



American Rivers
RIVERS CONNECT US®



YOUR RIVERS YOUR IMPACT

2019 IMPACT REPORT



TOGETHER, WE RISE.

Read through this year's achievements and you may think American Rivers is a successful dam removal organization. You're right. You may see that we're leaders in making sure more rivers get protected under federal law. You're right about that, too. And you may learn that we're at the forefront of water justice in communities where people historically haven't had a voice in decisions about flooding or clean drinking water. American Rivers is all of those things.

But all of this organization's individual accomplishments add up to something even bigger.

American Rivers is the only national river organization working at the grassroots and in the nation's capital to ensure a future of healthy rivers — a resource none of us can live without.

From how we respect wild places, to how we manage our finite water resources in an era of climate change, to how marginalized communities access rivers and clean water — we are changing the way Americans treat rivers and use water.

So take pride in the achievements your support made possible in 2019. None of this would be possible without your steadfast partnership. Together, we are creating a nation where everyone, regardless of who they are or where they live, has healthy rivers and clean water, forever.

For detailed stories of the change you made possible in Maryland, Montana, Colorado and more, go to AmericanRivers.org/Impact2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. Robert Irvin".

Wm. Robert Irvin
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Milligan".

Kim Milligan
Chair of the Board of Directors

Cover: American Rivers is working with aquatic ecologist Mary Helen Nicolini to restore creeks in Central California. Read about her and other people transforming how we live with rivers in "Faces of Rivers." AmericanRivers.org/FacesOfRivers

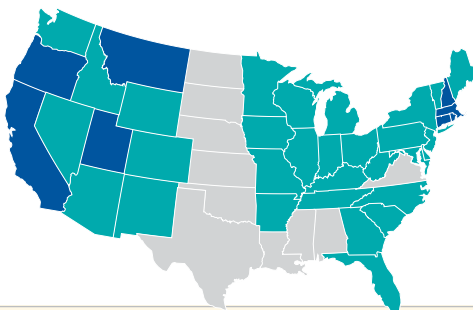
PHOTO: MICHAEL A. ESTRADA



American Rivers believes every community in our country should have clean water and a healthy river. Since 1973, we have protected wild rivers, restored damaged rivers and conserved clean water for people and nature.

39

states where American Rivers protected and restored rivers, and conserved clean water



States where we protected rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

California
Connecticut
Massachusetts
Montana
New Hampshire
Oregon
Rhode Island
Utah

PROTECTION

1,800+

RIVER MILES PROTECTED

15

RIVERS ADDED TO THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM



RESTORATION



11

DAMS REMOVED

286

MILES OF RIVERS RESTORED

4,374

miles of river habitat now open to fish and wildlife thanks to dam removal

CLEAN WATER



10 CITIES

We are working with communities from Arizona to Ohio to reduce flooding and ensure residents have clean water and healthy rivers.

37 MILLION

lives impacted by our work to protect the drought-ridden Southwestern United States from an immediate water crisis

ADVOCACY

500,000

PUBLIC COMMENTS

gathered by Clean Water for All — a coalition of organizations, including American Rivers — in opposition to the Trump administration's efforts to gut the Clean Water Rule

2.7

MILLION POUNDS

of trash removed from waterways through National River Cleanup®

WEIRDEST FINDS

during National River Cleanups®



rocking horse, trampoline, poker table, disco ball, cash register, blowtorch, 50-year-old Schlitz beer can

44 STATES

held National River Cleanups®

American Rivers appeared in

900 NEWS ARTICLES

These extraordinary victories for rivers across the country were made possible by your support.

FREEING RIVERS HIT A NEW HIGH. Of the 11 dams American Rivers played a part in removing last year, Bloede Dam on Maryland's Patapsco River was the most complex. The linchpin removal in a decades-long restoration effort eliminated a drowning hazard and opened

up more than 65 miles of spawning habitat for blueback herring, alewife and shad. Our advocacy and trainings have also built a powerful movement: A record number of dams have been removed in the last two years.

WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATIONS SURGED. American Rivers is advancing toward our goal of 5,000 new protected river miles by 2020. Just months after East Rosebud Creek became Montana's first Wild and Scenic River in 42 years, bipartisan-supported legislation permanently protected 620 miles of rivers in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island and Utah.

* Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2019

↑ Serena McClain, director of river restoration, overlooks the restored Patapsco River — a project she has worked on for 12 years.

PATAPSCO RIVER, MARYLAND



GILA RIVER, NEW MEXICO

FEDERAL POLICY EMBRACED RIVER-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS.

We helped create new avenues for dam and levee removal by securing legislation that requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider taking out dams and restoring natural floodplains as ways to deal with under-performing infrastructure. Simultaneously, the Corps issued new guidance that will create a greater market for dam removal — the result of years of effort by American Rivers and our partners to educate federal agency and administration staff.

CLEAN WATER RULE WAS UPHELD ... FOR NOW.

American Rivers won a critical victory last August, when a federal court ruled in our favor, finding that the Trump administration did not comply with the law when it moved to roll back the Clean Water Rule, which protects headwater and seasonal streams. The administration has since taken new action to repeal the rule — a decision we are fighting in court.

“Our people have lived on the banks of the Gila River in Arizona for thousands of years, and we have watched as our river dwindled through overuse in the upper valley. We have known for decades that our river is in danger, so the action of American Rivers today strikes a chord with me and my people.”

— Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community, in response to New Mexico's Gila River being named America's Most Endangered River® of 2019

AMERICAN RIVERS OPENED EYES AND MINDS.

America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2019 report garnered significant national and local media attention. Fifty years after Cleveland's Cuyahoga River went up in flames, we named the iconic waterway “River of the Year” in recognition of the vast improvements achieved thanks to the Clean Water Act. The accolade became a national talking point and an emblem of what is possible when urban areas prioritize clean water and rivers.



GRAND RIVER, MICHIGAN

134 SCIENTISTS

signed our letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

opposing the Trump administration's revised definition of what qualifies as Waters of the United States, which would eliminate Clean Water Act protection for many small streams and wetlands.

AMERICAN RIVERS

WHERE YOU LIVE

American Rivers' national advocacy touches every stream in the country, while our focus on 11 priority river basins (see key below) allows us to mobilize for specific rivers most in need of our help. With your generous support, our experts boldly protect rivers that allow society and ecosystems to thrive.



WASHINGTON 1

A landmark bill authorized the initial development phase of one of American Rivers' priority projects: the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, a long-term plan to address climate change, water supply, river restoration and land management for farms, fish, forests and people who rely on the Yakima River.

MONTANA 2

Thanks in part to our advocacy, Montana's Flathead National Forest unveiled a plan that will protect 22 streams, totaling 284 river miles, and over 90,000 acres of riverside lands.

ILLINOIS 3

American Rivers organized environmental groups along with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to stomp out a proposal that would have eliminated oversight of flood-protection levees and worsened flooding in communities near the Mississippi River. The state is now considering ways to proactively pay for solutions that do not rely on levees.



NEW JERSEY 5

Removing a 330-foot-long dam on the Paulins Kill River and restoring floodplain opened 20 miles of stream habitat to American shad, blueback herring and American eel.

WISCONSIN 4

We are innovating new ways to reduce urban flooding and keep pollution out of rivers by encouraging developers to install rain gardens, pervious pavement and green rooftops.



MARYLAND 6

Federal courts in Maryland and California ruled in our favor in two stormwater pollution cases. The outcome could increase the amount of green infrastructure to reduce polluted stormwater runoff from streets and parking lots.

NORTH CAROLINA 7

We played an important role in securing water-efficiency projects and expanding existing reservoirs to supply water to the growing city of Raleigh without building a single new dam or harming the Neuse River.

SOUTH CAROLINA 8

We fended off bad legislation in the state Senate that would have exempted two-thirds of regulated dams from state oversight. A record 85 dams in the state have failed during recent floods.

GEORGIA 9

Our new report, "Ensuring Water Security for People and Nature," identifies critical next steps to combat climate change and overuse on the upper Flint. Solutions include helping communities be more water efficient and persuading reservoir operators to let more water flow downstream.

CALIFORNIA 12

American Rivers is leading efforts to restore meadows in wilderness headwaters areas that provide essential spawning habitat for endemic trout and other wildlife.



ARIZONA 11

By helping negotiate a Drought Contingency Plan that will prevent an immediate water crisis for 37 million people and a \$1.4 trillion economy in the Southwest, we established a precedent for collaboration that will become even more urgent with the onset of climate change.

ARKANSAS 10

Soon after we named Arkansas' Buffalo National River one of America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2019, local groups won big when Gov. Hutchinson decided to close an industrial hog farm that has polluted 70 miles of river.

RIVER BASINS KEY

- ★ American Rivers' Headquarters
- Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin
- Chesapeake Bay River Basin
- Colorado River Basin
- Connecticut River Basin
- Delaware River Basin
- Great Lakes Basin
- Northern Rockies River Basin
- Puget Sound and Columbia River Basin
- Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin
- Southern Appalachia and the Carolinas River Basin
- Upper Mississippi River Basin

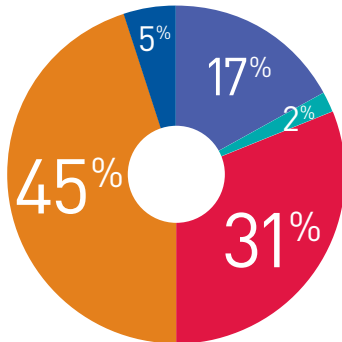


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FROM TOP LEFT: YAKIMA RIVER, WASHINGTON; TOM RING; PAULINS KILL RIVER, NEW JERSEY; THE NATURE CONSERVANCY; GREEN ROOF IN MILWAUKEE, MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT; FLINT RIVER, GEORGIA; ALAN CRESSLER; PATAPSCO RIVER, MARYLAND; LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, ARIZONA; COLLEEN MINIUK.

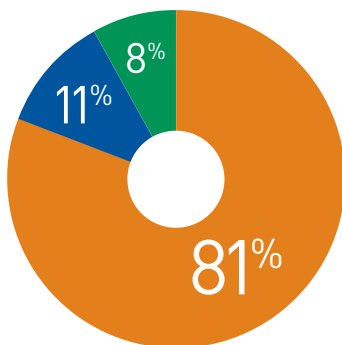
YOUR SUPPORT

Your generous support will ensure that healthy rivers enrich our lives for generations to come. Take a stand at AmericanRivers.org/MyImpact.



2019 REVENUE*

- Individuals
- Corporations
- Foundation Grants
- Government
- Other



2019 EXPENSES*

- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General

Find complete financials at AmericanRivers.org/2019Financials. * July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019



American Rivers
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ABOUT AMERICAN RIVERS

American Rivers believes every community in our country should have clean water and a healthy river. Since 1973, we have been protecting wild rivers, restoring damaged rivers and conserving clean water for people and nature. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., and offices across the country, we are the most effective river conservation organization in the United States, delivering solutions that will last for generations to come.

Follow us:



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