

Healthy Rivers For All



2017 IMPACT REPORT

MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER

2017 Successes*

11 dams removed

286,109 letters sent to decision-makers

407.5 miles of rivers restored through dam removal or reoperation

\$1.24 million granted to local river conservation projects

536,938 people reached through trainings, films and presentations

2.58 million pounds of trash removed through National River Cleanup®

*July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

SACRAMENTO RIVER, CA | Bob Wick

Healthy Rivers For All



The mother in Seattle. The pastor in Raleigh. The farmworker in Yuma. The paddler in South Carolina. What connects them, and us, is that we all need healthy rivers for the water we drink, the food we eat, our safety and livelihoods and the places we play.

Healthy rivers aren't a luxury — they are essential to our health, economy and quality of life.

Thanks to dedicated supporters like you, American Rivers has achieved remarkable gains in our more than forty years of protecting wild rivers, restoring damaged rivers and conserving clean water for people and nature.

Now, much of that progress is threatened. With an onslaught of rollbacks and budget cuts, the Trump Administration and its allies in Congress are working to take us back to the days of unchecked pollution, rampant development and reckless exploitation of rivers.

Your support in 2017 powered our defense of rivers and clean water against the administration's misguided attacks. At the same time, donors' generous gifts enabled us to demonstrate innovative solutions for rivers and water supplies in communities

across the nation, charting a path to a more sustainable and equitable future.

We maximized our impact by focusing efforts in four priority areas: ensuring clean and reliable water, protecting public lands and waters, redoubling field and policy work on the local level and mobilizing the public through outreach and advocacy campaigns.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to confront challenges and seize opportunities. With your support, our dedicated staff will put their extensive technical, legal and communications expertise to work every day, leveraging your gifts to protect and restore rivers and clean water. Healthy rivers and clean water shouldn't be partisan issues. Rivers connect us — all of us.

Thank you for your commitment during this critical time. Together, by standing for the rivers that give us so much, we will achieve our vision of a nation of clean, healthy rivers that sustain and connect us.

Wm. Robert (Bob) Irvin
President & CEO

Kimberley Milligan
Board Chair

MAKING AN IMPACT:

For Clean Drinking Water

Rivers provide more than two-thirds of our drinking water supplies. Donor support in 2017 was critical to defending vital river resources that benefit our health, environment and economy.

Defending Against Unprecedented Attacks

The Trump Administration wasted no time attacking vital protections for rivers and streams nationwide. Whether it was the repeal of the Stream Protection Rule, which protected small streams from the impacts of mountaintop removal mining, the budget proposal gutting critical programs for rivers and public health, the plans to shrink the size of National Monuments and weaken their protection, or the proposal to reverse the Clean Water Rule which safeguards the drinking water supplies for one in three Americans, American Rivers was swift and hard-hitting in fighting to protect our rivers.

As the nation's voice for rivers, we sounded the alarm by generating extensive news coverage in national outlets,

including *The Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *New York Times*, and in regional papers from Missoula, Montana to Columbia, South Carolina. We mobilized 268 scientists to sign a letter in support of the Clean Water Rule and inspired more than 25,000 activists to send messages to Congress and the administration, opposing rollbacks to public land and clean water protections.

Promoting Solutions for Flooding and Equity

The Reverend Jemonde Taylor at Raleigh, North Carolina's St. Ambrose Church was tired of the flooding every time it rained. His church's neighborhood around the highly-urbanized Walnut Creek, a tributary of the Neuse River, has a poverty rate of 58 percent, and 61 percent of residents are people

of color. The flooding problems are connected to decades of marginalization and disinvestment.

In 2017, with funding from The Pisces Foundation and The City of Raleigh, American Rivers joined with Reverend Taylor to begin writing a new chapter for the community. We helped the Walnut Creek Watershed Partnership create a rain garden at the church to absorb polluted runoff and decrease flooding during rain storms. We continue to engage with and learn from local residents through focus groups and outreach activities. Our work in the Walnut Creek neighborhood is part of a broader effort to promote integrated water management across the Neuse River Basin, and illustrates our ongoing commitment to helping communities tackle persistent environmental justice issues.



NEUSE RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA | James Willamor



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Kalberer Klean Kanteen

As a mom, Michelle Kalberer makes decisions every day that protect the health of her two children. As co-owner of Klean Kanteen, she makes decisions that are improving the health of our planet. Michelle has positioned Klean Kanteen as a leader in creating high-quality water bottles and other reusable products, helping to prevent single-use waste from fouling our rivers. The company has supported American Rivers since 2012.

“Water infiltrates my every day,” Michelle says. “I fix breakfast for my children. I wash their dishes, do my laundry...I try to think about the ways I’m using water because it’s precious. Our families and our communities need healthy rivers.”

Corporate support was integral to the successes of American Rivers in 2017. Klean Kanteen and other businesses contributed essential general operating funds, driving conservation efforts nationwide and ensuring the success of National River Cleanup®, and other public outreach and community engagement efforts.

For Michelle, it’s a win-win partnership. “From ensuring clean water sources, to revitalizing fish and wildlife habitat, to improving opportunities for river recreation, the work of American Rivers aligns with our mission, values and passions at Klean,” she says.



Restoring the Land of “Milk and Honey”



In 2017, we partnered with the Hispanic Access Foundation to drive solutions for healthy rivers and water supplies across the Colorado River Basin, where one-third of Latinos in the U.S. live and work. We named the Lower Colorado River America’s Most Endangered River® of 2017 and produced the film Milk and

Honey, showing the importance of the river to the faith, livelihood and future of Yuma, Arizona families. Our efforts to advance sustainable water management across the basin will continue, thanks to a two-year \$1.4 million grant from the Walton Family Foundation.

Watch the film: www.AmericanRivers.org/MilkAndHoney

Finding Hope in Milwaukee

“I awaken, hopeful. I go to sleep, filled with hope...It’s not an easy journey...but I know that my great-great-great granddaughter will be sitting in a better place and having a different conversation when it comes to water and air and land because we’re doing the work that we need to do today — and we’re not going to stop.”



— Venice Williams, director of Alice’s Garden, a community garden in Milwaukee.

As part of our work advancing green infrastructure in Milwaukee and nationwide, we produced the film Alice’s Garden, with support from the Kresge Foundation.

Watch: www.AmericanRivers.org/AlicesGarden

MAKING AN IMPACT:

For Our Heritage

Rivers are vital to our shared history and heritage. Gifts from donors in 2017 supported the protection and restoration of these treasured places, ensuring that we leave a legacy of healthy rivers, wild beauty and abundant fish and wildlife for generations to come.



Protecting 5,000 Miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers

American Rivers was founded 44 years ago to protect our nation's wild rivers from the threat of new dams and to grow the national system of federally protected Wild and Scenic Rivers. This year, with the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act approaching in 2018, we embarked on our boldest river protection effort yet.

With partners NRS, YETI, OARS, REI and American Whitewater we launched 5,000 Miles of WildSM, a national campaign to secure Wild and Scenic protections for 5,000 new miles of rivers and 1,000,000 acres of riverside lands over the next five years. In 2017, we built grassroots partnerships, collaborated with federal agency staff, developed legislative initia-



SOUTH FORK SNAKE RIVER, IDAHO

tives and fought to defend existing river protections on public lands.

This campaign's powerful combination of grassroots mobilization, creative storytelling and savvy policy work is already marshaling

a wave of support for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Thank you to our partners who are seizing this moment to drive the next 50 years of river protection in our country.

Learn more: www.5000Miles.org

"I think it's very important for all Americans to take a stand, a positive stand, in protecting wild rivers ... I hope that all Americans will join together with me and others who love the outdoors to protect this for our children and our grandchildren."

—Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States in *The Wild President*, a film produced in partnership with NRS.

Watch: www.AmericanRivers.org/TheWildPresident



Restoring Rivers, One Dam at a Time

Dams block a river's flow, destroy fish and wildlife habitat and degrade water quality. Removing dams takes ingenuity, perseverance and broad expertise. Donor support has made American Rivers the leader in removing dams to restore river health and improve public safety nationwide.

We inspired a movement that resulted in the removal of 72 dams in 21 states in 2017, and we played a key role in the removal of 11 of those dams. We advanced scores of other river restoration projects by providing technical assistance to resource managers, linking communities with funding opportunities and cost-saving

partnerships; training practitioners to be effective project managers; and advancing laws at the state level, making it easier to remove outdated, unsafe dams.

The Southeastern United States is one of the regions where dam removal is taking off, thanks to our supporters. This is important, because the region is a global hotspot for freshwater biodiversity. For example, on North Carolina's Henry Fork, part of the Catawba River watershed, we teamed up with the Carolina Land and Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to remove the 35-foot tall Shuford Mill Dam. The project eliminated the public safety risk of the unmaintained dam, improved

recreation for the local community and restored the river to its natural free-flowing state. Now that the habitat is improved, native mussel populations — which haven't been seen in the river for 100 years —

can be restored. The success on the Henry Fork is one example of how donor support is helping us use dam removal to save our natural treasures for future generations.

Removing the Shuford Mill Dam to restore North Carolina's Henry Fork.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Anji Moraes, Paul G. Allen Philanthropies

A grant from the Paul G. Allen Philanthropies to American Rivers will benefit one of the highest-priority river and salmon restoration efforts in Washington State. The \$4 million grant will support the removal of the diversion dam on the Middle Fork Nooksack River, revitalizing salmon and steelhead runs while maintaining the City of Bellingham's water supply.

"The Paul G. Allen Philanthropies has a long-standing commitment to supporting the Pacific Northwest. Salmon, which are deeply tied to the region's culture, environment and economies, need healthy rivers to survive and thrive," said Anji Moraes, Portfolio Manager with the Paul G. Allen Philanthropies. "American Rivers' staff have a demonstrated history of working



to successfully restore rivers. They are a trusted entity in this field and are able to have positive impact on ecosystems across the nation."

Once the 30-foot tall, 150-foot long concrete dam is gone, threatened salmon and steelhead will have access to more than 26 miles of important river habitat. Thank you to the Paul G. Allen Philanthropies for making this effort possible, and to our partners: the City of Bellingham, the Nooksack Tribe, the Lummi Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and American Whitewater.

MAKING AN IMPACT:

For Public Safety

Aging water infrastructure and increasingly severe hurricanes and flooding fueled by climate change are putting lives and property at risk like never before.

Donor support in 2017 put American Rivers on the front-lines, promoting 21st century flood protection solutions that work with nature, not against it.



Improving Safety at Dams

In February, 200,000 residents living below Oroville Dam on California's Feather River were ordered to evacuate. The dam's emergency spillway was in danger of failing, following heavy rains and rising waters in the reservoir. The problem at Oroville Dam was no surprise — American Rivers and other conservation groups raised concerns about the spillway a decade ago.

Fortunately, the spillway held, the crisis was averted and we were able to make the near-disaster a “teachable moment” for the nation. The lessons: we must invest in repair of our nation's crumbling infrastructure, and we can't rely solely on dams and levees for flood protection.



CENTRAL VALLEY FLOODPLAIN, CALIFORNIA | Daniel Nylén

California Director Steve Rothert highlighted the issues on a panel at the World Environmental and Water Resources Congress sponsored by the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Our President, Bob Irvin, published an opinion piece in *The Washington Post*, and American Rivers was mentioned in a *New York Times* editorial calling for better dam safety and flood protection measures — including river and floodplain restoration — in California and nationwide. Donor support is vital to our ability to undertake these types of rapid response communications year-round.

Giving Rivers Room: A Paradigm Shift in California's Central Valley

Culminating years of advocacy by American Rivers, California's Central Valley Flood Protection

Board adopted a new flood protection plan, charting a dramatically new course to reduce the risk to the public posed by catastrophic flooding.

Instead of relying on traditional approaches such as building larger and higher levees, the new plan recognizes that by strategically expanding floodplains, floodways and flood bypasses, we can reduce flood risk to people and property while providing a host of additional benefits including fish and wildlife habitat.

The plan is exemplary because it takes into account the impacts of climate change. It will benefit over one million Californians and \$70 billion in homes, businesses and infrastructure, and is a model for other watersheds nationwide.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Gordon James Member, River Rescue Society



As a member of the River Rescue Society since 2008, Gordon James is helping American Rivers build strength and stability

year-round. River Rescue Society members support our work with recurring monthly donations. “I believe that rivers are so important because of their roles in having healthy ecosystems, in producing important fish species such as salmon, and in providing

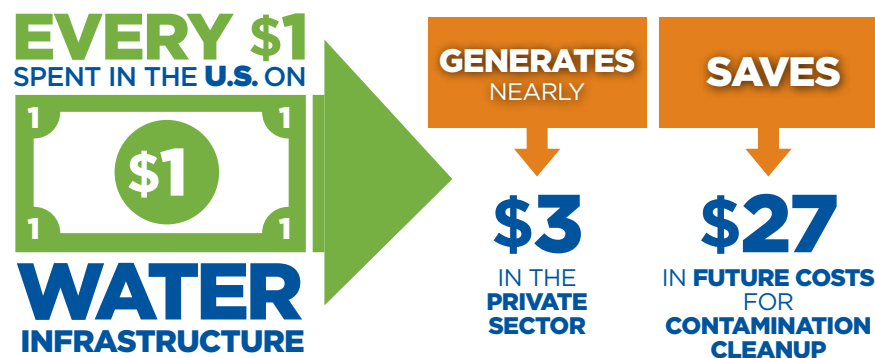
recreation to many Americans,” Gordon says.

A resident of Denver, Gordon is captivated by the great rivers of the west. His favorite river is the Missouri River, site of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804-1806. As a grandfather, he wants to make sure his grandsons can enjoy these natural treasures that are part of our country’s history and national identity. We are grateful to Gordon and all of our River Rescue Society members who are providing the consistent resources necessary for focused and sustained conservation work to ensure a future of healthy rivers for our children and grandchildren.

Naturally Stronger

Sewage overflows, flooding, polluted stormwater and leaky pipes threaten communities across the country. In our report, *Naturally Stronger: How Natural Water Infrastructure Can Save Money and Improve Lives*, we present the economic case for large-scale, nationwide investment in natural water infrastructure to confront these challenges and build healthier, more resilient communities.

Read the report: www.AmericanRivers.org/NaturallyStronger



Mississippi River Victory

In his final environmental action before leaving office, President Obama blocked the controversial New Madrid Levee — a project that would have destroyed 70,000 acres of floodplain on the Mississippi River in the Missouri bootheel. The decision — the result of years of advocacy and outreach by American Rivers and partners — saves priceless wildlife habitat and wetlands that absorb floodwaters, safeguarding neighboring communities.



MAKING AN IMPACT

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ARKANSAS RIVER, COLORADO | Hispanic Access Foundation

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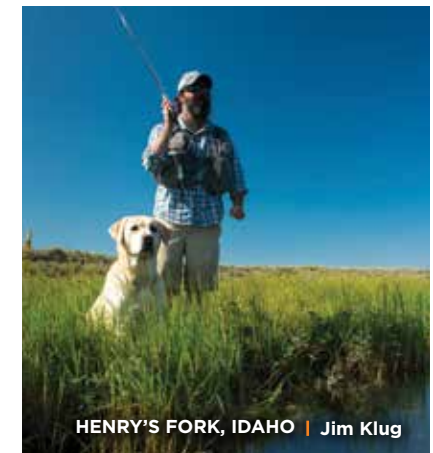
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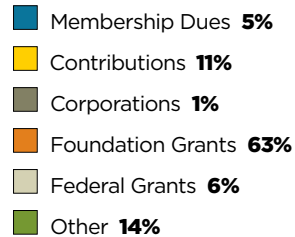
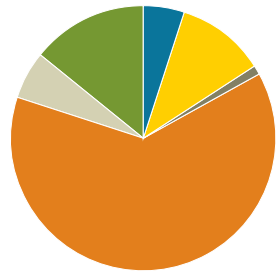
HENRY'S FORK, IDAHO | Jim Klug

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

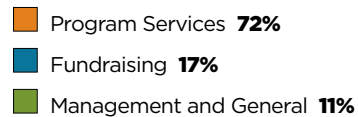
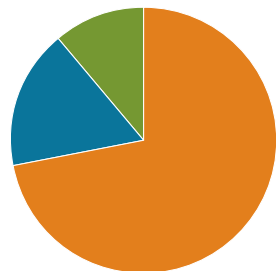
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

SUPPORT & REVENUE



EXPENSES



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total FY 2017
Membership	995,120	—	—	995,120
Contributions	2,036,585	397,398	—	2,433,983
Corporate Donations	96,570	210,361	—	306,931
Foundation Grants	614,210	13,087,196	—	13,701,406
Federal Grants	1,274,514	—	—	1,274,514
Other	2,250,738	832,592	—	3,083,330
Realized Gain (Loss)	8,827	29,795	—	38,622

Support and Revenue	7,276,564	14,557,342	—	21,833,906
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Net Assets Released From Restriction	7,214,050	(7,214,050)	—	—
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Total Support and Revenue	14,490,614	7,343,292	—	21,833,906
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EXPENSES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total FY 2017
Program Services				
River Restoration	3,132,525	—	—	3,132,525
Federal River Management	3,808,943	—	—	3,808,943
Clean Water Supply	2,490,040	—	—	2,490,040
River Protection	1,049,911	—	—	1,049,911
Total Program Services	10,481,419	—	—	10,481,419
Fundraising	2,402,913	—	—	2,402,913
Management and General	1,582,788	—	—	1,582,788

Total Expenses	14,467,120	—	—	14,467,120
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OTHER ITEMS

Interest and Dividends	12,161	35,937	3	48,091
Change in Market Value of Investments	3,483	156,977	—	160,460
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	(14,903)	—	—	(14,903)

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	24,235	7,536,196	3	7,560,434
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Net Assets at Beginning of Year	1,225,364	6,732,622	1,824,952	9,782,938
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Net Assets at End of Year	1,249,599	14,268,818	1,824,955	17,343,372
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2017

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,596,291
Investments	3,095,017
Grants and Pledges Receivable	8,730,895
Accounts Receivable	1,513,201
Other Assets — Principally Prepaid Expenses	288,260
Fixed Assets — Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$301,964	164,619

Total Assets	20,388,283
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LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	1,034,082
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	515,835
Refundable Advances	856,820
Charitable Gift Annuities Payable	159,306
Deferred Rent	468,502
Deposits	10,366

Total Liabilities	3,044,911
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NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	1,249,599
Temporarily Restricted	14,268,818
Permanently Restricted	1,824,955

Total Net Assets	17,343,372
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	20,388,283
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Final audited report is available online at AmericanRivers.org/AnnualReport

MAKE AN IMPACT

How You Can Help

American Rivers depends on private support to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water for people and nature. You can help in a number of ways, including:

River Rescue Society

Consider joining our special group of supporters who make monthly credit card donations of \$10 or more. By automatically renewing your membership, it reduces the amount of mail we send, reducing waste and helping protect the environment. It's an easy and rewarding way to give. To join, visit www.AmericanRivers.org/RiverRescueSociety.

River Guardians

Annual donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized as River Guardian members. This special society of committed conservationists offers opportunities to become more involved in our work. For more information, visit www.AmericanRivers.org/RiverGuardians

Anglers Fund

An extension of the River Guardians program, the Anglers Fund is for fishing enthusiasts who give \$1,000 or more annually. Benefits include invitations to small-group fishing trips with expert staff anglers as your guides. To learn more and join, please visit www.AmericanRivers.org/AnglersFund.

River Ambassadors

If you are a river outfitter or own a river-loving small business, merge your local efforts with our nationwide work to protect and preserve the waterways people enjoy by becoming a River Ambassador at www.AmericanRivers.org/RiverAmbassador

Matching Gifts

Double your donation! Many employers match charitable contributions made by their employees. Check with your personnel office about your company's program.

Planned Gifts

Our River Legacy Society recognizes and honors all who inform us of their intention to include American Rivers in their estate plans through bequests, trusts, or charitable gift annuities. To learn more about making a planned gift, please contact Georgette Blanchfield, Senior Vice President of Advancement, at 202-243-7050.

Workplace Giving/EarthShare

You may designate a portion of your paycheck to American Rivers through EarthShare, an alliance of the country's leading nonprofit environmental and conservation organizations, working under one name to safeguard public health and the environment. EarthShare promotes public education and charitable giving through workplace fundraising campaigns in federal, state, local, higher education and corporate communities across the country. If your employer does not have an EarthShare campaign,

call 800-875-3863 or visit www.EarthShare.org to find out how you can help launch a program in your workplace. If you are a federal employee, you can participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign. Designate your gift using CFC #12063.

Amazon Smile

You can have Amazon donate a portion of your purchases to American Rivers. Just go to **smile.amazon.com** and choose American Rivers as your nonprofit. Donations will help protect and restore rivers nationwide.

Change for Rivers

Our new mobile app, Change for Rivers, makes it easy to donate your spare change. Go to the App Store and search for "Change for Rivers." Download the app and link your account. Then every time you make a purchase with the linked account we will automatically round up to the nearest dollar, and that spare change will be donated to American Rivers.



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us

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About American Rivers

American Rivers protects wild rivers, restores damaged rivers, and conserves clean water for people and nature. Since 1973, American Rivers has protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and an annual America's Most Endangered Rivers® campaign. Headquartered in Washington, DC, American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 275,000 members, supporters, and volunteers.



Printed with vegetable inks on paper
that is 55% recycled and contains
30% post-consumer recycled fiber.