

Wild & Scenic Rivers:



America's Premier Program for River Conservation

by Tim Palmer

With the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, Congress decreed that America's headlong rush to develop rivers with dams and other developments should be "complemented" by saving the best streams. This goal marked a historic turning point in our society's regard for rivers. Instead of believing that every stream should be harnessed and flooded by dams or otherwise heavily developed, we would begin to respect intrinsic values of these vital, free-flowing, natural features.

With this ambitious beginning, the

Wild and Scenic Act created a program that has presented professional resource managers with some of their greatest tools, opportunities, and challenges, and it serves as a continuing inspiration to achieve excellence in the maintenance, protection, and restoration of our finest rivers.

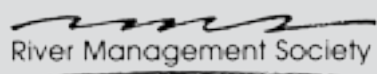
The fiftieth anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation presents an opportunity to reflect on how the system began and grew, on its success spanning two or three generations of river stewards, and on future prospects for waterways that have been designated and for more that are

While opposing a dam proposed here at the Middle Fork of the Flathead in Montana, Frank and John Craighead conceived the idea of a nationally protected system of rivers in the 1950s. Photos: Tim Palmer

yet to come.

Before the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, there had never been a broad vision for river protection in the United States, or for that matter, in the world. The program stands alone in its recognition that a certain category of landscape—

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Executive Director's Eddy

We have more reasons than ever before to be excited and appreciative of the experience, smarts and commitment of RMS contributors... like you! While we have more paid personnel on board these days, the success of recent events is resulting from members and colleagues chipping in to join the work and fun of pursuing our mission:

- **Water Trails Partners** – We continued to work with water trails leaders in various ways. We supported a River Rally workshop led by Elizabeth Riggs (Huron River Watershed Alliance) and Greg Farnham (Rock River Water Trail); appreciated participation from Matthew Drifill (San Antonio River Authority) in an RMS Journal article interview and his thought-provoking safety-related Listserv outreach.

- **USDA Forest Service Workshops** – We completed three trainings concerning the management of Wild and Scenic Rivers, and they received high marks for content and instructor expertise. We thank our Forest Service sponsors (Christina Boston, Togan Capozza, Jimmy Gaudry) for their foresight in planning and sharing the trainings. We would not be able to offer trainings without our expert instructors, notably members Jackie Diedrich, Mollie Chaudet and Randy Welsh, who we appreciate so much for their continued commitment to their profession.

- **“The Council”** - We increased collegial connections through the Interagency Wild and Scenic Coordinating Council’s Steve Chesterton, Cathi Bailey, Jennifer Reed, Joan Harn and Corita Waters. Thank you!

- **2017 RRR** - Thoughtful planning by the dynamic duo of Joe O’Neill and NW Chapter Vice President Ryan Turner amped up the 2017 River Ranger Rendezvous with a full house and innovative silent auction fundraiser that will support professional development scholarships for ... you, perhaps!?

- **Vancouver 2018** – Symposium planning forges ahead under the leadership of Co-Chairs Weezie Kling and Helen Clough,

and able assistance from Judy Culver, Wendy McDermott, Tom O’Keefe, Bo Shelby and Dave Schade. Many vectors are pointing toward the high quality training, networking, historical discovery, and fun that you will experience.

- As in years past, we have been kept abreast of news on rivers in the desert west from member Herm Hoops and his gift for telling stories. May your bard’s penchant for telling well-researched tales of river running never quiet, Herm.

There are more points of pride that we will leave for another day. However, before we turn the page on the term of our 2015-2017 National RMS Board Officers, let us thank them here:

Helen Clough has been a tireless meeting planner, program cheerleader, and volunteer encourager. Her ability to focus on any and all tasks at hand has made it clear how she rose through the ranks to her leadership position at the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska and as a lead trainer at the National Conservation Training Center (in WV). She is both strategic and eager to jump on opportunity, and has become a terrific mentor, colleague and friend. That she will continue to be on the National Board as our Secretary is like the gift that keeps on giving!

Linda Jalbert is stepping into the presidency after serving as an extraordinary Vice President with the longest leadership record in the history of RMS. Her extraordinary-ness, however, combines her recent leadership contributions, her strength for being ‘present’ sans baggage, and her keen interest in looking forward on our behalf. As Scholarship Committee lead, she navigated through tough decisions and helped us explore opportunities to welcome students and early career members to professional development opportunities. As Chair of the Succession-now-Membership Committee, she has taken a hard look at membership frameworks among relevant national organizations and trends in RMS’ membership. Because of her leadership and input from others, we believe our

RMS President's Corner

October 2017, Nashville, Tennessee

I know that by the time you read this it will be winter, but want to use the current date and location to share my last message to you as President. First, thank you to all of you for letting me have the honor of serving as president of the board these last three years. It has been an amazing experience and I am so grateful to Risa Shimoda, the other board members, and you the members of our incredible organization. We have done so much and our new President, Linda Jalbert, will lead us into 2018 – which promises to be the most eventful year ever for RMS.

We just wrapped up our annual in-person board meeting at Henry Horton State Park, near Nashville, Tennessee, hosted by Jane Polansky and the Southeast Chapter. Details of this meeting can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Journal. A special thanks to Jane and the Southeast Chapter for showing us a great time. We were fortunate that we were able to have the full RMS staff (yes, 3 people now), the new national officers, as well as most of the old board all in one place together. We used a facilitator to make sure that we accomplished our objectives in the limited time we had together.

Our Executive Director, Risa Shimoda, continues her incredible job of keeping the organization together and moving us forward. She has almost tripled our budget in the last three years and continues to “do it all” for RMS. As of 2018, she should be full-time. Program Assistant Jack Henderson, working with an ever increasing array of partners, continues to expand and improve the National Rivers Project (www.nationalriversproject.com). It now includes almost 700 rivers and 8,000 access points. The third and newest member of our staff is John Gangemi, the training coordinator who will develop our training institute (official title TBD).



Planning continues for *Wild, Scenic, and Beyond!* – the 2018 RMS Symposium to be held October 22-25, 2018, in Vancouver, Washington. The Partnership for National Trails System (PNTS) will be holding their conference at the same time and venue. We are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and parts of the program will clearly be focused on rivers within the system. However, there will be many sessions and trainings of interest to those who work with all rivers.

In closing, my best wishes to you all for 2018 and I look forward to continuing to work with you as we move RMS into new and exciting times of serving professionals who study, protect and manage North America’s rivers.♦

Helen Clough
Helen Clough

RMS President, 2015-2017

new membership program will help us articulate value to colleagues and friends with new effectiveness.

Jennifer Jones, 2014 River Ranger of the Year and Secretary 2015-2017, has relinquished many a social chit-chat time during phone and in-person board meetings in order to record and archive minutes and other administrative records. As we find from time to time, her understated and rarely appreciated work is critical to maintaining a record of the organization’s decisions and actions. Thank you, Jenni!

Randy Welsh has served RMS as a leader in the Southwest Chapter, a board advisor and liaison to the USDA Forest Service before his retirement, and most recently as our Treasurer. His attention to the detail of developing annual budgets has helped fellow board members understand where funds are secured and spent. We will not lose him: Randy will be returning to an active role in the Southwest Chapter.

I must add **Jack Henderson** to the list of people to thank this year. Working remotely can be challenging, and Jack has overcome distance with an uncanny eagerness to grow the data that fuels the National Rivers Project (see his update in this issue) and assist with the nurturing of our hydropower relicensing summary development and Early Career outreach.

Finally, I have been tempted to pull out my pleated cheerleading skirt and letter sweater to celebrate the arrival of our new RMS staff member, **John Gangemi**, and comment simply that I, along with the Board and members who served on the review committee could not be more excited to welcome him to the RMS team.

We are psyched to greet 2018, and hope you are too! We cannot do a damned thing without you, however, so please let us know how we are serving you and your colleagues. It is important for us to understand your perspective: this may sound repetitive as we hand write the same request on the renewal postcards we mail out each year. We mean it, is all.♦

Risa Shimoda
Risa Shimoda
Executive Director

RMS Welcomes New Training Coordinator

The River Management Society has hired John Gangemi as our training coordinator. He is tasked to establish a river management training program, the first of its kind in the nation. While the new training program has yet to be officially named, it will initially focus on training about the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Act that established the System in 1968. Courses will be offered in a variety of formats from internet-based to multiday in-person classes. Initial funding is provided through federal agency partnerships. The long-term goal of the program, however, is to be sustainable without direct federal funding and to provide training on a wide variety of river management topics. Look for roll out of a number of courses in 2018 including at the Vancouver, Washington, RMS Symposium in October.



John Gangemi, Moose Creek Ranger Station, Selway River, Idaho.

John brings a diverse background to the program. He was most recently the Director of Hydro Power Licensing for a private environmental consulting firm where he successfully built their hydro consulting business and supervised a team of 10 direct reporting staff. John’s business background in private consulting will be key to building a sustainable business model for the RMS training program. Early in his career, John worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He also served as the principal investigator for ecological studies of regulated river systems and conservation biology of aquatic systems for the University of Montana.

For a number of years, John worked as the national Conservation Director for American Whitewater. This position allowed him to apply his scientific knowledge of river systems to river management. He shifted American Whitewater’s focus from whitewater to holistic river stewardship with a goal of restoring natural flow regimes on rivers regulated by dams. He developed standard methods for investigating recreation instream flows at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydroelectric projects in the licensing process. In 2005, he and RMS members Bo Shelby

and Doug Whittaker coauthored the publication, *Flows and Recreation: A Guide to Studies for River Professionals*. While at American Whitewater, John co-authored their *River Stewardship Toolkit* – a document that provides volunteers with the tools to participate in the management of their local rivers.

“John brings an amazing array of expertise in fisheries, river ecology, water quality; regulatory processes and permitting; stakeholder engagement and facilitation; and river recreation and management planning, to name a few,” said Risa Shimoda, RMS Executive Director. “John’s combination of experience in government, academia, the non-profit, and environmental consulting field is a perfect fit for us as he works with partners to develop the training program,” said RMS President Helen Clough.

John was able to attend the in-person RMS board meeting in Tennessee in October to get to know the board and participate in discussions about the training program and upcoming symposium. John will continue to reside in Columbia Falls, Montana, and can be reached at: john@river-management.org. ♦



Board and staff at Henry Horton State Park, Tennessee. Left to right: Bo Shelby, Jim Eicher, Jennifer Jones, Weezie Kling, Helen Clough, Risa Shimoda, Linda Jalbert, Emma Lord, Dave Cernicek, Lois Snow (facilitator), Randy Welsh, Steve Chesterton, Rob White. Kneeling: Dave Schade, Jane Polansky, Jack Henderson.

RMS Board Meets in Tennessee

The RMS Board of Directors held its annual in-person meeting October 5-8, 2017, at Henry Horton State Park near Nashville, Tennessee. Jane Polansky and the Southeast Chapter hosted the board. Two changes from previous board meetings were the use of a professional facilitator and the inclusion of incoming board members. Almost all members of the current board attended and they were joined by incoming new board members Bo Shelby (Vice President) and Dave Cernicek (Treasurer). Emma Lord, incoming Northeast Chapter President, attended for Marina Metes who was unable to attend. Staff participation included Executive Director Risa Shimoda, Program Assistant Jack Henderson, and new Training Coordinator John Gangemi.

The meeting focused on three key areas: board training (setting clear expectations for board members and providing training about their roles and responsibilities); developing a program of work for 2018; and, reviewing past successes and challenges. In addition to the formal meeting, most board members joined

chapter members on a very rainy float of a section of the nearby Duck River. Joining the board were chapter members Mary Crockett, Gary Marsh, Tom Christiansen, and guests.

Facilitator Lois Snow designed the meeting format in collaboration with Executive Director Risa Shimoda, current board president Helen Clough, and incoming board president Linda Jalbert. Having a facilitator run the meeting allowed all board and staff to fully participate without the responsibility of keeping us on task and on time.

The next year promises to be an exciting year for RMS with several major initiatives underway. We continue to be heavily involved in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with our partners. *Wild, Scenic and Beyond!* – our biennial symposium – will be held in Vancouver, Washington, October 22-25. The National Rivers Project continues to grow

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rivers with their integral valley or canyon corridors—should be highlighted for special care. We’ve passed no similar nationwide laws specifically to set aside mountains, or forests, or deserts, or lakes. But to protect our finest rivers, we have. This is fitting given the central importance of rivers in our lives. Their healthy flows are essential as our water supplies. Rivers underpin vital populations of fish, wildlife, and whole ecosystems. Rivers serve as centerpieces of communities, greenways across social and biological territories, recreational hotspots for virtually everyone, and vivid, dynamic, unforgettable symbols of life itself.

From concept to law

The Wild and Scenic Rivers initiative began in the 1950s when the famed wildlife biologists, John and Frank Craighead, waged a battle against the proposed damming of the Middle Fork Flathead, which they considered the

wildest river in Montana. The Army Corps of Engineers’ proposal had surfaced after another dam site planned on the Flathead’s North Fork had been rejected because it would flood parts of Glacier National Park.

“We realized that saving one river simply resulted in having to fight for another,” John reflected to me when I interviewed him for my 1984 river conservation history book, *Endangered Rivers and the Conservation Movement*. Ever the scientists, the twin brothers formulated a proposal in 1955 to systematically evaluate the nation’s rivers with the goal of protecting the very best.

The Craigheads’ insight came at a time when the big-dam building era of America was still in full swing. Some 70,000 sizable dams had already been built, and thousands more were under construction, planned, or proposed nationwide, mostly with little resistance except for rare cases where national parks were at risk, though the two decades to follow would spawn massive opposition to unneeded dams.

The protection idea gained support, and insightful planners within the Department of the Interior took initiative on their own volition to craft a policy directed at nothing less than changing the way the federal government regarded rivers: from development at any cost, to a goal of balance aimed at protecting the best natural streams. Then—even though they came from very conservative political districts—Senator Frank Church of Idaho, Representative John Saylor of Pennsylvania, and others courageously drafted legislative proposals for a Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In a pivotal position for advancement

of the bill, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall had undergone his own personal transformation from being an Arizona congressman who had to support water development including Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, to a river protection pioneer after he had toured threatened sites on the Allagash River in Maine and the Current in Missouri, and after he experienced—first hand from a raft—the fatally doomed majesty of Glen Canyon of the Colorado.

At an unlikely coffee shop near the University of Pittsburgh, where the “retired” Secretary in 1983 was preparing a case for Navaho Indians aggrieved by radioactive waste and the Atomic Energy Commission, Udall recalled to me an era scarcely imaginable in today’s atmosphere of political resistance. “President Johnson’s chief of staff came to me and asked for legislative proposals for conservation. I told him about the wild and scenic rivers idea, and he said, ‘That sounds great. Get it ready.’”

With a lofty air of entitlement, the federal dam builders weighed in at congressional hearings to exempt their favorite projects. Characteristically boasting ownership of an entire region, the Tennessee Valley Authority Chairman objected to including the French Broad River and also to the Little Tennessee where Tellico Dam was proposed. Embedded in the iconography of the West, Wyoming’s Green River—with postcard-perfect Squaretop Mountain towering at its headwaters and recognizable owing to any number of cowboy movies—was reserved by the Bureau of Reclamation for a speciously justified irrigation dam to water a few desert cattlemen. The upper Skagit was hastily removed from the bill at the request of Seattle City Light, which proposed Copper Creek Dam to complete its existing complex of dams and reservoirs already sprawling the whole way into Canada. State and regional officials supported protection of the Delaware, but only above Tocks Island Dam site, where the powers-that-be didn’t even imagine the sophisticated citizen opposition that was staging to rise up against them. Among those contested dam sites, only Tellico was ever built. But the exclusion of those rivers from the Wild and Scenic bill was testament to the dam-builders’ lingering power during a time of change.

With opposition more home-spun

and enduring, West Virginians fearful of a federal “land grab” rejected the Potomac with vitriolic, anti-government rhetoric later used by the so-called “wise use movement” of the 1980s and in today’s far-right backlash against environmental protection. Key tributaries—Shenandoah and Cacapon—were dropped in the bill’s final draft. And at the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs hearing on July 3, 1968, fist-pounding Sam Steiger from Arizona growled, “Under the guise of protecting scenic values, this legislation will stifle progress, inhibit economic development and incur a staggering expenditure.”

But Stewart Udall knew the opposition well. He had grown up with them. And he knew what he was doing. “We had the momentum,” he recalled to me, “and the dam people who didn’t like it just weren’t in a frame of mind to fight it. I had been pretty good to them, giving them some of the things they wanted, including dams. So I looked them in the eye and said, ‘We’re going to balance things off.’”

In a bygone age of bipartisanship, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was signed on October 2, 1968, after a unanimous vote in the Senate and a 265-7 vote in the House. The Craigheads’ idea had grown from modest beginnings to become an extremely popular measure.

Essence of the program

While the principal motivation for the Act was to stop the dam-induced destruction of natural rivers, the legislative drafts were broadened to include a range of river protection goals. With a requirement for management plans, the designations included consideration of recreation use and called on various approaches to address opportunities, problems, and responsibilities associated with growing popularity of river running and other waterfront activities.

Rivers of all kinds, and in all places, serve many needs, and earnest care is required everywhere that water flows. But the Wild and Scenic program was established to embrace the best, subjective as that term might be. Throwing a big net for this catch, Congress declared that a Wild and Scenic River must simply meet two requirements: it must be free-flowing (no dams), plus have one or more “outstandingly remarkable values,” defined as scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or “other.”

Full implications of the program are intricate and best described for professional managers in the official guidelines for implementation of the Act and in excellent interpretation by Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers

Coordinating Council members on www.rivers.gov. But the essence centers on a few fundamental points. First, dams and other potentially damaging projects requiring federal permits, sponsorship, or funding are banned. This includes private hydroelectric dams that need Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval. Where federal land is involved, management must conform to protection goals throughout a riverfront zone that encompasses the visual corridor, typically defined as a quarter-mile buffer from each shore. For federal land within the corridors, the “wild” designation bans new mining claims and limits logging at the waterfront.

While the federal government cannot regulate private land use, the Wild and Scenic Act encourages zoning by local governments to protect floodplains and riverfronts. Land acquisition is not required, but it can be recommended in the management plans. During hearings on the Act, Congress faced concerns about condemnation authority, and so strict limits were imposed on eminent domain. With the exception of a few of the original rivers enacted in the 1960s and early 70s where planners reasonably strived for what we might regard as “national park qualities” of public land and access in the protected riparian corridors, condemnation

Frank Craighead, here at his home in Jackson Hole in 1988, remained an ardent supporter of river conservation throughout his illustrious career as a wildlife biologist.



The Snake River in Hells Canyon was designated in 1975, halting the High Mountain Sheep Dam proposal. Bill Sedivy, formerly of Idaho Rivers United, leads the way in his raft below Granite Rapid.



of land has not occurred. However, over time many riverfront parcels crucial to stream protection have been acquired from willing sellers by the federal agencies or by land trusts.

The Act includes three classifications for designated waters. “Wild” rivers are essentially pristine, without roads or development in their corridors. “Scenic” rivers can have some road access and occasional homes or other buildings. “Recreational” rivers can have more extensive access and development. The classes are based on the degree of development at the time of designation. The Act directs federal agencies to develop management plans as the prime tool for considering the full range of recreational issues and for delineating specific goals and actions for long-term protection of the river’s values, making the expertise of professional and academic land managers essential.

Enumerating success

Starting with 8 rivers plus 4 tributaries (three of them sizable) in the original Act, the Wild and Scenic system has grown to 289 major rivers and a total of 495 rivers, forks, and tributaries explicitly named (see *Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy*, for numeration methods, which differ here slightly from other sources). The designated streams include sections of many of our most important natural waterways and dozens that rank as American classics.

Gems of national prominence include the Delaware, Missouri, and Klamath, as well as the wild Salmon in Idaho, the legendary Rogue in Oregon, the Northwoods’ Allagash in Maine, the Appalachian’s Chattooga in Georgia, the historic Concord in Massachusetts, the prairie’s Niobrara in Nebraska, the canyon-bound Rio Grande in Texas, the granite-gleaming Tuolumne in California, the rain-shrouded Skagit in Washington, the grizzly bear-haunted Alagnak in Alaska, and the jungle-vined Rio Mameyes in Puerto Rico.

All states but ten have at least one national Wild and Scenic River. Oregon, California, and Alaska have fully 70 percent of the total. Oregon has the largest number of major rivers designated—59. California has 45. Alaska has the most Wild and Scenic mileage—3,427, though much of that mileage is also protected as Wilderness or National Parks. The northern and far western states have far more protected rivers than the South and Midwest. Among other reasons for this, the political culture for conservation is more amenable in New England, the Northwest, and California.

The longest continuous reach of designated river is Alaska’s Noatak, 372 miles. Longest in the lower 48 is the Namekagon and Saint Croix—together a continuous channel of 200 miles. The largest in volume of flow are the Snake in Hells Canyon, the Missouri, the Klamath, and the Allegheny. Watersheds (up to eighth order) with the greatest mileage of designated main stem and tributaries are the Klamath, Snake River headwaters, Fortymile, Smith, and Eel.

For most rivers, only portions are designated. A few are less than a mile. But 137 are enrolled for 25 miles or more, and 27 are Wild and Scenic for 100 miles or more. Unfortunately, no hundred-mile-long reaches have been enrolled since 1989; all of the long designations occurred in the first half of the program’s history.

The full length of 59 major rivers are included, though many of these are small tributaries. At a landscape scale, Oregon and California’s cluster of coastal streams including the Elk, Rogue, Chetco, Smith, Klamath, and Eel form our largest region of Wild and Scenic Rivers with back-to-back watersheds linked in a 260-mile north-south span.

The currents of history

The history of the Wild and Scenic system’s growth is a fascinating tale of political intrigue, citizen activism, the birth of the organization American Rivers, the essential commitment of local river aficionados, and the support of dedicated agency staff, and it requires a whole book to tell, but it’s worth highlighting a few important threads of the story.

After National Forest planning efforts found a selection of Oregon streams eligible for Wild and Scenic consideration, 53 rivers and tributaries were designated Wild and Scenic in 1988. Here the Metolius River flows from its spring-water source.



The program’s early success depended on committed elected officials who championed legislation to add rivers to the system. Shoring up, if not initiating these proposals, were enthusiastic citizen advocates who fended off dams and recognized Wild and Scenic designation as their path toward permanent protection. One highlight in this history was when Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus—with less than a day remaining under Jimmy Carter’s presidency—signed a request by California Governor Jerry Brown increasing the Wild and Scenic program by 25 percent. In 1988 Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon added a conservation legacy to a contrasting lifetime of political alignment with

the timber industry by sponsoring Wild and Scenic status to 53 streams that had been found eligible for designation in National Forest plans. Similar packages were passed in 1992 for National Forest rivers in Michigan and Arkansas.

In the 1990s the “partnership” model for Wild and Scenic designations evolved from the need to take an alternative path with private-land rivers of the East, where the system



The Middle Branch of the Westfield River in Massachusetts is one of the “partnership” rivers of the Northeast, protected under protocols that involve landowners and local governments throughout the planning and designation process.

had languished owing to landowner resistance. Crafted by a new generation of Park Service planners, this approach recognized the need to involve local landowners from the start, to delineate management plans before—rather than after—the designation occurs, to minimize land acquisition, and to manage the rivers through local councils. With this formula, Park Service staff found a way forward and gained widespread support in the Northeast, where a waiting-list of communities wanting Wild and Scenic status has formed.

While political resistance to conservation otherwise grew through the 1990s, an extraordinary effort among local, state,

and national groups succeeded with a goal of designating forty new rivers for the fortieth anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Making this a reality, Bill Sedivy of Idaho Rivers United did what many considered impossible: he gained support from the western ranching community for the protection of sixteen streams in the desert and canyon country of the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers. Scott Bosse of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition similarly secured unlikely

(Below) The Lewis River, careening out of Yellowstone National Park before joining the upper Snake River, was one of 16 rivers designated Wild and Scenic in the Snake River Headwaters legislation of 2009.



backing from Wyoming’s conservative congressional delegation for 414 miles of waterways—success that echoed the Act’s bipartisan founding and underscored the value of rivers to all citizens.

The management imperative

While getting more rivers protected in the Wild and Scenic system has occupied citizen advocacy groups, managing the rivers after designation is the job of public agency staff—a topic

recreation facilities and adopted rules to address the mess, but the agency has nominal enforcement capability and received little cooperation from the sheriff in a county where officials have blatantly espoused anti-federal views. Law-abiding citizens, whose presence would mollify the situation, stayed away from the ugly scene, and the risks precluded dispatch of volunteers.

Meanwhile, agency staff constantly face new challenges and controversies. At the Saint Croix—one of the system’s first designated rivers, championed by Senator Gaylord Nelson—



Wilson Creek of North Carolina attracts whitewater boaters in springtime. During summer, crowds of swimmers and picnickers create challenges for National Forest recreation managers.

deserving of an entire article or book here. Post-designation protection of the outstandingly remarkable values of our rivers is arguably the most important aim of the Wild and Scenic program. On dozens of popular streams such as the Rogue, Salmon, Obed, and Chattooga, management concerns have effectively focused on recreation access, quotas for boating on the busiest rivers, acquisition of inholdings, logging curbs within the corridors, and control of mining even though this is encumbered by the archaic Mining Law of 1872. Yet river managers nationwide often lack critical resources and support for what’s needed to safeguard the values for which each river was designated.

In the face of growing population and increased demand for recreation, some rivers have fallen between the cracks. For example, at the road-accessible portion of Oregon’s Illinois River, hundreds of cars and trucks routinely gridlock the small access road on hot summer weekends, and visitors encounter uncontrolled problems of trash, broken glass, verbal abuse, and even gunfire. The Forest Service spent \$1.3 million on

river advocates and the National Park Service won a protracted battle against an obtrusive new freeway bridge. However, in a political era bearing little resemblance to that of the great Senator, Congress in 2012 overrode the decision, green-lighting construction.

The parameters of management continue to evolve, and in unexpected ways. Along the Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers, Forest Service staff, facing hundreds of “mega-loads” of 30-foot-tall, 300-yard-long oil-drilling machinery bound for the Canadian tar sands on an Idaho state highway within the river corridor, maintained that the matter was beyond their agency’s purview. Citizen activists with Idaho Rivers United joined with the Nez Perce Nation to challenge the Forest Service position, at one point amassing a dramatic human blockade to stop the massive 18-wheelers in their tracks up the Lochsa. The opponents of “industrialization” of this Wild and Scenic route won an injunction in 2013 and eventually a settlement that prevents further mega-load traffic. The ruling indicates that

Wild and Scenic managers can play a stronger role in protecting the values of designated rivers, and it reaffirms those in the agencies who are striving to do exactly that.

Although management plans are required for all federally administered Wild and Scenic Rivers, completing, maintaining, and implementing them has been a challenge for hard-pressed agency staff. For many, Wild and Scenic responsibilities are sidelights to a spate of duties regarding recreation, planning, and habitat protection. A modern polling of professional river managers would likely find the same barriers to success that were voiced at a 30th anniversary forum held in 1998: inadequate staff training, lack of political support, mistrust, misinformation, private landowner resistance, and funding shortfalls.

A National Park Service survey in 2007 graded the management of that agency’s Wild and Scenic units with a C, Partnership units a B, and state administered rivers an F (state administration of nationally designated rivers has largely been a disappointment—another topic deserving of an entire article). The Forest Service annually evaluates its designated rivers by considering the status of management plans and of active management on the ground. In 2014, only 40 percent of their rivers met established standards. Both agencies clearly recognized that improvement was needed. After leading the National Park Service’s river efforts from 1983 to 2004, John Haubert reflected that “the failure of Federal agencies and local and state governments to fulfill their management obligations is my greatest disappointment in the Wild and Scenic program.”

Essential to success in all these endeavors, the River Management Society brings agency pros, academic specialists, and others together as a hub for knowledge and training—the prime vehicle helping managers to learn, share experiences, become inspired, and meet increasing expectations. Meanwhile the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council consists of staff from the four federal administering agencies—the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service—to assure that the agencies act consistently and to provide policy guidance to managers and the public. Council experts have authored state-of-the-art papers on policy and implementation, and www.rivers.gov, expertly maintained by the Council’s Dan Haas, is an invaluable resource for all.

Management plans for Wild and Scenic Rivers address issues of recreation management, including conflicts between user groups. The path of this jet boat and raft nearly intersected in Hells Canyon of the Snake River.



Reaching further

Beyond the rivers that are designated and managed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, important aspects of the law include sections that require federal agencies to study and recommend additional rivers for inclusion, to carefully steward rivers that are eligible but not yet enrolled in the program, to evaluate federal development plans that might affect not just designated but also eligible rivers, and to aid states and local governments in other river conservation activities—a function that resulted in formation of the National Park Service’s Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program with popular outreach that began in the Northeast and expanded nationwide.

The Wild and Scenic program has precipitated evaluations affecting virtually all rivers flowing through federal lands, and has set the stage for state government inventories and scenic river designations. Meeting important provisions of the Act, and with a remarkable history of its own, the Nationwide Rivers Inventory has identified 3,431 river segments totaling 85,000 miles that are eligible for inclusion as Wild and Scenic Rivers and for some interim protections.

Expectations and shortcomings

Here at the fiftieth anniversary of this creative and pioneering initiative, one might ask, *How well has the Wild and Scenic Program met expectations?* Back in 1983, Stewart Udall said that he was “very pleased” with the results. “We really didn’t know how successful the program would be.” Yet he recognized that compared to national parks or wilderness areas, river protection had a long way to go. The illustrious Interior Secretary remained an ardent supporter until his death in 2010.

John Craighead agreed, “I never expected it to grow so much.” In 2008, at age ninety-two, the great wildlife biologist—renowned in many ways—remarked that his “proudest achievement” was sparking interest that led to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The program’s mileage—nearly 13,000—is impressive if one considers the goal of saving America’s finest river gems. But for those who looked beyond initial expectations of setting aside a judicious selection of our greatest rivers, and onward toward a complete and representative system of streams nationwide—or perhaps even to all rivers warranting the highest form of protection—shortcomings are evident.

Designated Wild and Scenic mileage accounts for only 0.4 percent of the total length of America’s perennial rivers and streams. The protected mileage equals 3.1 percent of the length of streams running 25 miles or more—what one might intuitively call a “river.” By any relative measure, the safeguarded estate is small.

In contrast, the developed side of the ledger includes 80,000 dams at least 6 feet high (no credible measurement of the length of reservoir mileage has been calculated, though 600,000 was once suggested as a rough estimate and has been widely quoted). Another 235,000 miles have been channelized, mostly in small waterways through farms, and 25,000 miles on large rivers have been industrially dredged for navigation. Meanwhile, one-third of America’s surveyed stream mileage is significantly polluted according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Untold additional miles—most, in fact—have been diverted or their shorelines farmed or developed.

The most analytical view toward Wild and Scenic additions dates to the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, last amended in 1995, which found 2.9 percent of America’s total stream mileage eligible. The rest was regarded as too degraded, or lacking in outstanding values, though further analysis by federal resource agencies has identified many more miles. Observers now believe that the NRI would be expanded if reconsidered and upgraded, and pilot work undertaken in Oregon in 2015 confirmed this.

Any quick view of the nationwide map of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers also indicates that whole geographies remain under-represented, most obviously the Great Plains and South, but also parts of the Northeast. States with no Wild and Scenic representation are Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, North

Dakota, Nevada, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, and Hawaii, though each has valuable rivers.

As another measure of the program, consider the earliest lists of rivers deserving Wild and Scenic designation as compiled by informed agency staff. Only 24 of the 74 streams in an initial 1964 study have been designated, leaving 50 of these classic streams that might still be rated at the top of a non-politicized list. The reasons for this disappointment are legion, but at the core involve lack of support from local people and politicians.

New perspectives

As we grapple with challenges of the twenty-first century, the climate crisis highlights the importance of protecting streams critical for the cold flows they provide and the cool refuges they offer to fish and other life. Waters emanating from glaciers and snowfields, from north-facing slopes, from spring-fed sources, and from deeply shading forests are all examples of streams deserving greater protection in order to combat global warming. These streams might well define one of the ultimate future wish-lists for the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Beyond the protection of specific cool-water refuges, addressing climate change will require zoning floodplains to keep development away from worsening high-water hazards, preventing new diversions, restoring depleted flows, eliminating useless dams that further warm and evaporate water, and perhaps most important, protecting and restoring riparian habitat along rivers to maximize shade and its cooling buffer-effect. This list has been the cookbook of river conservation for fifty years; global warming now means that all of it must be done more, better, and faster. By prioritizing the most important streams, Wild and Scenic River designations can advance all these critically important stewardship and restoration goals.

However, despite a growing need to do more to protect rivers, here at the fiftieth anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act the national political atmosphere is unconscionably more hostile to conservation than any since the landmark law’s enactment.

While river advocates are challenged as never before to expand or at least sustain the program, we also face threats to rivers already enrolled. At California’s Merced—the iconic river of Yosemite—a downstream irrigation district wants to rescind the lower end of the river’s designated status in order to raise a dam. The increased water supply would be nominal, leading Friends of the River’s veteran conservationist, Ron Stork, to fear that the real threat is a precedent that would make it easier to gut other designations on other rivers—all honestly earned by river enthusiasts from one end of the country to the other.

Meanwhile, the great collection of National Wild and Scenic Rivers in Southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California, including the Rogue, Illinois, and Smith, remains threatened by strip mining owing to the outdated Mining Law of 1872.

Facing these and other disappointments, some people engaged in the program have concluded that the Wild and Scenic system has not fulfilled its potential. But is the glass half empty or half full?

The protection of 13,000 miles has thwarted scores of unneeded dams, halted riverfront clearcutting, stopped strip mining in some areas, leveraged acquisition of thousands of acres of riparian habitat, encouraged better local zoning of floodplains, improved access and recreation management, and made these



Though enrolled as Wild and Scenic since 1981, water quality of the North Fork Smith in California remains threatened by a proposal to strip-mine for nickel under the antiquated Mining Law of 1872.

waterways more resilient to climate change.

Retired in 2016 from consecutive leadership roles at American Rivers, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service, Chris Brown also articulated the Wild and Scenic program’s expansive influence. “Above its immediate success in safeguarding rivers, the Wild and Scenic Act ignited a movement and shifted the balance of river development and conservation in ways that both explicitly and subtly spawned far more: the birth of American Rivers, the establishment of state wild and scenic systems, formation of watershed associations, support for water quality, and reform of planning for rivers through federal land.”

Lessons for the future

Throughout this fifty-year history we’ve learned that Wild and Scenic status for a river is the best way to prevent it from being dammed. It’s an effective way to keep the very wildest streams wild by limiting logging and in some cases mining where federal land lines the shores. We’ve learned that the involvement

of people who own property along the rivers is crucial, and that with support, local planning can spare floodplains and riverbanks from damaging development. Where added management of recreational use is needed, Wild and Scenic designation has leveraged critical attention and improvements, and made them possible in cases where they would not otherwise have been so.

We’ve learned that safeguarding a river requires that people become engaged in the future and in the big issues of their times. Every story of river protection reveals that the commitment of local people and of others is essential to gain political support for long-term stewardship. The well-being of each river also depends on dedicated managers in the agencies charged with the care of this distinguished suite of waterways.

Though much remains to be done, river conservation across the breadth of America has flourished in a new democracy of people taking responsibility for their home watersheds, and then working together for a better future. The Wild and Scenic Rivers system reflects the best of that spirit.◆

As a planner, author, photographer, and paddler, Tim Palmer has been involved with the Wild and Scenic Rivers system almost since its founding, first crafting management proposals for Pine Creek in Pennsylvania—one of the original study rivers. He authored the first citizen-sponsored Wild and Scenic River studies at the Stanislaus, Kings, and South Yuba Rivers of California. His 1993 book, *The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America* was the first book to comprehensively describe and catalog the system. His 2017 book, *Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy*, with 160 photos, was published by Oregon State University Press. See it and his other river related work at www.timpalmer.org. Tim is available with his *Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy* slide show for 50th anniversary events nationwide. Contact him directly at tim@timpalmer.org.





Photos by Scott Bosse

Upper Green River being considered for

by Scott Bosse

If you’ve run the legendary rapids of the Grand Canyon, you’ve ridden her currents. If you’ve floated through Utah’s most storied canyons – Lodore, Desolation-Gray and Cataract – she helped carry you. If you’ve felt the tug of a giant brown trout at the end of your line below Flaming Gorge, you owe her a debt of gratitude.

“She” is the Upper Green River.

Many consider her to be the
true source of the Colorado River.

Originating at 10,515 feet in Wyoming’s Wind River Range, the Upper Green River flows for roughly 70 miles before it crosses highway 191 near the town of Pinedale. Along that journey, it tumbles down from alpine tundra through lodgepole pine forest before spilling out onto sagebrush plains.

Owing to its wilderness origins, lack of dams, and the largest area of riverside wetlands in the state (174,000 acres),

the Upper Green River supports a stunning array of wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, moose, elk, deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, osprey, bald eagles, countless waterfowl species, brown and rainbow trout, and the endemic Kendall Warm Springs dace (a tiny fish that lives nowhere else on earth). Two of the farthest-migrating large mammal populations in the lower 48 states – pronghorn and mule deer – utilize the Upper Green River corridor.

Not surprisingly, the Upper Green also is a magnet for anglers, hunters, and paddlers who are drawn to its breathtaking scenery, crystal clear water, abundant fish and wildlife, and unparalleled riverside camping opportunities on federal public lands. So beloved is the Upper Green that last year the state of Wyoming put its image on its new license plates, replacing the scene of the Snake River flowing past the Tetons.

It is because of these outstanding attributes that the Bridger-Teton National Forest found 41 miles of the Upper Green River to be suitable for Wild & Scenic designation from its source to the forest boundary, and the Pinedale Field Office of the BLM found nine miles of the river to be suitable for designation upstream from the Highway 191 crossing at Warren Bridge.



& Scenic status after 50-year wait

Now, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, conservation groups and others are pushing to gain formal protection for the Upper Green in order to maintain its free-flowing character and outstanding values in perpetuity. The vehicle they hope to use for such a designation is the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI), which was convened by the Wyoming County Commissioners Association in November, 2015, to resolve the fate of the state’s wilderness study areas and explore other potential federal lands designations in the eight participating counties. One of those counties is Sublette, through which the Upper Green River flows.

This is not the first time the Upper Green has been proposed for Wild & Scenic designation. As author Tim Palmer describes in his book, *The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America*, President Lyndon Johnson wanted it included in the original Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, but Wyoming’s two senators at the time – Senators Milward Simpson and Gale McGee – insisted that it be left out.

Historically, the greatest threat to the Upper Green has been proposed dams. As recently as 2014, the state of Wyoming

studied the feasibility of constructing two large dams on the river as part of Governor Matt Mead’s Wyoming Water Plan. One dam would have been located on BLM land at the Narrows, a few miles upstream from Warren Bridge. The other would have been located on US Forest Service land just downstream from Kendall Warm Springs. Both dam proposals were shot down in the face of overwhelming public opposition and unacceptable environmental impacts.

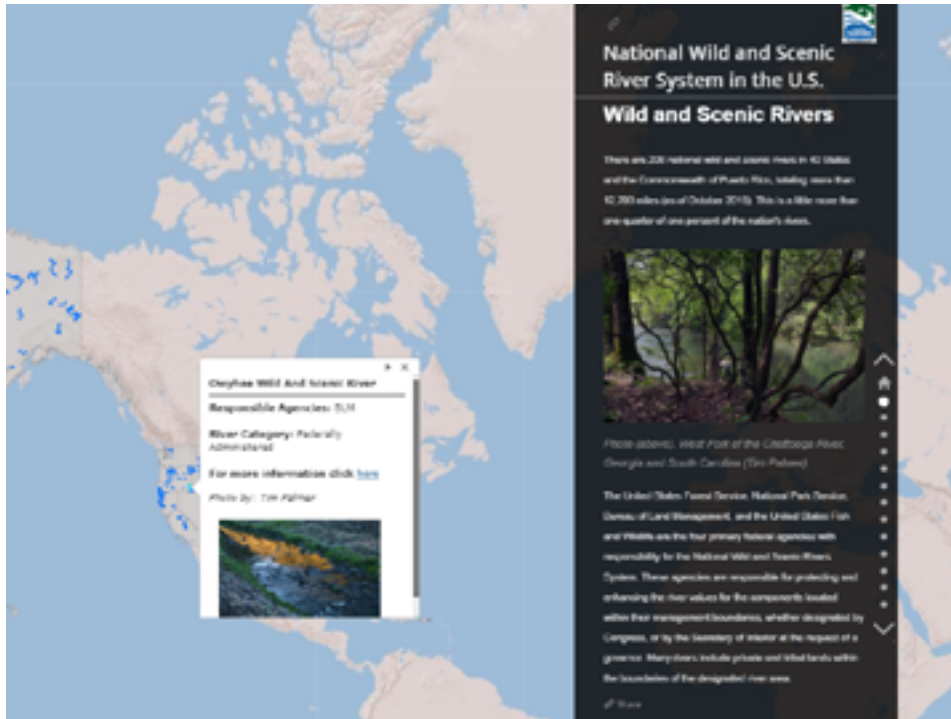
Since the WPLI is due to make its final recommendations to the state’s congressional delegation by next summer, we should know fairly soon whether there is a viable opportunity to get the Upper Green the permanent protection it deserves. If it is left out of the final recommendations or the WPLI falls apart like the Utah Public Lands Initiative did last year, conservation groups, including American Rivers, are committed to finding a different route to get the Upper Green protected. Hopefully it won’t take another half a century to get it done.♦

Scott Bosse, Northern Rockies Director, American Rivers, may be reached at (406) 570-0455 (or) sbosse@americanrivers.org.

Is it wild, scenic, or recreational?

Which is/are the managing agency(ies)?

New webmaps and story maps make it easier to locate and learn about Wild and Scenic Rivers on rivers.gov.



Wild & Scenic River Interagency Database and Mapping Project

A conversation with Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service, by Risa Shimoda

Two hundred eight (208) rivers in the United States are protected from future development by the system born when President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968. Preparation leading up to designation and post-designation management requires an understanding of the Act, its processes and implementation. RMS members have been working for and alongside the Interagency Wild and Scenic Coordinating Council for well over twenty years to provide authoritative information about these rivers, potential designees and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The earliest resources included shared planning documents. *Rivers.gov* was created to provide authoritative guidance and illustrative examples of assessments, management plans and white papers. Today, a national map of the federal

designated system with close ups of rivers by state provided a handy way to see the general location of a requested river. The purpose of developing the recently completed enhancement was to make it easier to learn about designated rivers, including those that are managed by multiple agencies, than it has been in the past. The *rivers.gov* mapping system now features a webmap based on geospatial data collected by an interagency team, assisted by partners at Esri and the US Geological Survey. ‘Story maps’, illustrated with photos and videos, have increased the friendliness of the site and its rich content. Visitors can now learn about Wild and Scenic Rivers by simply clicking on a story map to discover the ‘outstandingly remarkable values’ for which rivers were designated and are managed, and many other components of the Act.

This dedicated cadre developed the vision, plan, and painstakingly assemblage of data and its presentation on *rivers.gov*.

US Forest Service
Andrew Keske, Steve Chesterton, Steve Boutcher (retired), Eric Sandeno

Bureau of Land Management
Ilana Cohen, Cathi Bailey, Alex Yesto, Gavin Hoban

National Park Service
Joan Harn, Peter Bonsall, Sandy Margritter, Susan Rosebrough

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Dan Haas

ESRI
Jennifer Vaughan-Gibson, Caitlin Scopel, Teddy Matinde

US Geological Survey
Michael Tinker

Imagining the coordination required to marry datasets from four federal agencies helps explain why it took over three years from concept to completion. Susan Rosebrough, project lead at the National Park Service, reflects, “Dan (Haas, *rivers.gov* webmaster) and I didn’t think it would take quite so long!” As they discovered, collecting and organizing necessary data and presenting them properly involved time, expertise, creativity and patience by many partners. “We learned how different databases can be, and spent many discussions trying to strike a balance between having all pertinent information without making data management overly cumbersome,” Susan continues. “As you might imagine, each agency uses their own format for information they collect. Some of the databases include data other agencies do not collect. Some data is super high in resolution, while some is not and looks inaccurate when you zoom in. We wanted to use the same standards for data collection to make it consistent. Important information such as ‘outstandingly remarkable values’ had to be compiled from the study documents and management plans, which took time.

Susan continues, “There are other data such as links to the original studies and management plans that we decided to omit from the database itself, but Dan is collecting and sharing them on *rivers.gov* so people can find many on the website.” ...and there’s more data at the ‘front’ and ‘back’ ends of designation! Here are new features in the works for *rivers.gov*:

“Thousands of US rivers have been studied for their potential inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system and have not moved past the ‘study’ stage, for a variety of reasons. Since agencies have a responsibility to manage these eligible and

suitable rivers as if they were designated, information about these rivers’ special values can be helpful and valuable to those interested in legal, scientific, and social aspects of the river’s ownership, management and stewardship paths. A geo database of these rivers that is still in development will be a handy tool to find eligible and suitable rivers of interest. Three National Park Service fellows— Jessica Egan, Kristina Rose and now Joni Gore—are helping create and populate this database for NPS rivers.”

Many of the same team members (mentioned above) across the other agencies are working together to create an interagency database of eligible and suitable rivers. The database will also provide insights for other agencies whose work often buttresses that of river administration and river management. An example of ‘other’ agencies is the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highways Administration.

A resource of rivers which, if designated Wild and Scenic, would require special consideration will help them be proactive in planning transportation related projects and repairs efficiently. A similar database of active or current study rivers that have special protections under the Act is also being developed and led by Peter Bonsall, Andrew Keske, Emma Lord, and Jim MacCartney.

As Susan reflects, “the work of maintaining the *rivers.gov* database may never end, but that’s sort of a good thing, as long as considered rivers enter the system and errors, when found, are corrected. The data is updated each quarter by Andrew Keske at the US Forest Service (thank you, Andrew!). Innovations continue to roll in from our partners at Esri making it easier to manage and update data to keep the *rivers.gov* webmap up-to-date.” After years of herding the geodatabase cats, she shares with pride, “this was a great partnership!”◆



The *Wild & Scenic* Rivers of California and Alaska

Article and photos by Tim Palmer

Editor’s note: Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, this is the second in a 2018 series of five Journal articles by Tim Palmer, author of Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy. The first article described the history and workings of the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. This and three other articles to come highlight designated rivers in each major region of the country.

At its 50th anniversary in 2018, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects 13,000 miles of waterways. These occur in every major quadrant of the United States, though some regions are barely represented while others have many designated rivers. Our four West Coast states contain 58 percent of the total mileage. Vast areas of the Great Plains, Midwest, and South have only a few Wild and Scenic Rivers.

This article, and three that will follow in subsequent issues of the *RMS Journal*, profile our nation’s Wild and Scenic Rivers, organized within regions based on the numbers of designated waterways. In this issue we’ll consider the rivers of California, which has the second-highest number of designated streams,

and Alaska, which has the most mileage. The *Journal’s* spring issue will feature rivers of Oregon, which has the largest number of major designated streams, and Washington, which includes much of the upper Skagit River system. In summer we’ll cover the Interior West including the Rocky Mountains, drylands, and Great Plains, and in autumn the final article will feature rivers of the East and Midwest.

CALIFORNIA

The rivers of California reflect extreme contrasts of geography and climate found in this state, from rainforests of the northwest to our harshest deserts, from headwaters at 14,000 feet to landlocked playas below sea level.

Many of the California rivers were explicitly threatened by dam and diversion proposals that were thwarted only with Wild and Scenic designation after grassroots protection campaigns gained political momentum. In that sense, these waters illustrate some of the most important and consequential of all Wild and Scenic designations.

The Tuolumne River at the brink of Glen Aulin Falls in Yosemite National Park.



The state’s best-known Wild and Scenic Rivers flow from the spectacular 400 mile length of the Sierra Nevada. These breathtaking streams of whitewater, granite shorelines, and crystal clear depths pulse from glaciers, snowfields, and conifer groves while coursing mostly through national parks and national forests.

At the Kings, an irrigation dam would have been built at Rogers Crossing if not for a “special management area” that accompanied the 1987 designation of the upper main stem along with its stunning Middle and South Forks. This spared America’s greatest unimpounded vertical drop and our deepest canyon—8,000 vertical feet from summits on either side of the river down to the shorelines of the Kings.

Similarly threatened just below Yosemite National Park, the Merced River would have been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for damming and hydroelectric power if it hadn’t also been made Wild and Scenic in 1987.

Flowing from the northern reaches of Yosemite, the Tuolumne’s legendary rapids were spared from imminent plans to further dam and divert the flows with designation in 1984. And in earlier years, the North Fork American had been proposed for damming at Giant Gap’s dramatic cleft in the Sierra Nevada, and at the northern limits of the mountain range the Middle Fork Feather had been given state approval for damming before it was enrolled in the original Wild and Scenic Act of 1968.

While rivers of the Sierra Nevada are unparalleled for their granite-bound wonders of waterfalls, steep gradient, and stunning beauty, the rivers of the North Coast flow through the most biologically diverse forests of the West and continue to support salmon and steelhead that once constituted some of the most abundant runs in the nation but have since faded to threatened species. Without protection such as Wild and Scenic status, these fish would almost surely have gone extinct, and today the struggle continues to bring the charismatic fish back to robust numbers that once sustained Indian tribes, a booming commercial fishery, and sport anglers by the thousands.

The damming and diverting of these northern California rivers flowing to the Pacific was averted when Governor Jerry Brown’s request was met by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus in

the final hours of the Jimmy Carter Presidency. Andrus’ signature designated five major rivers plus many tributaries. This halted Dos Rios Dam, proposed on the Middle Fork of the Eel as the first in a series of North Coast impoundments recommended in a State Water Plan of the 1950s. State scenic river designation had already put the development plans on hold but offered poor assurance of protection in the long-term.

Northernmost in this stellar group, the Smith remains the most pristine river of California and its only major stream completely without dams. Its watershed would have been heavily clearcut, and nickel mines would likely have polluted its

tributaries had the river not been added to the Wild and Scenic program, along with delineation of a National Recreation Area. All major Smith tributaries were likewise designated, making it one of the first rivers with a full-watershed approach to its Wild and Scenic status.

Just south of the Smith, the Klamath—third-largest river on the West Coast south of Canada—has the second-longest reach that’s still free-flowing and also without levees crowding its shores. In spite of its 188 mile designation, the Klamath remains degraded by irrigation diversions at headwaters and by exports to southern California agribusinesses from its major tributary, the Trinity River, which is also Wild and Scenic. Resolution of these issues—including pending dam removals upstream of the Klamath’s designated reach—is shouldered by tribes, anglers, and others who believe that the Klamath can be restored to its past status as one of the most magnificent and biologically rich rivers of the West.



Middle Fork of the Eel River, California

Together, the North Coast rivers and adjacent designated streams in Oregon lie as back-to-back watersheds spanning 260 miles north to south—unequalled as a wild and scenic rivers region in America.

In contrast, a group of smaller streams has also been designated in southern California. Unique to the Wild and Scenic program, the Amargosa flows intermittently through the Mojave Desert and terminates in Death Valley at the lowest point in the U.S. The designated section is nourished by perennial springflows. Palm Canyon Creek is another one-of-a-kind, watering picturesque and bird-filled palm oases at the foot of the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles.



South Fork of the Smith River, California

A vibrant movement for river conservation has led to all these Wild and Scenic designations in California. At its center is Friends of the River—the principal statewide river conservation organization. Local groups on nearly all the rivers were also essential.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers of California can be visited easily, as most have ready access by paved roads. Many of these streams have challenging whitewater appealing to kayakers, rafters, and expert canoeists, and most are served by commercial river outfitters. The Tuolumne has some of the finest regularly run whitewater in the West. The Merced is the river of Yosemite Valley and canyons beyond. The Klamath offers the longest whitewater journey on the West Coast with nearly 200 miles of runnable rapids except for one portage by vehicle at Ishi Pishi Falls. The Eel, and especially its South Fork, offers the finest waterway tour of ancient redwood forests.



Klamath River, California

ALASKA

In the rivers of Alaska, 30 percent of the nation’s freshwater flows across 20 percent of the total land area. The tenth-largest river in this state is still larger than the Colorado River as it charges through the Grand Canyon. Literally hundreds of rivers and thousands of tributaries meet wild river criteria as they wind across the greatest expanses of wilderness on the continent, home of wildlife in herds, flocks, packs, and schools that elsewhere have been lost to memory and survive only in archival accounts.

Over 3,400 miles on 34 major Alaska rivers and forks were set aside as Wild and Scenic through the Alaska Lands Conservation Act of 1980. This was needed to clear the way for construction of the Alaska oil pipeline, and in the process it set aside an unprecedented assortment of wild rivers, national parks, wilderness areas, and refuges.

The selection of these streams—taken from a list of hundreds—resulted from a planning effort unlike any before or since. Specialists from federal agencies surveyed the whole state systematically, visiting many of the streams, and then selected the finest gems of natural quality. Most of the mileage was also protected with national park or wilderness status. Controversial reaches, such as the lower Copper River where a road was proposed, and the Bristol Bay rivers where mining was considered, were blocked by the Alaskan delegation.

Flowing from the Brooks Range of northern Alaska, the Noatak is the nation’s longest designated stream, with 372 miles. The Sheenjek is the third-longest, flowing from beyond the Arctic Circle southward

to the Porcupine River. The North Fork Koyukuk bursts from the famed Gates of the Arctic. At the state’s interior, clear waters of the Charley River flow to the Yukon River. In the south, designations include the mountain descent of the Chilikadrotna, broad windings of the Mulchatna, and other streams alive with salmon.

Seeing the Wild and Scenic Rivers of Alaska poses challenges not encountered elsewhere. Only a few rivers, such as the Delta and Gulkana, have road access for both put-in and take-out. Nearly all require a bush-plane flight at one end of the trip or the other, and usually at both. This limits the types of boats that can be taken. The weather can be harsh, the bugs maddening, and the wildness formidable where grizzly bears undeniably reign at the top of the food chain. The consequences of equipment failure or injury are severe, but for those prepared for the challenges of Alaska’s rivers, the ultimate wilderness river experience awaits. ♦

See Tim Palmer’s work at www.timpalmer.org.



Left: Delta River. Below: Sheenjek River, Alaska



‘The lifeblood’ of our state: For 50 years, saving rivers has been good for Idaho

by Tim Palmer and LuVerne Grussing

From the *Idaho Statesman*
October 14, 2017

With leadership by four-term Idaho Sen. Frank Church, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 and established America’s premier program for safeguarding free-flowing waterways. Now, as the 50th anniversary of this legislation approaches, it’s a good time to reflect on what has been gained.

By the 1960s, 70,000 dams had been built on virtually every major river in 48 states, and more dams were proposed to flood hundreds more valleys and canyons. Inspired by Idaho’s Salmon and Snake rivers, and alarmed by the threats of dam proposals on them, the preeminent wildlife biologists of the day, John and Frank Craighead, conceived a program to set aside the best remaining streams. Sen. Church honed their idea into legislation.

Passing unanimously in the Senate and by 265-7 in the House back in a sensible age of bipartisanship, the measure banned new dams for designated rivers and directed agencies to safeguard river values where the land is federally owned.

Idaho was distinguished in this landmark initiative with the Middle Fork Salmon, Middle Fork Clearwater, Selway and Lochsa among only 12 streams immediately enrolled nationwide. Protocols were set to expand the system, which has grown to 300 rivers.

In 1975 the Snake River in Hells Canyon was added, halting the threat of High Mountain Sheep Dam, which Gov. Cecil Andrus proclaimed would be built only “over my dead body.” Congress added the Salmon River in 1980. Then in 2009, against all odds, 16 streams in the Bruneau and Owyhee basins were added following an extended campaign by conservationists who ultimately gained support of ranchers with a common goal: to keep their rivers intact and their waters available for fish, wildlife and existing ranching use.

We doubt that many people today would try to make the case that the Selway should have been dammed at Penny Cliffs, as once proposed, or that the Salmon should have been impounded above Riggins, or that the Snake should have been buried under 700 feet of reservoir in Hells Canyon. Saving these rivers, just as they are, has been good for Idaho. Had we done otherwise, today’s imperiled runs of salmon would certainly be extinct.

These and other free-flowing waters have become the lifeblood of local and statewide economies, from rafting on the Middle Fork to fly fishing on the South Fork Snake. Because of its rivers, Idaho has become a vacationing hotspot for Americans from presidents on down. While Colorado has its renowned high country and California its beaches and redwoods, Idaho has its estate of wild rivers — unique to America and the world.

Rivers enliven Idaho, and recognition of our finest in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system is the best thing that could have happened to them. Half a century after Frank Church represented us so well, it’s time to reflect on the gifts that these streams offer on everyone, and to renew efforts so that other worthy rivers are protected for the generations to come.

Tim Palmer is the author of “*Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy*,” “*The Snake River: Window to the West*” and other books. LuVerne Grussing managed the lower Salmon River for 30 years for the Bureau of Land Management.◆



National Public Lands Day on the Clearwater River, ID

by Rebecca Urbanczyk

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cottonwood Field Office, Clearwater Management Council (CMC), and the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy (IYCA) collaborated for the 24th Annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD). The NPLD event involved boating approximately five miles of the Clearwater River to gather trash.

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, five employees of the BLM Cottonwood Field Office and 11 volunteers from the IYCA met at the Pink House Recreation Site and split into four boating teams following a safety briefing. Employees from the BLM included Recreation Staff Ryan Turner, Glenn Caldwell, Kyle Caldwell, and Field Manager Richard White, who were oarsmen for the four

boats, and event coordinator Rebecca Urbanczyk. Volunteers from the IYCA included 10 Cadets (ranging in age from 16 to 18) and Sergeant Torey Anderson.

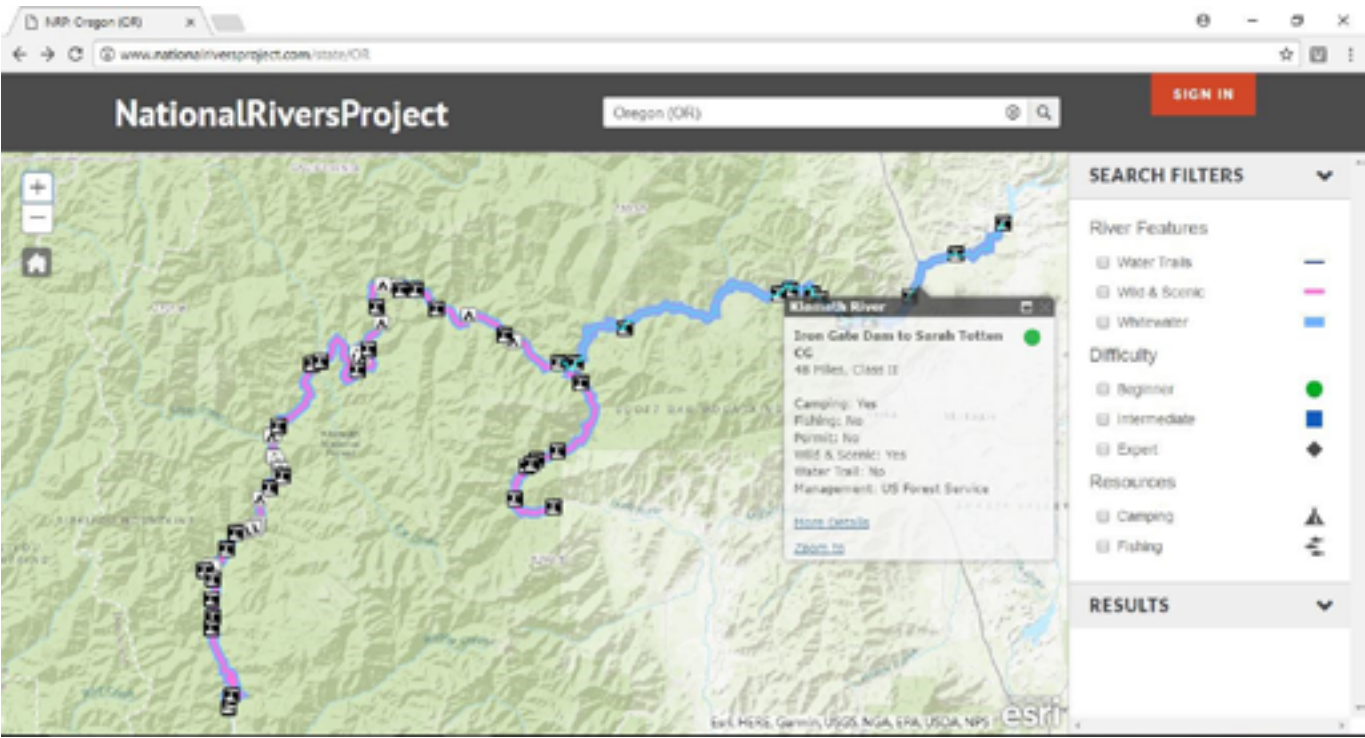
The four boats launched from the Pink House Recreation Site and disembarked at Harpers Bend Recreation Site. During the trip the four teams collected a variety of trash, including: countless aluminum cans, six tires, a RV window screen and kitchen counter top, shoes, a Styrofoam cooler, a dart gun, fishing lures, a football, parts from the front of a car, and various other debris. After the trash and boats were loaded into vehicles at Harpers Bend, the group returned to the Pink House Recreation Site for a BBQ prepared by members of the CMC and commissioners from Idaho,

The crew receives a safety talk at the Pink House launch site, then works hard collecting trash, including tires.
Photos: Rebecca Urbanczyk

Clearwater, and Lewis County. Following the BBQ, the CMC donated \$200 to the IYCA Foundation in thanks and support for the outstanding work performed by the Cadets. The collected debris was transported to the Clearwater County Transfer Station, which accepted the load free of charge and even stayed open late to accommodate the event.

The NPLD event on the Clearwater River included over 20 volunteers contributing over 200 hours of labor. Due to the success of the event, the BLM and CMC plan to work with the IYCA on an annual basis to help keep the Clearwater River clean and clear!◆

Rebecca Urbanczyk works as an Outdoor Recreation Planner in the BLM Cottonwood Field Office.



The Pacific Northwest is home to several outstanding Wild & Scenic Rivers, including portions of the Klamath River in northern California shown here on the NRP Explorer page.

Filling in the Map – Diverse River Data Partners Help Populate National Rivers Project

by Jack Henderson

2017 has been a great year for the National Rivers Project, especially for the northwestern region. In 2017, we added data from 11 new partnering organizations to the National Rivers Project (noted with an asterisk in the table). We also connected with several other organizations and agencies which we are on prospective paths to partner with in the coming year. As of print time, we are up to 749 rivers in the National River Recreation Database (NRRD), which fuels the map at *nationalriversproject.com*. Along those rivers, tributaries and lakes, the NRRD contains 8,280 access points and 188 campgrounds.

Adjacent is a table that outlines the partners that have made this ambitious project a success—to map and make-available our nation’s water trails, Wild & Scenic Rivers, whitewater segments and other recreational rivers. This table does not include the partners with whom we are working with on prospective new data, but rather the ones whose data are currently in the NRRD, and being maintained for updates.

National Rivers Project Data Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):
Risa and Jack have been working on a MOU for the data partners to sign to establish a long-term agreement for correspondence and data maintenance/management. This MOU was sent to partners in July and we are currently collecting signed MOUs.

Federal agency partners were sent MOUs as well, but it is not expected we will receive a signed MOU back due to the complexity of agreements with federal agencies.

- Next Steps / Priorities for 2018:**
- Maintain National Rivers Project Facebook page to nurture the community of current data partners and encourage additional usage of NRP website, thereby raising awareness of the unique features of the NationalRiversProject.com. Follow / 'like' us at www.facebook.com/nationalriversproject/
 - Commence river data partner outreach per the terms of the MOU: rotating featured rivers, highlighting them on the Facebook page, and RMS journal, and growing partner understanding of the benefits of their relationship with RMS to encourage membership and participation in the organization at the chapter level.
 - Secure MOU or similar agreement on maintaining contact and updates/accuracy with all partners.
 - Engage new partners and maintain relationships with current ones: At least 20 new river data partners engaged in 2018.
 - Add more rivers, access points and campgrounds to the NRRD: At least 150 new rivers and 200 new access points added in 2018.

Contact Jack Henderson for more information:
jack@river-management.org ♦

River Data Partner Organizations:

Organization Name	River Name
Bridger Teton National Forest	Snake, Hoeback Rivers
Bureau of Land Management	Select BLM Wild & Scenic Rivers
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Florida Paddle Trails
Hudson River Valley Greenway	Hudson River
Huron River Water Trail*	Huron River
Iowa DNR*	Iowa Public Access Points & Canoe Routes/Water Trails
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Kentucky Blue Water Trails and Access Points
Michigan DNR*	Michigan Water Trails Michigan Public Access Points
Minnesota DNR	Minnesota Water Trails & Access Points
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area - National Park Service*	Mississippi River in MISS near Saint Paul, Minnesota
MountainTrue/River Link	French Broad River
National Park Service: National Rivers*	Buffalo National River Ozark National Scenic Riverways (Jacks Fork, Current River) Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Little River Canyon National Preserve Gauley River National Recreation Area New River Gorge National River
Northern Forest Canoe Trail	Missisquoi River
OARS: for the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers*	Updated Access points - Sudbury, Assabet, Concord Rivers
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Ohio Water Trails and State Scenic Rivers
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission	Pennsylvania Water Trails
Rock River Water Trail	Rock River
San Antonio Water Trail	San Antonio River Authority
San Francisco Bay Water Trail	Multiple bays around San Francisco
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources*	Go Paddle SC Water Trails and access points
United States Forest Service	(First Round) USFS Wild & Scenic Rivers: AuSable, Eleven Point, Elk, Flathead, Ozark St Francis NF, Salmon, Tuolumne, Snake (Second Round) USFS Wild & Scenic Rivers: Allegheny, Brule, Carp, Clarion, Indian, Lochsa, Middle Fork Clearwater, Manistee, Ontonagon, Paint, Pere Marquette, Pine, Presque Isle, Saint Joe, Salmon (Idaho), Selway, Sturgeon, Tahquamenon, Whitefish (Third Round) USFS Wild & Scenic Rivers: Middle Fork Feather, Merced, North Fork American, Rio Chama, Verde
University of Tennessee Chattanooga	Tennessee Water Trails
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*	Virginia Water Trails
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*	Virginia Public Access Points
Wisconsin Coastal Management*	Lake Superior Water Trail, Lake Superior Access Points, Lake Michigan Access Points
West Virginia DNR*	West Virginia Water Trails & DNR Access Points

2018 RMS Symposium Wild, Scenic, and Beyond! Vancouver, WA October 22-25, 2018



Planning is well underway for our 2018 RMS Symposium to be held in Vancouver, Washington, at the Hilton Vancouver Washington Conference Center, October 22-25. The title says it all – while we will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, most program content will be applicable for all who work in river management — from hydrologists to environmental educators, from recreation specialists to fisheries biologists.

Panelists and presentations throughout the week will include tracks focused on the themes honoring the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

- Water Quality
- Free Flow and Water Quantity
- Scenery and Aesthetics
- Recreation
- History and Culture
- Fish, Wildlife, and Ecology
- Geology and Hydrology
- Public Access
- Rivers Across Boundaries

Topics will be presented in a combination of trainings (select topics) and case-studies. As we did in Boise, we will provide continuing education credits for many sessions.

Field sessions will compliment panelists and presentations, and are intended to be part of the program. Some of the topics being considered for field sessions include: dam removal, riparian and in-stream restoration, recreation, cultural values and uses, fisheries, boating safety, partnerships, collaboration and engagement, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license surrender process, water quality, public health and environmental justice, Wild and Scenic Rivers, education, and interpretation.

The Partnership for the National Trails System will hold an event at the same time in the same venue, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act. We will have a few shared events and will co-host our exhibits and silent

auctions. This year, one half of the amount of each silent auction item donated by a chapter will go to that chapter's funds. Many RMS members have volunteered to serve on our planning committees. Currently the program, field session, and marketing committees are busily working away. Did you happen to notice we are holding a T-shirt design contest? (*See next page.*) Other committees will be engaging shortly. We can always use more help, especially onsite immediately before, during and after the symposium. If you can help or have questions, please contact:

Conference Co-Chairs
Louise “Weezie” Kling
louise.kling@aecom.com
Helen Clough
hcloughak@gmail.com
907-321-4004

Request for Presentations

We are seeking presentations, panels and posters for the upcoming 2018 River Management Symposium: *Wild, Scenic, and Beyond!* that demonstrate how you, your organization, and/or the profession are addressing river values. We are interested in creative approaches to conservation and management, vision for the future of river management, successes in partnerships and collaboration, innovative uses of technology, and other case studies representing ideas and tools for lasting and sustainable river management. (*Note: An official Request for Presentations will be released in mid-January.*) Potential presentation subjects are provided below. These themes honor the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and reflect values and goals shared by all rivers, regardless of designation or managing entity.

- *Water Quality*— indicators/standards, pollution, monitoring
- *Free Flow and Water Quantity*— project effects, development, water rights, climate change
- *Scenery and Aesthetics*— measurement, indicators/standards, flow effects, managing aesthetic resources
- *Fish, Wildlife, and Ecological Processes*—invasive or species, habitat, restoration, subsistence, monitoring
- *Geology, Hydrology, and Physical Processes*—measurement, dynamism, restoration, structures like log jams or whitewater parks
- *Recreation*—capacities, conflicts, or commercial use, safety, changing uses
- *Managing Use*—capacities, allocation
- *History and Culture*—protection, interpretation, interactions with other resource values
- *Public Access*— easements, navigability, multiple jurisdictions, facilities

T-Shirt Contest

RMS is looking for the best conceptual art that can be used on symposium t-shirts, brochures, website, Facebook, and other types of media output to aid in advertising the symposium and 50th Anniversary of the WSR Act. Plus, RMS is adding a twist — we are also holding a 2nd contest for a new RMS logo that can help strengthen our branding capabilities in all media formats.

Prizes will be awarded. More information can be found at: www.river-management.org/symposium.

Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2018. Please submit artwork to Risa Shimoda at executivedirector@river-management.org.

- *Rivers Across Boundaries*— water trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, partnerships, stewardship

SINGLE PRESENTATION: Presentations will be 30 minutes in length. Speakers will be supported with podium, laptop, projector, screen, and audio.

PANEL SESSION: Conference panel sessions will be 90 minutes in length and limited to 3 panelists. Panelists will be provided the same support as individual speakers. If needed, a moderator will be assigned to manage questions.

POSTER PRESENTATION: Posters displaying a selected topic will be presented Monday evening, October 22, during the Opening Reception and Poster Session.

PRESENTER EXPENSES: As a presenter, you will need to register for the Symposium and pay the registration fee. It is your responsibility as session organizer to ensure that your co-presenters understand the policy and register. One-day and student registration rates will be available, and scholarships are available to RMS members, as well as River Studies and Leadership Certificate enrollees.

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS: To submit an abstract, please go to the following webpage: <http://www.river-management.org/symposium>. Submittals should include a brief description of the presentation and are limited to 300 words. For panel submittals, please provide the name, affiliation, biography, and contact information for each session moderator and/or panelist. **Abstract submission deadline is March 16, 2018.**

ABSTRACT EVALUATION: Abstracts will be evaluated by the Program Committee for relevance to the conference theme and session tracks, quality of the proposed presentation topic or panel, level of audience participation, transferability of the strategies and solutions presented, relevance to current trends and issues, and consistency with the River Management Society's mission statement.

QUESTIONS: Please contact conference co-chairs Helen Clough at hcloughak@gmail.com and Weezie Kling at Louise.Kling@aecom.com. Please include your session ID, if available, in the subject line of your email. If you have technical difficulties with submitting, please contact Risa Shimoda at executivedirector@river-management.org. ♦

San Antonio River Wins Coveted Thiess International Riverprize

This article was shared by RMS Southwest Chapter member Matthew Driffill. Since 2013, Matthew has served as Recreation Superintendent for the Watershed and Park Operations Department, San Antonio River Authority (SARA). In this position he develops and oversees the public outreach, programming, vendor contracting, event permitting, and park development projects managed by SARA throughout Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad Counties, including the San Antonio River Water Trail.



Allison Elder and Steven Schauer of the San Antonio River Authority, with the Thiess International Riverprize in Brisbane, Australia, on September 19, 2017. Courtesy / San Antonio River Authority

Reprinted from the Rivard Report
by Robert Rivard
Updated September 20, 2017

The San Antonio River and the \$384 million improvement project that gave the city a 15-mile linear park and the celebrated Museum and Mission Reaches has been selected as the winner of the 2017 Thiess International Riverprize, it was announced Tuesday in Brisbane, Australia.

The 15-year ecological and economic restoration of the San Antonio River was chosen over several other finalists, including the Tweed River in Great Britain; the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers in Alaska; and the once-dead Pasig River in the Philippines.

The annual prize is considered the most coveted international recognition of river and watershed restoration, stewardship, and management. Hundreds of representatives of river and watershed

systems from around the globe were on hand for the announcement, which was made Tuesday at 6 a.m. CST at the annual symposium organized by the Australia-based International River Foundation (IRF).

“People in San Antonio might not be familiar with his award, but the Riverprize is the Nobel Prize for everyone involved in river and watershed stewardship,” said Steven Schauer, San Antonio River Authority’s director of government and public affairs, who was in Brisbane with Allison Elder, the River Authority’s director of legal affairs, to accept the award. “In our acceptance speech, we thanked Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, the San Antonio River Oversight Committee, and all the people in our community who have devoted themselves

to the river restoration project.”

The San Antonio River’s recognition comes on the 20th anniversary of the award’s founding. It was first named as a finalist in 2014 when the team that oversaw the ecological restoration of Germany’s Rhine River and the return of its annual salmon run was awarded the coveted prize.

For the River Authority, the County, and the City, the honor represents a new level of international recognition of the river improvement project that began in 1998 and was completed in 2014.

“The Riverprize is international recognition on par with UNESCO’s World Heritage designation of the Missions and Alamo in San Antonio, which would not have happened without the restoration of the San Antonio River,” said Bexar

County Judge Nelson Wolff, arguably the most ardent advocate of the project over the last 20 years. “It’s truly the public works project of our time. The economic development from downtown to the Pearl has been remarkable, but the most important piece, I’d say, is the ecological restoration of the river south of downtown.”

Suzanne Scott, who celebrated her 10th anniversary as general manager of the River Authority earlier this year, traveled to Australia in 2014, but stayed home this year to participate in the 2017 EPA Region 6 Stormwater Conference, which formally opens this morning in San Antonio.

“Yay! I am so thrilled,” Scott said Tuesday morning. “This is the leading world recognition being given to our river, a culmination of everything we have done. I am especially glad we won this year when the foundation has focused on the economic impact of cleaning up a river. The environmental benefits of river restoration are the foundation for economic development. It has been that since the time of early settlers through the development of the visitor and tourist economy, and now we see the river becoming a special place for the people who live and work here.

“Our river has been transformed from a flood channel to an ecosystem,” Scott said. “The San Antonio River is the pride of the community.”

Scott and others at the River Authority treated their status as finalists in a low-key manner, realizing the challenge of competing against others in Europe and Asia. Now, with the award in hand, some sort of citywide recognition likely will be organized.

“Our Riverwalk stands as a feat of engineering, conservation, resilience and forward-thinking urban planning,” Mayor Ron Nirenberg said after Tuesday

morning’s announcement. “Our friends from across the world have marveled at our water recycling methods and asked us for more information on what we do to keep our river clean. This award is a reminder that San Antonio is a leader, whether we are preserving our river or reconstructing our historic sites, the world is looking at what we’re doing.”

A global effort to restore rivers and watersheds has made the Riverprize an increasingly coveted recognition. In Europe alone, restoration projects are underway in a number of countries.

“This year we received a record number of 31 submissions, and the overall quality of the submissions has been higher than ever,” said Bill Dennison, chair of the prize jury. “The finalists represent a stellar selection of river management efforts from around the world. From the restoration efforts in the River Tweed in Scotland, to the conservation efforts for the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers in the remote Alaskan wilderness, to urban river restoration in the Pasig River in the Philippines and the San Antonio River in Texas, these different river stories are united by a common theme: excellence in river management.”

The Riverprize, sponsored by the Bert and Vera Thiess Foundation, is touted as the “world’s foremost award in river basin management.” Bert Thiess, who died in 2010, was the last of five brothers who built one of Australia’s biggest mining, construction, and contracting businesses.

According to the IRF website, the Riverprize “recognizes and rewards organizations making waves in the sustainable management of the world’s rivers, whether at the grassroots or transboundary level.

“The prize rewards inspiring initiatives that demonstrate Integrated River Basin Management to restore

and protect rivers, wetlands, lakes, and estuaries. Previous winners and finalists have received widespread recognition, built new partnerships, shared their knowledge, and won other awards following Riverprize, becoming part of a network of river practitioners and experts from around the world.”

Individuals and organizations that wish to support stewardship of the San Antonio River can contribute to the San Antonio River Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose current projects include development of Confluence Park where San Pedro Creek flows into the San Antonio River.

The Thiess Riverprize is the foundation’s oldest and most coveted award, but in 2015 the foundation also established specific continental prizes, including the North American Riverprize, which was awarded to the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper for 25 years of collaborative restoration work with the Buffalo-Niagara River Watershed.

“Among their many achievements, Waterkeeper has ensured that the once biologically dead Buffalo River is now on a trajectory to be de-listed as an Area of National Concern by 2019,” the jury noted, lauding the group’s stewardship of Niagara Falls and the associated waterways.

Schauer, who delivered acceptance remarks in Brisbane earlier Tuesday, said the award is a facsimile of an aboriginal tree bark water carrier. He also noted that once every four years the foundation stages its annual meeting outside Australia. The organization is considering venues for 2020.

“I’ve already started to lobby for the foundation to bring the meeting to San Antonio in 2020,” Schauer said. “Hopefully, our city and river will be under consideration.”◆

A Long Journey to Core Competencies in River Management

by Risa Shimoda

In early Spring 2017, outreach and solicitation of input began for a project that had its start well over a decade ago by RMS members and their colleagues who have aspired to define and enhance the value of river managers and their profession. The ‘slow reveal’ in 2017 will hopefully be the preamble for a full ‘debut’ of a new chapter for professionals involved in the management of our nation’s rivers. We will be able to, through a set of acknowledged skills and expertise, tell people what we do!

On March 27, 2017, I received an email message from RMS member Bill McLaughlin.

Dear Risa Shimoda:
We are presently facilitating a process to develop River Management Specialist and Non-Specialist competencies for OPM (Office of Personnel Management) that would apply to positions and employees of federal agencies having responsibility for the management of Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, as well as other river corridors addressed in agency management planning. This is being pursued as a cooperative project with Cathi Bailey, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Lead, BLM (Bureau of Land Management); and Monica Zimmerman, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Upper Snake Field Office, BLM.

The River Management Core Competencies you are being asked to review were developed in response to OPM requirements to:

- Identify the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) employees need to successfully manage rivers;*
- Help employees and supervisors develop and prioritize Individual Training and Development Plans;*
- Guide development and delivery of river management training courses specifically designed to bridge the gap between existing and needed information and courses; and*
- Ensure development of competency-based training.*

Besides serving as input to position descriptions, these clearly articulated core competencies will impact the development of Wild and Scenic River and river management education, outreach and training frameworks including IWSRCC (Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council) training programs and curricula, curricula developed by NGO’s and university partners, and distance learning and in-person training offered by agencies.

...you may notice some of the same issues we encountered with the OPM format. Issue one is the difficulty to clearly differentiate between ability and skill. Most often we thought of ability as what a person has to be able to do to carry out their job. One can have ability, but not be highly skilled to put it into practice easily or effectively. It is the learned behavior of doing that is a skill.

A second issue is that entry, performance and expert levels of positions are not exactly the same for each agency. We therefore used the definitions in the document previously approved by OPM. Likewise, we did the same with the specialist and non-specialist categories, defined in accordance with OPM format. In writing the competencies, we tried to think about them in terms of how they function on the ground and within agencies’ organizational cultures... .

After asking for comments by a specific deadline, the letter closed with “together we can create a better future for river management professionals,” with thanks, and the authors’ names (pictured below, left to right):

- Ed Krumpe, Professor Emeritus
College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho
- Bill McLaughlin, Professor Emeritus
College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho
- LuVerne Grussing, Retired BLM River Manager
Cottonwood Field Office, Idaho



On the following page is the draft introduction to the *Technical Core Competencies—River Management Specialists and Non-Specialists* which summarizes the levels of expertise and competency levels for each of the four federal river administering agencies for which core competencies are included.

Several months passed. As I had not heard about further movement on this project, I reached out to Bill for an update. He shared that he had been ill, and I thought I should check in to see how he was doing.

On August 14th Bill replied, “*We submitted a final version to Cathi so she is the one to ask. I believe it is ready for use. Thanks for the positive health vibes. I am presently fighting to win a few more years. We really are excited about your use of the standards. It is time to get on with it and move this important group of professionals forward!*”

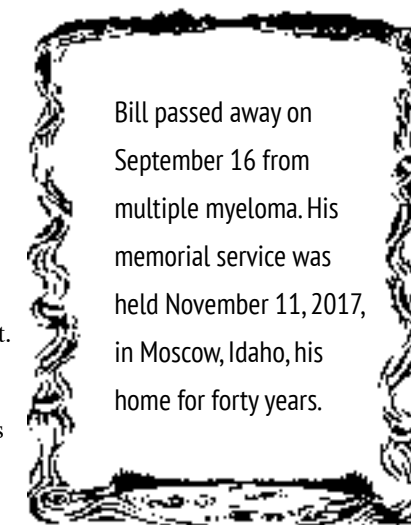
The *Technical Core Competencies—River Management Specialists and Non-Specialists* draft has been reviewed by colleagues across the professional spectrum whose responsibilities might be described all or in part by its content. Reviewers have included both early career seasonal rangers and seasoned planners and supervisors.

At the close of calendar year 2017, Cathi Bailey (BLM Wild and Scenic Rivers Lead and mentioned in Bill’s email) shared that the project was moving along.

“Staff and supervisors can use these now for employee training and development plans, and the IWSRCC, WSR program leads/managers, and NGOs can use them to develop and deliver future training courses,” says Cathi. “The plan is to have the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council approve the preliminary final version in January, 2018. I believe these core competencies are a big step in helping us formalize what knowledge, skills, and abilities employees need to manage rivers successfully.”

Thank you Cathi, Monica, Ed and LuVerne for this work. It reflects an untold amount of time and care, standing on the shoulders of your collective vision.

Bill, we will continue to thank you, too, as this project evolves into the backbone of a nationally recognized profession.◆



Bill passed away on September 16 from multiple myeloma. His memorial service was held November 11, 2017, in Moscow, Idaho, his home for forty years.

“I worked and played with Bill beginning in 1979. Bill was a mentor, dear friend, and my environmental hero. He was dedicated to conservation; in fact, he spent his whole life pushing the envelope to integrate physical science and sociological science in the furtherance of protecting and preserving our natural world for us and succeeding generations. He was the most creative person I have ever had the pleasure to work with. If a problem was in need of a solution, Bill was the go-to person. Bill was always about 3 steps ahead of the curve; his implementation skills were frequently behind the curve. But that is precisely why he was such a great colleague and mentor: he always sought out good people to work with so that his creative ideas and solutions could be implemented while he was off solving other problems.

Bill loved the natural world and had a special place in his heart for rivers, which he described as the source of nearly all ecological processes and the primary building block for the integration of human and natural resources interaction. He believed that the natural world, and rivers in particular, are integral to human life as we know it, and it is only by developing an understanding of the natural world that can we integrate human tendencies with natural processes to be able to coexist in harmony.

Bill was a huge advocate for river managers and river management. He never missed an RMS symposium, and was always actively supporting the field of river management through his research, undergraduate teaching, and graduate student mentoring and development. He was an important factor in the development of many RMS stalwarts, either as professor or grad student advisor. Former students who are currently active in RMS include Caroline Kurz, Bob Ratcliffe, Monica Zimmerman, Deb Rawhouser, Cathi Bailey, Chet Crowser, and Bunny Sterin. Many others have been touched by his enthusiasm, his creativity, and his genuine sense of humor. He is missed.”

— LuVerne Grussing, retired BLM River Manager and past RMS Board President
Juliaetta, Idaho



DRAFT: Technical Core Competencies – River Management Specialists and Non-Specialists

This document identifies interagency River Management Technical Core Competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities) needed to implement river management stewardship law, regulation, and policy at three different levels of expertise for two different groups of employees; river management specialists and river management non-specialists. These competencies are intended to be applied to federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, non-designated rivers managed by federal agencies, and rivers managed through partnership with federal agencies and state, local and non-governmental organizations.

River Management Specialists are employees having varying levels of responsibilities for river program planning, coordination, partnership development, stakeholder communication, implementation and decision-making, visitor management and safety, natural and cultural resource management, impact monitoring and assessment and other activities.

River Management Non-specialists are employees having varying levels of river program responsibilities, but whose primary duty is not river program management.

River managers and other employees having responsibility for river management, no matter how limited, can use these Competencies to identify gaps between existing and needed river management knowledge, skills, and abilities. With this information, they and their supervisors can develop and prioritize Individual Training and Development Plans. These Competencies can be used by each agency to identify training gaps and to guide development and delivery of training courses specifically designed to bridge these gaps. Courses designed to help meet these Competencies can be found through agency training coordinators.

Levels of Expertise

Whether 10 percent or 100 percent of an employee’s time is dedicated to river management, the complexity of the job remains the same and requires expertise across a number of disciplines. Expertise needed varies, depending on position. Three different levels of expertise for river management specialists and non-specialists have been identified. Levels of Expertise are so named to ensure consistency with Office of Personnel Management nomenclature while accommodating agency differences.

River Management Specialists Levels of Expertise

- 1. *Entry Level:* KSAs (knowledge, skills, and abilities) needed to recognize river management components, opportunities and needs, and to refer opportunities and needs to appropriate specialists.
- 2. *Full Performance Level:* KSAs needed to fully and independently identify and analyze river management opportunities and needs for most situations, to develop

interdisciplinary solutions with appropriate specialists, and to make recommendations for making decisions. Individual may train other professionals and technicians in the principles, terminology, and field practice of the subject.

- 3. *Expert Level:* KSAs needed to fully and independently identify and analyze river management opportunities and needs in complex situations, develop programmatic interdisciplinary solutions with appropriate specialists, and make recommendations for making decisions and policy changes. Individual may train other professionals and technicians in the principles, terminology, and field practice of the subject.

River Management Non-Specialists Levels of Expertise

- 1. *Recognition Level:* KSAs needed to convey or implement basic river management principles.
- 2. *Coordination Level:* KSAs needed to develop interdisciplinary solutions to river management issues with river management specialists.
- 3. *Leadership Level:* KSAs needed for making river management decisions.

Competency Areas

Both river management specialists and non-specialists must demonstrate varying levels of skill in each of eight Competency Areas:

- 1. *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act History, Law, Regulation and Policy* – Knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) needed to interpret and implement the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and agency management regulations and policies.
- 2. *Other Relevant Laws, Policies and Tools for River Management* – KSAs needed to implement agency river management regulations and policies, manage easements and acquisitions, work with relevant state and local laws and regulations on non-designated rivers (e.g., state water rights, navigability, ownership of bed and bank, private property rights), and manage cooperative agreements.
- 3. *River Management Planning* – KSAs needed to address river management needs in land use, programmatic, and project level planning processes. These include knowledge of eligibility and suitability analyses, protection and enhancement of outstandingly remarkable values for designated rivers, and analyses of values for which non-designated rivers are being protected and managed (e.g., ecological, cultural/historical, and social).



- 4. *River Management Field Skills* – KSAs needed to accomplish specific field tasks in a variety of river settings including public and private lands and easements within river corridors. These include swiftwater rescue, water chemistry and quality measurement, river use sampling and measurement, riverine ecosystem assessment and restoration techniques.

- 5. *Visitor Use Management and Monitoring* — KSAs needed to manage and monitor visitor use and behavior on Wild and Scenic Rivers, eligible and suitable study rivers, and other non-designated river corridors. These include special use permits, commercial use management, outfitting and guiding, facility design and maintenance, and project funding.

- 6. *Natural and Cultural Resources Management and Monitoring* – KSAs needed to manage and monitor natural and cultural resources within designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and other non-designated river corridors.

- 7. *River Information Management Skills* – KSA’s needed to collect, manage and use spatial and non-spatial information in constructing proposals, developing strategies and making decisions concerning managed river corridors.

- 8. *Collaboration and Engagement Techniques* – KSA’s needed to educate and inform constituency groups, contact and engage partners, and work with diverse stakeholders (e.g., private landowners, state and local governments, education groups and non-profit organizations) to forge mutual understanding of each other’s missions and perspectives.◆

“Besides Bill’s leadership and vision, he was very dedicated to his graduate students. When we first met, he encouraged me to pursue my graduate studies. I had a permanent job but felt I would like the personal growth, so in 2004 I embarked with Bill to start my graduate work. I received my master’s degree in 2012, and he retired soon after. I am very grateful for his guidance and persistence to help me succeed and I was very excited to work with him again over the last year on this project.”

– DRAFT –

Core competencies for the two categories of jobs in each U.S. river administering agency:

	River Management Specialists			
	Agency			
	Bureau of Land Management	Fish and Wildlife Service	Forest Service	National Park Service
Entry Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Office river staffRiver rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seasonal river rangersSeasonal public use specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">River rangersSeasonal river staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field and regional river staffSeasonal river and backcountry park rangers
Full Performance Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Office river leadDistrict Office river lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refuge Managers and Deputy Refuge ManagersRefuge operations specialistsPublic use specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">District river management leadDistrict ranger on a multi-WSR districtRegional Forest and District staff with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field and regional river staffPermanent river and backcountry park rangersPark river specialists
Expert Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Washington Office river lead staffState Office river recreation leadInteragency WSR Coordinating Council representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National public uses coordinator specialistRegional public uses specialistInteragency WSR Coordinating Council representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Forest program managers and staff officers with river management as a major part of their dutiesRegional WSR program managersNational WSR program managerInteragency WSR Coordinating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WASO river lead staffRegional river coordinatorsPark SuperintendentInteragency WSR Coordinating Council representatives

	River Management Non-Specialists			
	Agency			
	Bureau of Land Management	Fish and Wildlife Service	Forest Service	National Park Service
Recognition Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Front Office staffNon-river field staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Bio-techniciansFront Office staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-river field technicians and trail crewsVisitor Information Services staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seasonal resource technicians, rangers, and trail crewsInterpreters
Coordination Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field and District Office non- river program leadsState and Washington Office non-river program leads	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource SpecialistsPlannersEducation and Interpretation SpecialistsRangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-river resource specialistsEngineersPlanners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Natural or cultural resource specialistsTrail crew supervisorsInterpretersPlannersPermanent Park Rangers
Leadership Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Office Manager and higher line officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional ChiefsRefuge Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Line OfficersNational and Regional directors with oversight of river programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SuperintendentsDeputy and Assistant SuperintendentsDivision ChiefsDistrict RangersRivers Trails and Conservation Assistance staff

— Monica Zimmerman, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Upper Snake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
Idaho Falls, Idaho

RMS Board, from page 5)
and has attracted its first advertising. Our to-be-named training program will be up and running thanks to our new Training Coordinator John Gangemi and our federal partners. We will also focus on increasing membership, improving our presence on social media, and improving the function of our board to better meet our mission and serve our members and partners.

- A recap of the board meeting follows. We began outlining our hopes/expectations for the meeting:
- Building chapters and events
 - To become more relevant to members; adapting to changing demographics; being relevant to the river managers of tomorrow
 - Expanding our membership
 - Identifying priorities for the upcoming year
 - Gain knowledge and insight from each other

- New board members for 2018 include:
- President Linda Jalbert
 - Vice President Bo Shelby
 - Treasurer Dave Cernicek
 - Secretary Helen Clough
 - Northeast Chapter President Emma Lord
 - Appointed Board Member at Large Marina Metes

- Returning board members include:
- Alaska Chapter President Dave Schade
 - Northwest Chapter President Weezie Kling
 - Pacific Chapter President Jim Eicher
 - Southwest Chapter President Rob White
 - Southeast Chapter President Jane Polansky
 - Midwest Chapter President Molly MacGregor
 - Ex Officio Forest Service Advisor Steve Chesterton
 - Ex Officio Advisors John Putnam and Lori Potter

Committee reports focused on those areas where changes are suggested. Bo Shelby representing the Awards Committee will make recommendations to our executive committee in November for some minor changes to the awards process. The call for awards for next year will be out early in 2018 reflecting that we will present our awards in the fall not the spring as usual. The Scholarship committee will review current policy on scholarships to determine if changes are needed, especially with regard to student members.

The membership committee made a number of recommendations for changes. Changes adopted largely apply to organizational memberships with an increase in dues and benefits. Government

and corporate organizational members will now pay \$150 per year for up to 4 people or \$200 per year for up to 8 people. Non-profit organizational members will pay \$75 per year for up to 2 people and \$150 per year for up to 5 people. All Organizational members and Organizational staff members will now having voting privileges and will be able to hold offices. Associate, Organizational Staff and Student members will no longer receive printed copies of the Journal but will have access to it on-line. All other membership benefits remain unchanged.

Executive Director Risa Shimoda provided her annual report in written form and highlighted a few sections to the board. Her data on membership complimented the work of the membership committee. Risa shared progress on meeting the goals identified in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan adopted by the board last year. Jack Henderson shared the status of the National Rivers Project (National River Recreation Database). A visitor can search for a river trip by state, river, agency and access point, and the site has taken on look and feel of a true national resource. While we continue to seed new data partners, we are also expanding our outreach to reinforce the value of our site to and for the data partners.

Risa reported on products and services that serve current and attract potential customers. Planning is well underway for Vancouver 2018. For facilitating topic-based training modules and webinars on water trail development, Wild and Scenic Rivers, hydropower relicensing, we fielded two wild and scenic river works in March and April and a third is scheduled for this fall. A pilot survey was sent to stakeholders of hydropower licenses for which summaries were completed. An expanded survey will be sent to the balance of summary project stakeholders in late 2017.

Seven schools are signed on to the River Studies and Leadership Certificate program. Student recruitment has been disappointing. The tremendous scholarship and partnership opportunities that exist are a cause for optimism in 2017-18. We propose to have at least 2.0 full time equivalent permanent staff members by the end of this strategic plan and other paid assistance as needed to accomplish grant and contract projects.

We reviewed our 2017 work plan and identified both accomplishments and those items that we were not able to complete. A draft 2018 budget was presented and approved. Fund raising is an area of limited success. We currently are primarily funded by fee for service projects. All board members identified how they can contribute the financial success of the organization by completing a personal action plan indicating what activities

they plan to undertake in 2018 to bring in new members, sources of funding, etc. to help support RMS.

- The group spent time discussing chapter events and what makes them successful or not so. Some of the ideas shared included:
- Have someone in charge of organizing event(s)
 - Get commitments from multiple partners
 - Partner with others and share equipment; and/or associate with a larger event
 - Announce 6 months to 1 year in advance
 - Keep costs low and charge a non-member fee (even if free for members)
 - Have a clear purpose for the trip – educational objective; project; provide training or skill building
 - Consider day trips, social events
 - Small groups are OK
 - Don’t be afraid to try something new
 - Write an article for RMS Journal and local media
 - Communicate – Facebook, Twitter, Forums, etc.

Helen, Risa and Weezie gave an overview of planning for Wild, Scenic and Beyond! They emphasized that while the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be commemorated, educational sessions will include topics of interest to all river managers; not just those with designated river segments. All speakers will be expected to register for the symposium and pay fees so we are emphasizing this when we talk to folks – we hope you will attend and if you are interested speak, or participate in a panel or field session. Field sessions are generally being tied to educational outcomes as are other sessions.

The Board voted to change how the proceeds of silent auction items are managed. For the 2018 Symposium, one half of the proceeds from each auction item donated in the name of a chapter will be included in that chapter’s balance. Chapters were also reminded that as part of RMS they can always ask for funds for specific chapter activities.

The board spent some time reflecting on what we do well and not so well. Areas where we can improve our performance included following through on commitments, improving our financial strength, expanding membership, reaching out to young people, improving our presence on social media,

and getting more people (members/non-members) involved with our activities. Things the board does well include knowledge, enthusiasm, diversity of backgrounds and organizations represented, communicating with each other, listening, being goal oriented and having shared goals, resolving conflicts in a positive manner, hosting symposia and our Journal. We all agreed that having a facilitator made our meeting more productive and agreed to do the same in the future; sharing the role among ourselves if we cannot bring in an outside person. We also agreed to try and make our virtual meetings more focused and productive by trying out technology such as go to meeting to make them more interactive.

The board thanked Randy Welsh and Jennifer Jones (retiring board members) for their service as Treasurer and Secretary respectively the last three years. They thanked Lois Snow for her skill in facilitating our meeting. Special thanks were provided to Jane Polansky and the Southeast Chapter for hosting the board.♦



October 30, 2017

Dear Risa and friends at RMS,

I'm retiring! Thank you for 15 years of excellent communication and comaradie with the river management community! I have enjoyed many insights and learnings from the RMS literature. You are a fantastic organization.

Your support of my book *River Otter — Handbook for Trip Planning*— is deeply appreciated because you spread the word further than I could have alone.

The decision to retire and focus on historical writing and family matters is not an easy one for me. However, at 72 years young I have decided to conserve resources and change focus.

It has been a great pleasure to be an associate member of such a wonderful professional organization. Best wishes on your continued good work in an important field, crucial to the future of our natural resource system in the US.

Thank you and keep up the great work!

Maria Eschen



October 20, 2017

RMS Journal and Connections

I received my copy of the RMS Journal (Vol. 30, No.3) this afternoon. I could not help but make the connection between the picture of the soldiers of the 7th Marines paddling their inflatable boats down Cataract and Herm Hoop's book and article in the Journal on "Inflatable boats and how they saved rivers."

Pictures of inflatable boats lined up to cross the rivers of western Europe during WWII and today's warriors doing the same in inflatable boats, yet this time smiling, being together, and being touched by the river experience.

"Inflatable boats saving rivers, inflatable boats saving Marines."

Great article and great work by Fred Solheim and others on behalf of our Warriors.

Greg Trainor

Welcome New RMS Members

Professional

Kathryn Willi
Water Quality Fellow
National Park Service
Fort Collins, Colorado

Shana Steward Deeds
Consultant/Project Manager
Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers
Topsham, Maine

Tom Waters
Operations Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Salida, Colorado

Katherine Zerkle
Whitewater Rescue Ranger
National Park Service
Glen Jean, West Virginia

Associate

Michael Lipford
Southern Division Director
The Nature Conservancy
Henrico, VA

David Murphy
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Organizational

Harry Burkholder
Executive Director
Land Information Access Association
Traverse City, Michigan

RMS Membership Update

In 2017, the RMS Membership Committee conducted a review of the membership structure as a first step in developing a marketing strategy to recruit, retain, engage and serve RMS members. The committee took a close look at the member categories and associated fees, and the benefits for Professional, Lifetime, Organizational, Associate and Student memberships.

Individual membership fees for Professional (\$50/year), Associate (\$30/year) and Student (\$25/year) and Lifetime (\$500) will remain the same. Organizational fees will be changed to a sliding scale to allow for more individuals to be part of this category. For Government and Corporate entities, fees are \$150/year for up to four people and \$200/year for 5 to 8 people. For Non-Profit organizations, fees are \$75/year for up to two people, and \$150/year for 3 to 5 people. Beginning in 2018, Organizational members will have voting privileges, may run for National or Chapter offices, and will be eligible for scholarships along with Professional and Lifetime members. Associate members must upgrade to the Professional level to be eligible for scholarships.

All RMS members will continue to have access to RMS website resources including the Membership Directory, Jobs Board, River Permits Directory and National Rivers Database, and the online version of the RMS Journal. Members will continue to have access to the Listserve, a forum that facilitates discussion on river management issues and the RMS Digest that shares timely information on national events and news. Additionally, members receive discounts on workshops, Chapter sponsored river trips and symposia. River equipment discounts (Pro Deal) are available to Professional, Lifetime and Organizational members only.

The greatest benefit of RMS is being part of a community of practitioners that enjoy, manage and protect rivers. Check out the website, stay tuned for the next Digest or Journal and look for opportunities to learn and engage with RMS.

For more information on Membership categories and benefits, contact Risa Shimoda, Executive Director, or Linda Jalbert, Committee Chair. ♦



Who Deserves an Award? It's Time to Celebrate River Heros!

One of the most exciting and fun ways to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the art and science of river management, and those who best exemplify the spirit and purpose of our organization, is to nominate them for awards. Since 1998 RMS has given annual awards in four categories, and we invite you to give careful consideration to those persons who deserve to be recognized for their work and contributions to managing our rivers and developing our organization.

The awards (and criteria by which nominations are evaluated) are described below. Note that minor changes to these criteria were approved by the Board of Directors in October 2017.

Outstanding Contribution to River Management

This award (*open to all*) recognizes a longer history of contributions to the greater field of river management (as opposed to more recent or project/location-specific accomplishments). Please consider longer-term and broader impacts in areas such as those listed below; nominees are expected to contribute in at least two of these areas.

- Advanced the field of river management through contributions in areas such as science, education, interpretation, research, and/or law enforcement;
- Developed innovative (or creatively adapted) river management techniques;
- Organized conferences/meetings that advanced river management as a science and as a profession;
- Developed or implemented new communication techniques to coordinate and connect managers;
- Provided opportunities for increased awareness by citizens and river visitors regarding their role in caring for rivers and watersheds; and/or
- Was an outstanding advocate for professional river management.

Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers

This award (*open to all*) recognizes contributions focused on the management, enhancement, or protection of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. As with the Outstanding Contribution to River Management, this award recognizes a history of contributions with a broad geographic scope (as opposed to more recent or project/location-specific accomplishments). Please consider longer-term and broader impacts in areas such as those listed below; nominees are expected to contribute in at least two of these areas.



- Advanced awareness of WSRs through contributions in areas such as education, research, technology, training, public contact, interpretation, law enforcement;
- Worked effectively and cooperatively to build partnerships with other agencies, scientists, user groups, private landowners, and/or general public to promote, protect, enhance, or manage WSRs;
- Demonstrated, developed, or creatively adapted innovative WSR management techniques;
- Organized conferences, training, etc., which involved and advanced WSRs;
- Exhibited leadership in promoting and protecting WSRs within the context of the established corridors and beyond designated lines on a map; and/or
- Worked to improve managing agency process, budget, and/or support for wild and scenic river programs.

River Manager of the Year

This award (*open to RMS members*) recognizes contributions that are field-oriented and location-specific, with a focus on recent accomplishments. If a nomination is submitted for someone with a longer tenure, only more recent accomplishments will be considered (up to past 3 years). An individual with a longer history or broader scope of accomplishments might be more appropriate for the Contribution to River Management Award. The committee will consider contributions “on the river” (field-oriented, technician level) and at the managerial or supervisory level (involving policy, planning, and program development). Please consider contributions in areas such as those listed below; nominees are expected to contribute in at least two of these areas.

- Provided leadership in promoting and protecting natural, cultural, or recreational resources;
- Worked effectively and cooperatively with other agencies, user groups, private landowners, and/or general public;
- Established or re-established key partnerships to protect and manage the river corridor;
- Created an effective, professional, and enjoyable working environment;
- Worked to protect one or more rivers within the context of their watershed and beyond designated lines on a map;
- Created and established new and innovative approaches to river management, advancing the field and creating new enthusiasm; and/or
- Shows strong dedication and commitment towards advancing and improving river management into the future.

Outstanding Contribution to RMS

This award (*open to RMS members*) recognizes contributions to the success of the River Management Society itself. This award recognizes contributions at the national or regional level that result in greater organizational effectiveness, efficiency, growth, positive change, or enthusiasm. The award focuses on impact on the organization as a whole, rather than a particular length of service. Please consider contributions in areas such as those listed below; nominees are expected to contribute in at least two of these areas.

- Exceptional contribution to national policy, planning, and program development that brings recognition to RMS as a leader among river and/or professional organizations;
- Demonstrated leadership within RMS that has created sustainable positive change;
- Donated considerable time, money, or effort that has resulted in advancement of RMS as a unique and robust institution;
- Brought new and positive private and public awareness of the RMS;
- Increased membership substantially;
- Developed or located new sources of funding or resources for the RMS; and/or
- Provided exemplary service to the RMS through an elected office.

Nomination Deadline:
April 10

Nominations may be submitted online or emailed to RMS Secretary Helen Clough at: hcloughak@gmail.com ♦

WEAR A LIFEJACKET

LOW PROFILE LIFEJACKET

INFLATABLE BELT PACK LIFEJACKET

1. PROS WEAR IT!

The first sign of a rookie paddler is someone who isn't wearing their lifejacket. Experienced paddlers wear their lifejacket every single time they are out on the water.

2. THE RIGHT FIT

Adjust your lifejacket so it's snug and comfortable. Today's lifejackets come in many sizes, colors, and designs for children, women, and men.

3. DON'T BE A STATISTIC

88% percent of fatal canoeing accidents, 60% of kayak fatalities, and 93% of SUP fatalities involve people who weren't wearing a lifejacket. Don't tempt the odds!

RMS Chapters

Northwest by Louise Kling

It is hard to believe that we have entered the New Year! The onset of fall always seems to bring with it a nice, even pace. Things slow down a bit, and the shorter day sure helps to catch up on rest from those busy summer days. For me, it is also a time to reflect on the year: what went well? What accomplishments felt good? What's a repeat for the coming year, and what's a hopeful do-over? Naturally, in taking stock of the year, I've run the same checkpoints for RMS and our Northwest Chapter.

So what feels good? For me, hands down it's the people. This year, with outreach for the Symposium, I made new contacts within the river management community – some were members, some planned to join, and some were just learning about us. What struck me most was that nearly every one of them had a connection with someone from RMS – either through collaboration, negotiation, personal recreation, or professional mentorship. These interactions reminded me what an impactful group we are. There are so many different ways that each of us touch rivers in our day-to-day lives. The collective knowledge and experience is remarkable, and boy do we make a difference on the ground. What a lasting contribution to our nation's rivers our members make! This is an inspiring group.

What else? What the organization brings. For our Chapter, a highlight this year was absolutely the River Ranger Rendezvous. Thanks to the great work of Ryan and Joe, we had a solid program and a great turn out. The RRRs are such an important part of the programming that RMS provides – it is great to see it remain a staple in Chapter offerings.

OK. The do-overs? Those river trips continue to be a bit of a struggle for us. We had to cancel the Deschutes trip, and struggled to get others off the ground. Without them, we worry that we don't get the face time we need (and enjoy!) as a chapter that covers such a broad geography. There has been some discussion about augmenting these events with more small-scale local gatherings. These could be great ways to connect as a chapter, and even serve as venues for brainstorming and planning chapter trips. Are any of you out there interested in hosting a gathering? Please reach out and let us know!

And, what's to come? There is a lot happening in the NW as we gear up to host our organization here in Vancouver, WA, next October. As you have read in this issue, we have a great plan in place for the Symposium. There are still lots of opportunities to become involved – please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the officers if you are interested!

And, there is the opportunity to become involved as a Chapter officer! The positions of Chapter President, Vice President, Secretary, and Event Coordinator are open (beginning January

2018). If you would like to nominate a member or you are interested in stepping up, please let us know. It is a great opportunity to be active in RMS and help us continue to grow the NW Chapter. Be well in the New Year, and I look forward to seeing you in Vancouver in October 2018! ♦

Southwest by Rob White

The RMS Southwest Chapter had a successful 2017 season and we look forward to even more chapter events in 2018!

As a reminder, chapter elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Trip Coordinator are coming up soon. If you are interested in serving your chapter, please let me know.

We continue to hope that all of you submit chapter articles; this is an important way to share experiences and lessons learned in the river management field, plus hear your stories on our shared love of rivers and outdoor recreation. Please check the current schedule of when articles are due and submit to Matt Blocker at mblocker@blm.gov. And, if you are interested in hosting a 2018 Southwest Chapter trip, please express your interest to our Chapter Trip Coordinator, Stuart Schneider. ♦



RMS Chapters

Webster defines an “ode”

... as a lyrical poem addressing a particular subject, often elevated in style and written in varied or irregular meter or meant to be sung. When serving on the RMS Board, Doug Carter and I had some fun writing “Big Bald Vern” (Luverne Grussing) to the tune of Big Bad John in the RMS News of Winter 1999 (Vol. 12, No. 4, page 13). I also wrote an ode to Vern (see RMS Journal, Winter 2006, Vol. 19, No. 4, page 24) for his stellar work on the Lower Salmon River in Idaho. Vern got me back in the Spring of 2011 when I retired from BLM with an ode of his own.

Jim Eicher recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management as Deputy Field Manager, Mother Lode Field Office, El Dorado Hills, CA, so I thought it only fitting to honor him with an ode which is not to any specific tune (although some creative river ranger may have a tune in mind) but does recognize in a small way his dedication over a 30-year span on behalf of California rivers (including Wild & Scenic Rivers) under his leadership. ♦

RMS pals and all former BLM employees who were back to back winners of the RMS River Manager of the Year Award. (L to R): Bob Ratcliffe (1999), Jon Collins (2000), and Jim Eicher (2001)



Ode to Ike

“I Like Ike” was a slogan in ‘52, Eicher now is over fifty two.

John his twin has a similar laugh and grin, Knuckheads both –their mom called them.

Robin, Luke, and Taylor complete the Folsom fold, Along with Walter their dog named after Chicago Bears bold.

First hired to work on the Rogue by the Thomas of Dew, Jim has been known to hoist a beverage or two.

Seven years a seasonal working his way up the line, Through floods, slides, planning and sewage he has kept the Merced sublime.

Focused and trained under one of the best, Swickard the Dean was a head above the rest.

Jim used community-based planning near his estate, He took his time but stepped up to the plate.

Ike leveraged big bucks for many rivers like an all American, Taking years of negotiating and sweat kicking the FERC can.

He and the Horn called Jeff protect the rivers' amenity, The American, Bear, Consumnes, Eel, Merced, Mokelumne, Yuba, Tuolumne and Trinity.

His efforts to protect rivers are unsurpassed, And gave no quarter to those who tried to wrestle them from his grasp.

Best known for his hug and high five, And with that distinctive laugh we know he is alive.

The first RMS river ranger of the year, The ‘Ike’ has now completed a golden career.

Coach, mentor, and friend to many, Jim's work will be remembered plenty.

His love for California rivers has never been meager, This Iowa Hawkeye is a river major-leaguer.

As Ike floats and sails on through the days to come, May we all remember what this California BLM'er has done.

— Gary G. Marsh (a.k.a., “Marshman”) 1/1/18

Wedding Bells on the Verde

by Judy Culver

When one thinks of a river wedding ceremony it occurs on a beach with boats rocking gently in the water, the river (insert name) creating the background music as the sun sets or rises over the hills. That was our original plan but with shifting jobs, selling a house and buying a new place that needed serious work, and continually changing life situations of friends we hoped could attend, we had to look at alternatives to our dream of getting married on the river somewhere.

Our alternative turned out to be alongside the Verde River while traveling on a train. Yup, I said a train... and a fully restored vintage train at that. The Verde Canyon Railroad celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2012 and travels 40 miles round-trip from Clarkdale to Perkinsville, Arizona, up the Verde River. The Verde is recommended but not designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and the train takes passengers into a portion of the river accessible only by train (or possibly a pac raft in the spring). The train follows river-carved canyons where the high desert meets a vibrant riparian zone full of soaring rock formations, ancient Sinagua ruins, grandmother cottonwoods and a 175-foot trestle that bridges S.O.B. Canyon.

We chose the evening train that leaves the station just before sunset, heading 20 minutes upriver through the 632-foot tunnel, bursting out the other side to reach the trestle on which our train car stopped for a quick 15-minute ceremony. I imagined a small wedding, which technically it was except for the 300 other folks on the train, wrapped around the canyon walls, who clapped once we said I do.

After chatting with strangers about being able to fish on WSRs, and why WSRs are important for the protection of important river segments, I headed outside to join my friends. We enjoyed the final moments on the open-air car illuminated by subtle string lights, the moonlit canyon full of bats and a cold breeze as the desert settled into bed. It was a great day to be above the river.◆



Newleyweds
Judy Culver and
Mark Hafenbreadl



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Winter 2018	Vol. 31, No. 4	Alaska	Oct 1
Spring 2019	Vol. 32, No. 1	Southeast	Jan 1
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Fall 2019	Vol. 32, No. 3	Southwest	Jul 1
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