that tamarisk biocontrol with the beetles will ultimately yield long term benefits for wildlife and ecosystem services, such as through expanded native wildlife habitat, water savings, and reduced flood and fire risks, there is elevated concern in the short term over the need for riparian restoration measures to mitigate possible negative short-term impacts of biocontrol, largely for the loss of riparian canopy cover for nesting willow flycatchers and other birds, and elevated wildfire risk within the tamarisk-dominated riparian corridor. Thus, there is a crucial need for immediate, yet strategic riparian restoration along the ecologically important Virgin River.

## Ecohydrological Approach to Restoration Planning

Restoration planning for any riverine system requires consideration of numerous biophysical variables having the potential to benefit from the activity or to threaten sustainability of the project, which is particularly true when designing restoration plans at the site-specific scale (typically <100 acres (40.5ha)). Building on our river-length scale assessment of ecological and hydrological factors influencing riparian restoration opportunities and constraints, we conducted an in-depth assessment of restoration potential at an 80-acre (32.4 ha) parcel along the lower Virgin River near Mormon Mesa, Nevada for the Clark County Desert Conservation Program and

the surrounding 10-mile (16-km) reach of the river. This broad, low-lying reach demonstrates a highly mobile, braided channel morphology at flood and a stable, single-thread, meandering channel during lower flows. Dense tamarisk stands dominate the floodplain, increasing the risk of wildfires that eliminate native vegetation and support even further dominance by tamarisk. The riparian corridor is seasonally home to willow flycatchers, which are routinely monitored by the Bureau of Reclamation in nearby parcels, plus a variety of other wildlife species of interest. The project team included us, Elizabeth Bickmore of Clark County Desert Conservation Program, Rob Vaghini of Great Basin Institute and Nevada Conservation Corps, Elise McAllister of Partners in Conservation, and Dr. Adam Lambert, Devyn Orr, and Dan Koepke of U.C. Santa Barbara.

Our team's development of the restoration plan for the Mormon Mesa site began with synthesis of key biophysical factors assessed through remote-sensing data collection, field surveys, and GIS analysis—flood-scour potential, relative surface elevation (above the low-flow channel), vegetation composition and riparian forest structure, and soil chemistry and moisture—to identify discrete restoration management units. We then delineated potential planting zones having a target plant species list (with a focus on mid- and over-story vegetation for flycatcher habitat, but also including a wider variety of shrub and understory species to enhance biodiversity) that focused within the site but extended beyond based on contiguous hydrological and biological habitat characteristics. The plan further considered recommendations for management of weeds and trespass cattle—two significant threats to the long-term success of the restoration effort. A key focus of this plan was to establish small patches of native vegetation within the existing matrix of tamarisk. The location and species composition of these patches were specifically designed to expand existing flycatcher habitat, and serve as “propagule islands” to provide a local source of seeds following flood-scouring events for natural recolonization by native willows and cottonwoods as tamarisk declines in abundance due to continuing defoliation by the tamarisk leaf beetle.

## Implementation

The County and its partners at Great Basin Institute and Nevada Conservation Corps have begun implementing the restoration plan by creating access pathways, clearing and treating tamarisk in identified locations, retaining native woody trees (e.g., Goodding's willow), placing piles of cut tamarisk strategically on pathways and around the perimeter of restoration patches to minimize the amount of fencing needed to exclude trespass cattle, and planting native woody species based on the recommendations for appropriate species requirements, planting density, and weed management. Additional areas will receive similar treatment and planting throughout 2014, with associated monitoring to evaluate project success. In addition, a “natural recruitment area” that was scoured in the December 2010 flood



Lower Virgin River near Mesquite, Nevada showing before and after views of beetle-induced defoliation of dense tamarisk stands. Photos courtesy of Mike Kuehn and Tom Dudley.



Post-tamarisk treatment patch with retained Goodding's willow that recently received native plantings in Feb 2014. Visible in background are the surrounding dense matrix of defoliated tamarisk and the “wall” of tamarisk debris piled up around perimeter of patch to help exclude cattle and reduce the amount of fencing required in the primary restoration area. Photo: Great Basin Institute after site clearing (October 2013).



Natural recruitment zone created by flood scour during the December 2010 flood event, showing naturally recruited rushes and salt grass in foreground, shallow surface water in the side channel, and arrowweed and screwbean mesquite in the distance. Photo: Bruce Orr (2/13/14).

and has since experienced extensive natural recruitment is being fenced off to protect recruited vegetation and additional experimental plantings from cattle grazing.

Overall, this planning process requiring only a modest budget can serve as a useful model for science-based, cost-effective restoration planning in complex riverine systems, such as the lower Virgin River and others in the Southwest.♦

***This work and ongoing implementation received supplemental financial support from the Walton Family Foundation's Freshwater Initiative Program.***

*Bruce Orr, PhD is senior ecologist and co-founder, and Glen Leverich is a senior geomorphologist at Stillwater Sciences in Berkeley, CA. Stillwater Sciences is an environmental science and consulting firm focused on watershed issues. Tom Dudley, PhD is principal investigator at U.C. Santa Barbara's Marine Science Institute–Riparian Invasion Research Laboratory. For more information, contact: [bruce@stillwatersci.com](mailto:bruce@stillwatersci.com), [glen@stillwatersci.com](mailto:glen@stillwatersci.com), and [tdudley@msi.ucsb.edu](mailto:tdudley@msi.ucsb.edu), or call Bruce or Glen at (510) 848-8098. For more information, please visit: [http://www.stillwatersci.com/case\\_studies.php?cid=69](http://www.stillwatersci.com/case_studies.php?cid=69) and <http://rivrlab.msi.ucsb.edu/colorado-basin/virgin-river>.*



(Elk, from page 1)

coastal mountains on the Bald Hills Road, across the Klamath River to Highway 96. We then followed Highway 96 east along the Klamath River some 60 miles to Happy Camp, California. We left the Klamath River at Happy Camp and followed the Elk Creek Road south some fourteen miles to the elk's new home.

I recall being stopped at a Cal Trans work site along Highway 96 with a load of elk in the horse trailer I was towing. I was chatting with the flag person when one of the elk kicked the side of the horse trailer. "What the h-- was that?" he asked. We went back and pulled the curtain open to give him a peek of the wild cargo we were transporting that day.

The "elk enclosure" at Norcross Meadows was a 60-acre fenced area that included a large meadow, access to water, and appropriate browse and cover for the elk. The fence was sturdy wire around 12 feet high. The idea was to allow the transplanted elk to winter in the enclosure to familiarize themselves with their potential new "winter range." When spring came the gates of the enclosure were opened and the elk allowed to wander off to freedom. The Marble Mountain Wilderness was located a few miles to the south and would provide the new "summer range" for the transplanted elk.

I forget how many elk spent that first winter in the elk enclosure at Norcross. Once the gates were opened we did not see them again for many years.

We now fast forward to today and can look back at the success of our reintroduction efforts. The Roosevelt elk have flourished and now spread throughout the Klamath National Forest.

A lottery hunting season is now in place usually happening in early September each year. Several years ago I happened to be in the district office parking lot when two hunters, a father and his 13-year old son, pulled up in a Toyota pickup truck. Filling the pickup bed was this huge bull elk head and antlers that the young boy had shot. My "coke" can was smaller in circumference than the base of the antlers! I congratulated the lucky hunter and thought to myself that things were coming full circle here with our elk reintroduction program. The next year, I was picking up trash along the river when a pickup truck stopped. The driver recognized me from our encounter that day in the parking lot. It was the same father and son team. They had once again

gotten a lottery tag for elk! They told me that the bull I had observed in the back of their pickup last season turned out to be a Boone & Crockett record!

Hunters are not the only folks reporting sightings of Roosevelt elk in the Klamath National Forest and along the Klamath River. Rafters floating the river now have opportunities to possibly see Roosevelt elk in certain locales.

The Ferry Point area thirteen miles downriver of Happy Camp now hosts a wintering herd of elk. This summer, Cal Trans erected new signs warning motorists of elk being encountered in the area. The signs are bright yellow with a bull elk in black silhouette. They also have a flashing light attached.

I have seen elk and elk sign (tracks and poop) in the Ferry Point area for

numerous years. I found a shed antler badly chewed by rodents one winter while pulling Scotch Broom in the area. In the early '90's a river cleanup crew found an elk antler on a beach along the river. During the August 2008 fires, I watched a small band of cows and calves feeding along the edge of the river. One calf was swimming and frolicking in the river. I watched as the group moved off the river and blended back into the freshly burned understory. I was standing on a bluff overlooking the river where the Ferry Point River Access sign is located. One winter while riding bicycles, we stopped to overlook the Ferry Point cobble bar and river access area. We noted a herd of seventeen elk bedded down in the willows right below us.

Angie Bell, Forest Geologist, with Roosevelt elk antler found on 2/06/14. Photo: Laura Shaffer



CA Fish and Game has collared several cow elk in the Ferry Point area and tracked herd movements for several years. This past summer I got a call from the Fish and Game elk biologist requesting a raft trip down the Klamath River to try to find and retrieve an elk collar that was no longer moving. Apparently the tagged elk was dead and we hoped to locate the body and retrieve the collar. These collars are quite expensive it turns out. We had pinned the collar down to the large collection eddy on river left just above King Creek. Rafting was the easiest way to access the site. The funny part of the story is that we were literally standing on the log that was right on top of the remains of the carcass. When someone stepped off the log it shook the collar and it transmitted a "move." The biologists were standing right on top of the collar and tangled remains of the carcass and did not recognize it! We scouted around and found the cow's skull a few feet away hidden in the tall grass at the edge of the river. We speculated that the cow failed in her attempt to swim across the Klamath River above Ferry Point, was probably swept into Ferry Point rapids and drowned. The body washed several miles and deposited behind the willow curtain in the large river left collection eddy above King Creek.

In August 2013, I heard a bull elk bugling on the opposite shore as I was pulling Scotch Broom in the immediate Ferry Point area. The bull was moving downriver and sounding off (bugling) every twenty minutes. On another occasion, I heard a bull elk bugle in the Ferry Point area while I was drifting along in an inflatable kayak. What a great natural sound to hear from a boat!

The Ti Bar River Access area and downriver several miles also hosts a growing concentration of wintering Roosevelt elk. Ti Bar is about thirty miles downriver from Happy Camp. Folks regularly report seeing elk along the edge of the highway in grassy meadows, especially at night.

Commercial raft guides have reported seeing a large herd of elk swimming across the Klamath River right in front of them. They described it like a scene from Africa, with wildebeest swimming or fording a river on migration. This was in the vicinity downriver of Ti Bar. This was I believe a late spring sighting.

I just recently spent the Christmas holidays at the private Blue Heron Ranch

about 35 miles downriver of Happy Camp. My first day there I watched as a herd of 39 elk emerged from crossing the Klamath River and moved along the cobble bar into the willows. The area is covered with elk sign. It has become a major winter range for elk. I was caretaking for the holidays so I would walk the property birding and taking note of all the elk sign I saw. Trails (elk highways) were everywhere, fresh tracks, scat, and on frosty mornings, thawed frost patches where elk had bedded down the night before. You could even tell which way the elk were facing because each thawed patch had an associated pile of fresh poop with it!

My last morning at the ranch I counted 24 of these patches. I watched the elk move off (and cross the highway) by 0800 am. Then at the house we noticed a second herd of elk staging in the blackberries and alders along Irving Creek. I think we counted 48 animals in this group. They moved across the meadow and were gone by 0900 am. An hour later while hiking about we spotted another 13 elk on the hill across Irving Creek. I saw 80 elk on that last day at Blue Heron! I also managed to find two elk antler sheds—one four point right antler, and the other a three point left antler.

To me, what really brings the elk reintroduction full circle is being able to find shed elk antlers in the forest. Recent events of the last two weeks really proved this point. A Forest Service team of folks was surveying a potential route for a mountain bike trail when they found a massive left elk antler shed in the woods. They photographed it and continued on with their project (see photo).

I was told about this antler and immediately wanted to retrieve it for our visitor center in the district office. I thought it would make a great teaching aid to tell the story about our elk reintroduction efforts on the Klamath National Forest. With the help of a "treasure map" I was able to locate the massive antler on the second day of searching. I carried it several miles out of the woods on a very rainy Abe Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 2014.

The antler is massive. It weighs 10.91 pounds and has a pedicle that covers the palm of my hand. It has nine points that you can hang a ring on. It measures 36 inches from the pedicle to the tip of the top tine. It was shed last spring as it still has a rich brown color over most of the

antler. The woodrats had found the antler and chewed the tips of three of the tines and also a section of the brown covering. This adds character and helps to tell the story of how shed antlers are recycled by the other creatures of the forest.

Elk sightings are not restricted to just the Klamath River. Elk are seen in the Elk Creek drainage and a herd winters in the Norcross area, the original site of the reintroduction some thirty years ago. Elk have been spotted in the Clear Creek drainage and the large antler just described came from the Indian Creek drainage. An established large herd is now located on the Siskiyou Crest with elk also seen in the Horse Creek drainage. Yellow elk warning signs are also posted upriver on Highway 96 near the town of Klamath River where elk can be seen in fields along the Klamath River in winter.

One very eventful sighting occurred on Clear Creek several years ago. It was early spring and a group of us were paddling inflatable kayaks down the creek. I was leading the group and approaching a blind 90 degree turn to the left. The creek pools up and then drains in a narrow, fast and deep channel. I floated into the pool, looked downstream and was shocked to see the channel was blocked with Roosevelt elk wading across the chest deep fast water. The group (six of us?) caught the eddy and waited in the pool. We watched and counted as over 20 adult cow elk crossed the creek. Bringing up the rear was a massive 6 point bull. I cannot imagine what might have happened to us had we floated down into that herd of elk that day. It remains one of the best wildlife sightings I have witnessed on this national forest from a raft or inflatable kayak.

The reintroduction of Roosevelt elk to the Klamath National Forest has proved to be a great success. Forest visitors now have opportunities to see elk while hiking in the wilderness, riding bikes along the highway, floating the Klamath River by raft or drift boat, or floating the local creeks in inflatable kayaks.

I can say with great pride that I was part of the team that helped to reintroduce Roosevelt elk to the Klamath National Forest back in the mid 1980's and I still have the hat to prove it!◆

*Dave Payne is a River Manager for the Forest Service, in Happy Camp, CA. He can be reached at: [dapayne@sisqtel.net](mailto:dapayne@sisqtel.net)*



# RIVER MANAGEMENT LAW

**Challenges in Changing Climes**  
April 14, 2014 • Renaissance Hotel • Denver



## Location & Accommodations

**Renaissance Hotel**  
3801 Quebec Street  
Denver, CO 80207

This luxury hotel, centrally located between Denver International Airport and downtown Denver, is a 2013 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Winner.

**For Hotel Reservations**  
Community World Travel  
(888) 724-0500  
www.cletravelinfo.com

## Presented in Partnership with:



### Dear Colleague:

For the first time, CLE International is partnering with the River Management Society to present a one-day live stand-alone education conference to complement the offerings at its national education symposium in Denver.

Whether you are an attorney, consultant, scientist, engineer, or government official, if you deal with streamflow protection or river management, this conference is for you. Experts will address both the challenges of protecting rivers for all types of uses in rapidly changing environments and the innovative programs being used with success across the West.

Mission-critical topics to be addressed at this conference include:

- **Recreational Use Issues: Right to Float and Statutory Landowner Liability Protections**
  - **Local Innovations: Urban Conservation for Instream Flow and Pitkin County's Healthy Rivers and Streams Program**
  - **Interstate Cooperation in Response to Drought Conditions**
  - **Meeting Long-Term Water Needs: Healthy Flows**
  - **Section 404 Fundamentals, Scope of Analysis & Mitigation**
  - **Ethics in Multi-State, Multi-Jurisdiction & Multi-Disciplinary Cases**
- ... and, a featured presentation on River Management, Colorado Style: Federal Study, State Plan, Local Challenges.

I look forward to seeing you in April!

Sincerely,



**Lori Potter, Esq.**  
**Program Chair**  
Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell  
Denver

Lori Potter has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of environmental, public lands, land use, and water law. She has extensive experience with Section 404 permitting, endangered species, NEPA, FLPMA, and transportation law issues as well as local land use regulation. Her practice involves both litigation and counseling. She has practiced in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies across the country. Her clients include governmental and quasi-governmental entities, businesses, ranches, citizens' organizations, and individuals. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Potter served as Regional Director of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund's Rocky Mountain Office, handling and supervising high-profile environmental litigation throughout the western states.

**REGISTER NOW!** cle.com/RMS or (800) 873-7130

**Schedule and Information INSIDE**

## Monday, April 14

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 **Welcome and Introduction**  
Overview of the Day

**Lori Potter, Esq., Program Chair**  
Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, Denver  
**Ken Ransford, Esq., Symposium Chair**  
River Management Society, Basalt

8:45 **Recreational Use Issues**

Right to Float  
Statutory Landowner  
Liability Protections

**Lori Potter, Esq., Program Chair**  
**Ken Ransford, Esq., Symposium Chair**

10:00 Networking Break

10:15 **Featured Presentation**  
River Management, Colorado Style: Federal Study,  
State Plan, Local Challenges

**Barbara JB Green, Esq.**  
Sullivan Green Seavy, Denver

11:00 **Local Innovations**

Urban Conservation for  
Instream Flow  
Pitkin County's Healthy Rivers  
and Streams Program

**Drew Beckwith, Water Policy Manager**  
Western Resource Advocates, Boulder  
**Torie Jarvis, Esq., Co-Director**  
**Water Quality/Quantity Committee**  
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments  
Silverthorne  
**Lisa MacDonald, Staff Director**  
Healthy Rivers and Streams Program, Aspen  
**Laura Makar, Esq., Assistant County Attorney**  
Pitkin County Attorney's Office, Aspen

12:15 Lunch Break

1:30 **Meeting Long-Term Water Needs**  
Healthy Flows

**Meg White, PhD, Ecologist/Flows Scientist**  
**Colorado River Project**  
The Nature Conservancy, Boulder

2:15 **Responding to Drought Conditions**  
Interstate Cooperation

**John H. McClow, Esq., Colorado Commissioner**  
Upper Colorado River Commission, Gunnison

3:00 Networking Break

3:15 **Ethics**  
Issues in Multi-State, Multi-Jurisdiction and  
Multi-Disciplinary Cases

**Cynthia F. Covell, Esq.**  
Alperstein & Covell, Denver

4:15 **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act**  
Fundamentals, Scope of Analysis and Mitigation

**Kara A. Hellige, Regulatory Office Chief**  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Durango

5:00 Evaluations and Adjourn

**Earn Up to 7 Hours of MCLE Credit**  
**Including One Hour of Ethics**  
**Earn Up to 7 Hours of Engineering Credit**

**REGISTER NOW!** cle.com/RMS or (800) 873-7130



## MEET YOUR DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

PROGRAM ATTORNEY: Jennifer Winslow, Jennifer@cle.com

### PROGRAM CHAIR

**Lori Potter, Esq., Program Chair**  
Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, Denver

### FEATURED PRESENTER

**Barbara JB Green, Esq.**  
Sullivan Green Seavy, Denver

### FACULTY

**Drew Beckwith** works closely with water utilities, state officials, and partner organizations around the region to find sustainable ways to meet human water needs. He is responsible for the Water Program's research, legislative, and policy initiatives that aim to advance water conservation efforts and non-traditional water supplies across the Interior West. His current work includes collaborating with Colorado Western Slope communities to use water conservation savings to boost stream flows.

**Cynthia F. Covell** is a co-founder and shareholder of her firm. Her practice emphasizes water rights matters, representing municipalities, non-profit organizations, individuals, and businesses in the acquisition, transfer, sale, change, and adjudication of water rights and water supplies. Ms. Covell has been a member of the Colorado Bar Association Ethics Committee since 1986 and is a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct.

**Kara A. Hellige** is the Durango Regulatory Office Chief for the Sacramento District. She covers regulatory actions under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for five counties within the Four Corners region. Ms. Hellige has been the Durango Office Chief since 2003 and has been working for the Corps of Engineers within Regulatory since 1999.

**Torie Jarvis** co-directs the Water Quality/Quantity Committee of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, which monitors water development activities and participates in legislative and administrative proceedings that affect water quality or quantity in the basin of origin. A former river guide, Ms. Jarvis also has worked for the US Department of Justice in the Indian Resources Section and the Western Hardrock Watershed Team.

**Laura Makar** has practiced in the area of water and natural resources law since 2008. Prior to joining the Pitkin County Attorney's Office, she worked at Patrick, Miller, Knopf and Noto as well as Moses, Wittemyer, Harrison, & Woodruff. Ms. Makar also studied water, public lands, and natural resources law as a research assistant for the Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Colorado Law School.

**Lisa MacDonald** is a paralegal in the Pitkin County Attorney's Office and serves as the Staff Director of the Healthy Rivers and Streams Program.

**John H. McClow** has practiced law in Colorado for 39 years. He has represented the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District for 21 years, becoming full-time General Counsel in 2006. Mr. McClow is the Legislative Representative to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and the Gunnison-Uncompahgre Basin Director on the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

**Ken Ransford** practices law in Basalt. He is an avid kayaker and past board member of American Whitewater. He is active in the statewide water supply planning process as the recreational representative and secretary of the Colorado River Basin Roundtable. Mr. Ransford has been on the board of the River Management Society since 2008, and is the chair of the 2014 River Management Society Symposium in Denver.

**Meg White** is an interdisciplinary scientist with specialization in riparian ecology, ecosystem restoration, landscape ecology, and environmental policy. She has been studying and designing freshwater flows strategies for the Colorado Chapter and Colorado River Project of The Nature Conservancy for two years. Prior to that, Ms. White investigated the influence of urban water sources on riparian and riverine ecosystems as a Research Scientist at Arizona State University.

## 4 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER

1 [cle.com/RMS](http://cle.com/RMS)

2 FAX (303) 321-6320

3 PHONE (800) 873-7130

4 MAIL  
7995 East Prentice Avenue  
Suite 200  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

**YES!** Please register the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

### Cancellation

Full tuition refunds (less a \$50 administrative charge) will be given only if notice of cancellation is received by 5:00 pm MST on the Monday prior to the Conference. Substitutions may be made at any time.

### Tuition

- \$595 per person  
 \$495 each for two or more  
 \$495 each for government, 501(c)(3) organizations, full-time judges, law students and paralegals  
 \$395 each for two or more government, 501(c)(3) organizations, full-time judges, law students and paralegals

### Home Study – available after the conference

- Audio transcript and course materials  
 \$595 plus \$10 shipping and handling

### Course Materials Only

- \$200 plus \$10 shipping and handling

### Payment

- Check payable to CLE International \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or  
 charge my:  
 VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

©2014 CLE INTERNATIONAL DENRIV14

**REGISTER NOW!** [cle.com/RMS](http://cle.com/RMS) or (800) 873-7130



# RIVER MANAGEMENT LAW

**Challenges in Changing Climes**  
 April 14, 2014 • Renaissance Hotel • Denver



**New One-Day Conference – Live!**

**Earn Up to 7 Hours of MCLE Credit  
 Including One Hour of Ethics  
 Earn Up to 7 Hours of Engineering Credit**

**REGISTER NOW!** [cle.com/RMS](http://cle.com/RMS) or (800) 873-7130



# RIVER MANAGEMENT LAW

Inaugural Event – Live!

**Innovations for Streamflow Protection**  
 April 14, 2014 • Renaissance Hotel • Denver

### Featured Presentation

**River Management, Colorado Style:  
 Federal Study, State Plan, Local Challenges**



**Barbara JB Green, Esq.**  
 Sullivan Green Seavy, Denver

Barbara JB Green is a founding partner of her law firm, where her practice focuses on environmental law, land use law, natural resource law, and administrative law. Ms. Green also serves as General Counsel to Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, Town Attorney to the Town of Silver Plume, and General Counsel to the Rocky Mountain Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact. As a member of the west slope negotiating team, Ms. Green helped bring about the historic Colorado River Cooperative Agreement between the Denver Water Board and the west slope of Colorado.

### Featuring Experts From:

- Healthy Rivers and Streams Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
- Pitkin County Attorney's Office
- Upper Colorado River Commission
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Western Resource Advocates
- ... and top Colorado law firms.

**REGISTER NOW!** [cle.com/RMS](http://cle.com/RMS) or (800) 873-7130



# MANAGING RIVERS in CHANGING CLIMES

Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Tomorrow's River Professionals		
	Session Name	Session Description
<b>Monday, April 14</b>		
9:00 AM	One day Floodplain Management Seminar	Mike Armstrong and Sharon Armstrong - Plans & More, LLP
	Continuing Legal Education Workshop	Continuing Legal Education International - Lori Potter, Program Chair
<b>Tuesday, April 15</b>		
9:00 AM	Prepare to Launch! Guidelines for Assessing, Designing, Building Launch Sites for Carry-in Watercraft	Corita Waters - National Park Service, Risa Shimoda - River Management Society
	Overview of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	Nancy Arkin and Sid Woods - Bridger-Teton National Forest
	River Studies and Leadership Certificate 2014-2015	Gigi Richard, Ph.D. - Colorado Mesa University, Joel Barnes, Ph.D. - Prescott College
	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Training	Helen Clough - US Fish and Wildlife Service (retired), Judy Kurtzman - Utah State University
	Great River, Got Water? State of Colorado's tools available for protection of instream values	Bill Hansen - National Park Service, Ted Kowalski - Colorado Water Conservation Board, Peter Fahmy - Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Robert Wigington - The Nature Conservancy
9:30 AM	Careers in Natural Resources: Engaging the Next Generation	Lisa Eadens - Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
	Kayak-based Videomapping for River System Management	Paul Ayers, Ph.D. - University of Tennessee, Knoxville
10:15 AM	Chainsaw Safety In/On Water - A Training Program	Erik Wrede - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Mike Wight - Southwest Conservation Corps. Complements field demonstration at the South Platte River
	American Canoe Association (ACA) Paddlesports Accessibility Workshop	Joe Moore - American Canoe Association. Complements field session Wednesday afternoon
	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Writing Environmental Assessments (EAs)	Helen Clough - US Fish and Wildlife Service (retired), Judy Kurtzman - Utah State University, Part 1 of 3
11:15 AM	Navigating Nebraska's Water Rights Administrative Process	Jennifer Back - National Park Service
	Leave No Trace Awareness Training	Mary Palumbo - The Greenway Foundation
1:00 PM	Close Encounters Training!	Lynette Ripley - Bureau of Reclamation
	Nurturing Nature amidst Climate Change - Children as agents of Sustainable River Management	Isaac Yaw Barnes - Volta River Authority, Akosombo, Ghana
	Recreational Whitewater: Keys to Successful Management	Ben Nielsen, P.E., LEED AP and Rick McLaughlin, P.E. - McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group
	Water Rights and Public Uses of River and Lakes	David Schade - Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Risa Shimoda - River Management Society
	Wild and Scenic River Study Process - How to complete a WSR Study	Cassie Thomas and Jim MacCartney - National Park Service
1:30 PM	Water Rights vs. Reservations of Water	David Schade - Alaska Department of Natural Resources
	Aligning Watershed and Habitat Protection for Conservation Success, Raccoon Creek Watershed, Georgia	Lindsay Gardner - Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
2:00 PM	Update from the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (IVUMC)	Kerri Cahill - National Park Service, Keith Brown - Bureau of Land Management
	How to Make a Difference Commenting on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Mary O'Brien, Ph.D. - Grand Canyon Trust
2:45 PM	You plan for it...then it happens. A Flood Control District's Reflection on the Colorado 2013 Floods	David Bennetts and Shea Thomas - Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Denver, Colorado
	Water Used to Develop Energy	Stacy Tellinghuisen - Western Resource Advocates
	Efficient Use of Water	Drew Beckwith - Western Resource Associates
3:15 PM	Hydropower Relicensing 101 - An overview of relicensing, stakeholders and compliance	Representative from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Continues Thursday morning with US Forest Service and American Rivers.
	Confluence Park - Safety-Related Success of the First Designed In-River Whitewater Park	Rick McLaughlin - McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group
	Outstandingly Remarkable Value Identification and Assessment using Georeferenced Videomapping	Paul Ayers - University of Tennessee, Knoxville
	Developing Partnerships for River Restoration	Chip Norton - Friends of the Verde Greenway, Kimberly Schonek - The Nature Conservancy
3:45 PM	An Update on Efforts to Improve Water Quality in Urban Streams in Denver, Colorado	Jon Novick - City and County of Denver, Department of Environmental Health
	Effects of the 2010 Flood on Nashville and Middle Tennessee - Management, Recovery and Preparation	Jon Zirkle, P.E. - Tennessee Department of Transportation and Roger Lindsay, P.E. - Metro Nashville Water Services
	The Cross Watershed Network: How does a collaboration of collaborators operate?	Chip Norton - Friends of the Verde Greenway, Stacy Beaugh - Tamarisk Coalition, Risa Shimoda - River Management Society
4:15 PM	Developing collaboratives between federal, state, local and NGOs	Ken Neubecker and Fay Agustyn - American Rivers, Toby Sprunk - Eagle County (Colorado) Open Space, Kimberly Miller - Bureau of Land Management

# MANAGING RIVERS in CHANGING CLIMES

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



## Field Sessions At-a-Glance:

Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Tomorrow's River Professionals		
Wed, April 16	Field Sessions	Session Description
	Whitewater Parks Tour by Managers, Outfitters	Participants will visit two of Colorado's unique destination river towns, in which the Arkansas River is modified with engineered features and have a decreed water right, thanks to a Recreational Instream Channel Diversion (RICD).
	Managing the Business of 'White' Water on the Slopes	Participants will visit the Winter Park Ski Resort. A site representative will explain how they plan for and are adjusting to trending climatic shifts and issues related to supply and demand.
	Northern Water Conservation District and/or Denver Water Tour	Northern Water Conservancy District Headquarters - Berthoud, Colorado and Gross Reservoir - Boulder, Colorado
	Field visit to regional hydropower facilities: Recreational Capacity Assessment: Form 80	We will travel to a nearby reservoir to assess recreation capacity for a variety of recreation amenities, to explore methods for estimating recreation use, and to discuss the types of recreation enhancements typically provided at hydropower projects which are licensed by FERC.
	Rocky Mountain Arsenal Tour	This session will examine water management at this unique location, over 25 sq. miles of open land located 10 miles from downtown Denver: it is both a national wildlife refuge and a former Superfund cleanup site.
	Front Range Fisheries Responding to Climate Change	How climate change and fire affect cold water fisheries on the front range of Colorado. Participants will spend the day on South Boulder Creek, guided by a local professional fly shop, Front Range Anglers.
	South Platte River, by Bike	Riding the Sand Creek Trail to its confluence with the South Platte will show evidence of the 2013 flooding, and its confluence with Cherry Creek will showcase the city's centerpiece for decades-long redevelopment. Stops include sampling program sites discussed in the Water Quality Monitoring breakout session.
	South Platte River, by Raft	Participants will get a river view of improvements resulting from the progressive vision of the South Platte River. You'll see improvements to outdated or failed in-channel structures and truly visionary flood plain improvement projects on this Class II-III whitewater river trip.
	Paddlesports Accessibility Workshop	Experience first-hand the challenges of transferring into kayaks and canoes from various launch-site designs. More importantly, examine equipment and launch sight designs that work best to encourage access that is as safe and comfortable as possible for everyone.
	Chainsaw on Water Training and Debris Relocation	Introduction to comprehensive safety training on how to use chainsaws while wading in a river or cutting from a jonboat. By understanding the anatomy of woody obstructions, river managers and crews improve their risk analysis and planning skills.
7:00 PM	A Role for Youth after the 2013 Colorado Floods: Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit	The 2014 Youth Summit brought Colorado middle and high school students to Boulder County to directly engage in issues involving historic properties and disaster recovery. Students will share their experiences and insights.



# MANAGING RIVERS in CHANGING CLIMES

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

## Program Agenda At-a-Glance (continued):

	Session Name	Session Description
<b>Thursday, April 17</b>		
8:15 AM	Keynote: Mayor Karl F. Dean Nashville, Tennessee	
9:00 AM	Assessing Complex Issues of Resource Protection and Allocation: A Grand Canyon Case Study	Joel Barnes - Prescott College; Cassie Thomas, Linda Jalbert, and Bill Hansen - National Park Service
	Hydropower Relicensing 101 - An overview of relicensing, stakeholders and compliance (cont.)	Bob Deibel - USDA Forest Service, Matt Rice - American Rivers (continued from Tuesday afternoon)
	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Writing Environmental Assessments (EAs)	Helen Clough - US Fish and Wildlife Service (retired), Judy Kurtzman - Utah State University, Part 2 of 3.
	Engaging Young Adults in Conservation Work throughout the US	Michael Rendon and Mike Wight - Southwest Conservation Corps
	Collaborative vision and priority attribute development for the National Rivers Database	Zachary Cole, Ph.D., Kathryn Yoder and Jeff Simley - National Hydrography Dataset, Caitlin Scopel - Esri, Joan Harn - National Park Service
10:15 AM	Colorado Water Plan	Jim Prokrandt - Colorado River District
	Management Implications based on Permit Data from Michigan's Pine River	C.B. Griffin - Grand Valley State University. Collaborators: Christina McGraw and Alexandria Rogers
	Managing Utah's First Wild and Scenic River	Tracy Atkins, Ericka Pilcher, and Kezia Nielsen - National Park Service
	Minnesota River Trails Program: Funding and Sustaining 33 Trails, 4,529 miles	Peter Hark - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Rob White - Arkansas Headwaters Area, Colorado State Parks
10:45 AM	Mind Mixer: A Tool for Collaborative Engagement	Hugh Osborne - National Park Service
	Federal Funding for River-based Initiatives	Jeff Shoemaker - The Greenway Foundation; William Haas - Federal Highway Administration; Stacey Ericksen - Environmental Protection Agency Region 8; David Howlett and Marge Price - Capitol Representatives.
	Understanding and Managing Visitor Use on the Virgin River, Utah	Ericka Pilcher, Tracy Atkins, and Kezia Nielsen - National Park Service
	Creating an Interactive Water Trails Map for Effective Communication	Walter Opuszynski - Northern Forest Canoe Trail
11:15 AM	Sustainable Recreation: Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Planning	Francisco Valenzuela - USDA Forest Service
	Packrafting: Fringe Goes Mainstream	Representative from the American Packrafting Association
1:30 PM	Moving Beyond Fear to Collaboration in Planning for Shared Uses of Resources	Joy Lujan - National Park Service Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program
	How to complete a Section 7 Determination	Randy Welsh and Steve Chesterton - USDA Forest Service
	Getting the Most out of the Form 80: Tips for Quantifying Recreation Use & Gathering Better Data	Mark Ivy, Ph.D. - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This training requires participation in the complementary Wednesday field session and concludes Friday, April 18, 2014.
	Colorado Funding Sources	Amy Beatie - Colorado Water Trust, Josh Tenneson - Great Outdoors Colorado, Matt Robbins - Colorado Lottery, invited others
	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Writing Environmental Assessments (EAs)	Helen Clough - Fish and Wildlife Service (retired), Judy Kurtzman - Utah State University, Part 3 of 3.
3:30 PM	Foundation Funding: Leveraging Resources	Morgan Snyder - Walton Family Foundation
<b>Friday, April 18</b>		
7:30 AM	Getting the Most out of the Form 80: ...	Mark Ivy, Ph.D. - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Conclusion.

## Sharing Some Love for the FERC Form 80 and the Relicensing Process

RMS will host a unique Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) workshop entitled *Getting the Most of the Form 80: Tips for Quantifying Recreation Use & Gathering Better Data* as part of its training symposium in Denver.

The workshop will run Wednesday – Friday (April 16-18) for river management agency staff, river recreation organizations and consultants who advise companies operating over 1000 FERC licensed hydropower projects across the US. FERC Senior Outdoor Recreation Planner Mark Ivy, Ph.D. will help attendees understand the importance that will be placed on the submitted information.

We are excited to offer this important learning opportunity, as this is the only 'Form 80' workshop offered during this submission cycle. As a facilitator of information sharing and training for river professionals, we look forward to serving colleagues who work in the hydropower arena.

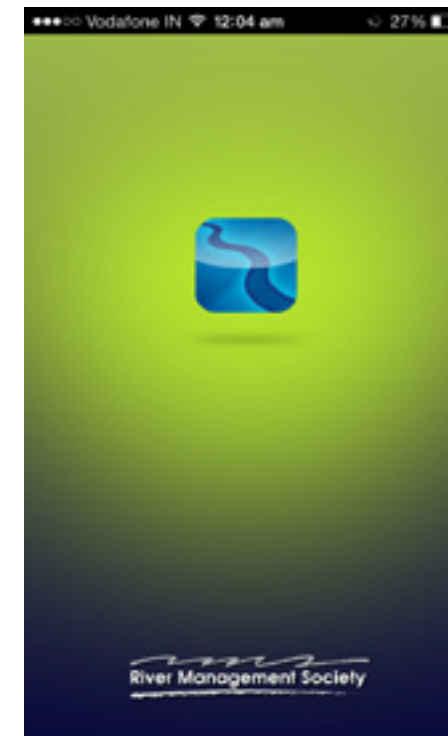
The workshop will address:

- tools to gather visitor use and recreation needs data
- hands-on experience estimating capacity of recreation amenities
- recent modifications to the Form 80 and how data is used for compliance and relicensing

FERC Form 80 Training includes time Thursday morning that can be spent visiting any session of interest. Full+FERC Form 80 registration also includes access to any sessions offered Tuesday, April 15th. For those new to hydropower licensing, an overview of the hydropower licensing process will be offered as part of the week's 'full' session led by staff from FERC, USDA Forest Service and American Rivers. ♦

**Register Today!**

## Hey, it's a handy, new RMS... app!



This is what you see when you look up our app.



Here's the event menu from our downloaded app.

When we convene in Denver this April, we will not be handing out a 28, 44, or 66-page program booklet containing the agenda or information about our speakers and sponsors, nor will we hand out paper surveys to fill out during the day.

## Say, what?

Instead, RMS is providing program information via a mobile app. Soon after registrants sign up, they are invited to download an app created just for this event: *Managing Rivers in Changing Climes*. Participants will see the agenda, presentation abstracts, a map of the hotel, field trip information, and sponsor and exhibitors acknowledgements.

This app surely represents a leap into the utilization of new technology!

Event participants will also be able to:

- Read speaker bios and see their photos to help recognize and remember them;
- See information that's been uploaded to review, download and save;
- Orient themselves with 'geo mapped' field sessions;
- Bookmark sessions to attend;
- Assemble a personalized schedule;
- Take notes in a space provided for each session;
- Provide immediate session feedback;
- Contact other attendees directly; and
- Receive announcements regarding schedule changes.

Besides assisting our effort to be green, we feel the services provided by this app will allow attendees to get more out of the precious time they are devoting to an investment in their future as river professionals. ♦





Photo: Kristina Rylands

## Merced River Plan

(Reprinted from the Yosemite National Park website)

The Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, released in February 2014, addresses the renowned Merced Wild and Scenic River's 81 miles within Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site and functions as the guiding document to protect and enhance river values and manage use within the river corridor for the next 20 years.

The Final Merced River Plan/EIS protects the Merced River's free-flowing condition, water quality, and the unique values that has made the celebrated river worthy of special protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). The final plan represents a rich collaboration amongst the public, research scientists, park partners, traditionally-associated American Indians, and park staff to

explore visions for the future of Yosemite Valley and the Merced Wild and Scenic River. The final plan brings forward the best in science, stewardship, and public engagement to ensure continual protection and enhancement of the rare, unique, and exemplary qualities of the Merced River.

The Final Merced River Plan/EIS will:

- Establish the Wild and Scenic River's boundaries and segment classifications and provide for protection of the river's free-flowing condition in keeping with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act's Section 7.
- Present descriptions of the river's outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs), which are the unique, rare, or exemplary river-related characteristics that make the river worthy of WSRA designation.

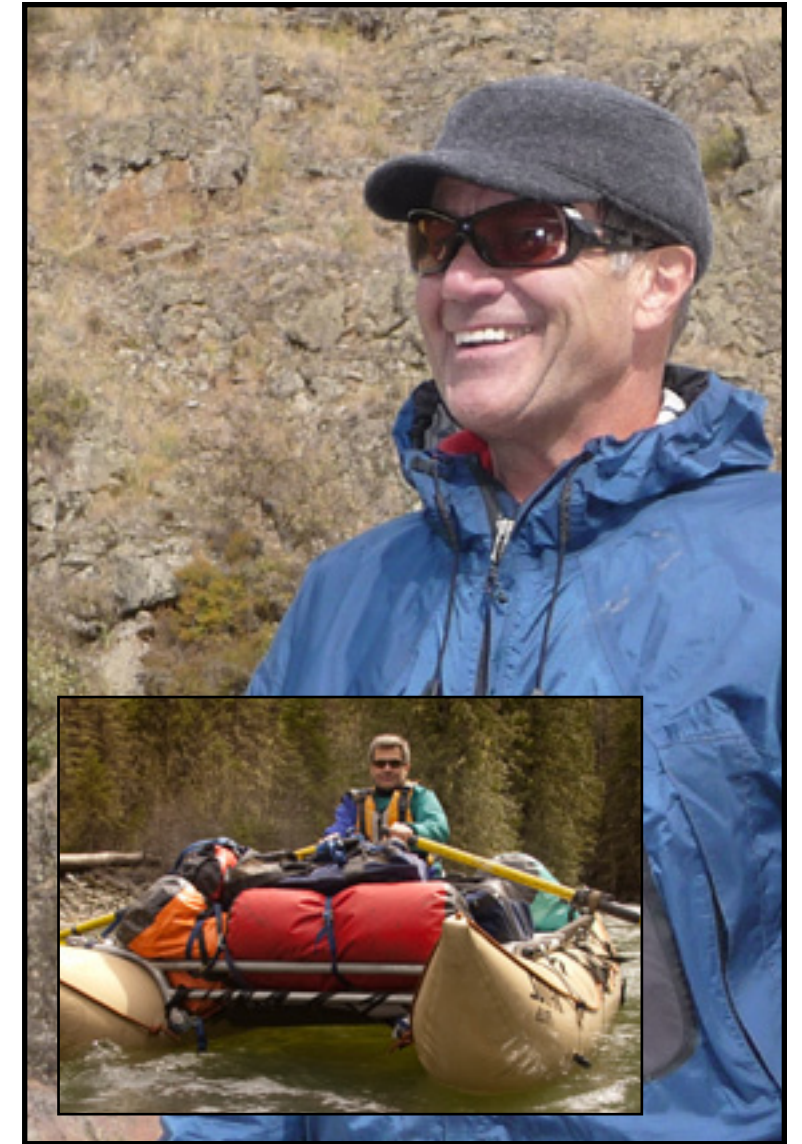
- Document the conditions of ORVs, water quality, and free-flowing condition.
- Identify management objectives for the river, and specific actions that will be implemented to achieve these objectives.
- Commit to a program of ongoing studies and monitoring to ensure management objectives are met.
- Establish a visitor-use and user-capacity management program that addresses the kinds and amounts of public use that the river corridor can sustain while protecting and enhancing river values.
- Fulfill the 1987 legislation designating the Merced River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Make appropriate revisions to Yosemite's 1980 General Management Plan.

## Happy Retirement to... RMS Legal Advisor, Dave Ryan

by Dennis Willis — Since 2003, Dave has served as legal advisor to the RMS Board. Dave a Missoula, Montana based attorney has been incredibly generous with his time, talent and support of RMS. He is a frequent participant in Northwest Chapter activities. You know he is about when you see a VW camper van with mountain bikes in the rack and trailer loaded with river gear.

For a non-profit corporation like RMS the legal environment is rather complex. Having a trusted legal advisor to the board is like having the security of living next door to the police and fire stations. You hope you never truly need them but are glad they are there. Dave helped us through the years navigate insurance issues, and questions of liability on RMS sponsored trips. He also helped us navigate the tricky waters of how much advocacy we can get involved in. Dave was instrumental in helping us sign on to an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court in the case of PPL v. Montana. Suffice it to say we are a better organization because of his good works.

Dave is retiring from a long and successful legal career and we expect to see him on even more rivers and trails in retirement. Unfortunately, the rules of the Montana Bar preclude him from continuing to provide RMS legal advice, even on a pro bono basis. The RMS Board extends gratitude and best wishes to Dave as he moves along. We will miss his board participation but suspect he will be involved with RMS for a long time to come. *Vaya con dios* (Dave likes to say that) and we will see you on the creek.♦



## Cups for Coolers to Support RMS



What do you spend during a month for your cups of tea or coffee, or an extra beverage when you are out with buddies? By redirecting a few painless dollars to support RMS each month, you can save 20% on a Canyon Cooler!

Sign up for the **RMS Monthly Donor Program** by filling out the RMS Donation Form located at [www.river-management.org/donate](http://www.river-management.org/donate). RMS will email ordering information to you and will include your cooler order in a group order following *Managing Rivers in Changing Climes: Training Future River Professionals*. Visit [www.canyoncoolers.com](http://www.canyoncoolers.com) for information about their fine products, and email RMS for more information about this program.

**This promotion will continue until April 18, 2014. Thank you!**





# Letters to RMS

January 28, 2014

I would like to respond to Ms. Cassie Thomas, Program Analyst, Washington Office Park Planning and Special Studies in the winter 2013 River Management Society Journal (Vol. 26 No. 4, 2013). I am a retired Park service employee and have been running rivers for over 45 years. During that time I have observed the good that many management actions and policies have done for the rivers in the West. But I have also observed the bureaucratic buffoonery and arrogance that have caused many to resent the very agencies that they should be supporting.

In her letter Ms. Thomas supports the closure of rivers managed by the National Park Service like the Grand Canyon during the past government shutdown. She illuminates the value of things like orientation and briefing at Lee's Ferry, and the importance of patrols to ensure safety and compliance to protect resources.

Attitudes and actions from private and commercial river runners have changed significantly since the 1960s and 70s. As we have become educated on issues and threats, the majority of river users understand and comply with regulations - not because they are required but because we have a love for the rivers and a desire to see them maintained in a pristine condition.

Apparently, according to Ms. Thomas the National Park Service is issuing river permits to private river runners and commercial outfitters who do not have the skills, knowledge or ability to run their rivers properly and they do not have the capability of adhering to regulations. If that is the case the National Park Service needs to evaluate itself on how they issue permits.

In reading "the letter" it occurs to me that river ranger oversight for safety and protection does not cover every passenger on every trip. Trip leaders and outfitters understand that, and they almost always operate to see that members of their trips are safe and do not do harm to the canyons. A trip leader or guide does not need to have a ranger looking over their shoulder 24/7 to assure items like that food being properly stored and prepared, that safety and low impact is complied with, or that people in their group wear pfd's. In fact I have observed river runners addressing people in other groups who are violating regulations or common sense. I have observed them helping others in distress when there are no rangers present. That is not to say there are idiots out there who will do almost anything. But, on the other hand I have also observed rangers ignoring incidents that they should have addressed, and I am also quite aware of extreme over reaction by rangers (See Alaska NPS Incident on the Yukon River). Somehow Ms. Thomas seems to think that because the government is not present, the liability threat does not exist. Insurance companies, attorneys and the relatives of participants are ALWAYS looking over our shoulders on the river. Indeed in her letter, she points out that even with government patrols sites have been damaged.

A Grand Canyon River trip - private or commercial - is a dream that people plan for months, years in advance. People spend a lot of their income, take time off from their work and invest thousands of dollars to plan, travel and experience the river. Most people do not have the luxury of earning three or more weeks of paid annual leave to do these trips.

As a retired NPS employee I support most of the regulations that are in place to protect us and the river canyons. But I do not support the arrogance that some seem to have posting their beliefs while ignoring those of others. As NPS Ranger Mike Strop wrote in the 1960s In Touch NPS Journal: My Ducks - My Pond: *I don't need you Mr. Ranger to interject yourself into my experience with my son. He doesn't need to know their genus and species, or their life-biology and I am here to see that he does no harm. He is very happy to sit and watch them without you.*◆

Herman Hoops  
Owner - oneway boatworks  
Jensen, UT



Hi Cassie, Thank you for your letter to the RMS in Vol 26, No.4., responding to the October 4, 2013 American Outdoors Association Bulletin "What's Open and What's Not."

While I agree with some of the points made by both you and the America Outdoors Association (AOA), I disagree with others, and thought to take a moment to write to you about this.

While not an NPS employee myself, I have served the healthcare needs of NPS employees at the small clinic within Grand Canyon National Park for twenty years, and have been exploring Grand Canyon National Park for well over forty. I have walked almost all of the distance between Lee's Ferry and Pearce Ferry through the Grand Canyon and have written an award winning river guide to Grand Canyon, along with a hiking guide and book on 1950's river running history in Grand Canyon. Along the way, I have volunteered countless hours over the last decade and a half on behalf of resource protection for our Federal Lands. With Jo Johnson, I presently volunteer as Co-Director of River Runners for Wilderness, a project of the non-profit Living Rivers.

There is nothing finer in our Federal Government than the National Park Service, and its mission holds the spiritual heart of this great nation. I am sure you would agree that public recreation in our National Parks is important for the welfare of our society.

As you know, self-guided river runners, also known as public rafters, private boaters, and do-it-yourself river runners, have the potential to spend up to thirty days during one visit to Grand Canyon National Park, and may spend more time in

Grand Canyon National Park than almost every other recreational visitor, guided or otherwise. Self-guided river runners receive their permits to raft Grand Canyon a year in advance through a very competitive lottery, and must arrange time off from work while working out Class VI logistics for a Class IV 18 to 30 day river trip covering up to 280 miles or river. They will spend tens of thousands of dollars in gear purchases and rental fees, sort out the logisitics for food and travel, fuelling the country's and the Park Service's economy from their home bases all the way to the put-in, and from the take-out all the way back home. They study the rules, watch the pre-trip video and read the new pamphlet emphasizing resource protection issues the NPS is now mailing to all river runners. They carry out all solid waste, and are practiced in the art of clean-camp camping. Their trips often include scientific specialists on vacation who add greatly to the knowledge of the rest of the trip members. The vast majority of these trips are Wilderness compatible muscle powered journeys, where the elders teach the juniors and everyone is an important player on the trip.

While we rarely agree with AOA, it was good to see AOA point out that there was no uniformity in the NPS closures and that the closure of service units for backcountry users was not necessary. We noticed that as well. The closure was a tragedy to many self-guided river trips, - which ended up in "Dirt-Eddy" at Marble Canyon instead of trying to stay out of "Forever Eddy" at the foot of Granite Rapid, or "Helicopter Eddy" above Granite Narrows. The NPS law enforcement search and rescue personnel, deemed "essential" during the shutdown included the helitack crew at the South Rim. The river trips already on the water, as well as the many backcountry trips in the park that started just before the shutdown, would have been aided by NPS rescue personnel if needed. Private air ambulances and the Arizona Department of Public Safety helicopter were available to assist, just like they are the rest of the year.

Your statement that all self-guided river runners must receive a mandatory Lee's Ferry orientation (by an armed Law Enforcement Ranger) is correct, but the river concessionaires crew and passengers do not participate in this activity. I personally just completed a fourteen day solo backpack in Grand Canyon, hiking the blissfully trail-free area from Diamond Creek to Pearce Ferry. You may be surprised to know that no orientation was required by the NPS for this multi-week remote trip, I never saw an NPS employee, and received my permit via e-mail. As a self-guided river runner and builder of my own wooden dory, when we go through the orientation at Lee's Ferry, we know full well this is not a prerequisite to floating Grand Canyon safely or to protecting the resource as we travel. We know we most likely will never see an NPS patrol, and we know we will be self-supporting. We know our team may have already done three, four, or ten times the number of river trips the Ranger who is giving us our orientation may have. We pay attention though, knowing someone in our party may gain something from the orientation that will make it all worthwhile, and yet we know we do not "need" the orientation.

Simply put, the decision to not allow these do-it-yourself

Wilderness compatible recreational visitors to launch was a decision that was unnecessary and perhaps, hurt the reputation the NPS holds with the American public. In fact, the river closure may have done serious damage to the very concept of the National Park Service. As you and I know, some in Washington DC may have wanted just such a scenario to take place, justifying their own belief that the public does not need the National Park Service to manage the service units it does. I would argue that we need the NPS to manage our special places, but we don't need heavy handed management. We feel the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management personnel did the right thing during the closure and simply stepped aside, allowing backcountry and river users to recreate on their own and at their own risk, as they do anyway.

You made a few remarks about river runners I would like to respond to. The premise that river runners need constant policing is unfounded at best. We already know no one is watching us and we know neither the AOA nor the NPS can ensure our safety. That's why we go there, to be left alone to figure it out for ourselves. As to the disappearance of fake artifacts placed in ancestral Puebloan archeological sites, it could be that well educated visitors removed the "...faux Anasazi split-twig figures..." realizing they were fakes, inappropriately placed and needed to be quickly removed. Finally, we who travel through the heart of the Park do not carry cans of spray paint looking for the perfect tagging spot. We certainly could carry such useless things, and you should feel sure no one at the Lee's Ferry put-in, including the Law Enforcement personnel, would be able to notice them among all that river gear.

The decision to close the river actually increased the risk factor to the river runners on the water. You may be aware that all members of a self-guided river trip are essential personnel. During the closure, self-guided river runners hiking in to join river trips at Phantom Ranch went through a grueling interview with Law Enforcement personnel to make sure they were "essential" to the furtherance of the river trip. Many were turned back. One individual refused to be turned away, and was cited and allowed to proceed. The individual, who was cited, as well as the river trip permit holder, both paid a \$750 fine after the trip. Rather than be forced to sit in Dirt Eddy, if there is another shutdown, I will actively be encouraging Grand Canyon National Park personnel to simply cite river runners, and let them launch to face their day in court after their trip of a lifetime.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for mentioning that AOA is "...an entity with a major financial incentive to allow concessioners to utilize more than their fair share of public resources at the expense of independent visitors, the rest of the American public, and the resources themselves..." I could not have said it any better myself.◆

Sincerely yours,  
Tom Martin  
Co-Director, River Runners For Wilderness  
PO Box 30821, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0821  
Hm: 928-556-0742 / Mobile: 928-856-9065  
tommartin@rfrw.org / www.rfrw.org



# The Role of the River Ranger Revisited

by Dennis Willis

Last fall, the RMS News Digest published an article by America Outdoors on the impacts of the government shutdown on river guide and outfitter operations in the Grand Canyon. That piece generated a response by RMS member Cassie Thomas, published in the Winter 2013 RMS Journal. Cassie's letter asserts the importance of river rangers being present to conduct compliance activity. Her letter generated several heated email responses supporting and refuting her position. While I think we can all agree there is an important role for river rangers, we do not often critically analyze what that role truly is. In this article I want to explore the job of river ranger, freely admitting these thoughts are my own and based on my experiences with supervising river rangers and encountering them as a private boater.

In 2005, the Southwest Chapter hosted the River Ranger Rendezvous near Moab, Utah. I was the master of ceremonies for a group of 24 participants. We started the day with a flip chart and the question, "What is a river ranger?" The flip chart soon filled with words like "policeman, weed whacker, garbage man,

EMT, first responder, baby sitter, and teacher." After discussion, we decided the job of the river ranger must be defined in light of the mission of the river recreation program. Every program should have an official or unofficial mission statement. In Desolation Canyon of the Green River we saw our mission as: "Providing opportunity for a high quality primitive recreation experience for all people, now and forever." I would guess that most programs have a mission to provide some sort or quality of experience to visitors. It is from the mission that the duty of the river ranger evolves. In Desolation Canyon, the job of the river ranger is to enhance the user experience. Sure there is a need for compliance, and to pick up trash and pull weeds, but the reason for doing so is to provide the *experience* to which the mission statement aspires. Sometimes a visitor really needs a trip to the jail or a hospital, but that is not the identifying function of the ranger. Teaching about the need and importance of a requirement to a receptive visitor is a better approach than simply issuing a citation. Most folks will do the right thing given motivation and opportunity. Save the enforcement action for the few that won't.

In the back and forth of emails, the issue of compliance was hotly debated. What was not discussed was the *approach* to compliance. Many rivers have rangers who conduct pre-launch compliance checks for permits, required equipment and such. In Desolation Canyon the approach to compliance changed over the 35 years I was with the program. When toilets and fire pans were new concepts the compliance need was different than it is currently when those items are commonly accepted. In 1979 rangers patrolled with 33 foot J-rigs because they needed that much boat to haul out all the garbage, charcoal and human waste. Trash from a seven day patrol these days would typically fit in a coffee can. Compliance in the river running community is now quite high. The "compliance check" is currently looked upon as the last quality control assurance for a good trip and to preserve the place for other users. A group found to be missing a required item or with defective equipment is not treated as a "gotcha" moment. They are usually embarrassed and grateful for the opportunity to salvage their trip and get the required items even if it delays their

*Ranger on the Smith River, MT*



planned departure. Giving them a ticket and sending them home creates a negative experience that may not be warranted. What I am suggesting is that compliance needs change over time in terms of both emphasis and aggressiveness in enforcement. If you have not evaluated the compliance needs on your river in a while, it is a good time to do so. Consider it in terms of the mission of your program and the characteristics of your users.

That, by the way, is another role of the river ranger—really getting to know your users, and their values, expectations and attitudes. They are the eyes and ears of the program as well as the spokespeople. You should ask your users about their ranger interactions. In a 1999 study of river users on five rivers in Utah, the survey asked river runners if the interaction with rangers had a positive, neutral or negative effect on their experience. The majority said it was neutral or negative on four of the rivers. Only in Desolation Canyon did they report the ranger interaction benefited their experience.

Another item debated was the need for a ranger orientation talk to private groups and commercial guests. These contacts I believe are highly valuable if they are used to maximum advantage. I have been too many places where there is one river talk, laminated on a clipboard, that is read to all groups. That is a terrible waste of opportunity. The ranger message should be tailored to the needs of the group. The ages, experience levels, and origins of the group are all important to consider before deciding what to tell them about and what to emphasize. Emphasis might also change depending on the most recent conditions in the canyon. If a group of southwest river runners who usually put dishwater in the current shows up at your trout stream, you might want to emphasize proper dishwater disposal for your area and the reasons it is different than the Grand Canyon. The father of modern interpretation, Freeman Tilden, said a ranger never needs to memorize a talk if they have passion for the place and love for the people who want to experience it. Good advice to river rangers and their supervisors. The check-in ranger that asks me to show them my oars, despite them being in plain sight, in the oarlocks, and then reads a laminated "talk" leaves me with feelings of contempt for the ranger and their program rather than an appreciation for both.

Compliance and safety issues are frequently interrelated. On Desolation Canyon, there are segments where PFD's must be worn at all times as a matter of state law. Rangers there frequently remind folks of this requirement. The reminder is usually followed by a sheepish look, a donning of the PFD and a thanks. They simply forgot to put it on after their last stop. Occasionally somebody will challenge the ranger with something like: "Why do you think you care more about my safety than I do?" This could result in a law enforcement response and sometimes does. Usually compliance is obtained when the ranger explains: "I don't give a rip if you drown your silly ass and make your Momma cry. What I care

*about is that the SAR team will fill this place with helicopters and motorboats trying to recover your carcass and THAT will ruin somebody else's experience."* Note here the emphasis is on providing experience rather than mere enforcement. Also note the message is educational and usually effective.

The role of river ranger is multifaceted. It is a very difficult job to do well. If you have not recently revisited the role of the ranger in your program, I encourage you to do so. Consider how your rangers fit with the agency and program mission, the dynamics of your users and resource needs. On the whole, most users should view the ranger interaction as a positive experience that made their vacation better. In my years of running a program, I found one of the greatest challenges was overcoming staff complacency, mine included. ♦



*BLM Ranger Troy Schnurr, CO*



# 2013 Treasurer's Report

## “Money, money, money ...”

by Helen Clough, RMS Treasurer

This article describes the financial picture of the River Management Society as of December 31, 2013. Striving for simplicity, I've reduced the report to three basic questions: (1) Where does our money come from (income)? (2) Where does our money go (expenses)? (3) What is our overall financial situation?

### (1) Where does our money come from?

In the past, most of our income has been earned from our biennial symposia. Our model was to have sufficient income from the symposium to cover our expenses for 2 years. We planned a deficit for the year without a symposium. This fall we adopted a 2-year budget so that the bottom line would hopefully be positive. For the last 3 years, our biggest “pot” of money was earned from the 2010 Portland symposium. While the sources of the funds were varied, our federal agency partners were normally the largest source. While individual donor contributions are currently a very small part of our income, the contributions are heartfelt and many are not small to the individuals providing them. Contributions to RMS are tax-deductible.

In 2013, our total income was \$150,372.31 – coming from events, charitable contributions, contracts, grants, interest, membership, merchandise sales, and professional services (see the table for details).

### (2) Where does our money go?

The biggest expenses were for the 2013 Workshop held in cooperation with the Tamarisk Coalition, personnel costs (for our executive director and intern), general operating expenses (items such as RMS Journal, website), and expenses related to the upcoming 2014 workshop in Denver. We lost some money on the 2013 workshop which was to be expected given the timing of the event and the federal budget situation.

As our executive director described in her regular reports, we have accomplished a lot this year including co-hosting the *River Crossings: Linking River Communities* workshop in Grand Junction, Colorado; the River Ranger Rendezvous (thanks to the Southwest Chapter) on the Eagle River, and the first Riparian Restoration Workshop hosted by the Cross Watershed Network and partners at the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition. We completed *Prepare to Launch! Guidelines For Assessing, Designing & Building Access Sites For Carry-In Watercraft* as a website, ebook, SlideShare document and downloadable pdf along with the National Park Service. We coordinated an on-site Wild and Scenic Rivers Training Workshop for the USDA Forest Service and completed the National Rivers Database Vision, with a great deal of input and assistance from members. We also published the first round of hydropower license summaries with our partners at the Hydropower Reform Coalition. We updated



RMS Treasurer Helen Clough in Alaska.

our website, including a longer (roughly doubled) list of jobs posted, besides the 25-75 positions updated weekly through the Job Feed; prepared journals including the second annual “focused” issue on development of our young professionals, continued the listserve, and distributed the weekly RMS News Digest.

### (3) What is our overall financial situation?

We ended the year with \$81,388.67 in the bank. Outlays exceeded income by almost \$50,000. This is typical given the model I explained above. We expect that our federal agency partners will no longer be our single biggest source of support. The agencies are continuing to provide funding but much of that funding is for specific products (such as maintaining the BLM's river data base and conducting wild and scenic river training for agency staff).

As of this writing, we have only raised half the funds we targeted for our Denver workshop. We continue to pursue fund raising and while no single big donor has stepped forward, we have over 15 cash sponsors and a larger number of silent auction donors. We will continue fund raising up until the day the workshop begins. As it is still very early in the registration process, we do not have a good idea of how much of our costs will be offset by registration fees. The fees are designed to cover costs if the planned number of people registers. Any “profit” comes from the sponsorships provided by agencies, vendors, and others.

We have worked hard to diversify our funding stream including obtaining funds from private foundations such as the Walton Family Foundation for sponsorship of Denver, and the Arches Foundation grant for preparing the hydro project summaries. Our executive director has submitted several other grant proposals which are in the evaluation phase. While our future is a little uncertain I am confident that the challenges we currently face will make us a stronger organization. President Dennis Willis regularly challenges the board to “think outside the box” and look at new ways of conducting business and new business to conduct.

RMS 2013 Profit and Loss Statement			
Cash in the bank 1-1-2012			\$131,101
Income	Event Income	79,981	
	Charitable contributions	2,431	
	Contract receipts	12,157	
	Grant Income	28,312	
	Interest Earned	4	
	Membership	15,692	
	Sales - Merchandise	157.50	
	Sales - Professional Services	7,000.00	
	Other Income	4,637	
	<b>Total Income</b>		150,372
Expenses	Operating	25,304	
	Personnel Costs	57,336	
	Program Expenses	117,445	
	<b>Total expenses</b>		200,085
Net Income			-49,713
Cash in the bank 1-1-2013			\$81,388

I will end this report with my estimate of our source of greatest strength – the contributions of our members. One of our tax reporting requirements is to estimate the hours and money the Board of Directors donates to RMS. This year with all but two board members reporting, your board donated almost 2,000 hours and close to \$9,500 in travel costs, materials, and other expenses to RMS. We have no way of quantifying all the donations of time and personal funds from those of you who serve as chapter officers and who help with chapter events and other

RMS activities but my many years with RMS and other similar organizations suggest that the donations of the members equal or more likely exceed those of the board. To put that in perspective, over half of the person hours and at least 10 percent of the funds that support RMS are not quantified in our financial documents. ♦

*If members have questions about our finances, please feel free to contact me at: hcloughak@gmail.com (or) Risa Shimoda, Executive Director, rms@river-management.org.*



# RMS Chapters



**Alaska** by Dave Schade

July 2013 Chulitna River (L to R): Dave's daughter Jacki Schade, Bruce Talbot, Dave Schade and Dave Griffin. Photo: Dave Griffin

The Alaska Chapter started out 2014 with an all chapter meeting on February 6. A number of key issues were discussed and a plan for the year was developed. In addition to the National RMS activities already being planned (our Colorado Training Symposium and the Alaska Chapter RMS Fall Journal Issue, the group decided to poll the members for preferred dates and river trips this year. The successful 2013 Chulitna River trip (with only four members that made the train ride and river trip) is suggested as a repeat, as well as additional destinations. A doodle poll of the members has been sent out, and when scheduling is done, our national membership will be invited along.

The chapter had a good discussion and elected to keep the Chapter funds in the local area. Our national banking system does not have a bank in Alaska, and the administrative difficulties was acknowledged by our Alaska Chapter Vice President and National Treasurer Helen Clough. After that discussion, the membership voted on and approved a \$500 donation to the Colorado Training Symposium. The membership also agreed to quarterly meetings, and established a group who will lead the efforts to get articles for the 2014 Fall edition of the RMS Journal.

Looking to a happy and successful 2014 on and off the river. ♦

## Good news from the Southeast Chapter!

### The Nature Conservancy Acquires Obed River Property

In order to protect an iconic Obed River view, The Nature Conservancy purchased 63 acres of cliff-top lands. The purchase preserves the broad bluff across from Lilly Bluff Overlook platform. The purchase safeguards a natural buffer and cliff line above the pristine waters of Clear Creek and the Obed River as well as the rare plants and animals that live in there, including the spotfin chub (fish), purple bean (mussel), Barbara's buttons (flower), and Eggert's sunflower. The \$175,000 purchase was made possible by an anonymous donor. The property is located directly above the Conservancy's 73-acre Clear Creek Preserve and adjacent to protected land owned by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, thus preserving the wild and rugged character of the landscape. ♦

# RMS Chapters

## Southeast by Mary Crockett

There are many people throughout the Southeast working a variety of jobs to conserve a river. One of those jobs is networking with private landowners along a river to place a conservation easement on their lands. This year I was involved in one large project along the Wateree River, an American River's Blue Trail, in South Carolina.

It started as a two minute discussion in a COWASSE Basin meeting. From this meeting a partnership developed with the landowner and their forestry consultant. I wrote a grant for public funds to place an easement on their land with the stipulation that the riparian area will have a protected permanent vegetative buffer of 300 feet along the river and 50 to 100 feet along the oxbows and bays. We also asked for at least four boat-in campsites along the river per landowner. We were awarded the grant and now will have up to twelve boat-in only public campsites on high ground along the river on private property. This is an important step as this river is a regulated river with no warnings to the casual boater on the water as to water releases from an upstream hydroelectric dam. This grant consisting of 13,073 acres for \$3,254,214 not only protects the riparian areas, but also conserves large acreage of upland as well as land adjacent to one of South Carolina's premier hiking trails, The Palmetto Trail. This is an example of one tool.

SE RMS Chapter members use many different tools to conserve a river. If you get a chance to attend the upcoming 2014 RMS Symposium in Denver, you will learn the many tools used across this country to manage and conserve a river. I do hope to see many of you there. We are also in need of silent auction items, so if each person would bring an auction item to the training, or at least send one from your area if you are not attending, to:

**RMS Symposium Silent Auction**  
**C/O Matt Rice**  
**American Rivers**  
**1536 Wynkoop Street, Office 100**  
**Denver, CO 80202**



The Palmetto Trail, crossing the Wateree River.



Wateree River where one of the campsites will be placed. Photos: Mary Crockett



# RMS Chapters

## Northwest by Lynette Ripley

### Your 2014 Chapter Trips

Here is your river trip lineup for this year, so start planning to gather at the river and bring some new members along to introduce them to RMS! I will email all members the exact dates of these river trips once we confirm them. Until then, here is what you have to look forward to. I would say a very attractive line-up! A HUGE thank you to the Bureau of Land Management and Jim Mueller, Robin Fehlau, Ryan Turner and Lisa Byers for coordinating these spectacular trips for us!



#### John Day River

John Day, Oregon (70 miles of wild and scenic river)  
May, 2014 (1st or 3rd weekend in May / Friday-Monday)  
Clarno to Cottonwood Segment for Four Days  
Hosted by Bureau of Land Management, Prineville, Oregon  
Contact: Jim Mueller, BLM River Ranger, 541-416-6884

#### Payette River

Boise, Idaho  
July, 2014 (Day Trip on a Saturday)  
Hosted by Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho  
Contact: Robin Fehlau, BLM Idaho State Office, 208-373-3825

#### Lower Salmon River

Cottonwood, Idaho  
September, 2014 (Mid to end of month / Four Days)  
Hosted by Bureau of Land Management, Cottonwood, Idaho  
Contact: Ryan Turner, BLM River Ranger, 208-962-3687

#### Upper Klamath River

Happy Camp, California  
October, 2014 (Early to mid-month / Three to Four Days)  
Hosted by US Forest Service, Happy Camp, California  
Contact: Lisa Byers, BLM Ranger, 301-514-3124

## Calling All Members Who Would Like To Become A Chapter Officer!

This year we will be holding our Northwest Chapter Officer's Election. This is an official election where all chapter members vote on who you would like to be your next set of officers in 2015-2017. If you are interested in running for an office position or would like to nominate someone who you think would be perfect for an office, please contact me or one of your current officers. Any one of us officers will be happy to share the duties of our positions. All officer positions will be open for the next three year term, and we will be taking nominations very soon.

We currently have four chapter officer positions which are:

**President** - Lynette Ripley (*to your left!*)

**Vice President** - Jim Beaupre

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Ryan Turner

**Events Coordinator** - Molly Wainwright

## Don't Miss "Close Encounters" Training At The RMS Denver Symposium In April!

Have you ever had an up close and personal "Close Encounter" with another person at work or in your private life that jeopardized your personal safety and wellbeing? In today's world, with random shootings in public places and anti-government hostility prompting homeland security mandates, your personal safety needs to be one of your and your employer's top priorities!

Whether you work in the private or government sector, in an office or in the field, working with the public, colleagues, clients and people in general already puts you in a position to be mindful of your own safety. These training sessions will provide hands-on, practical training, knowledge and tactics for you to implement daily in your work environment to make you more aware, proactive and prepared in protecting yourself. A training certificate of completion will be offered after the class is completed.

#### Training sessions will include:

- Verbal Judo to communicate effectively and diffuse situations with verbally abusive people (i.e. handling an irate caller or in person contact with a co-worker or customer while in the office or out in the field)
- Basic, universal and simple self-defense tactics to apply in your daily life to protect yourself (i.e. from a hostile visitor on public lands who sees you as a target)
- Learn to read threatening human behaviors and body language that will signal you to be proactive and prevent getting yourself into a compromising situation (i.e. people who demonstrate suspicious behavior entering your work place and public areas)
- Identify hazards in your job when dealing with people during conflict and address those in your job hazard analysis and/or risk assessments that may be required for your job

Your Northwest Chapter Prez,  
Lynette Ripley  
Bend, Oregon / 541-389-6541 x233

## RMS 2013 Trip: Main Salmon River

by Alison Zmud

*"My first river trip was in 1978."*

*"I have been down the Grand Canyon twice and my third trip will be next year."*

*"I have 23 combined years of river experience patrolling the Middle and Main Salmon Rivers."*

These quotes express the amount of river experience that was on our Northwest Chapter of the River Management Society's 5 night/ 6 day river trip down the Main Salmon in early September 2013. RMS members joined forces with US Forest Service and BLM Salmon River patrollers and managers to swap river stories, talk river management and help in the naturalization and restoration of the numerous sandy beaches and campsites on this truly amazing wild and scenic river. Quickly, after just one day on the Salmon, we realized we were going to have a good time, talk shop and make new friends.

Historically, rivers have had a major influence on our society. The Salmon River is no different. This canyon river has been used in many ways over the last hundred years. It has provided irrigation for ranchers and homesteaders, fish and wildlife for harvesting, a fast flowing current for transportation and recreation, and finally, a sense of isolation and wilderness. Partially due to good river management and partially due to its wilderness setting, the Salmon has remained undammed and untamed, therefore still flowing freely and providing subsistence to its inhabitants today. Managing wilderness river systems like the Salmon for recreation, habitat and subsistence is a current topic for river managers in the west. It was also a conversation that spent much time in our campsites and on our boats while we were floating this wild and scenic river.

While many topics of river management ebbed and flowed through our days of navigating whitewater and cleaning campsites, two conversations came up again and again. Both issues are pertinent to river and recreation



Top L to R: Chris Noyes, Ben Schmidt, Judi Zuckert, Jenna Whitlock, Frank Jenks, Eric Lann, Heidi Messner, Ryan Turner. Bottom L to R: Kit Muller, Ali Zmud, Bunny Sterin, Jenn Bill

management: the first is how the inter-agency management of the Salmon manages jet boat camping, and the second is the proper way to dispose of gray water.

Jet boats have been part of the Salmon River since the 1950's and the use of jet boats on the Salmon was grandfathered in the 1980's. The primary use of jet boats is for shuttling people to and from guest ranches, private homes and for the infamous steelhead fishing. Jet boats travel both upriver and downriver and require a driver with proficiency in powering up the numerous Class II and III rapids. Jet boaters are both commercial and private and are required to follow the same leave no trace ethics non-motorized boats are required to follow. However, the Salmon River is managed by two different agencies, the BLM and Forest Service, and by two different regional offices within the Forest Service. Perhaps due to the inter-agency and the multiple FS offices managing the Salmon, an important issue has been overlooked: that there is no check-in station at the jet boat launch ramp to ensure that jet boaters have the required leave no trace gear and understand leave no trace camping ethics to spend multiple nights on the Salmon. There is a check-in station upriver for non-motorized boats but none for motorized boats. This discrepancy in river management was mentioned on our trip and thankfully employees from both agencies and offices were on hand to

discuss and problem shoot this issue.

The second management issue we discussed was the disposal of 'gray water' which is the dirty water produced in camp after washing dishes. This water is strained for food matter then disposed of. The rule of disposal for many western rivers is to dispose of gray water directly into the river. However, the Salmon River is exempt from the rule due to it being a desert environment, and because there is not enough current in the river to serve as a dilution to the pollution. Therefore, to dispose of gray water on the Salmon you walk up to the high water mark and disperse the water over the land. Many of us on the trip thought this method to be entirely too contradictory to the standard leave no trace camping ethics and that this disposal style would increase camp critters and leave a dirtier camp.

Chapter trips like this are necessary for better management of our rivers. These trips allow for problem solving, collaboration between agencies and office personnel and an understanding of the resource that would not be achieved in the office. New friends and professional relationships are made, new ideas formed, and old problems discussed and perhaps solved. RMS river trips grant opportunities for river and wilderness managers to get on the ground, or in our case on the water, and make a difference in the preservation and restoration of the resource. ♦



(Yosemite, continued from page 8)

we expect that most people will boat when flows are optimal between March and May.

Use will also be managed by skill and equipment. In order to paddle or row on rivers in the Park, boaters will be required to have high performance boats that are in good condition and designed to handle the class of whitewater on that reach. All boaters are required to have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device in good condition and a first aid kit. Running reaches that are Class II and above will require additional safety and self-rescue equipment. This will distinguish those who want to boat from those who desire to swim and play in the water over a shorter length of the river. American Whitewater supports these requirements, as they are the best way to ensure that visitors with the necessary skills and equipment will be enjoying the river safely.

The Plan outlines numerous Best Management Practices that will ensure that the sensitive resources within the Park will be protected. Boaters will be required to use established put-in and take-out locations, and avoid sensitive riparian vegetation. Also, as part of the natural ecosystem, large woody debris in the river will remain in place. As on every river, paddlers are responsible for protecting and respecting the natural environment, and as a representative of conservation-oriented whitewater enthusiasts, American Whitewater worked at length to ensure that Park staff understood that paddlers will protect these sensitive areas.

In addition to conserving and restoring our whitewater rivers and streams, a key part of American Whitewater's work is to connect Americans with rivers and the natural environments that they flow through. We've found that those with a deep appreciation and passion for rivers make for some of the advocates for their protection and restoration. We regularly work in partnership with federal and state agencies, and in our 60-year history, we've learned that the best partnerships come from a willingness to listen and participate in a dialogue.

We commend the staff of Yosemite National Park for their open and thoughtful process during the development of the Merced River Plan. From the beginning, they completed an unprecedented level of public outreach and ran an open process. Throughout the process they were willing to consider improving paddling opportunities in the Park as part of their analysis. They conducted a number of studies to evaluate the concerns of other park visitors and potential resource impacts relating to a possible increase in paddling opportunities. Based on a robust analysis and plenty of public dialogue, the Park was able to find a balance that will allow for increased paddling opportunities and ensure protecting resources and the Merced's Outstandingly Remarkable Values. They did this in the midst of considering a myriad of other concerns, from restoring meadows to determining the number of visitors that should be allowed into the park each day. The Park successfully balanced resource protection and appropriate visitation levels, and we believe the final plan will preserve Yosemite and allow the public to enjoy meaningful, awe-inspiring, and sustainable experiences in one of our most iconic National Parks. *Megan Hooker serves as Associate Stewardship Director for American Whitewater.* ♦

## New RMS Members!

### Professional

Kai Allen, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Bureau of Land Management, Grants Pass OR

Jennifer Barnhart, Recreation & Trails Manager  
US Forest Service, Mountain Rest SC

Jo Christensen, Restoration Biologist  
US Forest Service, Smeltonville ID

Sean Fleming, Water Trails Crew Member  
Conservation Corps of MN, St. Paul MN

Joni Randall, Wildland Firefighter  
US Forest Service, White Salmon WA

Sharon Seim, Wilderness and WSR Program Manager  
US Forest Service, Ogden UT

Matthew Walker, Regional Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Bureau of Reclamation, Boise ID

### Student

Rachel Collins, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
National Park Service, El Portal CA

### Organization

Elizabeth Kallstead, Executive Director  
Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Northfield MN

## RMS Listserve Are you subscribed?

One of the signature services provided by RMS is its listserv, a great way to solicit and share information and ideas among colleagues. Through the listserv you'll also be notified of job and grant opportunities, and can see archived posts searchable by topic or name. Listserv email comes through a different process than the RMS News Digest, which contains news and updates on RMS events or programs, and goes to all members. If you are not subscribed to the Listserv and would like to check it out, you can sign up any time by logging in to the website using your email address as your user name, and your password (if you are not sure what it is, just ask RMS). Click *My Features* and *E-Lists* and *Subscribe* to see the archive and receive listserv messages (usually one per week). If you would like to leave the listserv, click *Unsubscribe*. Organizational Staff members: if you have signed up under your colleague's annual Organizational membership, you can sign up also by following the same login steps. ♦

## Chapter Officers

### ALASKA

David W. Schade, MPA, President  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1020  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577  
tel (907) 269-8645 / cell (907) 230-6061  
david.w.schade@alaska.gov

Helen Clough, Vice President  
1765 Mendenhall Peninsula Road  
Juneau, AK 99801  
tel (907) 790 4189 / cell (907) 321-4004  
hcloughak@gmail.com

Jennifer Reed, Secretary  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
101 12th Ave, Rm 236, Fairbanks AK 99701  
tel (907) 455-1835 / fax (907) 456-0428  
jennifer\_reed@fws.gov

Bill Overbaugh, Treasurer  
Bureau of Land Management  
222 W 7th Ave #13, Anchorage AK 99513  
tel (907) 271-5508 / fax (907) 271-5479  
boverbau@blm.gov

### PACIFIC

(vacant), President and Vice President

Scott Springer, Secretary  
Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way, Ste E2711, Sacramento CA  
tel (916) 978-5206  
springer@mp.usbr.gov

Larry Freilich, Treasurer  
Inyo County Water Department  
PO Box 337, Independence CA 93526  
tel (760) 878-0011 / lfreilich@inyocounty.us

### NORTHWEST

Lynette Ripley, President  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1375 SE Wilson Ave, Ste 100, Bend OR 97702  
tel (541) 389-6541 x.233  
lripley@usbr.gov

Jim Beaupre, Vice President  
Bureau of Land Management  
3050 NE 3rd St, Prineville OR 97754  
tel (541) 416-6776 / fax (541) 416-6798  
jbeaupre@blm.gov

Ryan Turner, Secretary  
Bureau of Land Management  
1 Butte Dr, Cottonwood ID 83522  
tel (208) 839-2146  
rpturner@blm.gov

Molly Baumann, Treasurer  
4701 France Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55410  
tel (503) 803-1640  
buckyb68@hotmail.com

### Canadian River Management Society (CRMS) (Chapter Affiliate)

Michael Greco, President  
Max Finkelstein, Secretary-Treasurer  
c/o CRMS, 6333 Fortune Dr, Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1C 2A4  
tel (613) 824-0410  
greco\_crms@yahoo.com

### SOUTHWEST

Greg Trainor, President  
City of Grand Junction, Public Works & Utilities  
250 N 5th St, Grand Junction CO 81501  
tel (970) 244-1564 / fax (970) 256-4022  
gregt@gjcity.org

Jason Carey, Vice President  
River Restoration  
PO Box 2123, Glenwood Springs CO 81602  
tel (970) 947-9568  
jason@riverrestoration.org

(vacant), Secretary

Jennifer Jones, Treasurer  
Bureau of Land Management  
82 E Dogwood, Moab UT 84532  
tel (435) 259-2136 / fax (435) 259-2158  
jjones@blm.gov

### SOUTHEAST

Mary Crockett, President  
Congaree Land Trust  
2231 Devine St #100, Columbia SC 29205  
tel (803) 988-0000  
landprotection@congreel.org

Stephen Hendricks, Vice President  
27 Colonial Place, Asheville NC 28804  
tel (828) 273-5581  
sehendricks333@gmail.com

Glen Bishop, Secretary  
Arkansas Tech University  
Dept of Parks and Recreation  
Williamson Hall, Russellville AR 72801  
tel (479) 964-3228 / fax (479) 968-0600  
glen.bishop@atu.edu

Bill Marshall, Treasurer  
South Carolina Dept of Natural Resources  
PO Box 167, Columbia SC 29202  
tel (803) 734-9096 / fax (803) 734-9200  
marshallb@dnr.sc.gov

### MIDWEST

Peter Hark, President  
Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd, St Paul MN 55155  
tel (651) 259-5618 / fax (651) 297-5475  
peter.hark@dnr.state.mn.us

Randy Thoreson, Vice President  
National Park Service  
111 E Kellogg Blvd, St Paul MN 55101  
tel (651) 290-3004 / fax (651) 290-3815  
randy\_thoreson@nps.gov

(vacant), Secretary

Sue Jennings, Treasurer  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
9922 Front St, Empire MI 49630  
tel (231) 326-5134 x.422  
sue\_jennings@nps.gov

### NORTHEAST

(vacant)

## To Join RMS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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:*

Card #:


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

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage PAID  
Permit 536  
Missoula MT 59801



Next Journal Deadline - Special Focus *“Nuts and Bolts: Daily Problems and Solutions”* - Submissions due May 1, 2014



**MANAGING RIVERS in CHANGING CLIMES**  
TRAINING TOMORROW'S RIVER PROFESSIONALS · APRIL 15 - 17, 2014  
DENVER, COLORADO