



Building Bridges Between Traditional Landowners and River Recreationists on Montana's Blackfoot River

by Cannon Colegrove

"The canyon above the old Clearwater Bridge is where the Blackfoot roars loudest. Even the roar adds power to the fish or at least intimidates the fisherman," writes Norman Maclean. "The canyon was glorified by rhythms and colors." The Blackfoot River, only minutes outside of Missoula, Montana, is famously known as the centerpiece of Norman Maclean's novel *A River Runs Through It*. Although close to one of Montana's largest towns, the Blackfoot River is a diverse and wild river. Grizzly bears, bald eagles, elk, and river otters are often seen along the banks of the river. Whitewater enthusiasts, anglers, and floaters come from near and far to experience the Blackfoot River.

An area known as River Bend in the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor. Photo: Cannon Colegrove

The Blackfoot River begins at the snowmelt of the Continental Divide and flows 122 miles through western Montana. It meanders through wide valley bottoms where the jagged peaks of the Bob Marshall Wilderness stand tall in the distance and glides past giant rock slabs and timbered slopes as it flows towards Missoula. The 30 miles of the Blackfoot River, characterized as the most wild and scenic portion of the river, is known today as the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor. This section of river is a river enthusiast's dream, where tall stands

(continued page 14)

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Executive Director's Eddy

This spring has presented challenges...

...to our resilience and creativity, just like running a steep rapid on an unfamiliar river. We know in order to end up at the bottom and to reach the final eddy safely, we need to rely on the skills and instincts of both our paddling group's collective experience and our individual compasses. It sure does not hurt that most RMS members and our colleagues include 'planning' in our position descriptions, so are oriented toward rational decision-making, even if accelerated or amidst environmental uncertainty.

Central to the opportunities are groups of individuals and organizations whose effectiveness is amazingly greater than the sum their parts. Each group has met and handled programmatic issues, financial challenges and oh, yeah, an international pandemic and states of emergency for the majority of our fifty states and the nation:

- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Commonwealth University** have been invaluable partners in the planning of the 2020 River Management Symposium, whose trajectory shifts dramatically as this issue goes to print. See a late-breaking Symposium article on page 4.
- **The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition** has fueled a presence in the national river advocacy community, capped off late this past winter with a presence in the halls of Congress. We'll share more about this group's recent activities in the Summer 2020 issue of the RMS Journal.
- **State River Program Managers** – Assisted by a grant of professional guidance by the NPS Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program, Molly MacGregor (MN) and Rob White (CO) are developing priorities among participants whose organizations align with a state policy and/or practice.
- **Hydropower Summaries** – We have updated many of them in partnership with the members, Harry Williamson and the Hydropower Reform Coalition's Colleen McNally Murphy,

to improve their value as handy, informative references.

- **River Studies and Leadership Certificate (RSLC)** – Certificates will be awarded to nearly a dozen students who have graduated or will be completing the program during this academic year.
- **The Rivers Field Studies Network**, whose core leaders are also RSLC Advisors, will continue to use its 2019 'incubator grant' in support of the 2nd of three meetings this spring. The final application for a National Science Foundation-Research Coordination Networks Undergraduate Biology Education grant is due at the beginning of 2021.
- **A-DASH – The Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Collaborative** has been founded and will provide tools for change. See page 26 for more information.
- **Sponsors** – Federal agency and private agreements and grants support River Training Center workshops, instructor training events, the NationalRiversProject.com and RSLC student attendance at RMS events.
- **RMS Board and Chapter Leaders** – This group runs the organization as the body responsible for its financial and organizational health.
- **You** - RMS' membership dues from you and roughly 400 others pay for about two-thirds the cost of producing and distributing the RMS Journal.

Each of these groups is working together with RMS in the mix at varying levels. Keeping up with them is fun, challenging, and gratifying as we face the need to respond to change with the knowledge there is much to do in the study, protection and management of our rivers across the public and private sectors, and we know none of us can do it alone. ♦



Risa Shimoda
Executive Director

RMS President's Corner

The care of rivers...

One of the more tangible benefits of the RMS river community is sharing experiences. At the larger scale, shared learning opportunities are facilitated at organized events such as the Biennial Training Symposium, Chapter events, or training classes coordinated through the River Training Center. Additionally, and often casually, we develop relationships within our community and create a network of "go to" folks when we are seeking help, or when we want to share our concerns and lessons learned, as well as our successes and passions. Each year, RMS presents awards to honor accomplishments in the field of river management and contributions to the River Management Society. Outside these annual award celebrations, we occasionally hear from members of our community about accomplishments worthy of sharing.

The celebratory cake honoring Heidi for her determination and dedication — "The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart." — Tanaka Shozo



Beaming with pride, Kirstin Heins, BLM Assistant Field Manager in Prineville, Oregon, recently shared a story about an employee's perseverance and dedication. Expecting to attend a briefing with the District Manager, Heidi Mottl was surprised by the entire staff in the BLM District Office who gathered to celebrate her overall dedication to the river and for a hard-earned success with implementing the permit system for the Wild and Scenic section of the John Day River. Heidi has been involved with John Day river management for most of her career, and in 2011 first implemented a permit system to help spread use along the popular river segment. The online permit system faced technical difficulties for several years leaving successful implementation of the visitor use plan in limbo. Throughout it all, Heidi endured years of internet permit system transitions

and other problems. Finally, overcoming obstacles, on March 4, 2020, the John Day River permit system went live on *recreation.gov*.

A bit of déjà vu? In 2011, Heidi received the RMS award for "River Manager of the Year." She was nominated by her peers, commercial river outfitters, non-commercial users, supervisors, and agency partners for her leadership in promoting and protecting the outstanding values of the John Day Wild and Scenic

River and for her commitment to providing the highest level of service to the people who visit the rivers (*RMS Journal*, Summer 2011). Thank you, Heidi, again for putting your heart into the care of the John Day and other rivers.

Thanks to you all for your dedication to river management and protection. You too have a story to share; we look forward to hearing from you. ♦

In appreciation,



Linda Jalbert
RMS President



Mountain Creeks to Metro Canals

River Management Training Symposium

= Postponed =

by Helen Clough

At some point, conference planners just have to make a call when facing a ‘game-changing’ challenge. We have decided to postpone the 2020 event until 2021. “This decision was not made lightly but considering the unknowns of the current global pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus, it is the only reasonable choice,” says RMS Executive Director Risa Shimoda.

We are in good company. While the steering committee was on the phone discussing the situation, we received emails from our sister organization River Network announcing that River Rally 2020 was going from an in-person event to a series of virtual events. Later in the day, we received notification that the Society of Outdoor Recreation Planners (our 2016 Boise Symposium partner organization) was postponing their 2020 conference.

As Virginia Commonwealth University is our host venue, we are limited to when we can reschedule, so we decided it made the most sense to go for the same time frame next year. The University is graciously hosting us during the week between graduation and the start of summer school.

Here are some questions and answers:

I have already paid, what do I need to do?

You have two options.

Know you want to attend next year. You can do nothing and you will be registered for the event in 2021. If you joined RMS to register at the member rate, your new membership will remain valid until June 2021.

Want a refund. If you want a refund, just contact us and your moneys will be refunded. If you paid by credit card, look for a credit on your next statement. If you paid by other means, look for a check in the mail.

Lodging

Lodging at VCU. If you reserved a room through RMS, you don’t have to do anything. We will contact you next winter to verify your lodging preference.

Lodging at the Graduate Richmond. If you made a reservation at the Graduate Richmond, we may need to ask you to cancel your hotel reservation and make a new reservation when we send out information on our new room block for 2021. If you have not heard from us about your reservation, please contact RMS right away.

Sponsorships

If you are a sponsor and know you want to sponsor the Symposium next year, we will work with you to complete a revised contract (with the same terms and conditions) that carries forward for 2021. If you’d like a refund, moneys will be refunded. Just let us know by contacting (executivedirector@river-management.org).

Abstracts

If you submitted an abstract and it was accepted, you do not need to do anything. If you know for sure that you cannot attend next year, contact the program committee (hcloughak@gmail.com) and ask for your abstract to be withdrawn. Otherwise, if you still hope to attend and give your presentation or poster, wait until you hear from us to verify your continued interest.

This pandemic puts us all in uncharted waters, and your steering committee and host organizations (River Management Society, State of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Commonwealth University) plan to put on the same event this time next year.

To stay up to date, visit: <https://www.river-management.org/2020-river-management-training-symposium> or contact RMS by email: executivedirector@river-management.org or by phone: (301) 585-4677. ♦

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RMS is proud to share our new logo!

by Risa Shimoda

This started in 2014...

In preparing to use our first mobile app for the biennial RMS Symposium in Denver, we needed a graphic to represent RMS. We only had the graphic treatment of our name — our horizontal logo — which would not fit in the required square or circular space. So, we chose an attractive, generic river graphic for the mobile app.

RMS has since developed a number of programs and services about which we are so proud! Sadly, they are represented with seven different digital emblems for each of our social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter) accounts.

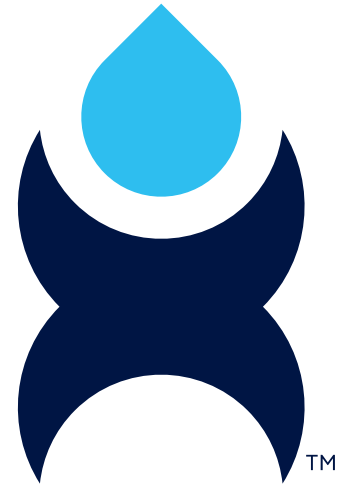
In early 2019, we pursued the development of new logo with a volunteer designer, and sought input from a number of RMS members. We led ourselves to a graphic that did not achieve the requirement of fitting in a circle, and thanked our volunteer for his time.

Getting back to our goal...

We have been fortunate to meet Trent Tullis, Ever Green Design, who walked through a thoughtful design process, yet stayed on a strategic course seeking to “create a logo for the River Management Society (RMS) that can be implemented in all means of media utilized to pursue its mission to *support professionals who study, protect and manage North America’s rivers.*”

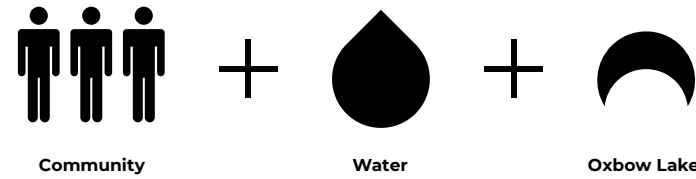
Design criteria included being unique and memorable. It needed to be versatile enough to be used as a tiny little icon on an internet browser tab yet scale to the size of the side of a building, with colors that make aesthetic sense and stand the test of time.

Research about RMS’ work, our new programs and related membership and partnership profiles were reflected in the following keywords that guided his design development:



To better understand the true definitions of the elements of the very name of our organization, he reviewed the qualifications of water necessary to be classified as a river, the essence of ‘management’, and the concept of ‘society’. In understanding the anatomy of a river, water was the most obvious key ingredient. Along with water, the unique shape of an oxbow lake and that it is formed by an oxbow in a river, was a graphic spark. While looking at the definition of a society, the word community was prevalent. As he stated in his presentation to a group of the RMS board, “In the outdoor industry, community is everything and RMS does a fantastic job of this already.”

How could we build upon the community even more through a logo design involving community?...



You will begin to see this new logo in our communications as it grows to represent our projects, services and partnerships. Various configurations provide options that fit all spaces and shapes that we might encounter. While it may take time to become accustomed to this new mark, we are confident that a logo’s value is only as good as the value of the entity it represents. We hope you will join us as we grow the association of the new RMS logo with both our many past accomplishments and our ambitious path forward.

Thank you Trent Tullis, Ever Green Design, for your time, expertise, and passion for this project. Thank you RMS President Linda Jalbert, interested members of the RMS Board of Directors, and others for helping us move the project forward. Finally, thank you Bob Randall and Nate Hunt, RMS’ legal advisors for guiding our effort to register this logo as our trademark!

Our unique new logo is memorable. It represents an entity supporting water in a manner that is strong, dependable, and decisive – yet happy, slightly whimsical, and graceful.



These are mockups of potential logo products. Let us know if you’d like one to be available in the RMS Store!





Montana rivers gain new protections through forest plan revisions

by Scott Bosse

The West Boulder River is one of 19 streams slated to gain protections in the Custer Gallatin National Forest's new forest plan. Photo: Scott Bosse

Let's face it - to the average river user, the thought of engaging in forest plan revisions is about as appealing as rowing into a stiff headwind, washing the camp dishes, or getting assigned to groover duty.

Not surprisingly, few members of the river community take advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

But after engaging in three recent forest plan revisions in Montana – on the Flathead, Custer Gallatin and Helena-Lewis and Clark national forests – river groups in the Big Sky state are discovering that there can be a big payoff at the end of the process.

Under section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the U.S. Forest Service and other federal land management agencies must conduct a comprehensive inventory of the named streams flowing across their jurisdiction when they revise their land management plans. Streams need only possess two attributes to qualify

for Wild and Scenic eligibility – they must be free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).

Once streams are found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation, they are managed to protect and enhance their clean water, free-flowing character and ORVs for the life of the new forest plan, or until Congress grants them legislative protection. That means proposed activities along eligible streams such as logging, mining and oil and gas drilling are allowed to occur only if they would not impair their free-flow or ORVs.

The Flathead National Forest encompasses the lands in the Flathead River watershed in northwest Montana. The Forest is home to three cherished Wild and Scenic rivers – the North, Middle and South forks of the Flathead River, all of which were designated in 1976. In the old

forest plan that was written in 1986, the Forest found 10 Wild and Scenic eligible streams totaling 128 river miles. In the new forest plan that was finalized in 2018, it found 24 eligible streams totaling 284 river miles.

On the Custer Gallatin National Forest, which encompasses the northern extent of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the current forest plan written in 1987 identifies 12 Wild and Scenic eligible streams totaling 174 stream miles. In the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the revised forest plan, the Forest found 31 Wild and Scenic eligible streams totaling 294 stream miles. The final revised forest plan is due out this summer.

Last, on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, which stretches from the Rocky Mountain Front southward

into central Montana, the current forest plan written in 1987 found just 11 Wild and Scenic eligible streams totaling 114 stream miles. But in the draft EIS for the revised forest plan, the Forest found a whopping 45 Wild and Scenic eligible streams totaling 361 stream miles. The final revised forest plan is expected to be released this summer.

Comparing the new forest plans to the old ones on these three national forests, there has been a threefold increase in the number of Wild and Scenic eligible streams and more than a twofold increase in the number of Wild and Scenic eligible stream miles. That begs the question – why has there been such a remarkable increase in these metrics in the new generation of forest plans?

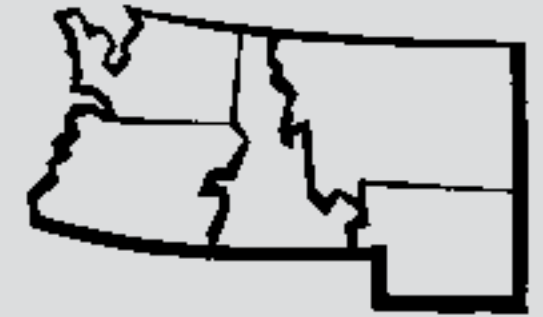
I'll offer a couple of hypotheses. The first is that when the old forest plans were written in the mid-1980s, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was still relatively new and federal land management agencies focused their eligibility inventories on mainstem rivers and not their tributaries. Agencies now have a much better understanding of the importance of protecting headwaters tributaries. Thus, they have found many of them to be eligible for designation.

The second hypothesis is that today, conservation NGOs such as American Rivers and American Whitewater are proactively writing their own Wild and Scenic eligibility reports before the forests conduct their inventories. By presenting their documentation to forests that are chronically underfunded and understaffed, NGOs have been able to shape the new forest plans like never before.

Moving forward, it remains to be seen if this trend will continue into the future. While some forests in the Northern Rockies (e.g., the Bridger-Teton in Wyoming and Lolo Bitterroot in Montana) seem eager to expand protections for Wild and Scenic eligible streams during their upcoming forest plan revisions, others (e.g., the Nez Perce-Clearwater in Idaho) seem to have not gotten the memo.

For information about upcoming federal land management plan revisions near where you live, visit: <https://www.americanrivers.org/conservation-resources/wild-and-scenic-rivers-intermountain-plans-calendar/>. ♦

Scott Bosse is the Northern Rockies Director for American Rivers.



Wyden: More than 15,000 nominations for wild, scenic rivers

WASHINGTON (KTVZ) -- Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., announced Monday he has received more than 15,000 nominations for more than 4,000 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon that enthusiasts believe deserve to be added to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers designation list.

The named rivers, streams, and portions of rivers and streams came from more than 2,200 Oregon waterway fans – many submitting more than one potential designation -- to Wyden's office. They will now be considered by the senator as he develops upcoming legislation to designate more wild and scenic rivers and streams in Oregon.

The nominations followed Wyden's request in October -- on the 51st anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act -- for Oregonians to submit their favorite rivers and streams for Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation he will introduce this spring.

An aide told NewsChannel 21 they were not yet ready to issue a full list of the nominations or indicate which waterways got the most interest.

“Oregonians’ overwhelming response shows both that our state enjoys a unique love affair with our iconic rivers and that Oregonians support efforts to do more to protect these treasured waterways,” Wyden said. “Huge thanks to whitewater rafters, anglers and all river-lovers who responded so thoughtfully and resoundingly in support of protecting recreation opportunities and safe drinking water throughout the state.”

The newest Wild & Scenic Rivers bill Wyden plans to introduce would build on legislation Congress passed just last year to add more than 250 miles of wild and scenic rivers in Oregon.

Wyden said he is proud Oregon now has 2,173 miles designated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system, but that the total remains a small fraction of Oregon's 110,994 miles of rivers and streams.

He said Outdoor Recreation Industry statistics show that recreation supports 172,000 jobs in Oregon and generates \$16.4 billion in economic activity statewide.

*Reprinted from KTVZ news sources (online).
Published February 10, 2020.*



by Joni Gore and Lucy Portman

(Portions of the River Access Planning Guide included below authored by Thomas O’Keefe and Jordan Sector.)

Access points along rivers are gateways to river recreation. They can serve as launch facilities for boats or fishing, allowing opportunities for visitors to enjoy and experience activities around the water. However, providing for these diverse visitor uses while protecting natural resources and sustaining desired recreation outcomes can be challenging.

The River Management Society, in partnership with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, and American Whitewater, developed the **River Access Planning Guide** to address these challenges.

The River Access Planning Guide is a free, online, and downloadable resource for planning new or enhancing existing river access. Available via the RMS website, this Guide can assist the challenging task of providing for a variety of uses while protecting natural resources in rivers and other waterways. The Guide’s approach provides a framework for meeting the needs of

Right: Attendees enjoying fall colors (view Journal online to see all photos in full color) on the Clackamas River — one of several field trips offered during the 2018 RMS Symposium. Photo: Jack Henderson



people seeking to enjoy river recreation on, off, and in the water.

On the Clackamas Wild and Scenic River outside of Portland Oregon, the Guide has already made ripples for recreation users. The river is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, with hydropower facilities upstream and downstream of a regulated river segment that is popular for whitewater paddling, scenic viewing, hiking, and fishing. As a condition during hydropower relicensing, the hydropower operator Portland General Electric (PGE) was required to develop access points along the river. Following the protocol described in the Guide, PGE worked with the boating community, local outfitters, and the Mount Hood National Forest to evaluate and improve access along the river.

Step 1 of the Guide is to assess and summarize existing conditions. Although the river is very popular for the local paddling community, access was poorly managed; paddlers accessed one developed site, but developed a number of dispersed sites over time. The majority of these dispersed sites had no sanitation, parking areas along the road, and informal social trails to the river. Additionally, the placement of access proved to be an issue for different river flows. While trips down the 15-mile stretch were desirable during high spring flows, the upper reaches became too shallow in late summer and paddlers desired access to avoid the shallow stretch. As part of the **Step 2** of the Guide, which requires the identification of desired access, PGE identified nine of these sites used by the paddling community to further evaluate.

Step 3 involves defining desired recreation setting characteristics by opening a series of questions such as: Is the river used seasonally? If so, when? What is the challenge level (e.g. a remote forested gorge or a roadside play run)? Who primarily accesses the river (e.g. private users, recreational outfitters) and what type of craft do they use?

The Clackamas River provides some of the most accessible intermediate and beginner whitewater to the greater Portland area with a long season that includes both winter rains and spring



Kayakers are one of the many user groups that paddle on the Clackamas River. Photo: Jack Henderson

snowmelt. The long season and consistent flows in years of good snowpack extend into early summer making this a dependable river for commercial rafting. In addition to commercial rafting, the general boating public includes rafters, kayakers, canoeists, and stand up paddleboarders. Since the river is popular for day trips from the greater Portland metropolitan area, large crowds are common during busy spring weekends.

Step 4: Evaluate Site Options and Select a Preferred Site(s). Three sites were selected as appropriate for a higher level of development and were constructed.

Through **Steps 5** (Assess Facility Design, Constructability, and Project Implementation) and **6** (Conduct Site Monitoring) of the Guide, PGE constructed three new river access sites. Although the sites selected were not the most popular sites prior to development, they offered the most potential for enhancing user experience while protecting resource values. The new sites have proven to be popular and well received.

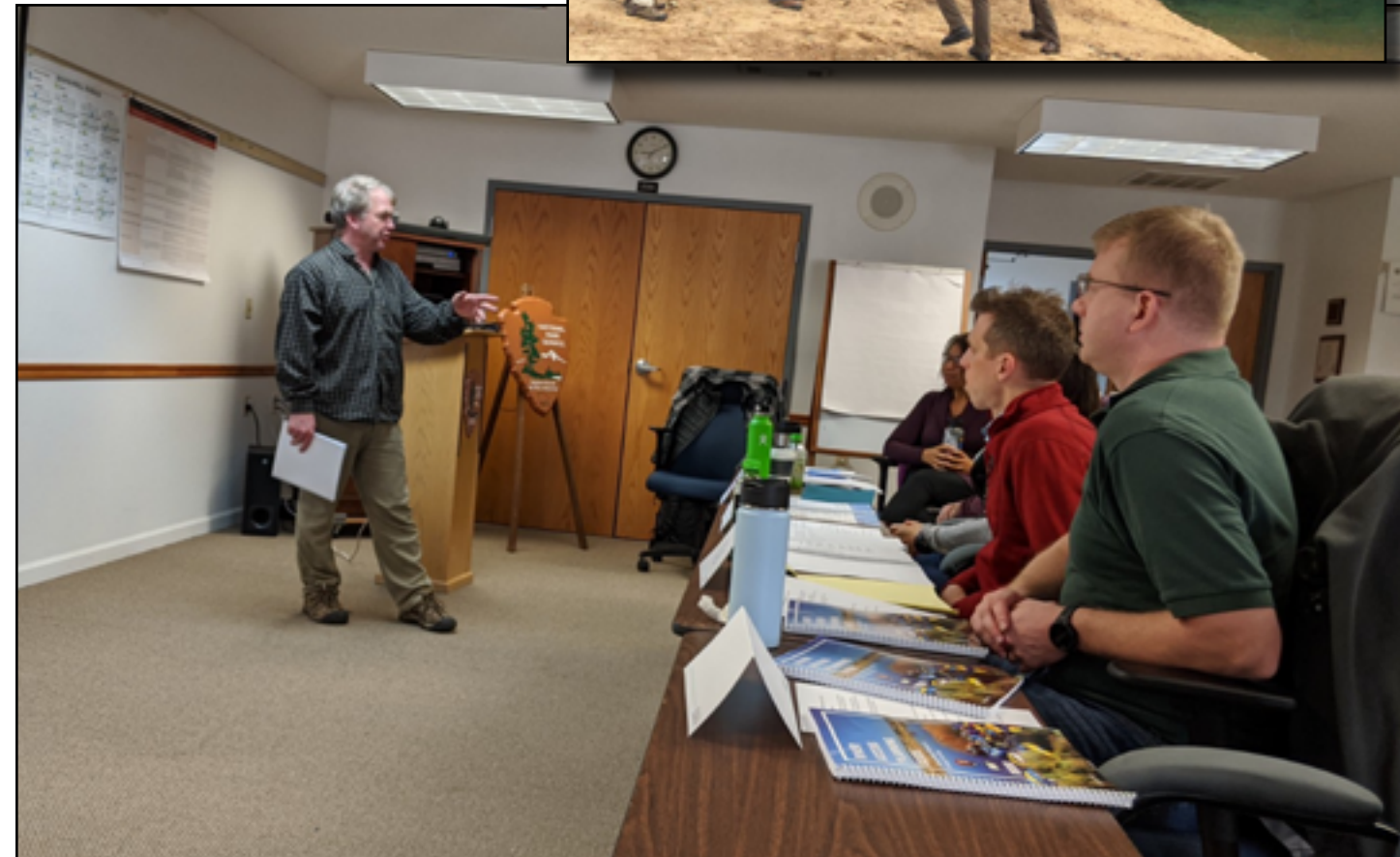
In October 2018, several attendees of the RMS Symposium used the sites and enjoyed fall colors while paddling the Clackamas River. Additional river access planning case studies can be found in Appendix A of the River Access Planning Guide document. RMS, as well as their collaborators, produced the River Access Planning Guide to provide a way to comprehensively review river access. The Guide intends to serve as a resource to agencies, planners, river managers, and private entities responsible for providing waterway access as they approach site selection and

design to establish new river access or improve existing access. For more information, refer to contact information on page 2 of the Guide.

The River Management Society, through a generous donation by the National Park Foundation, is hosting an Introduction to the River Access Planning Guide workshop this spring from Tuesday, March 31st through Thursday, April 2nd in the Farmington River Valley in Simsbury, Connecticut. The course will present the six-phase planning and implementation process for considering and developing access along a river corridor, outlined in the River Access Planning Guide. The methodology will be showcased through hands-on, interactive exercises. The training will combine classroom presentation, interactive exercises and field site visits to help participants develop their skills in implementing the Guide on local projects. Registration is available directly through the RMS River Training Center website. For questions about the course, please email rms@river-management.org.

Right: River Access Planning Guide Workshop participants on a site visit during last November's training in the Ozarks. Photo: Mike Mencarini

Below: Classroom portion of the Ozark workshop. Photo: Angie Tornes



Are you using the River Access Planning Guide on a project in your community? Let us know! We are looking for projects to feature as case studies in the guide. Please contact Susan Rosebrough (susan_rosebrough@nps.gov) or Corita Waters (corita_waters@nps.gov) to share your story.



RIVER ACCESS PLANNING GUIDE

A Decision-Making Framework for Enhancing River Access

A PLANNING GUIDE

1. Assess
2. Identify
3. Define
4. Evaluate
5. Design
6. Monitor

To Reach Sustainable Recreation Outcomes

CORE ELEMENTS

A. System & Location	E. Density
B. Landscape Setting	F. Use Type and Challenge Level
C. Temporal Dependence	G. Management
D. Frequency	

Find the document online at river-management.org/river-access-planning-guide

(Blackfoot, from page 1)

of ponderosa pine and steep rocky cliffs are the backdrop to whitewater runs and deep pools full of large trout feeding on the stoneflies and other insects fluttering above. This area is precisely where Norman Maclean fished and later wrote about in *A River Runs Through It*.

Historically, most of this 30-mile corridor was owned by private landowners on working ranches and timber corporations, with a few small parcels of state land managed by the University of Montana and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Today, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns and manages about 12 river miles of land once owned by corporate timber companies, but most of the riparian land through the corridor remains in private ownership.

Recreation on the Blackfoot River began to grow rapidly in the 1960's as Missoula saw significant urban growth. Access to the corridor was primarily through private lands, and people who wished to access the river generally either knew the landowners personally or made a point to meet the landowners to ask for permission. As the population grew, so did the volume

“This new wave
of recreation brought
an increase in litter,
human waste,
campfires, and
conflicts...”

Floaters in the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor. Photo: Montana FWP



of recreationists on the river. In the places that once only held traditional anglers, the river was now jam-packed with rafts full of people, and party flotillas created by numerous innertubes linked together. There were people camping along the banks and precariously parked vehicles on any given day. This new wave of recreation brought with it an increase in litter, human waste, campfires, and conflicts between landowners and the public trying to gain access to the river. Closing gates, extinguishing fires, and removing people from their pastures became a difficult and time-consuming task for the landowners. In the early 1970's, a few ranchers along the river began informally discussing ways to resolve the conflicts. With river access being a long-standing tradition, the landowners knew that public access itself was not undesirable, but that access to the river needed to be managed or channeled. Solutions, implemented on other rivers, that were discussed included: 1) restricting or unrestricting use completely; 2) selling or leasing portions of the property for access; and, 3) designating the river as Wild and Scenic. The landowners felt that none of these solutions were viable, and they instead wanted to become personally involved in the formation of a plan that addressed access and conflict issues. Planning progressed into the mid-1970's until there were 25 different landowners, government entities, and timber corporations present for collective discussions, each having an equal say in this project, where one large government agency had no more say than one small landowner (Goetz 1979).

By 1976, a collaborative effort led to the formation of a plan, now referred to as the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor agreement. The implementation of the plan was as much of a cooperative effort as the formation of the plan itself. Government agencies provided money and staff, timber companies donated materials and building supplies, and landowners provided machinery and labor to develop public access sites on private land (Goetz 1979). These three public access sites still exist today on private land and are popular locations for river recreationists to launch and take out boats. The agreement also created a “travel zone” which allowed river recreationists to legally access private property by foot, horseback, or non-motorized means up and down the river bank. The travel zone extends 50 feet from the river's edge onto the shore on both sides of the river for the entire length of the 30-mile corridor, except for a few spots where posted otherwise. The travel zone allows for people to access the river from a designated access site and walk up or downstream to picnic, fish, or just enjoy the river anywhere they want throughout the 50-foot travel zone within the corridor, regardless of land ownership. Although the plan created a very generous amount of public access to private land, it did come with some trade-offs. These trade-offs included the ability to restrict camping along the river to designated campsites, and require fires to only be lit within government established fire rings. The agreement also includes prohibiting fireworks, the discharge of firearms, and the use of glass bottles within the corridor.

This plan has been working well since its formation in

1976. However, the more recently created Montana 1985 Stream Access Law contradicted some language in the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor plan, specifically when it came to camping along the river. The Montana Stream Access Law generally allows the public to recreate on rivers and streams up to the high-water mark regardless of streambed ownership. This stream access law also permits camping within the ordinary high-water mark, which the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor agreement prohibits. From 1985 up until 2015, the Corridor agreement which restricted camping to only designated campsites was not enforceable with the new Stream Access Law in place. Over those years, however, the public generally complied with the rules of the agreement.

In 2015, the Department of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks presented the decades-old agreement to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to be reviewed and renewed, but this time without the contradictions of the Stream Access Law. Montana's Stream Access Law includes language that allows the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to designate a special management reach of river to allow for specific Administrative Rules to govern use of the river in that designated reach. The review process included a rigorous public comment period, and discussions among government agencies and the landowners who were part of the agreement. Ultimately, the commission adopted Administrative Rules that would now put the original agreement into enforceable law. This rule was widely accepted by the landowners and the public, as the agreement had been in place for decades, and is still successful.

Recently established float-in campsites also provide the public with some additional camping opportunities for those who wish to float into campsites. These three float-in campsites within the corridor are closely monitored and require a permit to use. They comply with the goals of the Corridor agreement by restricting group size, requiring fire pans, and requiring users to pack out all garbage and human waste.

The Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor is a decades old agreement, that although has some tradeoff's for everyone involved, has been successful in building bridges between traditional landowners and river recreationists. One of the landowners who was an integral part of the formation of this agreement, says “I believe the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor Agreement has withstood the test of time pretty well (Lindberg 2015).” The Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor agreement has been in place since 1976 and continues to provide the tradition of public river access through private lands. This is a generous agreement by all the landowners involved, and if the public continues to respect the rules of the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor, the agreement will likely be successful and renewed for decades to come. ♦

(References available upon request.)

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Wild & Scenic Rivers and Private Property Owner Engagement in Washington State

by Andrew Graminski¹
and Dr. Tammi Laninga, AICP

Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WRSA) of 1968 was passed with the intent to protect outstanding examples of the remaining free-flowing rivers in the United States (Rivers, 2019). The National System protects almost 14,000 miles of 226 rivers in 41 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Rivers, 2019). However, this equates to less than one percent of all the nation's rivers combined. While most of these rivers flow through public lands such as those administered by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management, there is a percentage that pass through private property. For rivers that border private property, an array of issues arises out of the management of the river in this setting (Carroll & Hendrix, 1992). The regulatory environment is particularly complex and includes rules and restrictions at both the federal and local government levels (Norcross & Calvo, 1993).

In Washington state, issues with Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) and private property have been a problem due to limited, if any, guidelines for property development along a WSR in local government plans and regulations. Washington has six Wild and Scenic Rivers — one of those rivers, the Skagit, is a river system which includes four total rivers. The remaining five WSRs include the Middle Fork Snoqualmie, Pratt, Illabot Creek, White Salmon, and Klickitat. Except for the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt, which flow through public lands, the remaining four WSRs have a majority of their designations bordering private property (Rivers, 2019) (Figure 1).

Administration of WSRs that border private property is challenging because federal public land management agencies are instructed by the Act to administer designated rivers, but these agencies do

not have a direct role in land management on private property (U.S. Forest Service, 2019). In fact, “while section 12 of the Act lays out specific responsibilities for the land-managing agencies for the protection of designated segments on federal lands, no specific corresponding guidance exists to manage or limit activities on private lands which border wild and scenic rivers (Norcross & Calvo, 2013, p. 60).”

Private property is regulated by local governments through zoning regulations. Public engagement over issues such as shoreline development, critical areas, water rights, and pollution discharge are done through local government planning departments. Local government comprehensive plans and other related documents provide vision and guidance for development over a 20-year planning period in Washington, for those jurisdictions who plan under the Growth Management Act of 1990 (RCW 36.70A). It is important for private landowners to know when their land abuts a WSR in order to ensure protection of WSR values, as well as avoid litigation. To achieve this, increased coordination between local and federal agencies needs to occur.

Methods

To examine the relationship between federal land agencies and local governments in regards to private lands along protected rivers, we conducted phone interviews with representatives from local government planning departments, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Forest Service. Questions centered around the background and management of rivers on private property. For best practices and case studies on managing WSRs through non-public lands, peer-reviewed journals were consulted.

Case Studies

Skagit Wild and Scenic River System
Designated as a WSR system in

1978 for outstanding remarkable values (ORVs)², the Skagit WSR system was the first collection of rivers in Washington to get a WSR status. Constituting segments of the Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade rivers, the Skagit system totals 158.5 miles and over 38,000 acres of land. About 50% of the system flows through private ownership, primarily on the Skagit and Sauk rivers (National WSR System, 2019) (Figure 2).

The Skagit WSR system is managed by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the local government. Initially, Skagit County had a good working relationship with the federal administering agency (Stevenson, 2019). However, due to staff turnovers, the great recession, and a continual lack of consistent communication, the working relationship between the Forest Service and the county declined (Stevenson, 2019).

One of the largest and most common issues regarding the management of the WSRs, particularly where they flow through private lands, is the public's lack of understanding that these rivers have a federal designation. Infrequent and sporadic communication between the Forest Service and the county might be the reason this issue continues to be a problem. Landowners unaware that their property borders a WSR has resulted in uneven development, adverse impacts on the rivers, and property owners not working with the federal administering body. It is understandable for a property owner to be upset when they learn they cannot initiate a project on their land because it does not conform to the WSR Act, especially when they are unaware that their property borders a federally designated river.

Another issue is the lack of local government code and policy alignment with the Skagit system's WSR management plan and the WSR Act. There is no reference to WSRs in Skagit County's code, nor any mention of it in the county's Comprehensive

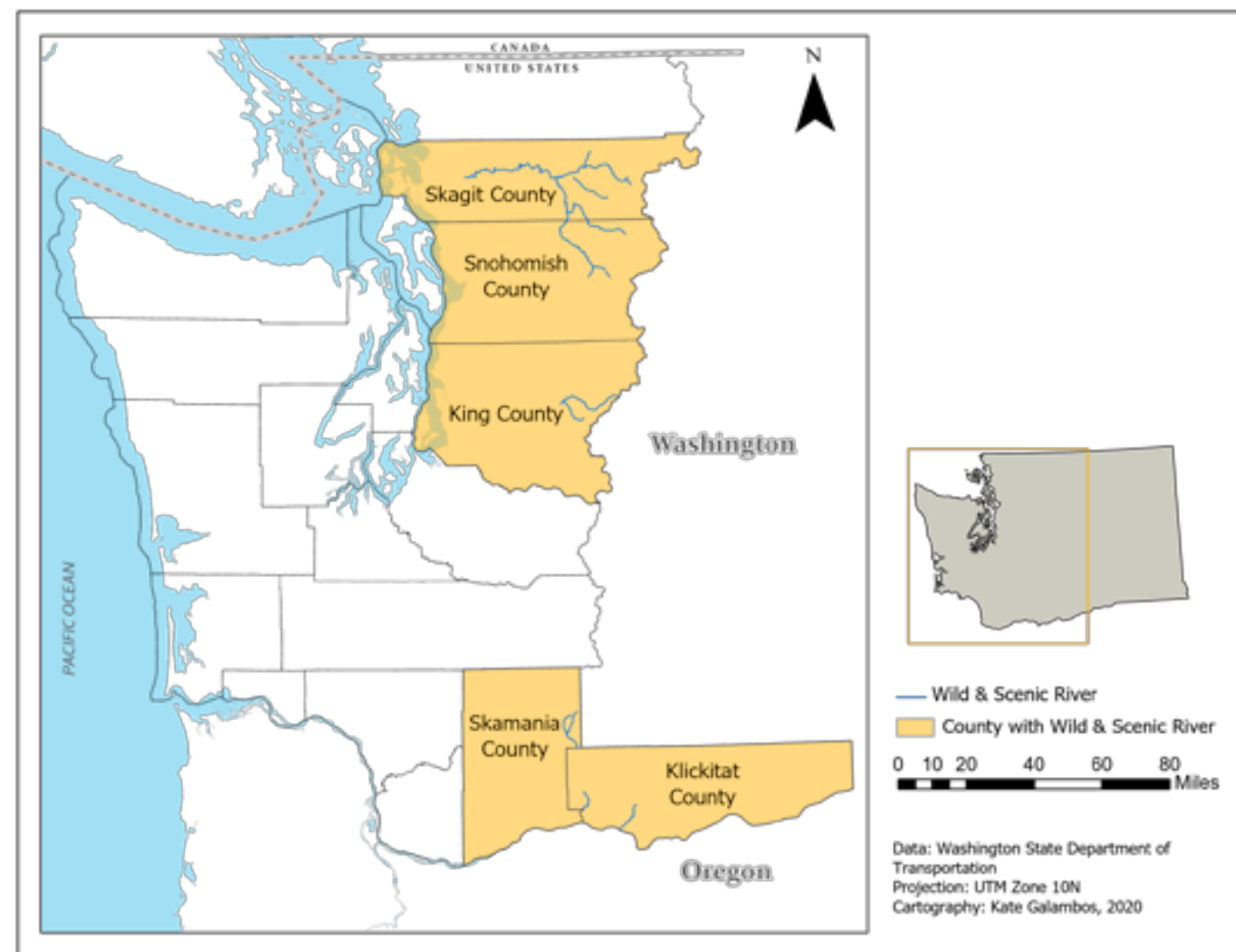


Figure 1. Washington State Federally Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers

Plan or Shoreline Master Program. The only reference to WSR designation can be found in the county's Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, which has no mention of how the rivers should be managed on private property. The lack of reference in local policies results in less consistent and comprehensive management of WSR values in the Skagit system.

White Salmon and Klickitat Wild and Scenic Rivers

Both the White Salmon and Klickitat WSRs were designated in 1986 (Rivers, 2019), and flow through Skamania and Klickitat counties. The rivers are administered by the U.S. Forest Service within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Similar to the Skagit system, portions of these two rivers flow through private property. As a result, issues over the management of these rivers has been

complicated over many years.

Communication with Skamania and Klickitat counties and the U.S. Forest Service is better than the Skagit case study, but overall communication could be improved. The managing WSR coordinator for the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers takes an active role in managing WSRs for their protection. Much of their work focuses on engaging private property owners, educating and informing them of what they can and cannot do with their property. The U.S. Forest Service has limited ability to stop projects, but can notify the county when the property owner is not following the regulations. The county can then become involved in resolving the issue, if they chose to (Andrews, 2019).

Like the Skagit case, both Skamania and Klickitat counties do not have consistency with the WSR management plans, nor the WSR Act, in their local

plans and codes. Klickitat County's Shoreline Master Program does reference both the Klickitat and White Salmon rivers, and consistency between county and federal regulations is present in the plan itself. However, implementation of their Shoreline Master Program through zoning and development has not been consistent with the plan's policies and recommendation. For land use decisions, the county tends to favor private property rights over the protection of the rivers' free flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs (Peters, 2019).

Speaking with planners from both Skamania and Klickitat counties, their understanding of managing WSRs stems from their already existing local regulations (Peters, 2019). Skamania County has a zoned district called the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area where their regulations are compliant with federal regulations. They also communicate with

¹River Studies & Leadership Certificate recipient, 2019

²Outstandingly remarkable values include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values (Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968).

the federal administrating agency whenever changes are made at the federal level. This is not the occurrence with WSRs currently, but one of their planners mentioned that if they were going to regulate private property that borders WSRs, they would try to be compliant with federal regulations (Peters, 2019).

Discussion

These case studies show that more work needs to be done to create better collaboration between local and federal entities over the management of WSRs in Washington state that flow past private lands. There are a number of methods local and federal agencies could use to better manage WSRs on private lands, and we discuss several below.

Local Level Actions

Changes that could be taken at the local government level include adding a section onto a building permit application which would necessitate the owner finding out if his or her land is adjacent to a WSR. This could be as simple as having a little check box on the application that says, "Property abuts a WSR." This would notify all landowners and require that they consult the WSRA, and federal administrating agency, for allowances and restrictions on shoreline and riverbank development.

A complementary action would be for local governments to distribute a WSR brochure to private property owners. The Interagency Wild & Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council has a brochure that describes projects that are compliant and noncompliant with the WSRA. It also describes voluntary stewardship actions property owners could take to restore and enhance WSRs.

Improved Intergovernmental Communication

A key issue apparent in the cases is poor or sporadic communication between the involved managing agencies. Managers at the federal, state, and local levels should communicate routinely to coordinate river protection efforts and ensure consistency across laws, policies, and programs (Norcross & Calvo, 1993). At the federal level, agencies outline protection measures in the river management plan, and at the local level, counties regulate activities on private property through their shoreline program, comprehensive plan, and zoning ordinances.

Collaborative Partnerships

Perhaps the most important course of action that both the federal administrating agency and local government could take is a collaborative management approach, which brings together a diverse set of stakeholders to plan and manage together (Margerum, 2011). One example, seen primarily in the eastern U.S., is forming a partnership river program, which brings different organizations together that are responsible for managing WSRs that flow past private lands. A good model is the Farmington WSR located in Connecticut (Moore & Siderelis, 2005). The majority of this river flows through private lands. A coordinating committee was created to manage private property that borders the WSR. This partnership program is made up of five different riverfront towns, the State of Connecticut, the Metropolitan District Commission, the Farmington River Watershed Association, and the National Park Service. They primarily rely on local zoning and coordination with existing

groups to assure that the WSR resources are protected.

The partnership model would work for both the Skagit, White Salmon, and Klickitat river systems. Through a partnership program, the stakeholders involved could discuss economic development and recreational opportunities, identify river values, and work to protect the river(s) in the long term. The partnership river model also supports frequent public engagement opportunities with people who either use the river for recreational purposes or own land that touches a WSR. Building or maintaining public trust is critical to gaining support for future planning efforts and management goals.

Though public trust with managing agencies might not be the case for every WSR, Carrol and Hendrix (1992) have shown that success with gaining the public's trust is possible. The New River Gorge case shows that being intentional with community outreach and relationship building prior to and during the planning process can lead to public support for planning endeavors. Federal officials learned early on that making personal contact with local residents can help identify social networks and central information points. Using this information, planners tailored public engagement to the area and its culture. When operational activities began, the federal agency had a base of local and regional support (Carrol and William, 1992). Though the Skagit system, and the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers already have designation, for future projects or changes, it is essential for those involved with planning to gain trust early in the process.

Conclusion

Rivers are only going to become more valuable as we continue to move into the future. Protection and management of these rivers will entail best management principles, which includes coordination between relevant river managers and management plans, public engagement, and building relationships through partnership programs. This can only become possible if both the federal administrating agency and the local government take actions to manage WSRs together. Washington State WSRs are only a few examples where portions of the designated reaches flow through private lands. The issue over managing private lands that border WSRs is a national occurrence and the suggestions discussed can be applied to any river where similar problems have arisen. Much work needs to be performed to help educate and inform private property owners of what they can and cannot do with their riverfront property along federally designated WSRs. ♦

Andrew Graminski became interested in the RSLC because of his interest in natural resource planning and his work on two Wild and Scenic Rivers (during a 2018 internship with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest). This article was the product of a quarter-long independent study with Western Washington University Professor Tammi Laninga, AICP, about WSR planning and outreach to private property owners. This article fits into the RSLC because it dives into the relationship between local government planning, WSR protection, and outreach to private property owners whose land abuts a WSR. Andrew graduated from WWU in 2019 with a BA in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development. He currently is a Planner in Brattleboro, VT.

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Figure 2. Skagit and Sauk river confluence, private property bordering the WSR segment on lefthand side of the picture. (Photo: John Scurlock / Jagged Ridge Imaging)





From Otters to Anglers to Itinerant Farm Workers —

Looking for What Brings Us Together

by Gail Snyder

Why would the words of a war zone journalist be relevant to river advocates? Photographer and journalist Ami Vitale offers these insights:*

“If we choose to look for what divides us, we will find it. If we choose to look for what brings us together, we will find that too.”

Water in the west is filled with conflict among stakeholder groups who often feel misunderstood and sometimes maligned by each other. There are winners and losers, but too often, rivers and all the life that depends on them are on the losing side.

This had been true for the Deschutes River in Central Oregon, but positive change was finally underway. Then tensions came to a head in November

2017, when the first draft of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was made public. The plan addresses in part the ESA-listed Oregon spotted frog and proposed changes to the management of the Upper Deschutes.

After years of conservation groups pushing irrigation districts to conserve water and supporting the districts’ irrigation modernization efforts, negative reaction to the initial draft HCP threatened to derail the work being done by many, including the Coalition for the Deschutes (CFD).

Driven by our pressing and passionate desire to bring people together to engage in conversation, not conflict, in July 2017 CFD launched the **“Shared Vision for the Deschutes.”**

The *Shared Vision* brings diverse

River otter on the Crooked River, a tributary to the Deschutes River, Oregon. Photo: Dave Rein

interests together with the goal of working as partners to achieve:

- A healthy, restored Deschutes River
- Thriving farms and sustainable agriculture
- Robust and vibrant communities

To date, 42 organizations are *Shared Vision* partners. They include irrigation districts, breweries and outdoor recreation businesses, farms and agricultural businesses, environmental organizations, and hunting and angling groups.

In 2020, we will launch a new *Shared Vision* program we’re calling **Share the Vision: Be the Change**. Individuals are invited to sign the *Be the Change* pledge and commit to conserving water in their daily lives. They can also donate to restoration projects and sign up to volunteer on restoration projects organized in collaboration with *Shared Vision* partners.



Ami Vitale, the war zone journalist, observes:

“Stories about people and the human condition are also about nature. If you dig deep enough behind virtually every human conflict, you will find an erosion of the bond between humans and the natural world around them.”

From otters to anglers to itinerant farm workers, we all rely on the river. CFD works to convey the message that there are reciprocal relationships between rivers and people, between rural and urban communities, etc. We see the need for a water conservation ethic that is embraced by all of us, an ethic in which everyone understands their individual and collective impacts, and our responsibility to share the water not only among ourselves but with all living things.

These discussions will continue long into the future, but by talking together today, stakeholders will be better positioned to see long lasting positive outcomes for our rivers. ♦

Above: Kayak trip co-hosted by Coalition for the Deschutes and Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe on the Deschutes River through Bend, OR. Photo: Diana Lee

Inset: Coalition for the Deschutes field trip to an irrigated farm east of Bend. Photo: Gail Snyder, Executive Director of Coalition for the Deschutes

Below: Deschutes National Forest restoration project on the Upper Deschutes River with Coalition for the Deschutes volunteers. Photo: Dave Rein



* <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/09/life-changing-lessons-of-the-last-male-northern-white-rhino/>



Packrafting – Sin Fronteras... Reflections from the Rio Bravo

by Monica Morin

It's winter and the desert is calling. The decision was made to push the boundaries and plan a 19-day packraft trip down the Rio Grande River in Texas/Rio Bravo in Chihuahua, Mexico. The 210-mile stretch between Lajitas and Dryden captures some of the most iconic canyons along the 1,200 or so miles that form the border between the US and Mexico. Of those miles, 196 are protected as Wild and Scenic. A mix of land management agencies both in the US and in Mexico help to conserve some of the corridor and surrounding desert. This includes Big Bend National Park, which protects the largest area of the Chihuahua Desert in the United States. Trading ice fog in the PNW for crystal-clear starry nights of the desert, we headed for the border.

After irrigation and municipal uses, only a trickle of water makes it to Lajitas. The exceptions are monsoons and dam releases from Rio Conchos in Mexico, the largest tributary to the Rio Grande. According to local outfitters, Mexico generally shuts off the water around January 1st. It was January 7th, and we still had 600 cfs; a great flow. No one knew when it would get shut off. The beauty of having packrafts is if all else fails, just hike out.

The plan was to put on as a small group in Lajitas and pick up a few more paddlers eight days later at Rio Grande Village. By

the end of day one I came down with the flu. Before committing to a long stretch, I sadly waved goodbye to my friends at the take-out to Santa Elena, an absolutely stunning stretch of canyon.

After getting the flu, having an allergic reaction, and taking a trip to the ER, I was finally on my way back to meet the group at the Village. Missing five days of the trip was disheartening. It's not that often longer trips are available after choosing to "adult." Considering recent memories and fear of crippling ailments, I was thankful to be healthy enough to get back on the river. We now had seven, including a badass Alaskan mom and her two boys aged 10 and 13. It was truly a great team.

On day one of the lower stretch, we had already forgotten we were on the border with Mexico. The kids needed to change layers and we found ourselves on river right a little too close to a population center. After a few moments we looked up to see uniformed federales with assault rifles. They must be guarding the hot springs. Maybe we should go, NOW?! After a second look the officers were smiling and taking photos of our funny boats with their smartphones. We had enough Spanish in our group to converse and gave them our phones to take photos of us. They enthusiastically motioned for us to check out the hot springs, while showing deep concern for our lack of supplies for such a long trip.

*The federales were friendly and curious about our packrafts and where our gear was for an 11-day trip.
Photos: Parker Anders*

As we floated by the small Mexican town of Boquillas, the youngest of the group practiced his Spanish with the man rowing the "ferry" across from Big Bend National Park. The border was opened here as a port of entry in 2013 after being closed in 2002. It is the only legal border crossing on the US-Mexican border unstaffed by US customs. However, one must check in with NPS officials and take a video call with customs. You are supposed to check in with Mexican officials but the word was they were on "vacaciones" and had been for over a month. I absolutely LOVE Mexico! The town survives off of selling wire sculptures of desert critters and "no wall" paraphernalia, along with burritos and margaritas to US tourists. When the closure hit in 2002, most residents had to leave. Some have returned but are afraid of the impacts of a border wall.

The abstract idea of politics and stress of modern society crumbled quickly as Boquillas faded into the distance and the walls of Boquillas Canyon grew to dominate the landscape. The river was a place, an intact ecosystem, water in an expansive desert, a sanctuary for all living creatures, a path, and our livelihood for the next 11 days. We were now in the "middle of everywhere," and the fact we were along a major frontera slipped from our minds. The theme of the trip became wonderfully relaxing mornings with opportunities for side hikes before, during, or after daily river miles were made. Every side canyon begged to be explored, and we found ourselves wandering up slot canyons and huge open drainages full of polished rock

and potholes. We spied turtles, herons, raccoons, a tarantula and saw cougar tracks in the mud. We enjoyed each other's company around the campfire while contemplating life, with a wonder of why fifteen or so satellites crossed the night sky in a single line somewhere around 8:00PM. Clearly aliens! These moments became more vibrant by watching the excitement and enthusiasm in the kids' eyes as they experienced their first desert excursion and we delved deeper and deeper into this unimpeded wilderness.

There were a few moments that reminded us of how others may be experiencing the desert landscape. We found a backpack washed up on a gravel bar along with a few camps full of garbage rumored to be frequented by individuals the locals refer to as "illegals." For us, it was purely enjoyment, a place to reconnect with the land and with each other. For those crossing into the US it was likely not a choice but a major obstacle along the path to pursue an idea of a better life or simply for survival. Mom explained to the children that not everyone is as fortunate as we are. That didn't mean we couldn't enjoy where we were. It meant that we should appreciate what we have and share with others when given the opportunity. Everyone has a story.

By day 7 or 8, evening conversations started to focus on food. "I'll trade you only what you need for something that I

actually want," I kept saying as I was sick of the OWYN bars I bought in bulk at the Grocery Outlet. I think we all lost a little weight on that trip. However, I love the challenge and simplicity of packing backpack style as opposed to huge canoes or rafts laden with gear that must be portaged through rapids easily run with packrafts. I once heard, "you don't own your things, your things own you." Although, I admittedly enjoyed and appreciated the oranges donated to us by canoeists on day 8!

By days 9 and 10, discussions started to include what people were doing after the trip, which visibly affected everyone's moods and focus. Some of us were excited to see loved ones left at home, others had to get back to the grind, while some were planning for more adventures. I personally considered the thought of leaving the simplicity of river life, the night sky, and my new family, absolutely daunting. I think many people experience this when leaving the Grand Canyon. This time, for me, my desire to stay was stronger than ever. We celebrated our last night with a surprise combread dessert, reminiscing by the fire under yet another crystal clear, beautiful starry night.

At the take-out we were greeted by our shuttle driver who was early and delivered beer. His tip went up. The second we got into cell service I turned on my phone and instantly felt nauseous as the van seemed to break the sound barrier. Let's turn that back off. Thank God no one had any battery life. We dropped mom and kids off in Alpine due to a logistical blip, oops. It all happened so fast, leaving the kids confused and the group split.

"It's okay we'll see you tomorrow."

I've been there before, out on a great trip with great people, completely living in the moment. When the bubble bursts, reality floods back in. Whatever issues you were dealing with prior — the loss of a loved one, sickness, divorce or major break up, finances, feeling directionless, frustration at work, rejection — you have to face again.

It's called re-acclimating, and not all of us acclimate well. Maybe that's why many of us are drawn to these places and why some of us decide to never leave.

The next day, five of us traveled to El Paso via train, which was a cultural experience in its own right. The train was five hours late; irrelevant as time still had little meaning. Phones were on and charged. It had happened. The end. The kids were playing video games, long external conversations with the outside pursued, and I became obsessed with the Coronavirus not wanting to risk the current feeling of being healthy. That's it, I was holding on. I let my mom know we were okay, ignored voicemail messages, and turned off my phone. Easy: disconnect to connect, remaining in the moment, the here and now. Practicing Spanish with the older ladies from Mexico helped to stave off the pressure to acclimate as I held onto the last thread of reality.



Every shoe out there has a story. We saw so many shoes.

We rolled into El Paso late and caught a glimpse of the big red "X." It was so close I felt I could touch it as we speeded by on a 6-lane freeway. The X, also known as "La Equis," is a lit sculpture located on the south bank of the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juárez. It signifies a welcome to Mexico and the merging of two cultures: the Aztecs and the Spanish. To me it brought everything full circle. It was a reminder of the border, the vast difference in its significance in an urban versus wilderness setting, and the stories behind it, most untold.

Now it's back to the grind. After traveling across the entire country via trains, planes, automobiles, and packrafts, I can't help but stop and reflect. In the midst of confusion and struggles over first world problems, the river has a way of putting it all into perspective, delivering lessons often swift but sometimes subtle.

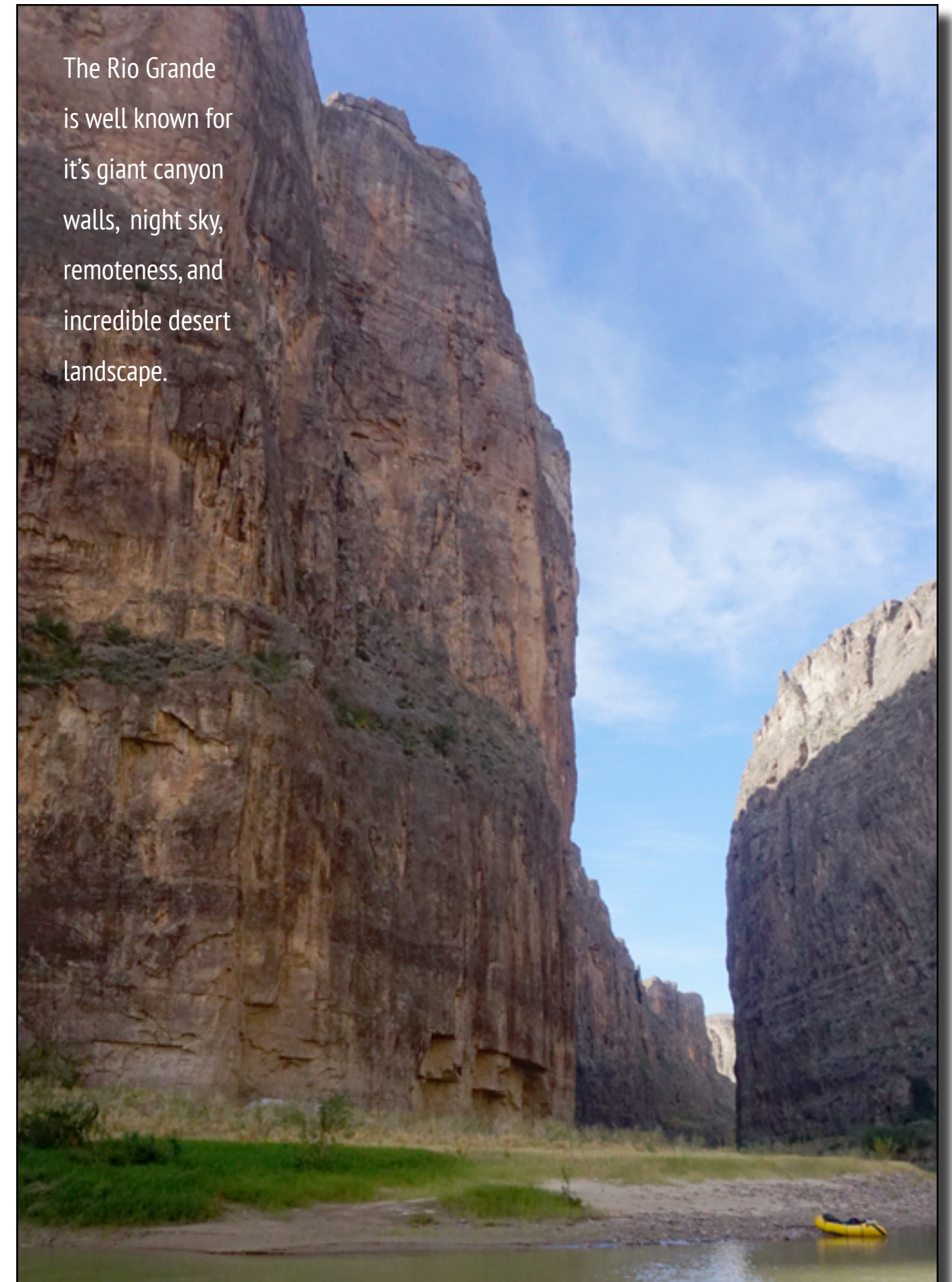
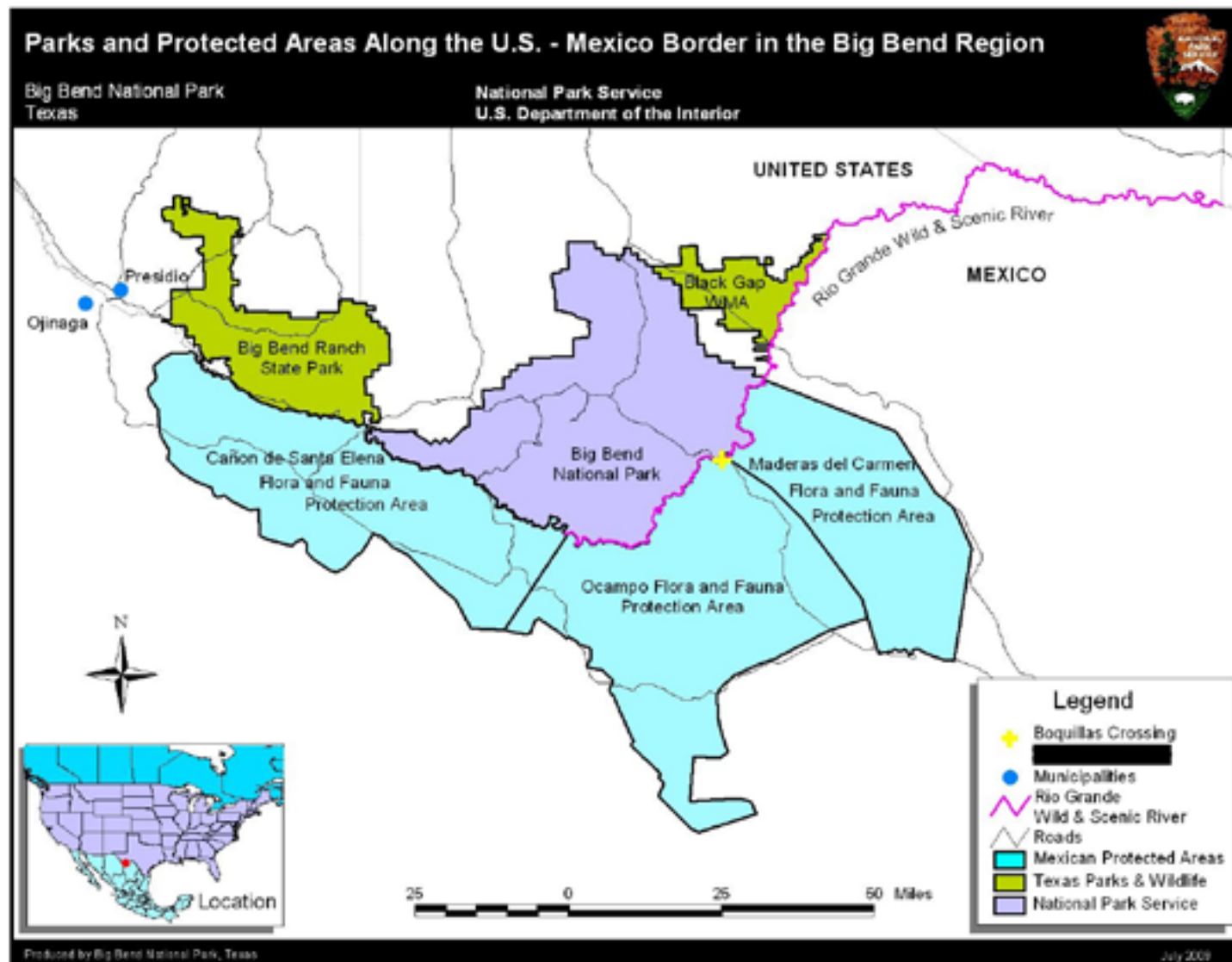
These subtle messages echoed from the calm and untamed waters of the Rio Grande and Rio Bravo, through its open, wind-swept banks and steep canyon walls, and into our lives and the lives of those whose stories are untold.

We sat back to listen as mom reminded the children to appreciate what we have by recognizing we might not always have it and by sharing with those that may not have been given the opportunity. She encouraged that even if barriers are built we have the power to tear down walls by listening and learning with an open mind. She echoes quietly from deep within the steep walled canyons, where the outside cannot be heard, where all living creatures are free from the pressure of the masses, and all who truly hear her live a life *sin fronteras*. ♦

An international park with Mexico; to learn more about President Franklin D. Roosevelt's grand challenge to Mexican President Manuel Avila Camacho in 1944 visit: <https://greaterbigbend.wordpress.com/international-park-update/>

For information about recent struggles along the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, visit the American Rivers website: <https://www.americanrivers.org/endangered-rivers/lower-rio-grande-tx/>

The Rio Grande River is currently protected by land management agencies in both Mexico and the United States. The idea of an [international park](#) arose in the early 1900s with the first agreement being signed in 1934. President Roosevelt greatly supported the idea, and interest was expressed in a signed statement by President Obama, however it has not been realized.



The Rio Grande is well known for its giant canyon walls, night sky, remoteness, and incredible desert landscape.

RMS is excited to introduce...

by Maria Blevens, Ph.D.

A-DASH stands for Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, and this is a group that is working together to help organizations in the river community welcome constructive conversations about how to change organizational culture. The primary focus is the issue of sexual harassment and how to make work and at play on the river more fun for more people. Discussions around harassment can feel uncomfortable, so A-DASH has been created to provide resources, trainings, and facilitators that can professionals can call upon when they decide to themselves encourage important conversations about expectations, accountability, and workplace culture.

The conversations around sexual harassment and sexual assault in the river community changed dramatically in the winter of 2015, when more than a dozen of female National Park Service employees united to submit a letter to then-Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel. In it, the employees outlined 15 years of sexual harassment by the river rangers working at Grand Canyon National Park. The harassment varied from verbal abuse to physical assault, and an organizational culture that dismissed reports of abuse,



punished and silenced women that accused their harassers, and empowered the men to continue assaults on female employees. This event and related article in national publications sparked a powerful discussion at the 2018 River Management Society Symposium about the need to address personal safety and the challenges sexual harassment creates for river professionals. It also led to the National Park Service taking a true leadership role, supporting the means to improve its (and others') river-based workplace environments through issue awareness and training. The creation of A-DASH is the next step in this critical culture change.

A-DASH is supported through a

cooperative agreement between RMS and the National Park Service. This group consists of current and former river professionals who understand what makes the river community unique and the particular challenges that the river industry and river management agencies face when talking about harassment: river guides, agency staff, academics, raft company owners and managers, and trainers who specialize in sexual harassment workshops for the outdoor industry. The three organizing members are Emily Ambrose, Engage Coaching & Consulting, Colorado State University, Risa Shimoda, River Management Society, and Maria Blevens, Ph.D. of Utah Valley University.

Additional members helping with program creation are:

- Alexandra Thevenin - Co-Owner, Arizona Raft Adventures
- Emerald LaFortune - Idaho Conservation League
- Steven Foy - General Manager, Nantahala Outdoor Center
- Jim Miller and Gina McClard - Respect Outside, LLC
- Lenore Perconti - HR Supervisor, Mt. Hood Meadows Resort
- Alexa Spielhagen - Raft guide and PhD candidate, Northern Arizona University
- Omar Martinez - Respect & Inclusion Taskforce, Arizona Raft Adventures, JEDI Council for Grand Canyon Youth (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion)
- Myra Strand and Russ Strand - Strand Squared LLC
- Corita Waters - Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance, Wild and Scenic Rivers Co-Lead, National Park Service
- Emma Warton - Executive Director, Grand Canyon Youth

A-DASH Values are:

- Inspiring Learning & Behavior Change
- Centralizing Equity
- Supporting organizations seeking to grow in the areas of anti-sexual harassment and discrimination
- Building supportive, trusting communities
- More fun for more people!

We know this is a long conversation and look forward to all of your thoughts and ideas. Keep an eye out for more information and email us with comments or questions. ♦

Find A-DASH on Instagram:
@adash_collaborative

Email A-DASH:
A-DASH@river-management.org



A-DASH lead coordinators (left to right):
Maria Blevens, PhD, Risa Shimoda, Emily Ambrose



Mission

River and training professionals collaboratively inspiring and supporting organizations to create discrimination- and harassment-free environments through policy assessment, trainings, and organizational change.

Vision

We envision rivers and other outdoor spaces where all people can work, play, and belong.

A Creek, A Community, and A Commitment



by George Lindemann

Soak Creek is a Tennessee stream which runs through one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the country. The creek gorge remains in pristine condition and attracts an ardent local fan base of paddlers, hikers, fisherman, and nature enthusiasts. This is a story about Tennessee's first Scenic River designation in fifteen years. It's a story about activists, non-profits, and government working together to make a difference. It's a story about preserving nature while encouraging economic development.

The region features the largest sinkhole in the United States. It's called Grassy Cove. Grassy Cove is an idyllic valley with a little stream running through it and is a designated National Natural Landmark. There are also many notable waterfalls in the area: Ozone Falls, Devil's Hole, Stinging Fork Falls, and my personal favorite, Piney Falls, which is a National Natural Landmark. Piney Falls flows into Soak Creek. For the longest time after I moved to the Plateau, I didn't know these amazing places existed so close to our farm. I knew that abundant natural beauty surrounded us, but I needed to find and access these hidden treasures. There were a few books. There wasn't much on the Internet, and on-site signage was minimal. I believed and still believe that other residents and visitors needed and wanted access to these places, too.

But how?

Keith McCoy, one of the real Hatfields and McCoys, works on our farm and grew up in the area. Keith had been to or heard of many of these beautiful places. He knew how to get to each

Paddlers execute The Pinch while John Hetzler plans his next move. John helped persuade landowners to support Soap Creek's designation. The Pinch is one of several Class III rapids where one can scout or walk around. Photos: George Lindemann

site. He knew people who could give us directions if a trail was well hidden. He sometimes even knew locals who would allow us access to a site through their property, allowing for a better vista, a different angle, a smoother trail, or simply a shortcut. And as long as I didn't bring up the Hatfields, Keith was a great guide.

For years I scoured our farm's surroundings, near and far. There were unknown and well-known destinations. Some of the more famous destinations include the Ocoee, Hiwassee, and Pigeon rivers. They all flow out of the Smoky Mountains. The Ocoee River is actually quite famous. It is the most paddled river in the entire United States. My family and I have so many memories learning how to kayak and canoe on these rivers.

I am the father of four young kids. Nature hikes are a must (dad insists), but it's always easier to motivate the kids when paddling whitewater is involved. Initially, we had to drive more than two hours to go paddling. We all love the Ocoee River. It's every paddler's dream. There are dozens of Class III rapids on a five-mile river run. Two hours in a car with four kids, though, is not ideal. I repeatedly heard about closer, local creeks; I just couldn't figure out where they were or how to access them. Eventually, I located and paddled Clear Creek. It's about an hour from our farm, and it's a Federal Wild and Scenic River. It's a free-flowing seasonal creek. The water just flows when the

weather conditions are right. During the hotter summer months, Clear Creek dries up. When the water is flowing, it's a scenic Class II run with terrific federally-maintained facilities. Rangers patrol the creek, and the parking and changing facilities are always clean. I remained determined to find more such creeks even closer to home.

Paddling free-flowing creeks are similar to backcountry skiing. You better have an excellent guide and know what you're doing because small mistakes become perilous very quickly. Creeks are like that. When my trainer and I finally located good access to Daddy's Creek (a few miles from our farm), we paddled a creek that seemed perfectly safe for kids. The night before the kids' first run, we sent two experts downstream to scout the creek one last time. Everything seemed safe. Yet overnight, the creek dropped nine inches. A novice-paddler family friend somehow got ahead of the group and entangled herself on a partially submerged tree. A tree blocking the flow of a river is called a strainer. Strainers are killers. How did my two professional guides not warn us about this dangerous obstacle? Easy. The felled tree was underwater the day before. The guides simply paddled over the tree, unaware of its existence. When the water level dropped overnight, the tree emerged. Nobody got hurt, but the point is that information is king, and without correct information, navigating creeks can be dangerous.

Another local creek, Whites Creek, originates on my farm. I'd been living at the farm for more than five years, and I didn't even know Whites existed. When I finally paddled Whites, I was blown away. I'd never seen anything so breathtakingly beautiful. Our farm is nine miles from Crossville, a city of nearly 40,000 people. We are an hour from Knoxville and an hour from Chattanooga. And yet, when I paddled Whites Creek for the first time, I might as well have been in the Amazon. There was no trace of civilization down the entire six-mile gorge. I thought I had finally found the one local, untouched, free-flowing, and navigable creek near my farm. But there were more. A few weeks later, I got a call from my paddling coach. He had just found access and paddled another opportunity — Soak Creek. When the weather was right, I paddled it for the first time. Whites Creek

was not unique. There were other navigable free-flowing creeks a few miles from my front door. I just didn't know about them.

How is it possible that right between Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga — exactly in between all three — are miles and miles of incredible, untouched, and unmarked navigable creek gorges? I called the American Whitewater Executive Director.

"We've been trying to preserve those for 15 years," he said.

"Why haven't you?" I asked.

"We want to have them designated Wild and Scenic — we just have never had any local volunteers to help us."

I was determined to do what I could to help. Wild and Scenic designation seemed the most efficient manner to ensure government protection. It's a tool that the government hadn't used for fifteen years. There were nearby areas already designated as special or owned and protected by the State of Tennessee. For example, the Cumberland Trail is Tennessee's miniature version of the Appalachian Trail. It runs through the area. Tennessee is trying to promote the trail as an ecotourism destination. So many places and creeks need protection and promotion. I began to consider how I could encourage politicians and nonprofits to focus on these unique creeks.

The farm and Soak Creek are in the same watershed, within a few miles of each other. According to the NatureServe Rarity Weighted Richness model, much of the Cumberland Plateau is home to many critically imperiled species. Our farm is in a particularly rich area, a veritable ground zero for threatened species in the United States. The thing is, there are no charismatic mammals like a bear or mountain lion, but there are many tiny critters on the list. The Purple Bean Mollusk, the Hellbender, and the Tangerine Darter are some of my personal favorites. Saving them is not as exciting as saving an elephant, but they do really matter to the ecosystem. My favorite new species is called *Melanoplus lindemanni* Hill. It was discovered on our farm by an entomologist just last year. Still protecting the creeks protects the critters.

While urban in some areas, the region around our farm is actually located in rural Appalachia. I believe that by protecting these unique places and creating access, we can build a vibrant

Sandstone Rockhouses like this one are one of the classic features of Plateau geology that develop as the river cuts under the capstone layer of rock.





A towering sandstone bluff dwarfs the rafters below. Like many locations on the Cumberland Plateau, Soak Creek has countless exquisite cliff overhangs.

ecotourism economy while preserving the environment. By access, I mean physical *and* virtual. We need easements and land acquisitions to make the trailheads and put-ins convenient. We also need to let folks know where, how, and when to visit.

Why not get Soak and Whites creeks designated for special protection? We spent two years talking to stakeholders and neighbors, government officials, nonprofits, and businesses. We spoke to everyone who would listen. We talked to RLF Properties. They're land developers out of Denver who own property in the area, and they were some of the biggest supporters of protecting the creeks. Why? Property adjacent to protected lands is more valuable. And RLF would own hundreds of acres adjacent to a designated creek.

It all made sense and, at first, seemed easy. A scenic designation would benefit the environment as well as the landowners. But it's never easy. The State of Tennessee has a long history of supporting landowner's rights. All landowners. The Tennessee Legislature required us to get letters of support for every single creek-adjacent parcel. Unfortunately, we could not convince one or two Whites Creek landowners, so it had to be dropped from our plans.

But with the support of many volunteers, landowners, and government officials, Soak Creek became the state's first Wild and Scenic River in 15 years. Soak Creek now has additional government monitoring and protections. Since the designation, many more people visit the creek—people who care and pick up trash. They go to local stores and eat at local restaurants. Eventually, property values will increase, too.

We used existing tools to bring attention to these special places. Others can do it, too. While I donated some additional

creekside land to the State to expand the Cumberland Trail, the designation wasn't based on that. I did ask that more access be developed there, however. State officials agreed though construction has yet to start. It will come.

For me, this effort was an exercise in entrepreneurial philanthropy. Many of us can write checks to the causes that matter to us. Entrepreneurial philanthropy brings a transactional economic element to the process. Think about those developers... they supported our effort and will eventually benefit from it—and that's great. Land can be preserved, and people can make money.

Each of us, in some way, can help preserve our remaining wilderness. It can't just be the nonprofits. It can't just be the Federal or the State Government. Change requires the help of locals who know what's out there, know what challenges there are, what strengths there are, and what weaknesses there are. I'm not saying it's easy. Preserving nature can be frustrating. But we got it done, and forever there's that beautiful Soak Creek. Kids and families can enjoy it forever, and the endangered small critters might just have a chance.

Now people ask, "Well, what's the next project?" Soak Creek is a tributary of the Piney River. Most of the Piney Gorge was donated to the State decades ago by the Bowater Company. Like Soak, Piney is home to many threatened critters. It is also a hiker, paddler, fisherman, and nature lover's paradise. It needs to be designated Scenic and cared for. Getting the designation is not an easy task, but the upside potential for the local environment and economy is enormous. I don't know how long it might take, but I am determined to try. ♦

George Lindemann takes his family and friends paddling on Soak Creek while the waters are high: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miLm2FaulLE>

Soak is a fast moving creek, but there are many eddies where one can pull over and enjoy nature.



WSR Workshop – Implementing the Dingell Act



L to R: Risa Shimoda, Helen Clough, Mollie Chaudet, Lauren Pidot, Rod Bonacker, Aaron Curtis

In February 2019, landmark legislation protected nearly 620 wild and scenic river miles. The river portion of [John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#) represented years of meetings, phone and conference calls, and community and outreach by colleagues at [American Rivers](#), [American Whitewater](#), and other organizations.

These amendments made to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (the Act) in 2019 generated celebration by river communities across the nation. They also initiated a three (fiscal) year timeframe during which the river administering agencies must complete [Comprehensive River Management Plans](#) (CRMP). To help meet this objective, several workshops have been planned to support river managers and planners responsible for newly designated wild and scenic rivers. The RMS River Training Center is providing instruction and agency offices have also arranged separately to host trainings supported by RMS members and interagency partners through the US Forest Service Enterprise Program.

In February 2020, the Bureau of Land Management hosted a two-day *Oregon BLM Wild and Scenic Rivers Management Workshop: Implementing the Dingell Act* in Springfield, OR. RMS was privileged to offer this to over forty BLM and US Forest Service staff to support participants' increased understanding of the protection requirements associated with managing designated wild and scenic rivers, with an emphasis on those rivers designated by the Dingell Act.

Workshop participants reflected a truly impressive array of professions, expertise and experience. Their positions included:

- Archaeologist
- Biologist
- Botanist
- Hydrologist
- Field, Park and Watershed Program Manager
- Environmental Coordinator, NEPA Planner
- Landscape Architecture Resource Assistant
- Outdoor Recreation Planner
- Program Manager
- Supervisory Park Ranger
- Timber Sale Planner
- Tribal Consultant
- Realty Specialist

While the effort before them all is significant, so is the impact of their effort: it will ensure the efficacy of the Dingell Act with management tools afforded through Wild and Scenic River designation. Instructors Mollie Chaudet and Rod Bonacker shared history, planning guidance and case examples to help participants increase their knowledge of the provisions of the Act that guide management. The instructors and class reviewed the components of a CRMP, identification of outstandingly remarkable values, and the Act's mandate to protect and enhance values for which a river has been designated. RMS Secretary, Helen Clough, attended as RMS' representative and assisted as a breakout facilitator. Lauren Pidot, Oregon/Washington National

Conservation Lands Lead for the Bureau of Land Management, supported the offering by enlisting participation, helping with logistics, and providing maps and other classroom materials.

We were extremely pleased to receive high marks for our instructors and the manner by which they delivered the course content. The following comments reflect those offered in the workshop critique:

- *My eyes were opened to the interconnectedness of everything and how difficult competing resources may play into the hands of legislation and mandates. Learned a lot about elements of the Act, CRMP, and the Dingell Act Rivers.*
- *The workshop did a very good job of taking us through the steps needed to prepare the CRMP.*
- *I have a better understanding that we need to build a baseline work on solidifying ORVs before working on solving the potential issues. Boundaries as well. Instructors did a great job of inclusion of all individuals from field office to State offices – recreation to timber.*
- *The river group activities were extremely helpful; great opportunities to kickstart our CRMPs, meet our peers, and brainstorm strategies. Easily the best part of the workshop. The lectures were also very good, especially the Section 7 presentation.*
- *I particularly liked how tailored the training was to our specific rivers under the Dingell Act.*
- *Having all the WSR/Dingell Act resources at our fingertips, taking a solid look at our designated rivers with our local team members was especially pertinent and helpful.*
- *It really helped create relationships with the inter-agency team.*

- *I appreciated getting to work on our own WSRs versus just talking about it.*
- *The instructors were extremely knowledgeable and useful because of their ability to answer questions that at times fell outside the general training materials and examples.*
- *The workshop exceeded my objectives for having specific discussions of our rivers. Thank you for making this training so specific to our rivers. It was incredibly helpful and really generated some great discussions.*

We received thoughtful suggestions for future workshops, including: encouraging the participation of the entire interdisciplinary team; exposing supervisors to the process (i.e., the level of effort required) to establish priority for CRMP preparation; a deep discussion of designation boundaries, rights-of-way, easements and acquisitions; and easy-to-find examples of CRMPs and other resources for RMS members. A few folks suggested offering additional breakout sessions, and others would have preferred fewer breakouts.

Thank you, RMS, for providing the targeted training in Oregon to help the BLM meet requirements of the Dingell Act. Your ability to fine-tune the course materials to meet local needs is invaluable. We look forward to working with RMS in providing similar trainings in the future! - Britta Nelson, BLM Headquarters, Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

RMS thanks our Oregon and Washington river managers and planners, including instructors Mollie and Rod, Helen Clough, Lauren Pidot, Aaron Curtis (BLM OR/WA Section Chief for Social Sciences, Division of Lands, Resources Minerals, and Fire) and BLM WSR Interim Lead Britta Nelson for their support for this and future River Training Center workshops! ♦

WSR CRMP Workshop Crew in Springfield, OR.



RMS Chapters

Owyhee River, OR May 4 - 7, 2020

Lambert Dome. Photo: Daniel J. Thomas



In partnership with the BLM Malheur Field Office, the Northwest Chapter is hosting a four-day river trip (48 miles) on the Owyhee in southeastern Oregon. The Owyhee's headwaters start in northern Nevada, then flow north through Idaho and into Oregon. At the Rome launch site, the Owyhee is still a free flowing river fed by snowmelt and spring rains. As one travels down into this remote canyon, the adventures will include hiking, archeology, geology, and American history. We'll take out at Birch Creek Historic Ranch. For more information contact: Dan Thomas (541) 473-6266 or dthomas@blm.gov.



Blossom Bar rapid on the Wild and Scenic
Rogue River, OR. Photo: Kai Allen

Mark Your Calendar – Northwest Chapter Rogue River, OR October 1-3, 2020

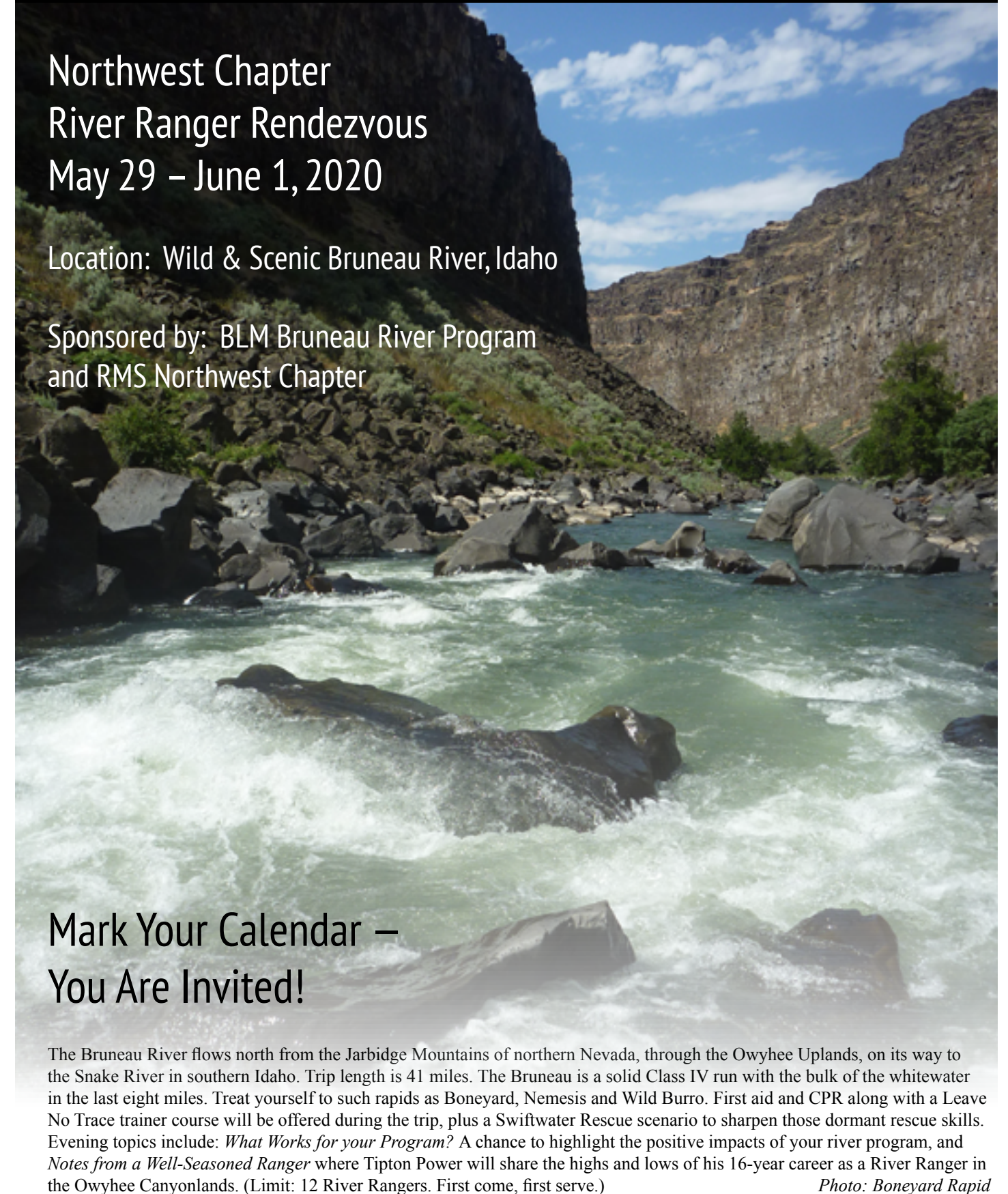
In partnership with the BLM in Grants Pass, the Northwest Chapter is again hosting the legendary Rogue River lodge-to-lodge trip, staying at Black Bar Lodge and Paradise Lodge! There will also be a day trip option upstream of the Wild section on September 30th.

RMS Chapters

Northwest Chapter River Ranger Rendezvous May 29 – June 1, 2020

Location: Wild & Scenic Bruneau River, Idaho

Sponsored by: BLM Bruneau River Program
and RMS Northwest Chapter



Mark Your Calendar – You Are Invited!

The Bruneau River flows north from the Jarbidge Mountains of northern Nevada, through the Owyhee Uplands, on its way to the Snake River in southern Idaho. Trip length is 41 miles. The Bruneau is a solid Class IV run with the bulk of the whitewater in the last eight miles. Treat yourself to such rapids as Boneyard, Nemesis and Wild Burro. First aid and CPR along with a Leave No Trace trainer course will be offered during the trip, plus a Swiftwater Rescue scenario to sharpen those dormant rescue skills. Evening topics include: *What Works for your Program?* A chance to highlight the positive impacts of your river program, and *Notes from a Well-Seasoned Ranger* where Tipton Power will share the highs and lows of his 16-year career as a River Ranger in the Owyhee Canyonlands. (Limit: 12 River Rangers. First come, first serve.)

Photo: Boneyard Rapid

For more information and registration: Evan Worthington (208) 384-3329 / eworthington@blm.gov

Mark Your Calendar –
You Are Invited!



*Gunnison River, Dominguez-Escalante Canyon.
Photo: Stuart Schneider*

RMS Southwest Chapter Dominguez - Escalante NCA Fall Float Trip

Southwest Chapter members and guests are invited on this Class I-II two-day float.

Experience 800' canyon walls, desert wildlife, and petroglyphs!

Exact dates TBD (September/October 2020).

Minimum of 10 people / maximum of 25.

Depart Morning Day One from Escalante Creek put-in to shuttle vehicles to Whitewater take-out.

Float (13-14 miles) on Day One to Big Dominguez Creek area and camp for night. Lunch on river.

Float (13-14 miles) on Day Two to Whitewater take-out (harder for rafts, easier for canoes/kayaks). Lunch on river.

Cost approximately \$25 (includes dinner before launch day). Bring own drinking water and food.

Call Stuart Schneider (970) 642-4964 or Rob White (719) 539-7289 for details.

Mark Your Calendar –
You Are Invited!



Allagash Falls. Photo: John Little

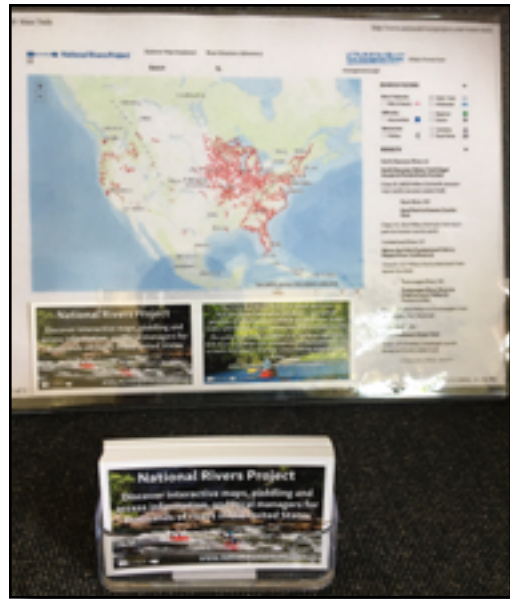
RMS Northeast Chapter Allagash Wilderness Waterway Trip! September 4 - 13, 2020

The 92-mile Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) in northern Maine is one of America's preeminent canoe trips. Established by the State of Maine in 1966 to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural beauty, character, and habitat of a unique area, the AWW was designated as the first state-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1970. The AWW is composed of a chain of lakes, ponds, and rivers, including much of the Allagash River, and is managed by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to preserve wilderness character.

Cost: ~\$450 per person (includes camping fees, canoe rental, shuttle fees, and food)

Limit: 12 person maximum. First come, first serve. Open to all (RMS members and non-RMS members).

If you're interested or need more information, contact Emma Lord: emma_lord@nps.gov



National Rivers Project Cards

by Sigrid Pilgrim

Several weeks ago, I learned of the National Rivers Project. I am a Director of the Illinois Paddling Council, the state organization for paddlesport. We annually have a table at Canoeconia, the world's largest paddle sport event in Madison, WI, hosting 15,000 attendees over three days.

Thinking it would be a great venue to promote NRP, I tried to print information from the website to distribute, and was not successful, so asked Risa if RMS had promotional material she could send. Jack Henderson produced some great, business-style cards and mailed them to me. I printed out the map from the website; inserted it into an acrylic 8"x10" stand; and taped two cards to it with others in a business card holder in front. I planned to explain details of the website and the (very impressive) three-minute tutorial.

It was to start March 13. However, an email arrived March 11th informing me that the event was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. But...there will be other events to use the display, and others are welcome to do the same!♦

Welcome! New RMS Members

Associate

Aimee Hoefs
Planning & Environmental Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
North Bend, OR

Jeanne Klein
Supervisory Recreation Planner
Bureau of Land Management
Medford, OR

David Sanders, Supervisory Park Ranger
Bureau of Land Management
Salem, OR

Sarah Schapira, Park Ranger
Bureau of Land Management
North Bend, OR

Jaydon Mead, Outdoor Rec Planner
Bureau of Land Management
Price, UT

Bob Lange, Hydrologist
Bureau of Land Management
Grants Pass, OR

Kailee Bell, LA Resource Assistant
US Forest Service
Eugene, OR

John Colby, Hydrologist
Bureau of Land Management
North Bend, OR

Government / Corporate Organization

Bruce Wilk
James River Park System
Richmond, VA

Rosemary Galloway Morris
VHB
Richmond, VA

Lifetime
Kelly Owens, Forest Hydrologist
US Forest Service
Jackson, WY

Brian Goldberg, Planner
US Forest Service
Jackson, WY

Mollie Chaudet
Consultant / Training Instructor
Redmond, OR

Nonprofit / NGO Organization
Scott Eustis
Community Science Director
Healthy Gulf (formerly Gulf Restoration Network), New Orleans, LA

Professional
Francisca Adrian
Assistant Recreation Staff Officer
Red Rock Ranger District
Coconino National Forest
Sedona, AZ

Rebecca Stubbs
Water Resources Project Manager
McAdams
Durham, NC

Erich Hester, Associate Professor
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University, Blacksburg, VA

Shaun Witt, Owner
Expedition Consultants
Frisco, CO

Lauren Pidot
Conservation Lands Program Lead
Bureau of Land Management
Portland, OR

Student
Colter Lemons
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA

Maxwell Leidig
Western Washington University
Brier, WA

Caelan Johnson
Western Washington University
North Bend, WA

Alexandra Trejo
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John Field, Vice President
Field Geology Services
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Walter Opuszynski, Trip Coordinator
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(802) 522-6022 / wopuszynski@gmail.com

SOUTHEAST

Jane Polansky, President
Tennessee State Parks
Wm. R. Snodgrass TN Tower, 2nd Floor
213 Rosa Parks Ave, Nashville TN 37243
(615) 456-3843 / jane.polansky@tn.gov

PACIFIC (vacant)

MIDWEST (vacant)

Canadian River Management Society (CRMS)
Contact: Max Finkelstein
tel (613) 729-4004 / dowfink@gmail.com

The RMS is fueled by the amazing energy of its members, and we are looking for energy we know is out there among both new and seasoned members. The Pacific, Midwest and Southeast Chapters are looking for members who care about the management of their rivers to lead them forward. Potential leaders are team players who love working with others and believe a regional dialogue among members and a presence among peers in other parts of the country would help chapter members and the organization as a whole!

A membership in
RMS makes a great
gift for a colleague
or friend!



RMS Membership

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Organization _____

Office _____

Work Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Job Title _____

Duties/interests _____

Rivers you manage _____

Membership Category (please check one)

- Professional \$50/yr (\$200 for 5 years)
- Associate \$30/yr
- Government/Corporate Organization
\$150/yr for up to (4) people / \$200/yr for (5-8)
- NGO/Non-profit Organization
\$75/yr for up to (2) people / \$150/yr for up to (4)
- Student \$25/yr
- Lifetime \$500 (for individuals only)

Membership benefits are described online:
www.river-management.org/membership

Who referred you to RMS? _____

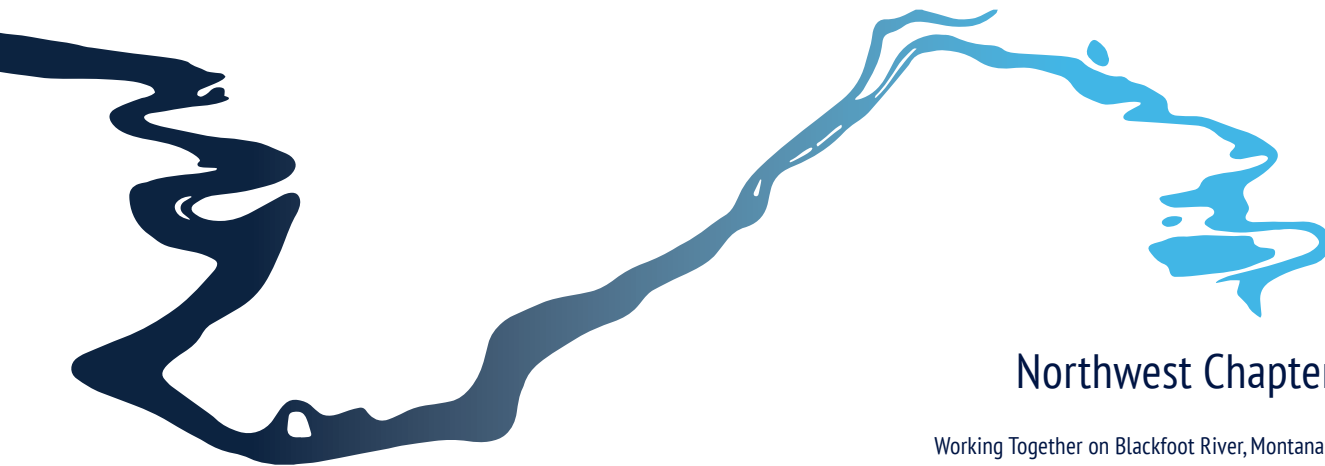
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**RMS Journal
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Summer 2020	Vol. 33, No. 2	Northeast	May 1
Fall 2020	Vol. 33, No. 3	Pacific	Aug 1
Winter 2020	Vol. 33, No. 4	Alaska	Nov 1
Spring 2021	Vol. 34, No. 1	Southeast	Feb 1
Summer 2021	Vol. 34, No. 2	Midwest	May 1
Fall 2021	Vol. 34, No. 3	Southwest	Aug 1
Winter 2021	Vol. 34, No. 4	Northwest	Nov 1

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