



Training Future River Professionals 2014-2015 Webinars

This series of webinars is being offered by the River Management Society for members, colleagues and friends. They are free of charge and will follow a familiar timing and format:

<i>Day of week</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<i>Time of day</i>	<i>1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time</i>
<i>Duration</i>	<i>One hour, except as noted</i>

December 10

Prepare to Launch!

Guidelines for Assessing, Designing, and Building Launch Sites for Carry-in Watercraft

One of the key questions that needs to be addressed when connecting people to their rivers and waterways is how do they get in and out?

Prepare to Launch! is a resource designed to help river managers, parks planners and water trail managers begin to answer this question. Drawing on existing case studies, this image heavy document focuses on how managers can build 'put-in and take out' sites as they address the evolving needs of paddlers and other users of non-motorized or hybrid (launches that welcome both non-motorized and motorized) watercraft.

This presentation will dive into the Prepare to Launch! online platform, with the opportunity for session attendees to become familiar with the tools and resources available. The session will highlight an innovative partnership developed launch case study. Participants will also have the opportunity to evaluate the good the bad and the ugly as we continue to evolve the best practices for the development of launch sites.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own stories and lessons learned to share as we evaluate and discuss how to improve the body of knowledge for launch access.

Lelia Mellen, NH Projects Director, Rivers and Trail Program, National Park Service
Corita Waters, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and National Water Trails System, National Park Service

Lelia has held her position for 21 years, working with national water-oriented groups, community groups, local and state agencies, and non-profits to help them with their conservation initiatives. These groups ask for assistance on river recreation and protection, open space protection and trail work. Lelia has helped with organizational development, fundraising, river and water trail management, trail building, event planning, and open space protection. In essence, she grasps the conservation needs and desires of the group and tries to help them meet their goals. Lelia received her Master of Environmental Management from Duke University and her Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Dartmouth College.

Outside of work, Lelia volunteers at her children's schools, her town's recreation program, Dartmouth College's outdoors programs, and on the Appalachian Trail. Lelia likes to walk, hike, read and knit when she isn't carting children to their various sporting events.

Corita works with national partners, NPS, and at the Interagency level to help build resources for local community conservation and recreation. Corita's passion is creating connections between people and the natural world, whether through direct experience or virtual, but especially by having fun.

January 21

Safety-Related Success of In-River Whitewater Park Design

Learn how rivers have improved public safety for boaters and swimmers, while serving the public and municipal good via a reduced risk of flooding and improved water distribution efficiency for farmers! Sometimes located within a very urbanized area and regulated floodplain, the structures making up the features can form a diversion and stabilize a degrading river channel. While projects in Denver (the whitewater river park at Confluence Park, constructed in 1974, was the nation's first designed park constructed in an active river, and was totally re-designed by the author and rebuilt in 1995.), Boise, Columbus, Georgia and other locations have experienced heavy use – particularly by novices – there have been no known drownings or serious injuries within even steep-gradient whitewater park that his firm has designed. Various features employ a number of design techniques and philosophies that have proven successful over the past almost 40 years. The safety-related aspects of the park will be discussed and questions and discussion will be encouraged.

Rick McLaughlin, P.E., McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group

Rick is an engineer at the McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group – a Division of Merrick & Company. He has been the design engineer on a number of whitewater and multi-purpose recreational projects since the early 1980s. Some of these include the current configuration of Confluence Park, the 1996 Olympic Whitewater Venue, a large river restoration, diversion, and whitewater project on the American River, a very large scale river restoration and whitewater project in Columbus Georgia and a fish passage and whitewater course in Delta, Colorado.

January 28

Wild and Scenic Rivers – Section 7 Overview

(2 Hours)

America's wild and scenic rivers are a unique system of protected rivers and river-administering agencies are responsible as the stewards of their protected designation. Learn why 'Section 7' is fundamental to your appreciation of the evaluation and determination of our nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Participants will increase their knowledge in:

- The definition of a water resources project under Section 7 of the WSRA.
- How to apply Section 7 to state-administered, federally designated rivers; congressionally designated rivers; and congressionally authorized study rivers.
- Roles of federal, state and local agencies.
- Evaluation standards for a designated river.
- Evaluation standards for a congressionally authorized study river.
- Evaluation procedures.
- The timing of a Section 7 analysis and determination, and the responsible official.

Lisa K. Machnik, Ph.D., Pacific Northwest Region, Wilderness/Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Manager, USDA Forest Service

March 4

Wild and Scenic River Study Process – How to complete a WSR Study

(60 minutes plus time for questions and answers)

This course presents an introduction to complete a the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) Study Process for eligible or suitable river segments. The content of this course is derived from *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Wild and Scenic River Study Process*, a technical report of the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Council (Council) (www.rivers.gov/publications.html).

Participation will result in improvements in future applications of the Wild and Scenic River Study process, for both eligible and suitable river segments, based on increased knowledge of its intent, content and procedures.

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply the correct study methodology for a Wild and Scenic River study.

- Develop an integrated approach with appropriate interdisciplinary team members for the study process.
- Conduct the study, including public involvement.
- Share information with landowners, local and state governments, and nongovernmental organizations.

Participants will increase their knowledge in:

- The Wild and Scenic River study process requirements of the WSRA.
- The sources of information for rivers to consider in the study process.
- The differences between eligible and suitable river segments.
- The role of ORV's in the study process.
- The differences in WSR classification and how to apply them to study segments.
- The requirements for interim management direction for eligible and suitable river segments.

Jim MacCartney, River Manager, National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers Program
Cassie Thomas, Program Analyst, Wild and Scenic River Specialist, Park Planning & Special Studies Division and Alaska Coordinator, Hydropower Assistance Program

Jim has over twenty years' experience working nationally on river management, restoration and policy. Jim currently administers the Lamprey River in New Hampshire, and provides technical assistance to other "Partnership" Wild & Scenic Rivers in the Northeast. Before joining the National Park Service, Jim worked for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services where he administered the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program and led development of the state's instream flow policy. He earned his M.S. in Resource Management from Antioch University, with concentration in water resources and geomorphology. In addition to his job with the National Park Service, Jim also works part-time for Trout Unlimited on coldwater fish habitat and river restoration. He is an avid fly fisherman and whitewater boater.

Cassie's background is in Biology, Oceanography, and Environmental Law. She has 22+ years experience with the National Park Service and currently serves as the Wild and Scenic River specialist in NPS's national planning program, and as the Hydro Program coordinator for the Alaska Region. Cassie is a founding member of the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council. In her spare time, Cassie enjoys hiking and skiing with her husband, dogs and friends, backpacking, and floating Alaska's wild rivers."

April 15, 2015

The River Studies and Leadership Certificate: An inter-university collaboration with the River Management Society

The River Management Society (RMS) can play an active role in cultivating a future generation of river leaders and professionals who possess a basic foundation of knowledge, skills, and experience in river-based science, policy, conservation, education, and recreation. To this end, RMS has partnered with four universities to create a *River Studies and Leadership Certificate*.

This certificate is designed for undergraduate students and will be offered at Prescott College, Colorado Mesa University, and University of Idaho. Including both coursework (six courses) and a professional experience component, the certificate is designed to empower students to address the real world challenges facing our nation's rivers. All students undertaking the certificate program will be required to study basic river science, Geographic Information Systems, and swiftwater rescue. Students must also choose an emphasis area from the following: river science, river-based policy and management or river-based recreation, education and tourism. As students complete the certificate they will be encouraged to use RMS as a source for their river studies and professional networking, and get a special invitation to attend a River Management Society conference. Students will be required to share aspects of their river studies with the RMS community by either presenting at the annual RMS Symposium or publishing an article in the RMS Quarterly Journal. The River Studies and Leadership Certificate is expected to help students become informed river professionals and stakeholders, to equip them to make sustainable decisions about future uses, research, and management of our nation's river systems, and to integrate them into the RMS community.

We will share Year I news and exciting prospects for Year II (2015-2016).

Joel Barnes, Ph.D., Prescott College and Gigi Richard, Ph.D. Colorado Mesa University

Dr. Joel C. Barnes is a professor at Prescott College where he teaches environmental studies and adventure education in their undergraduate and graduate programs. Joel's current research and teaching explores the ecology and conservation of aridland river systems and watersheds in the American Southwest, with a special focus on the Prescott Basin and the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. From 1998 to 2005, he served as Project Leader for the Grand Canyon National Park Wild and Scenic River Study. This study served as the basis for a 5-year Research Partnership MOU between GCNP and Prescott College, and identified nearly 600 miles of waterways in and adjacent to GCNP as eligible for WSR designation. The findings from this GCNP WSR Study may find a home in the upcoming revision of the Park's Backcountry Management Plan. Joel teaches courses in restoration ecology, water resource management, river expeditioning, environmental education, and Colorado Plateau field studies. His field courses have included a number of research-based and educational river expeditions on the Colorado through Grand Canyon.

Gigi A. Richard, Ph.D. - Faculty Director of the Water Center at CMU, Associate Professor of Geology, Colorado Mesa University

Gigi Richard is currently the Faculty Director of the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) in Grand Junction, CO and an Associate Professor of Geology at CMU in the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences. She holds an M.S. and Ph.D. from Colorado State University in civil and hydraulic engineering and a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Gigi created the Watershed Science program at CMU and teaches water science and environmental geology classes. Her research on human impacts on rivers systems includes the study of downstream impacts of dams, levees and other human activities on rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and New Zealand. Recent work has focused on better understanding the hydrology and morphology of intermittent streams in western Colorado and on the need for peak flows to maintain the channel form of the Yampa and Dolores Rivers in western Colorado. A resident of Colorado for more than 20 years, Gigi has experience in private engineering consulting and served on water quality and land use planning commissions in Summit County, Colorado from 1990 to 1996.

May 27

The Cross Watershed Network Year III: New Connections, Upcoming Restoration Workshops

The Cross-Watershed Network [XWN] is an emerging network to connect river restoration practitioners through information sharing, collective capacity building, and collaboration across watersheds. XWN is designed to help groups grow their ability to develop effective partnerships and strong implementation capabilities in the following key areas:

- Building a peer-to-peer support system
- Capacity building
- Connecting
- Documenting lessons learned
- Information sharing; and,
- Increasing communication

XWN welcomes all site-based practitioners, watershed and river partnerships, private landowners, public and private agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, and tribes working toward watershed health.

The Verde Watershed Restoration Committee hosted the first Cross-watershed Network workshop in Cottonwood, Arizona September, 2013 and the Escalante Watershed Partnership hosted the 2nd annual workshop. 60-70 watershed stakeholders attended from Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, California, Wyoming and Montana. Presentations by geomorphology and habitat restoration experts offered best practices and interactive breakout sessions tackled programming, internal capacity and outreach topics with round robin feedback sessions and problem-solving discussion. Participants indicated that the workshop met or exceeded their expectation, was a worthwhile investment and relevant to their work in the areas of Geomorphology, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Collective Problem Solving and Long Term Maintenance (of riparian restoration).

We look forward to sharing how XWN Year III is growing the collaboratively managed website, and will see your input on our plans for our unique Linkers Program and 2015 Workshop..

Chip Norton, Friends of the Verde River Greenway Tahnee Robertson, Southwest Decision Resources

Chip, a worn out rock climber and active whitewater boater, lives in the rural community of Camp Verde, Arizona. He retired in 2008 and currently serves as a volunteer on several nonprofit, municipal and county boards and commissions. Chip is an advocate for community-based solutions to conservation challenges, and he enjoys working with community and agency partners to achieve conservation and economic development goals.

NGOs - President: Friends of Verde River Greenway, Treasurer: Verde River Institute

Collaboratives - Program Manager: Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition, Core Team: Cross-Watershed Network, Steering Committee: Verde Front Sustainable Recreation Coalition

Appointments - Supervisor: Verde Natural Resource Conservation District, Commissioner: Camp Verde P&Z Commission, Commissioner: Yavapai County Resource Advisory Commission, Steering Committee: Prescott National Forest Strategic Action Planning Team

Tahnee is a professional facilitator, mediator and collaboration practitioner. For the past 20 years, in the U.S. and internationally, her project work has included forest planning and management, recreation planning, collaborative adaptive management, watershed management, community and regional visioning, youth engagement, overflight noise issues, coalition building, and affordable housing policy. Previously, she was the associate director of the Program on Environment and Community at Cornell University and the Latin America coordinator for the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development.

Tahnee has a Bachelor's in Biology from Grinnell College and a Masters in Natural Resources from Cornell University. She is a member of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution's Roster of Environmental Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals. She is fluent in Spanish.

June 16

Great River, Got Water?

Tools to help provide protection of instream flow in the face of climate change, drought, urban and energy development and over allocation.

Rivers throughout the United States are facing increasing pressures due to these challenges, and it is important to understand the potential tools that may be available to protect instream flows in your river. The session will present an overview of these issues and describe three tools for consideration by river managers to protect and maintain instream flows important to fisheries, aquatic communities, wildlife, riparian vegetation, recreational uses and local economies. We will discuss protection tools including state law, federal law and administrative mechanisms that may provide protection of instream flows. The presentation should compel each river manager to evaluate whether flows in their river are truly protected.

Bill Hansen, Chief, Water Rights Branch, Water Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, National Park Service

Bill has worked for the Water Rights Branch for 25 years and has been instrumental in negotiating water right settlements for parks in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah. The Water Rights Branch provides technical expertise, policy guidance and coordinates with the Office of the Solicitor and Department of Justice in development of instream flow and groundwater protection strategies for 401 national parks.

Bill is also the co-lead of the NPS' Wild and Scenic Rivers Program and co-chairs the NPS' Wild and Scenic Rivers Steering Committee. He is a past member of the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council and was employed previously by the Forest Service, working on the Gila and

Tonto National Forests. Bill received his MS degree in Hydrology from New Mexico State University and his BS degree in Watershed Science from Colorado State University.