

RMS Journal

WINTER 2019

VOLUME 32, NO. 4

River Management Society

Supporting Professionals
Who Study, Protect, and Manage
North America's Rivers



Richmond 2020

Chickahominy Scenic River. Courtesy of VCU Outdoor Adventure Program.

Registration is open for *Mountain Creeks to Metro Canals*, the 2020 [Training Symposium](#) presented by the River Management Society in partnership with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The event will be held May 12-15 on the VCU campus. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday feature sessions on campus, and field sessions will occur throughout the local area on Wednesday. Special events include the awards luncheon on Tuesday, reception and poster session Tuesday evening, movie night on Wednesday (sponsored by the River Studies and Leadership Certificate Program students at VCU), and a dinner and live auction on Thursday evening at Triple Crossing Brewing. The program is tentatively set and speakers have been notified that their proposals were accepted. Over 60 presentations are scheduled with up to four concurrent sessions offered.

Program tracks include:

Mountain and Rural Rivers – Management Issues and Science

Urban Rivers – Renewal, Infrastructure, and Economics

Management Technology Tools

Policy and Practice – State and Federal

Partnerships and Community-Building

Water and River Corridor Trails

Visual Resource Management

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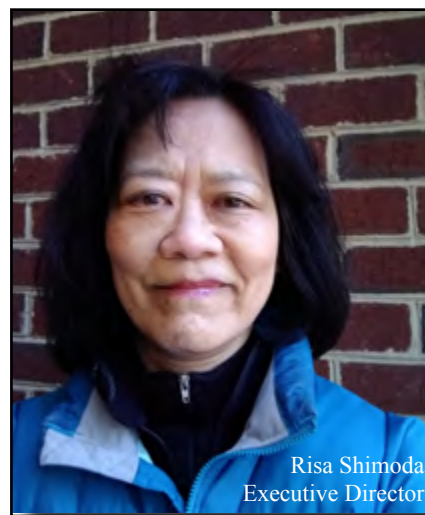
Editorial Policy: Articles are not edited for content and may not reflect the position, endorsement, or mission of RMS. The purpose of this policy is to encourage the free exchange of ideas concerning river management issues in an open forum of communication among the RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of view are those of the author and not RMS.

Executive Director's Eddy

We hope you are as excited as we are about programs that are beginning to establish a stride, serving you as members, your organizations and communities. We have delivered over two dozen River Training Center (RTC) technical and instructor training workshops; topped 1,800 river trips searchable at NationalRiversProject.com, and welcomed multiple dozens of River Studies and Leadership Certificate students. We've also realized sharing stories and reasons to be interested in RMS and our programs among colleagues, partners, customers or students requires that we evolve our communications processes and capacity.

When our very awesome Jack Henderson connects with a GIS resource - say her name is Meredith - to plan an integration of her state's river data with the National River Recreation Database (NRRD), he's established a relationship. When they've successfully added Meredith's data to the NRRD, they are stoked ... and both want to shout to the world that we've added her state's worth of data to the NationalRiversProject.com! However, Meredith probably does not serve as her organization's outreach lead and may not be interested in spending more than the time it takes to forward an email from Jack to her organization's outreach, public relations or marketing person. While Jack has established a critical relationship with Meredith, her higher ups may or may not understand the value of awareness they might gain by passing along, sharing and posting news about their rivers' new online discoverability.

We have coordinated many workshops and trainings during the past year. A number were contracted for specific groups and were not 'open' to the public, so we did not promote them to encourage registration as we do for symposiums and chapter trips. However, we still want to show y'all that they were held, received very positive feedback and will be offered again. During the first half of 2020 we will host SIX training and workshop events, including the Symposium in Richmond! We can stand to establish more overtly the pride of partnership with agency partners, our expert instructors and volunteers.



Risa Shimoda
Executive Director

I often field questions about 'what is available' through the Professional Purchase program. It is explained pretty well on the website, but only after you log in, so I guess we need to remind folks more often or more clearly so awesome professional purchase benefits are not a mystery. Oh yeah, and one other minor item: we will be rolling out a new RMS logo this spring!

For these and other emerging needs, we will be seeking outreach expertise and assistance in the new year. If you have suggestions regarding what, how and when you would like to hear from RMS or other members, see program information more easily or frequently, or even reminders about where to look for upcoming events, please let us know: we want you to be able to check what is happening when it is convenient for and serves you!

Farewell to Steve Storck

We bid a fond farewell to RTC Director Steve Storck who stepped away from his position in December. Though his tenure was fifteen months short, his contributions were long as he brought his academic background and river experience to bear, meeting the demands of many colleagues with thoughtful, thorough coordination. We wish Steve well as he moves into his next chapter, and will fill in during the short term through a collaboration of current and new partners and volunteers: look for staffing updates in the RMS New Digest. ♦

RMS President's Corner

Dear RMS Community ~

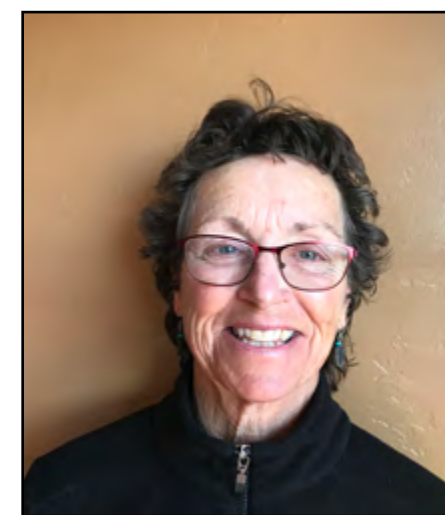
Thank you for your work in 2019. It is comforting to know that when someone is seeking information on watershed health, shows up for launch or needs help in the river corridor, that you are there. That certainly was my experience as a recreational boater and a long-time member of this community who continues to seek to understand your work, what's important to you as a manager, and then try to make sure the mission of RMS supports those needs.

A 30-year career in river, wilderness, and visitor use management has taught me a lot but there is so much more to learn. In three years of retirement now, I challenge myself to learn what has changed, and the new challenges we face as stewards and managers of public lands and waters. I was fortunate to participate in several river trips in the past year and often sought out time to talk with folks about their work. A late winter trip to the Gila River in the Gila Box National Riparian Conservation Area reconnected me with Rich, the BLM River Ranger. He took plenty of time to share safety information and features of the river, even providing an unpublished map. In the Salt River Canyon Wilderness, we shared a cup of coffee with the River Rangers during a camp inspection, at the San Juan River launch site we watched BLM volunteer Sandy doing trip orientation for seven young boaters age 3 to 9, and state hydrologists testing for contaminants from a recent mine leak. In Dinosaur National Monument, I had the honor of accompanying a river patrol on the Yampa and Green Rivers and observed their interactions with commercial and noncommercial boaters and participated in archeological site monitoring. The summer culminated in a 300-mile river

trip on Idaho's treasured Salmon River. The notable diversity in landscapes and settings from the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and the Wild and Scenic River corridor, into the rural, traditional use areas along the Lower Salmon River really defined this river journey. Along the way we met RMS friends and colleagues who became part of the voyage; thanks to Sheri, LuVerne, Rab, John, Michelle, Denise, Caroline, Kathy and Lisa for sharing your expertise and for the gift of your time.

2019 had a rough start. As an organization, the River Management Society continued to grow its programs despite starting the year with a great deal of uncertainty due to the unexpected duration of federal government shutdown. While some of our programs and projects with federal partners were put on hold, Risa, Steve, and Jack continued their work with state and academic partners, volunteers, and contractors to organize trainings, chapter events, continue symposium planning, and manage data for the National Rivers Project. Many, many, thanks to our Executive Director and Program Managers for enduring that time in the eddy and then getting back in the mainstream to move the RMS priority projects forward.

RMS Pride. In September, the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River, Utah, held its annual River Runner Hall of Fame banquet to honor members of the river community who have influenced the Colorado Plateau's river culture. RMS member and 2018 RMS award recipient Herm Hoops was one of this year's honorees. Herm was nominated to the Hall of Fame for his deep



commitment to the protection and sound management of rivers on the Colorado Plateau. To get a peek of Herm's love for and commitment to those rivers, check out the film "*Salad Days: The Illustrious Career of Herman Hoops*" by filmmaker Cody Perry. Congratulations Herm and thanks for encouraging others to speak up on behalf of rivers.

2020. We have much to look forward to. In May, we will gather in Richmond, Virginia, for the biennial RMS training symposium; our hosts at Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Commonwealth University and RMS leaders have put together a great program including several interesting field trips. In mid-summer, we expect to be holding elections for National Officers. If you see need for change in RMS and/or wish to build on the good work that we do, please join the leadership team. If you need some more information or encouragement, please reach out. I would love to hear from you. ♦

Here's to another journey around the sun,



Linda Jalbert
RMS President

Nominations for RMS Awards due February 29, 2020

Submit nominations online or
via email to:
RMS Secretary Helen Clough ~
hcloughak@gmail.com

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 we have given annual RMS awards for excellence in river management and conservation to deserving individuals. Our awards will be presented during the luncheon at the Richmond symposium in May.

The River Management Society recognizes outstanding individuals and achievements in following categories:

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 only*) 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 the River Management Society

This award (*open to RMS Members only*) 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

Your nominee's name
and accomplishments
can be here!

Please help us honor some
of our amazing colleagues
by nominating them
for one of our awards.

Photo: Dennis Willis

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.

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. If you submitted a nomination and the person was not selected, you are encouraged to update and resubmit the nomination. ♦

RMS Board of Directors Meeting Camp Verde, Arizona

RMS President Linda Jalbert and Southwest chapter member Judy Culver hosted the RMS board at Camp Verde, Arizona, for our annual face-to-face board meeting October 11-14, 2019. In addition to spending many hours reviewing our programs and planning for the upcoming year, board members were able to interact with Southwest Chapter members and students at a dinner one evening and during a short float on the Verde River.

Attending the meeting were Linda Jalbert – RMS President, Risa Shimoda – RMS Executive Director, Helen Clough – Secretary, Jack Henderson – RMS staff responsible for the National Rivers

Project, Dave Schade – Alaska Chapter President, Dave Cernicek – Treasurer, Steve Chesterton – ex-officio member and Forest Service Liaison, Steve Storck – (now former) River Training Center Director, Lisa Byers – Northwest Chapter President, and Emma Lord – Northeast Chapter President. Retired Park Superintendent Kathy Davis served as our facilitator. Bob Randall, new ex-officio board member joined us at lunch on Friday and participated on Saturday. Judy Culver joined for the discussion of our Richmond Symposium, the Saturday night dinner, and organized and participated in the Verde River float.

RMS Board meeting in sunny Arizona. Left to right: Steve Chesterton, Risa Shimoda, Dave Schade, Lisa Byers, Helen Clough, Jack Henderson, Linda Jalbert, Emma Lord, Dave Cernicek. Photo: Judy Culver



RMS River Training Center 2018-19 Accomplishments

Comprehensive River Management Plan Workshops:

- Black Creek, National Forests of Mississippi - December 2018
- Inyo National Forest - November 2019
- Mark Twain National Forest - Spring 2020

Train-the-Trainer Program:

- 3 General Meetings
- 3 Wild and Scenic River Trainings (web)
- 4 General Trainer Skill Development
- 5 Trainees involved in River Training Center program presentations

River Studies and Leadership Certificate:

- 5 Students completed certificate
- 2 New Schools
 - University of Tennessee Chattanooga
 - Western Carolina University
- National Science Foundation Grant - River-based Immersive Education & Research (RIVER) Field Studies Network
- 1st Student Employment Webinar

General Operations:

- River Ranger Rendezvous on Colorado River - Ruby Horsethief and Westwater
- SW Chapter Swiftwater Rescue Workshop - Arkansas River
- Web presence on RMS website
- Facebook Page
- 2 RMS Journal Articles
- Booth at the Paddlesports Retailer Show
- Meetings with IWSRCC Training Committee
- 2020 Budget (operations funded for the year)
- Strategic and Business Plan Development

The board meeting included a review of accomplishments and challenges of the last year and discussion of our program work for 2020. Highlights are presented below.

Products and Services

- Biennial Symposium – Richmond 2020, *Mountain Creeks to Metro Canals* will be co-hosted with Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, represented by members James Vonesh and Lynn Crump, respectively. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers program. Planning is going well. Securing sponsorship has been a challenge, as we have limited capacity and staff, and volunteers are focused on other aspects of the symposium.
- The River Training Center (*see sidebar*) was a major topic of discussion. RTC Director Steve Storck went over accomplishments during his tenure and outlined the program of work for the coming year. The board complimented Steve on all he has accomplished. We acknowledged that it will take several years for this project to become completely self-supporting.
- National Rivers Project – RMS’ GIS and Program Assistant Jack Henderson has continued to lead the curation of additional data, working with state, federal and non-profit partners to increase the value of the National River Recreation Database. *Nationalriversproject.com* now includes over 1000 rivers, searchable by state, agency, or river put-in to see access points and information about specific reaches. In 2019, BLM and NPS “unit” rivers were identified for inclusion in 2020. When we approach the point of having rivers in every state in the database, we will seek sponsors.
- Hydropower License Summaries – These are used as management tools: summaries addenda planned in 2020.
- River Studies and Leadership Certificate – Nine schools are active, and advisors are contributing to the RMS community as members, supportive of students’ participation in RMS activities.
- Scholarships – The Scholarship Committee has met to revise the structure of our program to clarify scholarship opportunities available to RMS members; sources of support and restrictions. The board will approve a revised scholarship committee charter at its January 2020 meeting.
- Job postings – continue to provide. RMS has received no revenue in 2019 to date (we did see revenue in November), and will revisit opportunities to leverage this free service.
- Merchandise – Judy Culver has led this program for the

second year in 2019. After a fourth quarter boost from the October 2018 Symposium, sales shifted to low gear in 2019. We are conducting a progressive discount sale to move inventory by year end. Increasing discounts will be offered on select items October - early December.

RMS Journal, Other Communication

The quarterly Journal continues to be the hallmark of our product offerings, and Caroline Kurz continues as the Editor, along with our printer and mailing house in Missoula, Montana. Printing expenses have dropped as a third of our membership does not receive, or chooses to opt out of receiving printed journals.

Other Media

- RMS News Digest – Emailed semi-monthly to members
- *river-management.org* – The web site is in need of a reorganization and branding, served by social media
- Listserve – Subscribed by 90% members
- Social Media
 - Supported by Richmond 2020 Marketing team (Emma Lord, Allyson Conner)
 - Focus on Facebook. May use Twitter / Instagram for the Symposium shortly before and during the Symposium

Partnerships

- Cross Watershed Network – this initiative is undergoing a review by its steering committee
- (Inter)State River Managers Working Group – Led by Molly MacGregor, this group has been developed in alignment with our strategic plan to create and sustain a state and county-based river managers networking forum to 1) share best practices and keep each other abreast of pertinent news, and 2) leverage their state-oriented voice on topics such as funding for human-powered recreation access, safety and water quality, and aquatic nuisance species management.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Collaborative
 - Developed after the 50th Anniversary of the WSR Act. Participation includes outreach effort and may include educational sharing with legislators on behalf of appropriations needs to sustain or improve staffing for current and new wild and scenic rivers.
 - RMS has developed and fielded the sale of WSR Stamp image prints via smugmug. This sale will benefit RMS, American Whitewater and River Network, and will continue through mid-December.

Contract/Grants

- We must continue to meet our responsibility to agreement deliverables.
- Secure additional staff/subcontractors to accomplish tasks.
- Indirect Costs – RMS currently charges the minimum level of 10%. Other river nonprofits charge 14% or more, reflective of their higher level(s) of overhead. We have been welcomed to apply for a higher level from the Department of Interior. To do this, we will be working to provide documents and financial history to justify an adjusted rate.
- In-kind Grants
 - Marketing, project planning and branding assistance, including the development of a new RMS logo, has been secured through a grant of unlimited volunteer advice from Catch-a-Fire. This is made available to RMS as a Patagonia grant recipient, through August 2020.
 - RMS has applied for a Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance grant to support the new State River Managers Working Group. This assistance would support development of processes, program priorities and its volunteer infrastructure.

The three major projects for 2020 will be the Richmond Symposium, River Training Center, and National Rivers Project. Fund raising for moneys not allocated to specific projects continues to be one of our main challenges. The board approved trying a year-end appeal to members through Go Fund Me. Members were contacted by email, the ListServ and the RMS Digest rather than a postal mailing resulting in significant cost savings. After the meeting the RMS board pledged a \$1400 match so the overall goal of the effort was to raise \$2800. As of the date this article is being written, we were very close to that goal. ♦



Photo: Roy Smith

Cathi Bailey recognized with 2019 Jackie Diedrich Excellence in Leadership Award

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (IWSRCC) established the *Jackie Diedrich Excellence in Leadership Award*. Now retired, Jackie Diedrich was the U.S. Forest Service’s Wild & Scenic Rivers Program Lead. Jackie worked — and continues to work — to improve management of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. The award recognizes a key individual in any of the four river-administering agencies that has shown outstanding leadership in going “above and beyond” to manage and protect Wild and Scenic rivers.

Cathi Bailey, former Bureau of Land Management National Wild & Scenic River Lead, was selected for the award in 2019. It was presented on November 2 at a gathering at the home of Bob Wick in Sacramento, CA, where a number of her colleagues and friends showed up to recognize Cathi.

Cathi’s commitment to guiding regional and local staff by providing them with the proper tools to manage Wild and Scenic Rivers has resulted in the perpetuation of the conservation ethic in river management plans. Over the course of her 30-year career, her ability to navigate the laws and policies surrounding Wild and Scenic Rivers helped other river managers strengthen their decision making through their collaboration.

As an advocate for Wild and Scenic River training, she guided a team through the development of the first national BLM Wild and Scenic River training to assist specialists and managers in understanding, interpreting and effectively implementing the WSR Act. Cathi maintained a valuable connection with interagency folks throughout her career and demonstrated this through her work leading the first interagency Wild and Scenic River Review to assess management and plan effectiveness on the Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River, co-managed with the Forest Service. Her ability to lead from a service-driven perspective led to projects and accomplishments that will help others to meet the vision of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for years to come. ♦

USFS and River Network Launch Inaugural Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership Program

by Katherine Baer, River Network

“These programs are building resilience and critical thinking skills and confidence for kids in the community,” says Oak Rankin, Executive Director of the Glacier Peak Institute (GPI) in Darrington, Washington, referring to their outdoor and environmental education programming on the Sauk and Skagit Rivers. GPI organizes raft trips and STEM-based education for local, rural students, all of whom have never before been out on the river. On the other side of the country, the Chattooga Conservancy is organizing invasive species removal projects for volunteers from the local area as well as the Atlanta suburbs. “People loved getting involved and seeing something really happen,” says Emily Anderson, Program Associate with the Conservancy.



Volunteers removing invasive species along the Chattooga River. Photo courtesy of Chattooga Conservancy.

These are two of the seven projects that were funded in the first ever [Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership Funding](#), a joint effort between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and River Network. Local community and water groups around the country are seeking to further protect and enhance their local Wild and Scenic Rivers, and engage a broader constituency in doing so. River and riparian stewardship is vital to many organizations and these efforts – e.g. water quality monitoring, river cleanups, in-channel habitat restoration, trail maintenance, invasive species management – are often an effective ways to garner interest from the public and engage with management agencies and local communities to better protect these rivers.

To foster this shared stewardship approach between local groups and the federal management agency, and ensure that values of designated rivers are both protected and enhanced, USFS funded this new effort modeled after the successful Wilderness Stewardship Performance Program partnership with [National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance](#). As USFS Wild and Scenic Rivers National Program Manager Steve Chesterton says, “these types of shared stewardship projects between local groups and national forests are critical to fostering relationships that ensure the continued protection and enhancement of wild and scenic rivers.”

Goals for project selection included: what will be accomplished and how this furthers the values of Wild and Scenic Rivers; the number of people engaged, with an emphasis on reaching communities new to Wild and Scenic Rivers; how the project provides benefits to both rivers and people; and support from the District Ranger or Forest Supervisor. A match from the applicant was also required. Based on this, the inaugural projects are as follows, and already, benefits are becoming clear in several of our priority areas for this funding:

[Chattooga Conservancy](#) – is increasing public awareness and involvement to address threats to the Chattooga River in Georgia and South Carolina through water quality monitoring, educational outreach, and managing invasive species.

[Glacier Peak Institute](#) – is introducing and connecting kids from rural and mostly low-income backgrounds in Darrington, Washington, to the Sauk and Skagit Rivers through STEM education and time on the river.

[Illinois Valley Watershed Council](#) – is expanding their community engagement program through restoration and education events with a focus on resource-limited, low-income community members to increase stewardship of Oregon’s Illinois River.

[Kern River Conservancy](#) – in California is creating and implementing an education awareness platform for responsible public land use and native trout preservation on the Kern River.

[Native Expeditions](#) – is working to develop youth watershed leaders to steward Arkansas’s Mulberry River through community water science and leave no trace awareness.

[New Mexico Wild](#) – is undertaking invasive species monitoring along the Rio Chama while also engaging local, diverse youth in Wild and Scenic River ecosystem education and conservation.



Surveying for macroinvertebrates on the Mulberry River. Photo courtesy of Native Expeditions.

[Snake River Fund](#) – is using funds to improve the visitor experience along a highly used path to the Snake River in Wyoming through trail restoration and educational signage.

Engaging Youth

New Mexico Wild’s Wilderness Rangers took a group of nine students from a local STEM high school out on the Rio Chama as part of a multiday trip to map invasive species. In partnership with USFS, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), and Rio Grande Restoration, the students learned about monitoring, river history, and ecology, and the plant survey will be used for future management and removal efforts. In Arkansas, Native Expeditions focuses on kids in rural areas through water quality monitoring, stewardship and watershed leadership. Director Robin Gregory is committed to serving students and teachers and says, “I make it fun, and show them a tiny world in rivers that they never knew existed and how to access a streams’ water quality for the rest of their lives by finding the biodiversity that exists through macroinvertebrates.” Some of her students’ favorite part of school is being part of the ‘Stream Team.’ (continued)



Students learning on the banks of the Rio Chama. Photo courtesy of New Mexico Wild.

Reaching New Audiences & Hands-On Stewardship

Glacier Peak Institute partnered with a low-income Latino neighborhood, Kulshan Creek, to provide rafting opportunities for students. For many of them it was their first boating trip, and over the course of the day they went from being scared to jumping in the water. California’s Kern River Conservancy has similarly expanded their constituency for the river into the Bakersfield area, and works with Latino volunteers who lead outreach and engagement for the organization. Groups are also finding new partnership opportunities and support from local businesses and water utilities with similar interests in improving clean water and enhancing local economies.◆

Rafting the Sauk River. Photo courtesy of Glacier Peak Institute.



“It’s really exciting to see these projects unfold,” says Katherine Baer, Director of Science and Policy at River Network. “From trash removal, trail building, community watershed science, and invasive species removal to engaging youth and inspiring future employment pathways, we’re thrilled to be offering this funding opportunity in collaboration with USFS and hope we can sustain and grow it in future years.”

RIVER ACCESS PLANNING GUIDE

A Decision-Making Framework for Enhancing River Access

October 2019

WHITEWATER KAYAKS

INTRODUCTION: Whitewater kayaks are plastic or composite watercraft designed to maneuver nimbly through whitewater rapids. They come in three basic types (creek, play, and river-runner) that allow whitewater kayakers to play in various whitewater features and travel downriver.

TRANSPORTATION: Whitewater kayaks can be transported on car-top carriers, in truck beds, or on trailers. They are lightweight and can be carried to the water's edge by propping the cockpit on one's shoulder.

ACCESS PREFERENCES: Whitewater kayakers prefer access with a small staging area near their vehicle where they can prepare their gear and socialize with fellow paddlers. A hiking trail is usually sufficient for whitewater kayakers to reach the water. Beaches, cobble bars, or low-angle bedrock shelves situated at eddies or other flat water are ideal access locations.

USE ON THE RIVER: Whitewater kayaks are designed for use in a variety of river settings from small riffles to large and challenging rapids. In the event of a flip, a whitewater kayak can be righted easily by the paddler using an eskimo roll. Creek boats are typically the boat of choice for difficult or remote river sections, while play boats and river runners are the craft most often seen on beginner through intermediate runs.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- At sites where a specific river feature (e.g., a surf wave or play hole) exists, whitewater kayakers enjoy river access that is located where it is easy to paddle to the feature and paddle or hike back to the access point.
- Whitewater kayakers will portage around rapids they feel may exceed their comfort and/or skill level. They may create social trails and access unless one is provided for them.
- Managers should consider developing access routes around specific rapids or obstacles to minimize impacts to resources and river values, and consider partnering with local organizations who can help develop access features.

Overview

Size and weight: 6-12 feet long, approximately 2 feet wide, under 50 lbs

Propulsion: Double-bladed paddle

Capacity: 1-2 paddlers, typically 2

Access needs and preferences:

- Need staging area to prepare equipment
- Prefer gentle slope to water's edge
- Prefer to enter river where waters are calm (e.g., an eddy)

Three paddlers getting into whitewater kayaks on the Smith River, CA along a cobble beach below a highway bridge. Credit: Thomas O'Keefe.

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American Whitewater Releases New “River Access Planning Guide”

by Evan Stafford

In a joint project with the River Management Society, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), and National Park Service (NPS), American Whitewater has published the “River Access Planning Guide.” American Whitewater is regularly called upon to assist with river access projects. Some are a spectacular success, while others are a disappointment. Over the past three years, American Whitewater has been working with NPS Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Programs to better understand how success comes about when a river access project is developed and provide guidance for a step-by-step process that leads to projects that meet user needs and are sustainable both ecologically and financially.

The “River Access Planning Guide” is a resource for planners, river managers, and users as they design new river access sites, improve existing access, or integrate river access into larger infrastructure projects. The information provided in

the guide is intended to provide advice and direction for those involved in river access development and can help facilitate related conversations among agency staff, nonprofits, decision makers, contractors, volunteers, and the public at large. These guidelines have now been published as both a printed book and an online document that can be referenced during all phases of river access planning, design, and management. Over the past few years the National Park Service and partners have supported a number of projects that address design and planning for waterway access. The “River Access Planning Guide” is a new component in this suite of resources.

Access points along rivers are the gateways to experiencing them. The “River Access Planning Guide” outlines a process to provide for a variety of high-quality recreational experiences while also protecting resource. It represents an approach to site selection and design to best meet the needs of visitors seeking to enjoy recreation on and in the water. The

Special Report on Paddlesports found that paddlesports continue to grow, with over 21.7 million Americans (about 7.4 percent of the population) participating in 2014. This represents an increase of more than 3 million participants compared to 2010. Increasing access to river recreation opportunities on public lands is a top priority for American Whitewater, and the “River Access Planning Guide” aligns closely with the NPS and the US Department of the Interior’s goal to enhance access to recreation by supporting infrastructure that creates recreation opportunities on public lands and waterways, making this a great and fitting collaboration.

Having published the “River Access Planning Guide,” American Whitewater is now working with the National Park Service and River Management Society to provide training opportunities. We recently completed our first successful training on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and look forward to a number of other trainings in 2020.◆



The Magic It Bestows

Celebrating the Unique Spirit of the Grand Canyon

by Bryan Brown

Figure 1. Nankoweap granaries. Colorado River, Grand Canyon National Park.
Source: Wikimedia Commons; Drenaline/CC-BY-SA-3.0.

Electric (and Eclectic) — But Not Electronic

Nowadays, I spend months at a time alone in a kayak on North America’s most remote and scenic waterways — a privilege that is not without its costs. My wife worries. My father the former paratrooper tracks my movements with the carefully masked concern of a professional soldier. Our twin Labrador Retrievers miss me. (However, they celebrate tennis balls, dinnertime, and homecomings with precisely the same wild abandon, so maybe I flatter myself.)

During the long periods when I am away and afloat, my E-mails ferment. While tomorrow’s leaders focus 25% of their waking lives focused upon gaming and social media, Figure 1 shows the view out the front door of my incredibly sturdy little one-person tent.

The good news about today’s youth is that: 1) thanks to the internet, they are generally well informed, 2) they care about Mother Earth, and 3) they seem willing to act forcefully in defense of rational environmental agendas. The bad news is that, as Richard Louv’s fine book Last Child In The Woods asserts, they and their younger siblings suffer from “nature-deficit disorder.” Louv quotes an articulate fourth-grader: “I like to play indoors better ’cause that’s where all the electrical outlets are.”

What Is Grand Canyon Magic?

Grand Canyon Magic refers to an extraordinary power or influence that rises from a strong sense of place, purpose, or (optimally) both. The American Southwest features remarkable desert sites that resonate because of their unique art, architecture, artifacts, or locations. While the magic associated with dry sites

can be powerful (Chaco Canyon’s Pueblo Alto stands out), the essence of dry sites is markedly different from the magic that invests the region’s exceedingly rare durable blueways like the Colorado River. Because of their scarcity, desert regions featuring persistent running water seem to speak more urgently. The Grand Canyon is an exemplar in this regard.

The odds are good that water spoke to our forebears *precisely* as it speaks to us. This common denominator helps explain the remarkable Nankoweap ruins (Figure 1) deep in the Grand Canyon. Nankoweap visitors will agree that the spectacular beauty of the place *had* to feature in site selection. The archaeological record is clear: beauty has been magnetic for humans since the dawn of culture. A room with a view *mattered* to our forebears. A room with a *water* view mattered *more*. Things have not changed over the 9 centuries since a probable climate-related diaspora in roughly 1200 AD shattered the cultural status quo in the American Southwest and scattered its residents to the four winds. During this era, Chaco Canyon (New Mexico) and Cahokia (Missouri) were roughly the same size as London. At that time, North America was a cauldron of social, cultural, artistic, and spiritual creativity.

The broad concept of magic is intangible. It implies a short-circuit in human perceptual mechanisms highlighting the gulf between *what* we know and *how* we know it. This gulf often invites (and occasionally commands) a leap of faith. However, it does not necessarily require a leap of faith because science allows inquisitive souls to bridge the gap handily. At some point, a scientist noted that humans enjoy waterfalls, storms, mountain peaks, and swift water so much that we seek them out. We seem to feel better near these uncommon natural features.

Roughly 80 years ago, researchers began testing the air near waterfalls and discovered a cause-and-effect connection between swift water and mood elevation in humans. They found that running water generates high atmospheric concentrations of negative ions. These ions raise our serotonin levels. (Serotonin is a neurotransmitter that regulates mood, appetite, and sleep). Broadly speaking, turbulent water creates negative ions, and negative ions improve human moods.

Prozac, which also impacts serotonin levels in humans, is cheap, portable, and fast-acting. It is not, however, Grand Canyon Magic in a bottle. Those who have experienced Canyon Magic recognize

(continued)

The U.S. at night – where do the animals sleep?



Figure 2.
Source: Wikimedia Commons; NOAA.

its uniqueness. Humans are apparently genetically driven to seek out uplifting places. Such places have never been common, and the few that have survived into the present in the desert Southwest are, without exception, embattled. We must make an effort to protect the remaining sites for future generations.

We Can All Lean In

In “The Gift Outright,” a poem written in 1941 and recited at John F. Kennedy’s 1961 inauguration, Robert Frost spoke of this fine country as a “...land vaguely realizing westward... ” The vagueness to which Frost referred during World War II has long since disappeared. The U.S. is now fully formed and, as indicated in Figure 2, animals have no place left to sleep at night. Our frontiers are now diminishing islands surrounding isolated and embattled populations of plants and animals with no place left to go. We expect animals genetically programmed to migrate as their food supplies dictate to honor borders they cannot comprehend and which those of us who serve as witting and unwitting stewards frequently do not honor ourselves.

Returning to the electronic bubble we all now inhabit, we can revisit the concept of Grand Canyon Magic. As individuals, we do not need to understand how negatively charged ions lend themselves to collective enlightenment. We simply need to embrace that enlightenment when it occurs. Large or small, every living organism on this remarkable planet is an essential component of the fragile environmental envelope in which humans exist. Each organism speaks its own eloquent language. It is our collective duty to learn those languages while there is still time to do so.



The establishment of a compelling cause-and-effect connection between what we see and how we feel is useful, but it is not essential. What is essential is that we recognize uniqueness as an irreplaceable component of the biodiversity that informs our humanity and enriches our lives. While many of us consider it essential to connect climate change with anthropogenic global warming, such a connection is not necessary in order to embrace the clear evidence that *something* is seriously threatening the most magnificent ecosystems on this wonderful planet. As we approach what might well be an environmental tipping point, we should all lean in. A float trip through the Grand Canyon is as good a place to start as any. Tread lightly, leave no trace, and bring a friend. Export the lessons learned to your home waters, bearing in mind that the most profound respect is conveyed by the lightest touch. ♦

About The Author

Bryan Brown has completed solo, self-supported, source-to-mouth first descents by kayak of the primary Colorado River watershed (2,400 miles), the Yukon River (2,300 miles), and Canada’s Mackenzie River (2,400 miles). These efforts – and others now totaling some 11,000 miles – support his goal of documenting climate-driven changes impacting embattled North American watersheds. “The Magic It Bestows” is excerpted from his forthcoming book **Delivering Brother Bruce**, which features the Colorado watershed. Copyright 2020 by Bryan R. Brown

Bryan Brown on the
upper Mackenzie River watershed near
Hudson’s Hope (British Columbia).

Desolation Canyon, Green River

by Greg Trainor

We camp our last night beneath an old cottonwood patch at Butler rapid. At this level, only a riffle, but current, nevertheless, for which without we would still be rowing in Desolation Canyon. (It is low water and our available time is short...)

We talk of Desolation and feel that a wrong must be made right. Scott proposes, and we agree, that Gray Canyon should be renamed “Desolation,” and that, upriver, in the place JW Powell named “Desolation” should bear the name “Redwall Canyon” or “Tapestry Canyon.” For it is a beautiful place with rising rock walls covered with evergreen, cut by creeks lined with cottonwoods, willows, dripping springs and seeps. Riffles and reflection pools mirror the towering mountains and the riverside, and the cottonwood forests are backdrop.

Why do we take five days and run Desolation, now “Tapestry Canyon?” I wish I had said the following. I recognize that it is true. I give myself credit for recognizing the truth, but I give credit to Rick Bass for speaking it:

“...it was nothing but a reason to get out and stretch, to migrate to new country, to see new things (to drink cold water in hot country), to get lost, to throw off domesticity and the numbness of the predictable...” (Rick Bass, The Sky, The Stars, The Wilderness)

Others have answered the question “why?” with, “why not!” While others, in past times, have answered, “Because it is there.”

Do we have to have a reason to measure the utility of taking five days to float along a river where, at a moment in time, the most pressing problem is a discussion of whether it is easier to kill a horse fly with a ball cap or a boat sponge? Our Protestant, Calvinist, Anglo-Saxon background, with which our genes are spliced, make our minds whirl with guilt as we try to calculate the “return” for our investment. There is none.

Yet our hearts are happy, at peace, as we float along and carry on conversation about our new found friend “Maude” (a hen turkey that drifted into boat camp one night, making herself at home, looking for a handout) or wonder why there is a black bear at Duchess Hole, or laugh when I jump to the ready at the word, “Rattlesnake!” Ready for what? Nothing, of course. Because the joke is that without the word ‘rattlesnake!’ I would have merrily trod on and been bit.

So, the answer to “why?” Why do we float the river?
To make hearts happy.
That is good enough for me.

The River Journal
Trainor/Richardson
August 2001



River Diversion Will Eliminate Portaging

by Max R. Smith

This article appeared in the Chaffee County Times (10/31/19) and Leadville Herald Democrat (11/20/19) and is reprinted with permission. Photo courtesy of The Homestake Project.

A drone photograph shows a river diversion dam on the Arkansas River near Clear Creek Reservoir. The diversion is part of the system that has piped water from the Homestake Project to the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora since 1964. Recent rehabilitation of the structure will allow boaters to pass through without having to portage for the first time in over 50 years.

In the mid-1960s, a partnership between the cities of Colorado Springs and Aurora installed a diversion dam in the Arkansas River south of Granite near Clear Creek Reservoir as part of a pipeline system bringing water from the western slope of the Continental Divide to the Front Range.

The presence of the diversion dam caused that portion of the river to be non-navigable, requiring portaging of one's raft or kayak.

By the end of this year, however, Colorado Springs Utilities is on schedule to complete a three-year project to build a new river diversion that will allow boaters to float right through, meaning that the 2020 rafting season will be the first in over 50 years in which the entirety of the Arkansas can be travelled without portage.

“We’ll see how the snow treats us over the next couple weeks, but we’re really down to some final boulder work in the river and general site cleanup at this point,” said CSU project manager Brian McCormick.

The intake that pumped water out of the Arkansas (which, legally speaking, comes from the Eagle River Basin as part of the Homestake Project), destined for Aurora and Colorado Springs, “as with anything in the river for 50-plus years, it took some wear and tear,” McCormick said. “By about the mid-2000s, the cities recognized we needed to rehabilitate this structure to keep it as a reliable facility and ensure safety of the river users.”

Construction on the new \$9.1 million diversion project began in 2016 after a number of years of planning, budgeting, and engineering. Support for the project included \$1.2 million in grant funding from the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

“You look back at the mid-‘60s, things like fish passage and whitewater recreation were not very high on anyone’s minds,” McCormick said. “So this project has not only been a chance to upgrade and modernize the structure, but also to make sure it provides for all the multiple demands we place on our rivers.”

Significant to water consumers in Colorado Springs and Aurora, the project utilizes a new intake and piping structure to send water to the Otero pump station, he said.

Significant to boaters is a chute constructed of boulders and mortar with six two-foot drops that will allow them to pass the intake facility without exiting the river. McCormick said that

CSU put the call out to members of Colorado’s river recreation community to participate in a trial run down the chute in November, testing the Arkansas’s newest whitewater feature.

“For someone launching at Granite, historically they’d get two miles downstream to this structure and they’d need to portage. Basically they’d need to pull their boats out and walk them around, because the rock-fill diversion dam was not considered a navigable piece of the river,” McCormick said. “Next whitewater season, in 2020, they’ll be able to launch at Granite, avoid that mandatory portage and just run through Granite Gorge, through this project and on down through Pine Creek and the Numbers.”

McCormick said that for the performance tests of the chute, “We’ll be working with the Bureau of Reclamation to release some extra water from Twin Lakes to get this into a good testing flow range, then we’ll do the things that whitewater users generally do whenever they encounter a new rapid: we’ll stand there and look at it for a while, visually evaluate the hydraulics, where things are going, we’ll see what the wave shapes look like, how it looks like it wants to run.”

They’ll then verify those observations by watching the movement of neutrally buoyant tracers (sticks and logs) through the feature.

“Then we’ll progress by sending users down: Kayaks, rafts, swimmers, et cetera,” he said.

Significant to the scaled, Omega-3 rich denizens of the Arkansas who swim upstream to spawn every year, the new diversion also features a fish ladder: a sequence of weirs and pools that give brown and rainbow trout a route to move up the river to their spawning grounds.

“It’s a series of engineered troughs with pools in between that allow fish to make their way upstream, rest in a pool, do what’s called a burst (the equivalent of a sprint on land) ... so they’ll jump over the weir into the next pool, rest and recover, then jump over the weir into the next pool,” McCormick said. ♦

RMS Chapters

Southwest by Linda Jalbert

The annual meeting of the RMS Board of Directors included some fun and meaningful time with Southwest Chapter members, students, agency partners and friends. We enjoyed an evening social and dinner at Salt Mine Wine, a local winery owned and operated by Kevin and Chip Norton. Chip is a long-time RMS member and Verde River champion. While he is not making wine, he's involved with many aspects of Verde River conservation. The brothers Norton generously opened up their tasting room for our evening gathering. The highlight of the evening was a presentation of the "Outstanding Contribution to the River Management Society Award" to Judy Culver. As reported in the

RMS Board members and friends are ready for a Verde River paddle.



Verde River Gatherings

last Journal, Judy has given so much to this organization, and it was so cool to share the moment with her husband, Mark, USFS supervisors Dale and Lenore, local partners Chip, Richard, Danielle, and many RMS friends.

For the final day of the RMS board meeting we floated a popular section of the Verde River with many of the folks who joined us for the Salt Mine Wine social. In addition to the RMS Board of Directors, our group included USFS managers Dale and Judy, local outfitter Richard, Prescott College students Jessie and Randy, Northern Arizona University (NAU) students Riley, Nicole and Sarah, RMS staff Jack and Steve, friend Mickey, and former RMS board member Paul.

Following a short introduction to the river environment and safety talk, our group of 20 split into two groups and launched for a low water trip (approximately 90 cfs). Most of this 10-mile reach is adjacent to private property and tribal lands with smaller sections managed by USFS for public access. While floating, Judy, Dale and Richard led discussions on the local issues including riparian restoration, dealing with post-flood debris, and diversions and their effects on boater safety. About 30 minutes into the float we experienced the effects of last winter's high run-off – we portaged around a 10-foot high debris pile that blocked the river for several weeks before a local boater group created a short portage trail.

At the Clear Creek river access site, our half-way point, the two floating groups joined for lunch and Judy provided an overview of some site issues and potential plans to address parking and site conditions. This site is currently the only public access between the main launch area at White Bridge and take

out at Beasley Flats and frequently sees riverside congestion and over-capacity parking conflicts. The RMS Board departed here to finish the business meetings and Judy, Dale, Richard, and others continued for another five miles to the Beasley Flats take-out point. The Verde Scenic Area of designated Wild and Scenic section begins shortly upstream of the take-out, and from here the Wild and Scenic Verde River continues for 40 miles through remote canyons and USFS wilderness.

On behalf of the RMS Board and Southwest Chapter, our thanks go out to Judy and Dale for sharing management expertise; to outfitter Richard for locals' perspectives; to the students for interest in the River Studies and Leadership Certificate Program; and, to all trip participants for their enthusiasm for rivers and support for the River Management Society. A special thanks to Paul Roelandt, a past Midwest Chapter President and NPS retiree for tracking us down and joining in the RMS fun. ♦

Randy, a Prescott College student, enjoys some Verde River time with RMS friends. Photos: Jack Henderson



Northwest

by Shannon Bassista

First off, this trip reinforced the fact that I'm proud to be an RMS member! The Northwest Chapter and the BLM Cottonwood Field Office (with the help of the Forest Service Main Salmon Team from the Slate Creek Ranger District) hosted a trip this fall on the Lower Salmon River from September 27-30. As we were preparing for this trip, weather reports were being checked by all. What started as a decent weather forecast, ended with expected rain showers and lows in the 30's. We were in for a potential cold, wet trip. But 14 brave people came prepared for cold boating and showed up at 8:00am on the ramp at Hammer Creek near White Bird, Idaho. After dispersing group gear and rigging boats, Joe O'Neill, the BLM Lower Salmon River Manager, briefed us on river trip safety. He also described the 7 boat ramp projects (totaling approximately \$600,000) that would be occurring along the Lower Salmon River starting this fall, with hopes of completion by 2021.

That first day was beautiful! It was a classic Idaho fall day with clear blue skies, sunshine, and temperatures in the high 70's. We took advantage of this nice weather and decided to boat 19 miles that day. We knew the wet weather was coming and decided to stay on the water longer, while it was nice. That day we stopped at over 30 camps for clean-up — our six boats playing leap frog from camp to camp to maximize time and person power. With the exception of small trash items and of course micro trash, I was pleasantly surprised that the camps looked pretty good. It shows how hard the Cottonwood River Rangers worked this summer. But we were already briefed by Ryan Turner, BLM Lead Lower Salmon River Ranger, that tire removal was in our near future. Towards the end of the day, we floated past the BLM-managed Cooper's Ferry site, which made world news recently due to the excavation of artifacts dating between 14,000-16,000 years old. Not only were these artifacts the earliest evidence of people in North and

Prehistoric to Present Day: The Lower Salmon River Remains Strikingly Similar

South America, they were also similar to northeastern Asian artifacts and traditions. This is significant because scientists can now show that the Cooper's Ferry site was occupied before the opening of the ice-free corridor through Canada, and supports the idea that initial human migrations into the Americas occurred via a Pacific coastal route. BLM is currently working on developing interpretive signs that will be posted on site for the visiting public.

The next morning we awoke to rain, which was no surprise. But to our delight, the rain stopped long enough for us to take our tents down and pack up our personal belongings. This actually happened each day and night that rain was present. We were on a tire collection mission that day, with our eyes set on a large tractor tire that Ryan had already been sawing apart and digging out during his last trip down the river. We finished that task and removed the remaining tire. It was chilly and wet,

but stopping at camps for potential clean-up kept us warm. We also collected drift wood to burn at night to keep us warm while we ate and mingled around the fire. Each night we had fabulous dinners and large fires that helped dry gear out and drew us in for great conversation. It's always fun to check out other boaters' gear, observe how they set up camp, and make note of things you would like to purchase. My gear award goes to the Pop Up Fire Pit, which packs up to the size of a small camp chair, is extremely light, and due to its mesh bottom, reduces ash to fine particles.

On our last full river day, we continued to clean camps and by lunch, acquired the side of a portable toilet building (which was thankfully cleaned by the river for who knows how long). Kyle Caldwell, the BLM River Ranger who found the siding, now had a mountain of garbage in the front of his boat (luckily

Trash hauled out by trip participants. Photo: Lisa Byers



Taking in a magnificent view of the Lower Salmon River canyon. Photo: Cannon Colegrove



he didn't have to carry a passenger). We were able to stop at Eagle Creek, a BLM-managed site that provides river access adjacent to a primitive road. BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Rebecca Urbanczyk and Assistant Field Manager Kymm Gresset briefed us on a future road and bridge improvement project, totaling \$635,000 that would not only improve public access, but would also improve natural resource conditions by alleviating the poor surface drainage characteristics of the road. The BLM has an exclusive easement for Eagle Creek to provide year-round public access to Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Craig Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, and the Lower Salmon Special Recreation Management Area.

As we set the rain tarp up that last night and made dinner, we reflected

on how great of a time we just had and discussed our clean-up accomplishments (i.e., 500+ pounds of garbage equating to 7 plus tires, tire rims, plastic siding, metal pieces, and numerous types of paper garbage and micro trash). We didn't want to go to bed too early but knew that we had to wake up for a 7:00am breakfast and a 20-mile motor out once we hit the Snake River the next morning.

Cleaning up camp that final morning was a breeze and we had the boat rigging down to a science. We rowed out to the Snake and tied our boats together, forming small barges with a motor in the back of each formation. All of us dressed in warm clothes that morning and tucked in for a 3-hour motor out in breezy, partially sunny conditions. As we motored out, we spotted three different herds of Big Horn Sheep on both the Oregon and Idaho sides

of the Snake River. Ryan also pointed to a large, flat area on river right called Cougar Bar. This area was identified as being the location of a Native American village along the Snake River 150 years ago. Just observing the area, I could understand why they would choose to live in that location and imagined the amazing Salmon runs that once occurred. It didn't rain on us the rest of the day, and we were definitely thankful for a take-out that wasn't completely soggy.

Thanks again to the RMS Northwest Chapter and the BLM Cottonwood Field Office for hosting such a fun, informative, and rewarding river trip (which generated \$300 that was donated to the Northwest Chapter!). Cheers to old and new friends made on this trip — I'm very excited to hear what the Northwest Chapter has in store for us next! ♦

Front row: Rebecca Urbanczyk, Ryan Turner. Middle row: Colin Maas, Lisa Byers, Shannon Bassista, Judi Zuckart, Cannon Colegrove
Back row: Kyle Caldwell, Robin Fehlau, Joe O'Neill, Frank Jenks, Loren Cognetti, Martin Hudson. Photo: Kymm Gresset, newest RMS trip member!



Welcome! New RMS Members

Associate

Robert Hooton
Retired, Watershed District Manager
Bend OR

Nicolas Miller, Fluvial Geomorphologist
Field Geology Services
Charlemont MA

Joni Randall, River Ranger
Bureau of Land Management
El Dorado Hills CA

Mickey Houston, Flagstaff AZ

Robert Henderson, Teton Village WY

Zane Ruddy, Fisheries Biologist
Bureau of Land Management
Arcata CA

Joseph Underhill, Professor
Augsburg University
Minneapolis MN

Ralph Hambrick, Professor Emeritus
Richmond VA

Colleen McNally-Murphy
Associate National Director
Hydropower Reform Coalition
Washington DC

Nicolas Miller, Fluvial Geomorphologist
Field Geology Services, Phillips ME

Organization

Mike Eberle, Water Rights/Uses Manager
USDA Forest Service - WWSR
Washington DC

Brian Byrd, Professor
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee NC

James Parham, Founder
Trutta Environmental Solutions
Hendersonville TN

Timothy Biddle, Director of Marketing
and Business Development
Trutta Environmental Solutions
Alexandria VA

Brett Connell, Director of Sales
Trutta Environmental Solutions
Panama City FL

Dane Shuman
Trutta Environmental Solutions
Grand Isle NE

Justin Doyle
Community Conservation Manager
James River Association, Richmond VA

Daniel Jones
Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of
Commerce & Visitor's Center
Hopewell VA

Loren Cognetti, River Ranger
US Forest Service, New Meadows ID

Professional

David Brown, Consultant, Knoxville TN

Paul Roelandt, Cedar City UT

Matthew Young, Forest Assistant Fire
Management Officer - Fuels
Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton MT

Kymm Gresset, Assistant Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood ID

Danielle Boulais
WSR/Wilderness Coordinator
US Forest Service
Sedona AZ

Ivan Bartha, Owner
One Planet Adventures
Finlayson MN

Nicholas Minor
Forestry Technician
USDA Forest Service
Redmond OR

Jessica Steelman
Coastal Planner
A-NPDC, Accomac VA

Michael Crane
Burlington VT

Tracie Sales
Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager
NH Dept of Environmental Services
Concord NH

Tom Bassista
Natural Resource Program Manager
Boise ID

Eli Smith, Land Stewardship Coordinator
AmeriCorps (TerraCorps)
Belchertown MA

Student

Celida Moran
Western Washington University
Bellingham WA

Suzanna Doak
University of Washington
Seattle WA

Kristen Bretz
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg VA

Keegan Donovan
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff AZ



(*Richmond*, continued from page 1)

A **Visual Resource Workshop** similar to that held at the Boise Symposium in 2016 will be offered, including a field workshop day. As in Boise, the first day and field session are “mandatory” and sessions on Thursday and Friday are optional. Several presentations will offer continuing education credits including those credits offered by American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) courtesy of the Virginia Chapter. Credits for the American Planning Association (APA) and National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) will also be offered for select sessions.

In addition, this year’s symposium partially coincides with a **National Science Foundation Research Coordination Workshop** developed by faculty from RMS River Studies and Leadership Certificate partner universities focused on furthering experiential education about river systems in universities across the country. Academics and river professionals are invited to engage around this topic in a special session planned during the afternoon of the first day, Tuesday, May 12th. (For more information, please see the article in the recent Fall RMS Journal about this project and joint session.)

Speakers will represent state, federal and local agencies, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, consultants and private businesses involved with rivers and river management. Several field sessions (see article in Fall journal) will be on or adjacent to the James River. There will also be an all-day **GIS/Drone mapping course** on Wednesday. The Tuesday evening opening reception and poster session will feature over 20 posters on subjects from across the country. Many of the poster presenters are students in the River Studies and Leadership program.

A draft agenda is posted on the [RMS website](#).

VCU graduate student Katie Schmidt is organizing a number of activities for students including a **pre-symposium river trip for students** and a special reception Monday evening before the symposium starts. One on one mentoring opportunities will be available to students and other symposium participants throughout the week.

Program highlights are presented below:

Tuesday sessions include an opening plenary focusing on the Anacostia watershed in and around Washington, DC. Concurrent sessions include Visual Resource Workshop, Partnerships and Community Building, Management Technology Tools, and Urban Rivers – Urban Renewal, Infrastructure, Issues and Economics. Speakers will showcase projects from the Boise River in Idaho, to the Red River in Kentucky to the James River which flows through the heart of Richmond. VCU Professor and symposium co-chair, Dr. James Vonesh and faculty from RMS RSLC schools will lead a session entitled *Building a framework for the River-based ImmersiVe Education & Research (RIVER) Field Studies Network*, followed by a related session focused on linking academics and practitioners to train tomorrow’s river professionals. The Awards Luncheon will be held Tuesday and will recognize the 2019 RMS awardees. The luncheon speaker is Dr. James Thorp from Kansas (see box).

Wednesday includes field sessions followed by a movie night open to the general public, sponsored by the VCU students enrolled in the River Studies and Leadership Certificate Program. Field sessions, detailed in the Fall 2019 RMS Journal, include half-day trips: rafting on the downtown James, James River Restoration trip, Virginia Capital Trail Bike Ride and a walking tour along the James where ambitious riverside redevelopment planning is underway. All day workshops include: GIS/Drone mapping course, James River Bateau trip, Visual Resources Workshop and Universal Access/Water Trail Workshop. The *Regional Renewals & Waterfronts* field trip tied to the Urban Renewal track will also be held on Wednesday.

Thursday’s concurrent sessions include the following tracks: Visual Resource Management, Mountain and Rural Rivers – Management Issues and Science, Management Technology Tools, Partnerships and Community-Building, Policy and Practice – State and Federal River Management Legislation, Policies and Systems, Water and River Corridor Trails. The program on Thursday will end with a plenary session presented by Dr. Richard Smardon.

State River Managers will gather for lunch at the conference hotel on Thursday. Midwest Chapter member Molly McGregor is organizing the lunch. There will be a dinner and live auction fund raiser at Triple Crossing Brewing.



James H. Thorp

Dr. James (Jim) Thorp is a Senior Scientist in the Kansas Biological Survey and Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. Before arriving at KU in 2001, Jim was a Dean of Science at Clarkson University, Department Chair at the University of Louisville, Field Station Director at Fordham University, visiting professor at Cornell, and research scientist at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. His Masters and Ph.D. were earned through North Carolina State for research in marine and freshwater ecology. Jim is primarily known for fundamental and applied research in river ecology, but he has also worked in ephemeral wetlands, alluvial swamps, and reservoirs using funding primarily from NSF and EPA. Although perhaps best known for research in community ecology (especially food webs), his published studies have extended from behavioral to macrosystem research. He is currently funded by NSF for two macrosystem projects, one on ecological and genetic communication among playa communities in the U.S. Great Plains and the other on the ecology of temperate steppe rivers in the USA and Mongolia. Jim has authored and edited 10 books on aquatic ecology and freshwater invertebrates from around the world and has another four in development.

Friday sessions include Visual Resources Workshop, Mountain and Rural Rivers – Management Issues and Science, Management Technology Tools, Policy and Practice – State and Federal River Management Legislation, Policies and Systems. In addition, Dr. Denielle Perry from Northern Arizona University will lead a workshop exploring the effects of climate change on Wild and Scenic River protection regarding the framing of outstandingly remarkable values and management, in regards to consideration for management plan development and implementation. The symposium will formally end at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.

The University is offering lodging over the weekend for those who might wish to stay and attend the **Riverrock Festival** or visit other local attractions. Dominion Energy Riverrock is the Nation’s premier outdoor lifestyle festival, bringing athletes,

spectators, musicians, and even dogs to Brown’s Island for a three-day festival against the backdrop of downtown Richmond’s urban riverfront. For more information on [Riverrock](#) visit [www.riverrockrva.com/](#).

We will be providing the Guidebook app to aid you in planning, tracking and taking notes on the sessions you attend while learning and building your nationwide river and watershed management networks. By bringing your ideas, struggles and issues to the symposium, you are likely to find a solution and save your program time and money from reinventing wheels. In addition, locating a resource to complete required NEPA studies/surveys/monitoring or finding a good candidate to fill workplace gaps through pathways and internships is likely.♦

Traditional James River bateau. Photo: VCU Outdoor Program





The Last Stand of a River Legend

In a new documentary, *The Salad Days*, river runner and advocate Herm Hoops takes to the water one last time...

by Heather Hansmen — *Outside Online* (October 1, 2019). Reprinted with permission. Photos courtesy of Rig to Flip.

From the drone shot, you can't see the oxygen tank or the gray pallor on the rower's bearded face. All you can see is a raft slipping through the wave at the top of Three Fords Rapid in Utah's Desolation Canyon, an orange glow of fall light on the rocks. A barrel-chested man is rowing, and at the end of the run he doffs his hat, a ball cap with a faux toucan bill on it — the same one he's been wearing for

decades. When the shot closes in, you see the cannula and hear the buzz of the car battery powered concentrator that's keeping the oxygen flowing, keeping him alive on the river. It's river advocate, historian, hell-raiser, and guide Herm Hoops's last run down what he calls the "quicksilver ballet."

Hoops, who is 73, has spent most of his life fighting to protect the fragile

desert rivers of the Colorado Plateau — he was inducted into the River Runners Hall of Fame at the end of September for his work, which ranged from two decades of working for the National Park Service to a lifetime membership with the Colorado Plateau River Guides Association. His most impactful work has been in local and national advocacy and organizing, spreading the word

about energy development and hectoring federal agencies to protect wild places. In a forthcoming film, *The Salad Days*, from production company Rig to Flip, he's wrangling with his legacy of river protection and the arc of his life on the river, when he knows he's staring down the end. "I'm involved in the process of dying," he says in the film, looking out across the canyons. "I'll miss certain things."

Two years ago, director Cody Perry was returning some borrowed gear to Hoops — whose garage is a museum to the history of inflatable boats and whose house is packed with the detritus of river life — when Hoops mentioned that he'd been diagnosed with cancer. Perry, who has been making films about river conservation since 2013, started thinking about how to tell a story of the myriad ways Hoops had touched river protection, from working as a park ranger to acting as an unofficial boating-industry historian to actively fighting oil and gas development in the Colorado River corridor. Since the sixties, when Hoops started running rivers (and pioneering plenty of them), the rivers he loves have drastically changed, and his life has tracked a curve of guarding those places, from recreational explorer to ardent advocate.

"Herm is a fixture in the boating community — he's a fiery character and advocate, a weirdo — and I knew there was a story there, but he's an exceedingly difficult interview, because he's got so many cross threads," says Perry.

So to line out all the threads, they got on the river for one last trip: Hoops's 123rd through that canyon. He hadn't been on the river in a while, because the cancer tied him to oxygen tanks and cut his strength. But he rigged a couple of car batteries to an oxygen compressor, and stuck five bottles in his boat, and hoped he'd make it through the canyon. "It was crazy. We had evac plans because we

could only guess how long the oxygen would last," Perry says.

Part of the story is the rhythm of being on the river and the rituals of each trip, like bacon and doughnuts for breakfast, and Hoops's wife, Val, in the bow, as she often had been in the past — Perry says she's the only thing that's more important to Hoops than water. Hoops rigged and rowed his boat himself: more than five decades of muscle memory and good-luck charms shook out for one last



run. He carried the detritus of a life on the river.

"He's reckoning with his attachments to this universe," Perry says. "There's a lot of gravity in that." He wanted to show Hoops's long, sometimes controversial history of fiercely protecting rivers in the face of oil and gas production and changing land use, but he also wanted to show the ways the river shaped his life.

Hoops says he wants those places to be protected even after he's gone, so people can have that same sense of discovery he had. He's worried that the current administration is rolling back and neglecting so many of the protections he and his generation fought to put in place. But he's not just salty about it. He knows that it takes a lot to care about a place and fight the inertia of human use.

I got to spend some time with Hoops a few summers ago while I was doing research about a book on the Green River, one of those wild Colorado Plateau waterways he loves. He texted me a hand-drawn map to his house, and when I rolled in, he poured me coffee and regaled

me with stories about costume parties in untracked canyons with Val and being threatened for staring down the BLM at county meetings devoted to opening up land leases. He sent me off with a 44-page PDF of his favorite places in the section of river I was going to run next, a personal index of what seemed like the secrets to every little slot canyon, the pictographs and the pint-size camping beaches. But Hoops said it wasn't even close to everything. He wouldn't spill the best

secrets he's learned down in the canyon, because he thinks they're better if you find them yourself.

After Hoops and I talked, I made a note to myself that I still have on my desk. "Be like Herm," it reads. "Warm and gregarious but strong in your convictions."

The Salad Days is about the way those convictions build over half a century and how they become cemented in place after thousands of miles on the river. It's a heartbreak of a love letter to both place and a way of life. Watching it, you can't help mourning the things we've lost already; there are so few untouched places left. In the movie, when he's grappling with a lifetime of learning exactly what we stand to lose, Hoops says he hopes that the story of his obsession with rivers can be an example for future conservationists to get out on the river, so they can see what they might stand to lose. "All you can do is hope you inspire someone else." ♦

The Salad Days:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5-gdNNVL9E>

Interpreting for Children

“All grown-ups were once children... but only a few of them remember it.”
– Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince

by Herm Hoops

A little over three years ago I was at the Split Mountain boat ramp in Dinosaur National Monument. It was early, so I walked up the nearby Desert Voices Nature Trail. On the way I met a family of four. The man was young, muscular and tan. I learned that he was an “oil rat,” as they are called, who worked in the oil field. As we were chatting, I asked him how he liked the trail, and he responded that he brought his children there to see “his sign” that was made when he was his children’s age.

In 1984, while at the NPS Regional Office, I worked on a wayside exhibit (“sign”) package for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument (now National Park) with the Harpers Ferry Center. Harpers Ferry Center, in West Virginia, has oversight to develop and produce all NPS signs. In the meeting I said that signs could be interactive; the Harpers Ferry people scoffed at the idea. The regional director permitted me a couple of weeks to prove my concept. I had the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area sign shop make a beautiful sign that read: “Wanted Clean Fill” “Call First” and listed a phone number for the superintendent (who was a close friend). I videoed the interactions between visitors discussing the sign. After getting over their initial criticism of the idea of filling in the canyon, they made comments like: “I wonder how much it would take to fill it?” and “Where did it all go?” The superintendent received dozens of phone calls! The regional director understood that my sign was a success, and by the time I moved to Dinosaur National Monument, I was basically given a free hand to develop signs, without Harpers Ferry Center oversight.

Signs are expensive, and should not be produced just because someone



wants to erect one without thought to the message they must convey and the behavior they seek to encourage or end. In excess, signs can be a blight upon the landscape. I always made a mock up and tested it with visitors to see that the sign did what we wanted it to, that it met measurable objectives.

The Red Rock Nature Trail was interpreted through an inaccurate, dull trail guide that needed to be changed and we wanted a name that reflected the resources along the trail. While we struggled with this dilemma we had developed a new “route”⁽¹⁾ nearby that was designed to help people find their way in the desert. Because the silence on the route was so overwhelming we gave it the name “Sound of Silence Hiking Route.” Two talented seasonal employees helped develop route objectives, location and guide book.

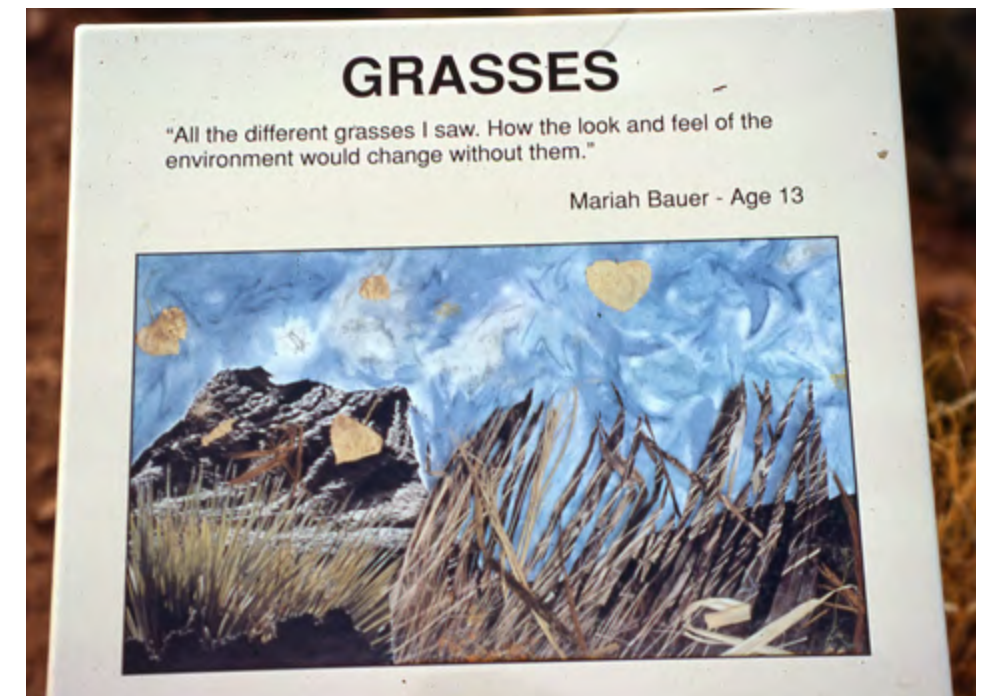
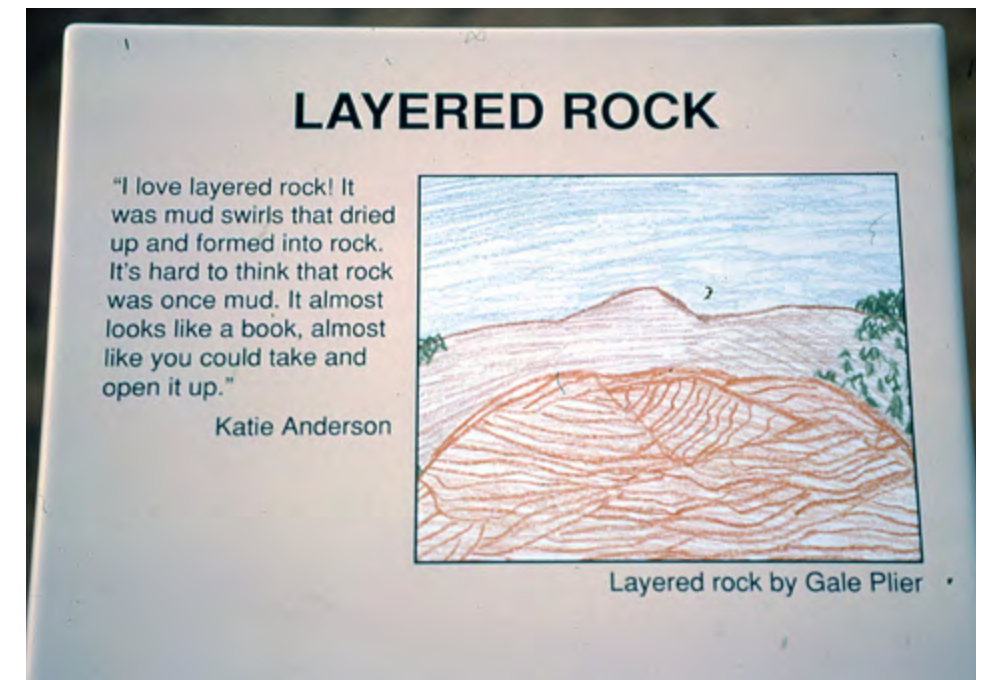
We remained stumped renaming the Red Rock Trail. During one of our

meetings, realizing that we needed new input I went to the public area of the Dinosaur Quarry exhibit area and announced: “Folks we are developing two trails and we would like anyone interested to help us. Please join us in the library where we are meeting.” Several visitors took me up on the offer, and within a short time we had a new name: Desert Voices Nature Trail. From there we went forward and developed a complete set of objectives and measurable goals for the trail.

Most of us recognize that interpreting our resources for children is different than interpreting for adults. “Interpretation addressed to children (say, up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.”⁽²⁾ However, most interpretation aimed at children is designed by adults with little input from their audience - children.

We know that people learn by doing, by participating. I received financial support from the nature association for producing signs, and for a small open structure we named The Kid’s Hut. A dedicated seasonal NPS interpretive staff ran the all-day, once a week program for local and visiting 4th, 5th, and 6th grade age children. The morning consisted of introduction and taking the children out on the Desert Voices Trail for an hour where they were given a clipboard, crayons and paper. The children were left on the trail separated from sight of others, to sit quietly ⁽³⁾ (an activity referred to as Seton Watching⁽⁴⁾). They were instructed draw something that attracted them and to write about it in the form of a haiku poem. Some followed instructions and some didn’t, but everyone wrote and drew something. Returning to The Kids Hut everyone discussed their writing, drawings and what learned about their experience. In the afternoon we shared water safety, the importance of natural water courses and how the dinosaur bones all wound up at place like the Dinosaur Quarry with the children. Then we put PFD’s on them gave them an inner tube and the group drifted for about a mile from Split Mountain to the lower Green River campground. The kids all wound up in eddies just like the dinosaur bones! At the end of the day, when their parents arrived, they received their Junior Ranger Badges. In my estimation it was more valuable way for the children to earn the Junior Ranger Badge than having them answer a quiz or to race around to find or visit several places in the Monument.

Finally, this is how we did designed the signs with the children’s writings and drawings. I developed a committee of several 4th, 5th, and 6th grade from a local school, a teacher and myself. We selected the best drawings and writings from those we’d received. A few very good writings or drawings were not finalized right away so sometimes we had to wait a few years to match a description with a drawing from a different child. Some great drawings were not usable, like one from a child who wrote a beautiful poem. His/her drawing was too light, and when I contacted the parent and asked to have the



student re draw it a little darker received a drawing obviously completed by an adult. We tried.

The signs were produced by Enamel-Tech and were made of enamel baked on steel, with 600 dots per inch for graphics and the signs are virtually indestructible. They are also very expensive, Those signs, many installed before 1990 still very look good.⁽⁵⁾

Well done signs can begin to change people’s values. In a community obsessed by oil and gas extraction, the oil worker I

met took the time and effort to bring his children to see the nature sign he made. I am sure his kids will always remember discovering his work and the trip to see it. Maybe they were inspired to try what moved them on and outdoor excursion, and will bring their kids to see Grandpa’s work, as well. If there were ever a tool to change attitudes, we have to change ours first. Involve “non-professionals” to develop your signs. Develop basic themes and measurable objectives and test them when you propose a sign.

(continued)

William & Mary Ann Lewis
15493 E. Milam Drive
Aurora, CO 80013

Dear Director:

We are writing this letter to register our appreciation/approval for, and to commend the author of, the information signs found along the hiking trail which begins and ends near the boat ramp west of the quarry.

The signs were, in our opinion, well done and brought to light the root causes of deterioration facing our national parks & monuments. The sign's author is obviously "brave" and willing to state his/her beliefs and knowledge. What a refreshing change from the bland, politically correct (for the local & national factions opposing so many park initiatives) signs we've witnessed along so many trails.

We were however very disappointed with the comments of one of your staff members at the quarry when we asked for directions to nearby trails. He stated that there was a nice trail (the one we've mentioned above) but that it was lined by "wierd" signs done by his boss. We had no idea what he meant by "wierd" but our curiosity was piqued. After seeing the signs we surmised he meant that the signs were contrary in belief to his and those of the mainstream detractors of possible changes to the way the monument is managed.

Anyway, we enjoyed immensely our time in the monument (our fourth visit over the last 15, or so, years). It's a fabulous place filled with beauty.

Thanks for your time and consideration of this matter.
W & M Lewis

Footnotes

- (1) Unlike a trail, a route with general directions does not require the oversight of many reviews that takes years to receive approval. Several signs and a leaflet dispenser were placed at the beginning of the route. The purpose of the route was for visitors to experience overwhelming silence, explore the desert with minimal impact, hike safely, and find their own way.
- (2) Freeman Tilden; Interpreting Our Heritage.
- (3) Steve Van Matre; Acclimatization (1972); Acclimatizing (1974).
- (4) Seton watching, named for naturalist and author Ernest Thompson Seton, is an activity where participants sit singly and quietly, without trinkets to distract them, to observe and absorb their surroundings. They write their feelings or observations in the form of a poem and later share their discoveries and observations.
- (5) The "children's" signs were done with a tan background color, the "adult" signs were done in a gray background. Often kids would run ahead of their parents to see the next children's sign. ♦



"River Outlaw" by Alison Fullerton. Encaustic (beeswax+resin). 16x16.

As long as the rivers flow, Herm Hoops will give them a voice, bending the rules if he needs to, in the name of conservation. A retired Park Ranger, educator, river runner and a bit of an outlaw, Hoops has devoted his life to environmental stewardship, and is being honored by the River Runners Hall of Fame. Hoops lives in Utah, but casts a wide net sending out proposed bills, letters, and opinions – always giving rivers their voice. To learn more about the artist: www.AlisonFullertonArt.com

Dinosaur

National Monument
Colorado/Utah



P.O. Box 210
Dinosaur, Colorado 81610

Visitor Comment

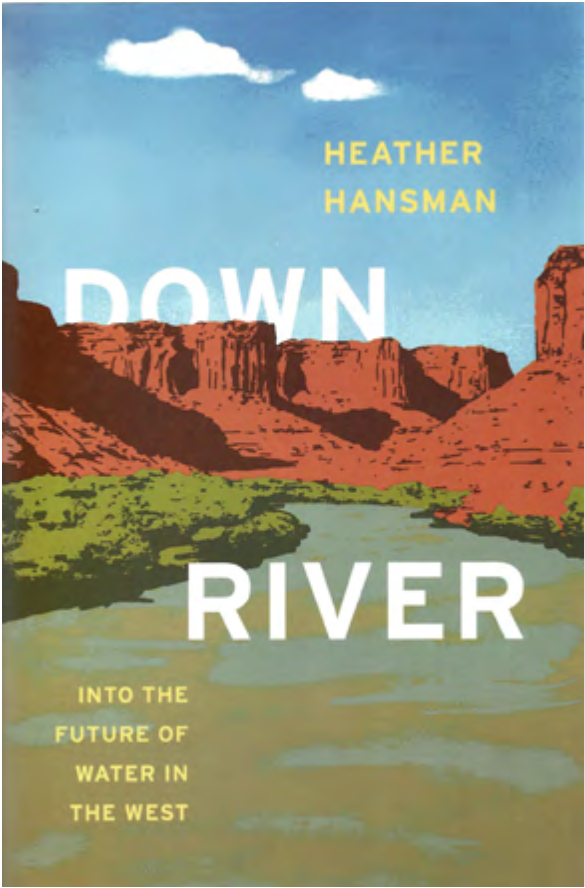
Date 9/20/94

Dear Superintendent:

I wish to make the following comments about services and/or conditions observed in Dinosaur National Monument during my recent visit:

A compliment:

The trail loop off of Split Rock campground was excellent. I applaud your efforts to "make people think." The kids' part was also great to see, even for an adult! APPLAUSE.



Downriver - Into the Future of Water in the West

By Heather Hansman, 2019
ISBN-13:987-0-226-43267-0 (cloth);
ISBN-13: 978-0-226-43270-0 (e-book)

Review by Herm Hoops

Heather Hansman weaves her 700-mile trip down the Green River with a panoply of water issues like a esthetical Navajo rug. Her writing style is colorful, descriptive, pleasant and very readable. Heather’s interaction with the people she meets along the way helps focus and reinforce her storyline. For those unfamiliar with the rules and attitudes about water in the West, Heather sugars them off into understandable portions. This is one of the very few books that address the effects of climate change on the rivers of the Colorado Plateau. A book of this scope is bound to have errors or omissions. For example, she overlooks one important group in her writing: The doctrine of the Latter-Day Saints and their death-grip impact on historic and future water issues.

The book covers everything from the Colorado River Compact, Central Utah Project and many other laws, regulations, concerns and agreements. It is a look into culture and how culture affects people’s views on the limited water. The book is a great introduction to Western water rights for novices who are just beginning to understand water issues in the arid West and it is a great refresher to the issues of water on the Colorado Plateau. It ponders throughout — what do we want the future of our water to be?

Downriver – Corrections & Addendum

by Herm Hoops

I believe that Heather will make these changes and corrections in the E-version and if there is a second printing of the soft cover book. They are presented here for your consideration if you read the book.

Page 5: Ranchers grind against cities, but they sell their water rights to the cities for a handsome price; it is perhaps their most valuable commodity they have. Although that is covered later in the book (page 54) it should be alluded to here. Sale of water to urban areas and industries complicates things, including that fewer people on the land will cause small towns to wither and fold.

Page 9 pp#2: “and the creep of apathy started to felt.” The word should be “feel.”

Page 25 pp#3: The biggest gas field, the Jonah Field has a major negative impact on pronghorn migration and demise of sage grouse as it is a big factor in the fragmentation of grouse habitat.

Page 25 pp#4: The comment “Ranchers argue that irrigation smooths out the seasonal variations...” It is incorrect, and it should be countered by noting that the rivers of arid land have

evolved over eons and that environment is dependent on seasonal fluctuations to maintain a robust and complete ecosystem, on which life, including ours depends. Although flow fluctuations are discussed later when you write about endangered fish, this issue is an important one that should be addressed in this paragraph for balance. I know you are presenting issues to let the reader decide, but while this paragraph captures the ‘benefit’ of agricultural use, it overlooks reality. Today the past of historic river flows and regimes is pretty clear.

Page 30, 144, 185: These days I do not recommend that people use river water for ANY food use, including coffee. Giardia entered the United States in the 1930s probably by some Basque’s dog that was brought over to attend, the then, large sheep herds. While expensive water filters will remove giardia, ceramic filters can crack and the less expensive ones do not filter that parasite. A reverse osmosis filter has a pore size of approximately 0.0001 micron. Reverse Osmosis Systems have a high, but not 100%, effectiveness

in removing protozoa (for example, Cryptosporidium, Giardia). Filters do not remove e-coli, and the rivers in Utah have very high e-coli counts/liter, likely from poor septic tanks and cattle run off. The San Juan is the worst, but Desolation Canyon is pretty high. In the high water of the early 1980s Vernal received permission to dump e-coli hot secondary treatment sewage into Ashley Creek, and thus the Green River. Filters do not remove the naphtha’s, petroleum and fracking compounds that find their way into the river by various means. A recent study shows that minute traces of medications are also beginning to show up in our rivers.

Page 34 bottom paragraph and elsewhere in the book (page 80): I have seen some pretty weird things at boat ramps like Loma and Westwater in the old days, but in my 50 some years of running rivers I have never once heard about a solo woman being stalked or harassed. People are curious, because it is uncommon to see a solo boater. One of the most impressive aspects about river running, from my

perspective, is how females, people of color, or origin are judged by their skills and their attitudes by other river runners. You are more likely to be at risk with a group of rafters (see Grand Canyon female harassment and workplace dysfunction).

Page 41: Regarding the mitigation for birds, primarily waterfowl, it is interesting that care was taken to mitigate for waterfowl populations, while other wildlife species were not considered! Hunting had (has) a great lobby and politicians listen to them. As an aside, while talking with a friend who was a water judge in Montana, I discovered that water rights we had purchased for Lake Mason NWR were being challenged for “non-use” by a junior water user; the case was before him as the water judge. It upset me, and that night I couldn’t sleep. We had spent a lot of time studying and securing the right, to enhance habitat primarily for curlews and it cost a lot of money. In the morning over coffee I asked him: “If the water right for LMNWR was used to grow grass for beef cattle would it be preserved?” He answered surely. Then I asked: “If the water was used to grow feed and habitat for ducks and geese that require a hunting stamp in order to hunt them for meat, would the right be preserved?” The judge told me that he could not talk about it more, and that I should call the U.S. Attorney in Denver, which I did, and the rights were saved.

Page 46: While Las Vegas is saving water, they are also trying to get additional, trans-basin water from a river in Utah. So much for saving water, when it comes to permitting more growth. Unlimited growth for the sake of growth is the principle of the cancer cell!

Page 97: Should be pesticide rotenone. FYI, they put in too much and it killed all of the fish well down into Lodore Canyon; to my knowledge it did not kill fish beyond Rippling Brook — did you mean 43 miles instead of 430? This event lives on today on the tongues of residents, and they use it to decry the whole native fish recovery regime: “They killed them and now they want to recover them?”

Page 99-101: The locals ate Pikeminnow (Squawfish) for a long time and they were given the local name of white salmon (think about that!). Historic Pikeminnow photos show some in excess of four feet long and in excess of 10 pounds. Why is that important? An important aspect of the recovery of

the Pikeminnow is that they are fighting fish. When they take a line they will fight ferociously. If the recovery works, imagine how a sport fishing regime would take to that? It would bring in enormous amounts of money for the local economy. There is a big downside to using ‘raised’ fish from a hatchery to stock the populations. Many fish biologists including the crew in the USFWS in Vernal fear if hatchery-raised fish works well, recovery antagonists will say that the fish can just continually be restocked every year, and there is no more need to consider them endangered.

Page 102-103: People in the Uintah Basin blame excess regulation as the reason why the oil busts occur, but a bigger part of the oil bust in the area is related to the very high paraffin (wax) level in the oil. It is way more expensive to refine than oil from Texas and other places. A few years ago, the Shell refinery in Salt Lake City announced they would no longer refine waxy crude, leaving only one refinery in Salt Lake to accept the oil.

Page 114: Wild River status is not as protective as protections like the Wilderness Act, National Natural Area, or National Park/Monument. If an intrusion on property along a Wild River occurs (mining, oil, etc.), the rating easily drops to Scenic or Recreational River.

Page 132-133: It was not just David Brower, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, who promoted national opposition to the Echo Park Dam. Howard Zahniser of The Wilderness Society also went on trips in Dinosaur and was as important as Brower in fighting the Dam. The question was not JUST water storage. The question was “Who has the right to build something in a National Park or Monument?” David Brower and Howard Zahniser both led the unprecedented nationwide campaign to preserve the free-flowing rivers and scenic canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers. Their main argument was that if a national monument was not safe from development, how could any wildland be kept intact?

Page 136: Dinosaur NM did not lose its right nor is it barred for filing on its water rights. When Dinosaur filed to the Colorado Water Court, their claim was rejected based on the original 80-acre Monument. Until this suit, agencies had very few water specialists on their staffs because up to that time federal reserved rights were considered under federal primacy over the land and water

because the federal government owned all of the land and water before the territories and states were established. Executive order of September 8, 1933, created Water Reserves No. 107 and No. 152 for the Monument. Dinosaur appealed to the District Court. The court determined that the lower court had ignored Dinosaur’s 1938 expansion and remanded the case back to the lower court for reconsideration. At the time James Watt was Secretary of Interior and Edwin Meese was Attorney General, and they decided not to follow up on the case. Over the years the head of NPS WASO Water Resources became so disappointed that no superintendent or regional director had the guts to pursue the case, and he retired. The case is still an open question.

Page 138: George Burnett (I love Drilling) is gone and his business closed. He leaves a trail of “bankrupt” businesses from Montana to Salt Lake City to Vernal. At best he is a canard, at worst an opportunist freeloader. He hired a kid to work part time and (sometimes!) payed him less than minimum wage. He even convinced the kid, using his car and gas, to drive him to Salt Lake for free.

Flooded fields — if one builds or farms in a flood plain, what might they expect? Those people who complain usually do not like the federal government, but they are first in line when the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has money to give out!

Page 144: Ed Abbey would have a pearl handled .45 (not .22 - that is a child’s gun!) at his side, and he would likely slap it down on the lectern at a public meeting like I spoke at and say: “Now that I’ve got your attention....”

Page 144: I first began running rivers in the west in 1966, not the Yampa River, which I first ran after I quit my teaching job in 1973. I began to focus solely on the Colorado Plateau in the late 1970s.

Page 145: To put this quote in context, I was on the phone with my friend David Brower... it was my last conversation with him not long before he passed away. We were talking about his campaign to remove Glen Canyon Dam. At the time, I was working bending metal and installing roofing. When I came home I was beat, and just wanted to pop a drink and lie on the couch. I said, “David, if you can’t inspire me in this condition, how the hell do you plan to inspire those with no dog in the fight?” I reminded him that the first

organization to go on record opposing the Echo Park Dam was the Carbon County Development Club because David convinced them that hydropower was a threat to coal. This would be a holy war; you need to get those folks behind you.

Page 148 Oil Shale and Tar Sands: In October 2014 (“Profiles in Energy” Vernal Express, page 25) Mike McKee, Uintah County Commissioner said: “People talk of boom or bust. We are beyond this because of our energy resources. Our economy has grown to the point where we are stable.” Ha, where are we now?!! Oil shale has the same energy density as a baked potato. Hope springs eternal in the minds of speculators. There is over \$100 million dollars (1990 estimate) worth of clean up, yet unfunded and yet undone, to fix damage from the 1920’s and 1980’s oil shale binges. Let the companies involved and interested in oil shale replace the divots and clean up their past messes, then we can talk about developing more. These companies also have tens of thousands of acres of oil shale in fee title - let them prove their technology on their own resources before we lease public lands for experimental, potentially damaging activity. In addition, there are over 350 unreclaimed, uncapped oil and gas wells in Uintah and Duchesne Counties leaking methane and fouling the land and water. Tar sand has gone belly up more times than I have fingers to count and now the county wants to spend millions of public money that is supposed to mitigate the effects of oil and gas projects on the community (water lines, sewage, sidewalks, etc.) to study bringing a rail line into the Uintah Basin!

Page 179: Last year the Ute Tribe closed all land adjacent to the Green River in Desolation/Gray Canyons.... No Permits, No Entry. They did this because they objected to Congressman Bishop’s Land Plan that would have removed nearly a million acres of oil and gas reserve from the Reservation. In addition, the Tribe contends that river runners are stealing wire and copper pipe from McPherson ranch (really?), desecrating archeological sites, gathering elk horns and such. My observations from nearly 50 years in Desolation is that it is Tribal members who are doing those things, except desecrating sites. Currently there is a faction of the Tribe that claims they have sovereignty over all lands of the original Reservation - all lands north of Coal Creek

to the Wyoming border - even though US Court decisions state clearly that once land is removed from the Reservation, it can only be re-included by act of Congress.

Page 181: A small segment of the Green River recently received Wild, Scenic and Recreational status. With the President’s signature in early March, 621 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers have been established through the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. With strong bipartisan support, this legislation passed the House by a vote of 363-62 on February 26th. It passed the Senate by a vote of 92-8 on February 12th. In Emery County, Utah, Wild and Scenic designation includes 63 miles of the Green River, including Labyrinth Canyon and the Green River below the boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, south to Swasey’s Boat Ramp. The Act also designates the Green River Wilderness adjacent to the west of the river from above Range Creek.

Page 191: Green River is becoming the new Moab — cheap land, in the right place, and entrepreneurs are eating it up. The same is happening to Bluff, Monticello and Blanding!

Page 193: Brower did not do the “scrap-paper calculations” that determined that the Bureau’s evaporation was incorrect; it was Richard Bradley, a Cornell University professor, who did the calculations. Ken or Barb Brower would have given you a perspective on their dad and Echo Park as well as Glen Canyon.

Page 196: I am misquoted. Commercial customers no longer prefer doing multi-day river trips; now they prefer day trips and combined with horse or ATV riding of similar adventures. The younger people doing private trips have more interest in getting Go Pro pictures than they are about reading and understanding threats to the river and they fail to adequately express their voices to protect rivers and canyons. Trips are so regulated that there is little time to stop and explore new places — the trips are now run like a bus schedule!

Somehow you overlooked the influence and control of politics in Utah by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Back in the day of Floyd Dominy and the great dams on the Colorado River System, Church president Ezra Taft Benson called his male saints to apply for jobs in the Bureau of Reclamation where they would have great impact on

managing the waters of Utah. When the President of The Church speaks, the loyal followers jump to it because he gets his info directly from God.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Lesson 36: ‘The Desert Shall Rejoice, and Blossom as the Rose’ (Doctrine and Covenants and Church History: Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual (1999), 208–12). LDS apostle Russell M. Nelson’s (Church’s President) comment regarding Isaiah 35 during a talk in 1997 at Church-owned Brigham Young University: “The [Mormon] pioneers turned their wilderness into a fruitful field and made the desert blossom as a rose — precisely as prophesied by Isaiah centuries before — “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing. ... for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. ...” (Isa. 35:1–2, 6–7.)

An article appeared online a while back that took a critical look at water usage in the state of Utah. Journalist Nathalie Baptiste wrote, “Utah is one of the driest states in the country, but you couldn’t tell by how much water its residents are using. The average American uses between 80 and 100 gallons a day. In Utah, each individual consumes approximately 248 gallons of water a day. “Are they taking exceptionally long showers? Even that would not explain the excessive use of water, which is, in fact, the result of an unusual combination of biblical prophecy and Utah history.” (“God Said to Make the Desert Bloom, and Mormons Are Using Biblical Amounts of Water to Do It,” Mother Jones, May 9, 2018)

“There is no shortage of water in the desert but exactly the right amount, a perfect ratio of water to rock, water to sand, insuring that wide free open, generous spacing among plants and animals, homes and towns and cities, which makes the arid West so different from any other part of the nation. There is no lack of water here unless you try to establish a city where no city should be.” (Edward Abby) ♦

Down Deso

by Bridgette Meinhold

Review by Herm Hoops

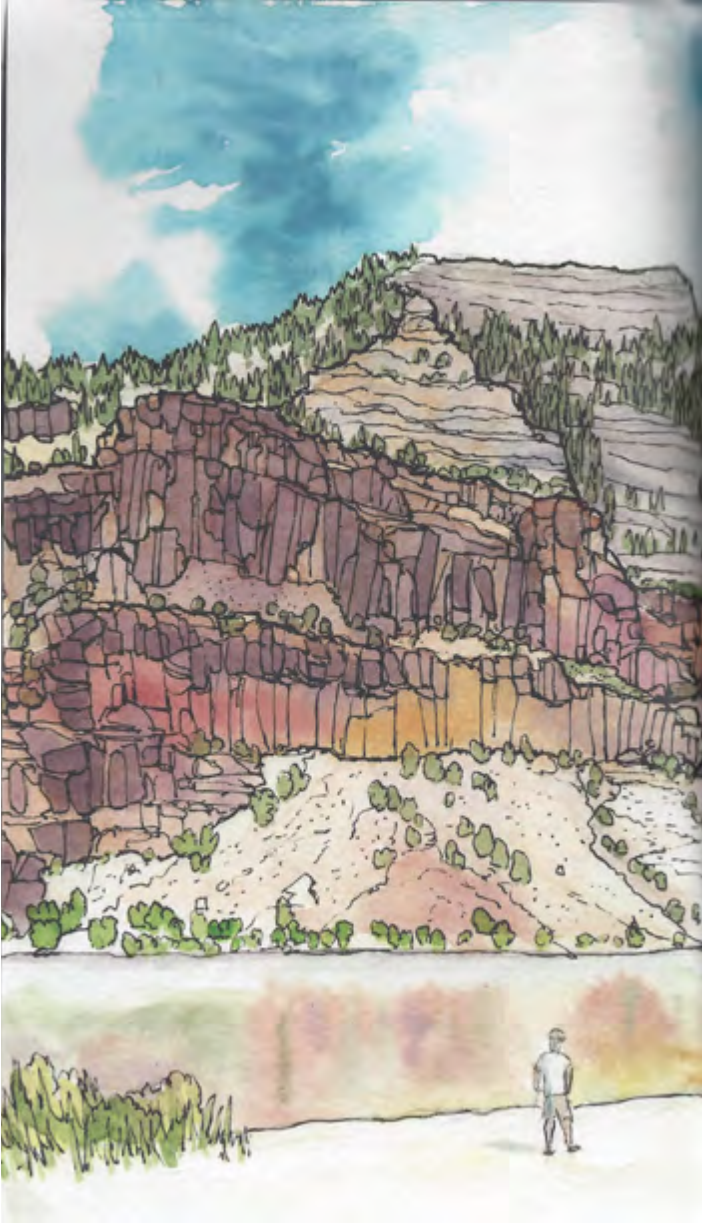
Down Deso was written by a neophyte river runner on her first trip down Desolation and Gray Canyons as a volunteer on a BLM River Patrol. The book has a very catchy cover of silver letters on black. It is basically a journal written in longhand. The penmanship is crisp, although slightly difficult to read in a few places. It includes what appears to be water color art and line drawings that document scenes of the trip. Bridgette’s geology art is crisp, precise and captures the scene. Whether it represents the qualities of American art (all-discovering light, scene uncapturable and its wildness expands beyond the canvas and contains juxtaposing angles) I leave to the reader.

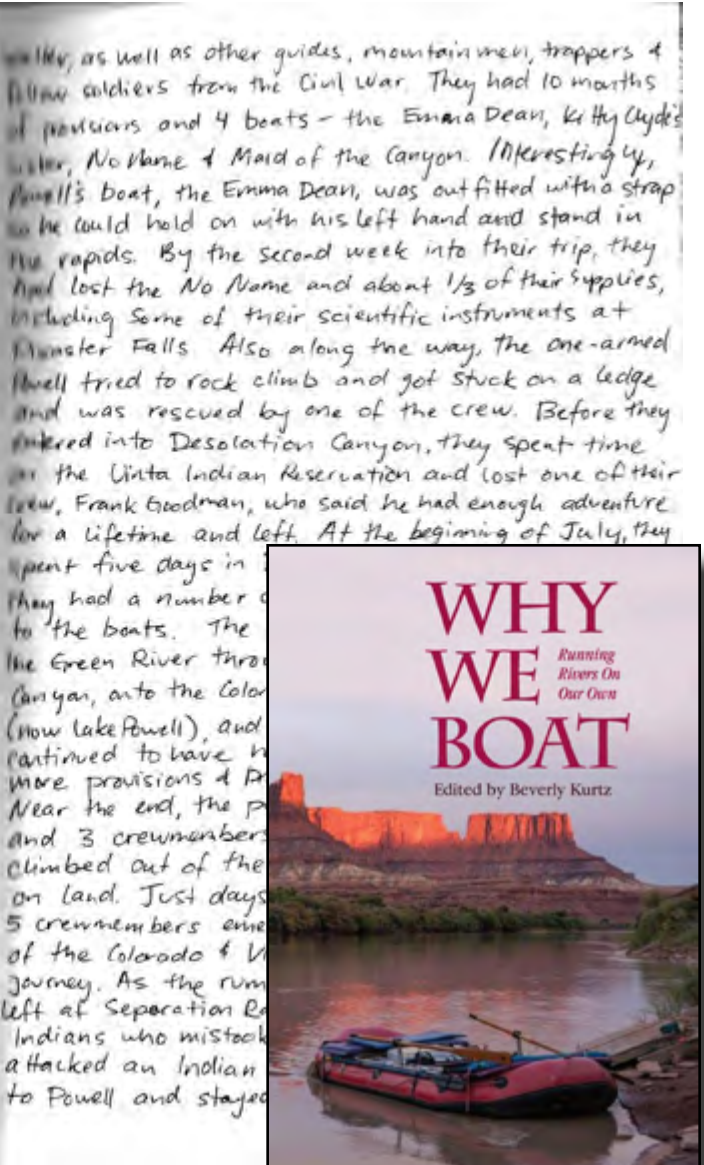
It is a hard book to evaluate. “When there’s nothing but wildness around you and only stars or a setting sun giving light, it’s very easy to believe in yourself.” (Amanda Hedden - South African Passage). Being on a wilderness river can provide the medium for self-evaluation, deep thought and change in one’s direction. It does not always happen, because one has to open and clear their mind and thoughts to identify the journey on a new and potentially difficult road. That is what I took from this book. Bridgette seems to be struggling with the current chapter in her life - writing a blog full time and painting part time. The book is interspersed with the mental battles she privately encounters on the river. Captured by the stars, stark beauty of the canyon and freedom of the place, Bridgette determines that a ship in port goes nowhere, and she is determined to follow her dream of painting.

There are a number of errors or misstatements about the history, geology and other areas that one might expect from the writings of a new experience (see below). Perhaps the most profound writing Bridgette makes at the end of her trip is: “Before we left, I stopped in the bathroom and looked in the mirror for the first time in a week. I was surprised to see the shining face in the reflection. Who was this wild creature with a peeling nose, tangled hair, bright eyes who greeted me with a smile from ear to ear? I’m bringing her home to me.”

A few comments (there are no page numbers):
~ The book captures the varied essence of BLM’s patrols of the canyon.
~ June 21st: It is most likely that Powell being rescued by Bradley lowering his shorts occurred in Desolation Canyon. It did not happen in Echo Park as described in most books.
~ June 24th: I think the condition of the Sand Wash Ranger Station is a bit overdone.
~ June 26th: There is a difference between pictographs and petroglyphs. A petroglyph is an image carved, incised or scratched into stone. A pictograph is a painting on stone, using natural pigments. Pictographs are typically found only in caves or other areas where they can be protected from the elements of sunshine, wind-blown sand and precipitation.
~ Mile 94: The Fremont People did not disappear. Currently the thinking is that they were absorbed into the Ute newcomers.

(continued)





~ Mile 66: Ben Morris, the eighth husband of Josie Morris (Hog Canyon in Dinosaur National Monument), was kicked out by Josie. One of the few skills he had was moonshining. Besides his equipment he needed a source of water and remoteness to make his whiskey. But he did not grow apricots or corn. He bartered for those items from the people at Rock Creek ranch: “Ben bought 400 pounds of dried peaches from Rock Creek Ranch to make moonshine.”

~ Mile 53 Rock Creek Ranch: I wish we could jettison the story about river runners burning the house. Having been down there very early in spring I saw that the house had partially burned and began to look into the event. T.N. Jensen (Butch Jensen’s father) leased the ranch to AC Ekker and his tour company “Outlaw Trails” because the Jensen family no longer wanted to live there. AC hired Nick Hogan as the caretaker in the late 1970’s. The idea was the ranch would be a stop for patrons of Outlaw Trails. The Outlaw Trails trip would camp at Rock Creek and ride horses, etc. for a day or two. But Nick’s main purpose for being there was that he just “wanted to get away.” By 1980 the Jensens were not impressed with the way the place was being taken care of. Nick was supposed to be farming and all he did was tend a small garden consisting mostly of fine smoking herbs. The lease with Ekker either expired or was terminated. Nick moved on to Moab and that was the last long-term occupancy at Rock Creek Ranch. The roof burned off the main house either accidentally or deliberately, during the winter while Nick was living there. Nick claimed that he wasn’t there and some river runner must have come though and burned the place down. Nobody much believes Nick as he was living there and the most likely source of ignition. The fire occurred there in the winter when nobody was running the river. ♦

Why We Boat - Running Rivers On Our Own

Edited by Beverly Kurtz
Vishnu Temple Press 2018
ISBN 978-1-7322192-0-5

Review by Herm Hoops

Why We Boat is an eclectic collection of 32 authors’ short stories. They range from simplistic to profound. The authors came from many walks of life and river experiences. This anthology is a picture of the commonalities, weaving memories, adventure and growth. The stories will likely remind you of why you boat. The book would be a good read at bedtime, or when time is short, as most of the stories are fairly short.

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(vacant)

MIDWEST

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