



10:30 am – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions (A)

I. Education and Interpretation (Mountain Room Restaurant)

*“Connecting Youth to Rivers and Nature – What Success Looks Like”*

Moderator: Jeff Vail, Forest Service

Connecting youth to nature to reverse the steady decline in environmental awareness and physical fitness are major priorities in the public and private sectors. Organizations across the country are working with federal and state land management agencies, businesses, schools, and families to improve environmental education in today’s youth. Successful programs are happening everywhere, and today we are privileged to hear from three organizations operating here in California. Among the issues we have asked them to address are:

- What makes a program to connect youth to nature successful?
- What lessons has your organization learned along the way?
- What strategies does your organization use to engage youth from different cultures?
- Why should we care whether youth have experience with and appreciation for nature?
- How does your organization obtain funds and in-kind support for program operations?
- How do you instill an environmental ethic in program participants that they carry forward after the program ends?
- Where do you see opportunities to expand programs connecting youth to rivers and nature if funding and resources were no obstacle?

- Jim Oftedahl, Program Director, Central California Consortium  
The Central California Consortium (CCC) is an environmental education based program sponsored by the US Forest Service. The focus of the program is to educate underserved rural communities on natural resources. Currently the program has established Hispanic and Asian components with African-American and Native-American programs being established in the near future.

- Dr. Adam Burns, Field Science Project Manager, Yosemite Institute  
Yosemite Institute provides award-winning, residential outdoor education programs in Yosemite National Park for K-12 school groups. Among the programs offered are experiential and inquiry-based programs, YI’s Field Science Education programs for youth involve water quality monitoring and related activities in riparian areas.

Joint Session:

(Cliff Room)

II. Wild and Scenic River Training Opportunities and

IV. User Capacity and Visitor Use Management

*“Upstream Updates: News and Notes from WSR and User Capacity”*

Moderators/Introduction: Bill Hansen, National Park Service and Keith Brown, Forest Service

- NPS Workgroup on User Capacity – Tokey Boswell, National Park Service
- Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council White Paper on User Capacity – Joan Harn, National Park Service
- News updates from agencies and the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council - Jackie Diedrich, Forest Service, et al.

III. River Health and Restoration

(Garden Terrace Room)

*“Collaborative Science and Stewardship on the Upper Tuolumne River”*

Moderator: Jim MacCartney, National Park Service

Dams and diversions associated with the Hetch Hetchy Project have altered the magnitude and seasonal patterns of stream flow in the Upper Tuolumne River, affecting physical and biological processes that comprise the river ecosystem. Since 2006, a set of collaborative, science-based studies have been underway to (1) characterize historical and current river ecosystem conditions, (2) assess their relationship to Hetch Hetchy Project operations, and (3) provide recommendations for improving ecosystem conditions as needed. A key outcome of this work will be revised environmental flow recommendations that support a broader array of river ecosystem values while balancing water supply and operational constraints.

- “The Upper Tuolumne River Ecosystem Project: Science, Policy & Stewardship” William Sears, MESM, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- “The Looking Downstream Project: Yosemite NPS Research in the Poopenaut Valley” Greg Stock, Ph.D., National Park Service
- “Results from the May 2008 O’Shaughnessy Dam Experimental Flood” Jim Roche, M.S., National Park Service

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own (Food Court)

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions (B)

I. Education and Interpretation (Garden Terrace Room)  
*“Tuolumne Constituents Program: Building River Stewards through Education, River Trips, and Restoration Programs”*  
Moderator: Steve Johnson, National Park Service

- Meg Gonzalez, Tuolumne River Trust, Central Valley Director of Outreach Education

II. Wild and Scenic River Training Opportunities (Mountain Room Bar)  
*“WSR Study Process: From Inventory to Designation”*  
Facilitators: Jackie Diedrich, Forest Service, and Cassie Thomas, National Park Service

If you’ve ever had questions about the WSR study process, this session is for you. We’ll start by asking what study-related questions you’d like answered, then address these questions in the instructional portion of the session. You’ll then have an opportunity to ‘conduct’ the three procedural steps of the study process -- eligibility, classification and suitability -- through small group exercises.

III. River Health and Restoration (Mountain Room Restaurant)  
*“Restoring Native Fisheries”*  
Moderator: Bunny Sterin, Bureau of Land Management

California’s native fisheries are in unprecedented decline, with many species teetering towards extinction. This session will include a discussion of the new report released by CalTrout, “SOS: California’s Native Fish Crisis” ([www.caltrout.org/](http://www.caltrout.org/)).

In addition, the CA Department of Fish and Game will present details of their Golden Trout Recovery Project. The California golden trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*) is a rainbow trout subspecies endemic to the Kern Plateau region of the eastern Kern River Basin, and has been petitioned for listing as endangered. A Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the California Golden Trout was signed by CDFG and the various federal agencies responsible for managing the California golden trout in 2004. The Golden Trout Project is a very dynamic collaborative partnership between the agencies, various NGOs, private groups, individuals and corporations to implement the conservation actions outlined in the Strategy.

- Scott Feierabend, Interim Executive Director, CalTrout
- Christy McGuire, California Dept of Fish and Game

IV. User Capacity and Visitor Use Management (Cliff Room)  
“*Me, the River, and User Capacity: A User’s Perspective*”  
Moderator: Paul Roelandt, National Park Service

- Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater
- Steve Welch, General Manager, ARTA (American River Touring Association) and Paul Johnson, ARTA Customer

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions (C)

I. Education and Interpretation (Garden Terrace)  
“*A Highlight of Best Practices to Connecting Diverse Communities to Rivers and Nature*”  
Moderator: Angie Tornes, National Park Service

Drawing upon research conducted with Dr. Deb Chavez and Nina Roberts, studies analyzed in a recent FS Research study, *Recreation Visitor Research: Studies of Diversity*, and his practical experience with the Forest Service, Ben will provide a highlight of best practices river managers might employ to enhance communications, facilities and services, partnerships, and civic engagement of diverse communities with rivers and nature, including the growing Latino population in California. Ben will engage the audience in a discussion of approaches attendees have employed, or might undertake, to be responsive to diverse and non-traditional river users.

- Ben Lara, Recreation Planner, Inyo National Forest, CA

II. Wild and Scenic River Training Opportunities (Cliff Room)  
“*NGO Perspectives about WSR Designation and Management*”  
Moderator: Bill Hansen, National Park Service

- Joshua Stark, National Parks and Conservation Association
- Rebecca Cremeen, Tuolumne River Trust
- Jamie Mireau, American Rivers
- Ron Stork, Friends of the River

III. River Health and Restoration (in the field)  
“*River Management and Floodplain Restoration Challenges in East Yosemite Valley*”

(Important note: This is a field presentation. Participants should meet promptly at the shuttle bus stop at 3:05 pm. Ride shuttle bus to the Lower Pines Campground stop where you will meet Park staff. Bring a jacket; wear comfortable shoes.)

Moderator: Paul Roelandt, National Park Service

Yosemite Valley is the locus of heavy visitor use, which is greatly centered on river-related recreation. Protecting riverine and associated resources is challenging in this environment, particularly when faced with mitigating historic impacts to river and floodplain processes. We will provide an overview of a proposed large-scale restoration, followed by a walk through the affected area. Along the way, we will discuss Sierra climate and hydrology, wetland ecology, and floodplain processes as well as visitor use considerations as they relate to the restoration area.

- Jim Roche, M.S., Hydrologist, Yosemite National Park
- Sue Beatty, Ecological Restoration Biologist, Yosemite National Park

5:00 pm Dinner on your own – Informal RMS Chapter Networking

You are encouraged to dine with other members of your RMS Chapter and meet National and Chapter officers in attendance. Please see registration desk for location of your Chapter gathering. Options: The Ahwahnee (reservations required, formal dining, dress code business casual), Mountain Room, Food Court

## **Wednesday, March 11: Field Trips, Day #2**

(Notes: All trips include lunch. Spouses/guests may attend on a space-available basis, but must register and pay \$10 for lunch.)

### **Trip 1 - Yosemite Valley River and Meadow Walk**

Participants will have an opportunity to explore Yosemite and learn about various issues in the Park. Either by riding the hybrid shuttle bus or walking, you will stop at several locations where Yosemite staff or partner/regional representatives will give presentations on relevant Yosemite topics, such as:

- 100-year flood of 1997 at former Upper/Lower River Campground
- Yosemite's meadow and riverbank restoration successes and challenges—  
invasive species
- Living history portrayal of a Yosemite Buffalo Soldier
- Presentation on the river and American Indian traditional cultural practices
- "The Spirit of Yosemite" film screening at Yosemite Village
- Engaging students in river preservation
- Water quality monitoring demonstration
- Big wall climbing, and climbers caring for the Park (Yosemite Facelift)

**Trip 2 - Hetch Hetchy Valley (8:30 am – 5:00 pm; Limit 20; weather permitting)**  
Carpool/shuttle an hour to this historic location and learn about John Muir's last stand—the battle for Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Tuolumne River, while discovering the area's natural history (possible early wildflowers, amazing

geology). Participants will be given an orientation at the dam. Afterwards, Park staff will lead the group on an easy 2-3 mile level round-trip hike, around the reservoir, from the top of O'Shaughnessey Dam to Wapama Falls. Dress in layers since the weather could be cool or hot; bring sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and water bottle; wear good walking shoes for the well-maintained trail. (Note: Please indicate at the registration table if you would be willing to be a carpool driver.)

Trip 3 - Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias (9:00 am – 3:30 pm; Limit 20)

Carpool/shuttle to Crane Flat—the Park's north-south divide for the Merced and Tuolumne River watersheds. Participants will visit the Yosemite Institute environmental education campus. Institute staff will talk about their important water quality monitoring work, and programs that reach over 10,000 youth each year, including underserved students from throughout California. Afterwards, hike down the historic Big Oak Flat Road (one of Yosemite's first roads, now closed to vehicles) to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias, the smallest of three groves in the park. The walk is on a well-traveled path (packed snow), and participants should have sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots. Snow boots may be worn, but not needed. Dress warmly. (Notes: Each participant will pick up a box lunch before departing the Lodge. Please indicate at the registration table if you would be willing to be a carpool driver.)

5:00 pm                      Dinner on your own / RMS Board members will meet over dinner

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm      Media Night – river films, slideshows, videos (Cliff Room)

Moderator: Angie Tornes, National Park Service

Merced River, Robinson Reach

DVD: 10 min.

This is a short film about a restoration of dredger tailings in the Merced River as it flows through a rancher's property in the Central Valley.

The Last Descent

DVD: 24 min.

The Last Descent was honored with the People's Choice Award at the January, 2009 Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Nevada City, CA. Out of 180 films, it was voted as the favorite film of the festival by the viewers. Although The Last Descent film is finished, the mission still continues with all proceeds from sales being donated to organizations that are working hard to protect our wonderful rivers.

The Last Descent is a project to raise public awareness that some of the world's most beautiful, culturally rich and ecologically significant rivers are threatened by large-scale hydropower projects. The team produced a whitewater adventure film

with the focus on international rivers that are threatened by dams. These world-class kayakers descended three major rivers in order to fully illustrate the beauty and value of the rivers as they are, possibly for the last time.

Route: The team traveled with kayaks and film equipment to the Marsyandi River in Nepal, the Brahmaputra River in India, and the White Nile River in Uganda, before returning home to California. All three of these great rivers are threatened or in the process of being dammed.

<http://www.thelastdescent.com>

### Goldfish

DVD: 12 min.

Third graders, Suzy and Jenny (Laura Marano, *The Jacket*, and Madeline Carrol, *The Santa Clause 3*) are on a mission to save their classroom's goldfish. But everything they know is working against them! This short has been a popular selection at several Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festivals around the country. *Goldfish* features a wonderfully sharp and witty cast.

<http://www.goldfish-movie.com/goldfish/photos.asp>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSgUmSfEiH8>

### Colours of the Nile

(Slide show, 45 min.)

Scott Armstrong, owner of All-Outdoors Whitewater Rafting, will join us to share his experiences as a Class V whitewater guide during part of a 4-month expedition, in 2004, down the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia. The trip was documented in IMAX format and released in theaters as "Mysteries of the Blue Nile."

Never before has anyone paddled the entire length of the River Nile in a single unbroken journey, from the source of the Blue Nile at Lake Tana in the Ethiopian highlands, to where she spills into the Mediterranean Sea 4,900 kilometres (3,060 miles) later. While others have paddled various sections of the river, no one has completed her course without the use of a motorboat.

The 4-month expedition lunged through some of the most untamed areas on earth, including parts that were not mapped until the 1930s. The route encompassed areas of unthinkable natural beauty, regions home to some of the most fascinating cultures on the globe and some of the greatest human-made structures of the ancient world including the temples, tombs and pyramids of Pharaoh Egypt. The Colours of the Nile Expedition intends to generate awareness of the issues that surround the very serious of problem of universal decline of water resources.

<http://www.aorafting.com/e-newsletter/articles/nile-trip.htm>  
<http://www.niletrip.com>

Clavey Reflections  
(Video: 15 min.)

Rebecca Cremen of the Tuolumne River Trust will present two short segments documenting the historical, biological, and current human/ecological relationship of an exemplary watershed.

The free-flowing Clavey River is recognized as one of the three most pristine rivers in the Sierra Nevada. Its watershed starts in the alpine meadows, granite-bound lakes, and red fir/lodgepole forests of the Emigrant Wilderness in Central California and tumbles through four of the five west slope life zones of the Sierra on the way to its confluence with the Tuolumne River. Most of the 100,370-acre watershed is in public ownership, managed by the Stanislaus National Forest; only eight percent of the land in the watershed is privately owned.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqSFt6znLEs&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgjuT59iQsY>

**Thursday, March 12: Workshop Day #3**

7:30 am - 10:30 am Coffee Service (Cliff Room) / Registration (Falls Room)

8:30 am – 10:00 am Concurrent Sessions (D)

I. Education and Interpretation (Mountain Room Restaurant)  
*“Teaching Along the Merced River”*  
Moderator: Lynne Murdock, National Park Service

Two Yosemite non-profit partners conduct education programs for students and adults along the Merced WSR in the park. This session will explore how Yosemite Institute and Yosemite Association connect people to this beautiful river and important resource.

- Michael Bilodeau, Education Director, Yosemite Institute
- Pete Devine, Education Programs, Yosemite Association

II. Wild and Scenic River Training Opportunities (Mountain Room Bar)  
*“New Designations: What do I do now?”*  
Facilitators: Jackie Diedrich and Jeffrey Vail, Forest Service

This is a *working* session; participants are encouraged to attend if interested in helping to describe the steps in providing interim protection for, and getting

started with plan development on a river on their administrative unit that was just added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

III. River Health and Restoration (Garden Terrace)

*“River Restoration Case Studies: Challenges and Successes”*

Moderator: Steve Johnson, National Park Service

The Feather River Coordinated Resource Management group (CRM) has successfully implemented a total of 65 on-the-ground restoration projects over the last 23 years, in addition to accomplishing a multitude of other projects including studies/strategies, planning/coordination, and educational/outreach work. Total program expenditures have grown from \$690,000 in 2004 to an estimated \$1,500,000 in 2008. Project construction in 2008 included restoration on Silver and Spanish Creeks in Meadow Valley, Boulder Creek in Mohawk Valley, and Long Valley Creek in the Cromberg/Sloat area. CRM efforts in 2007-2008 have also included a variety of other projects. The Forest Service, Feather River College, the County and the CRM helped to establish a source of native plants for re-vegetation work on restoration projects through the re-vitalization of the community greenhouse located on the College campus. Watershed stewardship events, organized by the CRM and funded by the Forest Service, include creek clean-ups, storm drain stenciling, and water quality protection signage.

- Jim Wilcox, Plumas Corporation, Quincy, CA

IV. User Capacity and Visitor Use Management (Cliff Room)

*“User Capacity Case Studies and Panel Discussion – Part I”*

Moderator: Randy Thoreson, National Park Service

- American River – Jim Eicher, Bureau of Land Management
- Main and Middle Fork Salmon River – Randy Welsh, Forest Service
- Tuolumne River – Jim Bacon, Kristina Rylands, Bret Meldrum, and Todd Newburger, National Park Service
- Upper Snake River – Monica Zimmerman, Forest Service and Tammi Laninga, University of Idaho
- Lower Deschutes – Thomas Mottl, Bureau of Land Management

10:00 am – 10:30 am Break

10:30 am – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions (E)

II. Wild and Scenic River Training Opportunities (Garden Terrace)

*“Partnership and State Administered Wild and Scenic Rivers: Opportunities and Challenges – Panel Discussion”*

Moderator: Stephen Bowes, National Park Service

Across the country there are several different types of federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. This panel will examine two specific types that often get overlooked, Partnership and State administered (2a). The panelists have a variety of experiences with these types of rivers and will briefly outline the challenges and opportunities that they present. The majority of this panel session will be devoted to discussion so please bring your questions, idea and experiences.

- Stephen Bowes, Hydropower Assistance Program, NPS, Oakland, CA
- James Eicher, Associate Field Manager, BLM, Folsom, CA
- Jamie Mierau, Director of River Protection, American Rivers, Washington, DC
- Hector Santiago, Regional Rivers Coordinator, NPS, Omaha, NE
- Jeffery Vail, Program Manager for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, USFS, Vallejo, CA
- Harry Williamson, Natural Resource Planner, Wilco Consulting, Chattanooga, TN
- James MacCartney, River Restoration Specialist, Trout Unlimited, Concord, NH
- Liz Lacy, Community Planner, NPS, Pleasant Valley, CT

#### IV. User Capacity and Visitor Use Management (Cliff Room)

*“User Capacity Case Studies and Panel Discussion - Part II”*

Moderator: Jim Bacon, National Park Service

- Arkansas Headwaters – Rob White, Colorado State Parks
- McCloud Pit – Randy Thoreson, National Park Service
- Colorado River – Linda Jalbert, National Park Service
- Rogue River – Keith Brown, Forest Service

12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch on your own (Food Court)

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions (F)

#### I. Education and Interpretation (Mountain Room Restaurant)

*“Crook County High School Natural Resources Education Program (NREP): Adopting a Wild and Scenic River”*

Moderator: Lynne Murdock, National Park Service

Learn about the NREP program for the school system, which includes the entire watershed’s natural and social components. The Crooked River watershed, with key Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River (WSR) sections, will be used as a visual to explain the geographical context, followed by a listing of curriculum areas that the NREP will cover. There are three primary elements of the program:

learning, conserving, and recreating in the watershed. NREP combines these three elements into the educational life of K-12 students and beyond.

- Thomas Mottl, Recreation Planner, Bureau of Land Management, OR

III. River Health and Restoration (Garden Terrace)

*“Monitoring Riverbank Condition in Yosemite Valley”*

(presentation and field trip)

Moderator: Bunny Sterin, Bureau of Land Management

This program will introduce participants to the ongoing monitoring project that examines the condition of bank stability and vegetation along riverbanks in Yosemite Valley as part of Yosemite’s User Capacity Monitoring Program. We will visit a few of our sampling locations and present our study design and methods. We will then facilitate an open discussion with participants about the benefits, challenges and shortcomings of this program. The main objective of this workshop is to illicit feedback from other river managers on the implementation of such a program and the interpretation of its results. We will further discuss how we hope to correlate our findings with information gathered about visitor use numbers to these specific locations.

- Todd Newburger, Yosemite National Park
- Jim Roche, Hydrologist, Yosemite National Park
- Sue Beatty, Ecological Restoration Biologist, Yosemite National Park
- Marci Jones-Messick, Yosemite National Park

IV. User Capacity and Visitor Use Management (Mountain Room Bar)

*“Building the Capacity to Address Capacity: A SWOT Analysis”*

- Facilitators: Jim Bacon and Bret Meldrum, National Park Service

This will be a *working* session to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Analysis) for planning and managing for visitor use on Wild and Scenic Rivers. This effort will generate important, strategic thinking to inform collaborative, inter-agency efforts related to this topic.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm “River Doctor” Confluence Clinic (Cliff Room)

Need help with a burning issue? Do you have a success story or challenge you would like to share with other workshop participants in a handout, poster, or mini speed-presentation? The “River Doctor” is IN. The purpose of this master session is to allow river professionals to come together at the end of the workshop to network and problem solve. In particular, folks will come to this session to: 1) talk about their burning issues with a sitting “River Doctor”—someone who has expertise in that particular issue; 2) share materials or give a speed presentation on what is happening on their river; and 3)



Celebrate the end of a successful workshop with a “slow food” organic dinner, catered by Mountain Meadow Farms. Enjoy live music by a local band, The Trespassers. No-host bar. Guest tickets are available. It is a short 10-minute walk to Yosemite Village, or you may take a free shuttle bus in front of Yosemite Lodge (runs every 15 minutes).

### **Friday, March 13: Post-Workshop Options**

Option 1: Lower Tuolumne River Canoe in the Central Valley, in cooperation with the Tuolumne River Trust (Min. 10 and max. 20 participants; pay directly on your own)

SPACE AVAILABLE STILL!

The section of the Lower Tuolumne you will be floating is from Basso Bridge near La Grange to Turlock State Recreation Area. The run is a 5.5-mile Class I+ section that passes through relatively secluded locations of cliffs and riparian vegetation composed of willows, cottonwoods, oaks, and alders. Wildlife viewing opportunities are abundant in this stretch. Depending on the season, it is possible to see bald and golden eagles, egrets, salmon, beavers, and river otters to name a few.

We begin each trip with a safety talk and a brief paddling technique review. We then head to the river and float to take out. If we meet at 8:00am, we would be done with the trip by 3:00pm. The trip can be customized to meet the needs of our group.

These canoe trips are set to go rain or shine. However, if the forecast calls for extreme weather (e.g. severe storms and high precipitation) or if unsafe river conditions exist, the trip will be cancelled. In the event of a cancellation, a member of the Trust will contact you and a full refund will be given.

The cost is \$45.00 for members, \$60.00 for non-members, and \$35.00 for kids 12-17 years of age. Lunch and river equipment (i.e. canoes, paddles, and lifejackets) are included in the price.

Option 2: Badger Pass Ski (cross-country or downhill; free shuttle; pay for rental and lift ticket on your own)