



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us®

WHERE HAVE
RIVERS TAKEN **YOU?**

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 SUCCESSES

Your support drove major successes this year.
As these numbers prove, together we can
make a difference for our rivers!

30

dams removed

140

**miles of rivers
protected through
Wild and Scenic
designations**

447,075

**acres of riverside
land protected**

1.6

**million pounds
of trash removed
and 104,044
volunteers mobilized
through National
River Cleanup®**

443

**miles of rivers
restored through
dam removal or
dam reoperation**

4,565

**local partners
reached through
trainings,
workshops and
presentations**

189,911

**letters sent by American Rivers online
activists to decision makers**

(Results are from fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

A JOURNEY **TOGETHER**

Rivers were the original highways. Native Americans relied on waterways for travel and trade. Explorers mapped river routes. Settlers established villages and cities on the banks of rivers.

Today, rivers are still pathways to adventure and remain vital for transportation and commerce. But healthy rivers are also so much more. They are avenues for reflection in the midst of our busy lives. They let us discover new places, and ourselves. They connect us with friends and the beauty of nature. Traveling down a river can be a metaphor for life. Often, as we fish or float its currents, a river is a channel to pure joy.

It is also important to remember that healthy rivers are much more than just amenities — they are key to life itself. From vital wildlife habitat to clean drinking water, rivers are the purveyors of life in our communities and across the globe.

This is why we work every day to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water for people and nature.

This annual report celebrates all the places rivers have taken us — the victories we've shared together, and the beauty and countless benefits rivers bring to our lives.

In the following pages you will read updates from our priority river basins, along with stories from some of our friends and supporters. We hope these words fill you with inspiration and help you reflect on your own personal river journeys.

Thank you for your generous support that makes our successes possible.

Wm. Robert (Bob) Irvin
President

Alex Taylor
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BOB IRVIN (R) AND ALEX TAYLOR
UPPER COLORADO RIVER, CO



LEARNING TO FLY

Eleven years ago I bought a house on the Chattahoochee River. Not long after that, I bought a fly rod. I'd check the river conditions every morning out my bedroom window. Then a neighbor invited me to fly with him in his plane to Idaho's backcountry to fish the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. On the way home, I knew I wanted to learn to fly so that I could get to the most remote fishing spots in the U.S. Not long after that I bought an airplane, took flying lessons and passed my pilot's exam. I've been returning out west every year since. The natural waters of the United States are truly one of our greatest natural resources. I have been supporting Chattahoochee Riverkeeper for years and joined their board this year. I joined American Rivers this year as well. I recently enjoyed a day of fishing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming with American Rivers staff and friends of mine from Atlanta. The whole American Rivers team is doing great work in restoring and protecting our rivers. I am excited to be involved with so many passionate people involved with our rivers. The rivers have changed my life.

— **Gerard Gunthert**, American Rivers supporter

Apalachicola- Chattahoochee- Flint River Basin

Greening the world's busiest airport:

When you land on the runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, you're landing on the headwaters of Georgia's Flint River. American Rivers worked with the airport to complete an analysis looking at how the airport can better manage runoff through green infrastructure solutions such as bioswales and pervious parking lots. We presented the findings to leaders from the airport, City of Atlanta, the Turner Foundation and local businesses. The airport's leadership is committed to reducing the airport's impact on the Flint and American Rivers is helping implement solutions, starting with a permeable pavement pilot project.



BLOEDE DAM ON PATAPSCO RIVER, MD

Rivers of the Chesapeake Bay

Great progress for restoration projects: This was a critical year for advancing significant restoration projects across the Chesapeake. American Rivers completed most of the design work and permit applications necessary to remove Bloede Dam on Maryland’s Patapsco River — a dam that poses a serious threat to public safety and blocks migrating fish. After months of hard work, we convinced Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and the state legislature to restore \$1 million to remove Bloede Dam. The removal project is on track for 2016. American Rivers also secured more than \$179,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to significantly expand our restoration work across the Chesapeake basin.

Rivers of Southern Appalachia and the Carolinas

Cleaner Carolina streams: Polluted runoff from city streets chokes rivers such as North Carolina’s Haw River, which we listed among America’s Most Endangered Rivers® in 2014. This year, American Rivers succeeded in getting \$500,000 in the North Carolina state budget for local efforts to reduce polluted runoff using green solutions like rain gardens. This is a victory for the Haw and all rivers and streams across the state.

FINDING POWER IN DIVERSITY



JANAЕ DAVIS

Through my fellowship at American Rivers, I got a chance to delve deeper into the issues of diversity and the environmental movement. I’m coming at it from both sides, as a person of color and someone who has a strong conservation ethic.

I talked with diverse community leaders across the Southeast, and that gave me perspective on how far rivers reach into our lives and how far we reach into the lives of rivers. Communicating the “Rivers Connect Us” concept is really important and powerful. I want to keep working to connect our urban centers, people of color and low-income communities to rivers. We all need to work together.

— **Janae Davis**, former fellow with Rivers of Southern Appalachia and the Carolinas priority basin and graduate student at Clark University in Massachusetts

Your voice for rivers in Washington, DC

This year, thanks to the efforts of American Rivers and our partners, we saw the single biggest win for clean water in more than a decade. The Obama Administration finalized the Clean Water Rule, closing loopholes for polluters and restoring protections for millions of acres of wetlands as well as headwater streams, which comprise 60 percent of the nation’s stream miles and provide the drinking water sources for more than 1 in 3 Americans. American Rivers submitted detailed comments on the draft rule based on case law and sound science, and actively worked to protect the rulemaking from hostile bills in Congress.



HAW RIVER, NC | Haw River Assembly



DENNY CANEFF ON THE BLACK RIVER, WI

A LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE

Forty years ago, when I was in college, a friend and I canoed the length of the Mississippi River. I turned 21 on that trip, so you could say that the river delivered me into adulthood and a career. Where I grew up in Minnesota, the river was framed by high limestone bluffs with a large population living nearby. Downstream it was so different — remote, big sandbars and winding curves — no cities. I loved the remoteness. I learned a lot on the river. I came to understand it both as a complex system and as a natural creature with its own grandeur. I met fishermen, tow boat captains, lock and dam operators. The river shaped my life in many ways, and made me what I am today — an advocate for rivers and environmental conservation.

— **Denny Caneff**, Executive Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin

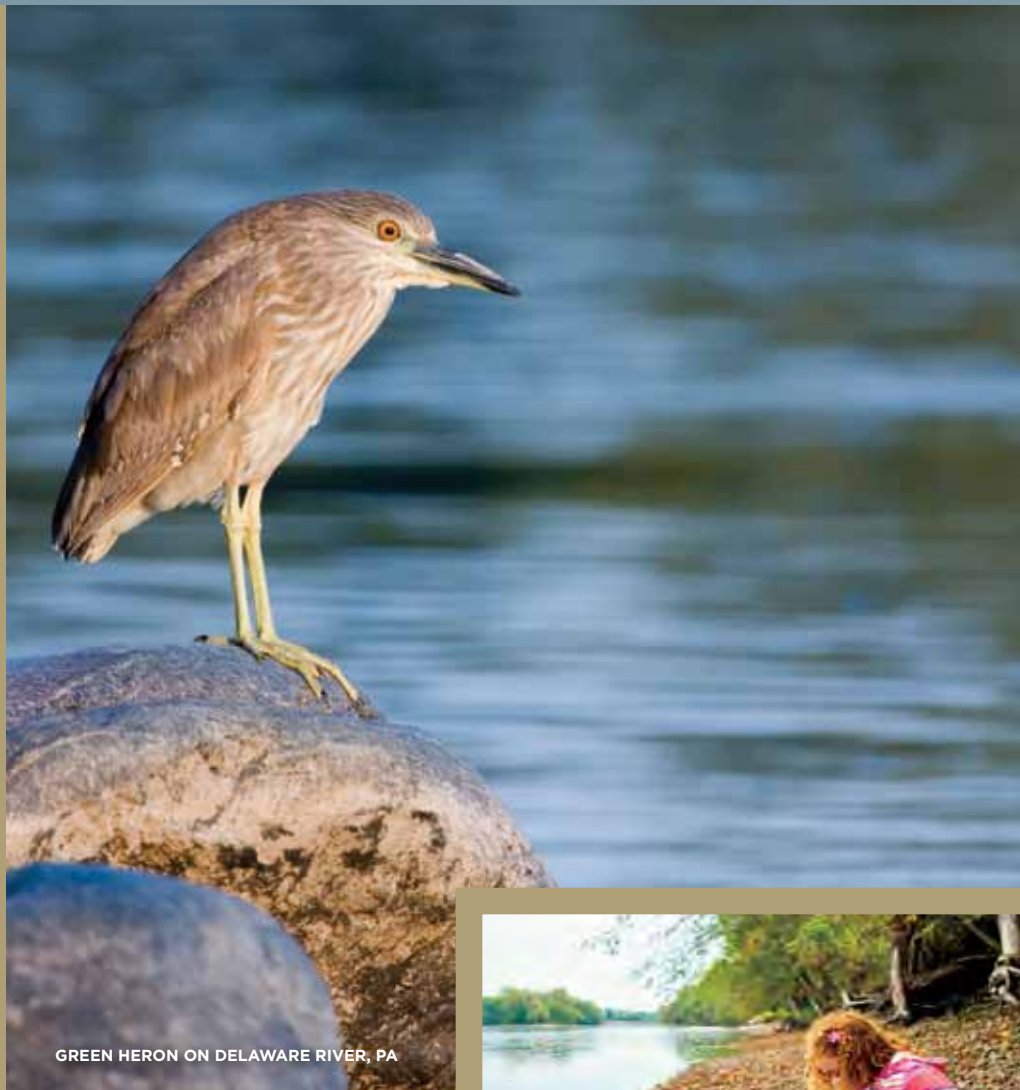
Connecticut River Basin

Teamwork brings down dams:

When it comes to removing outdated dams, American Rivers has unique expertise. This year, we used an innovative partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete dam removal and river restoration projects across the Connecticut River Basin. American Rivers staff worked with partners on project coordination and managed permitting, construction and funds, while the USFWS took on much of the engineering design work. This teamwork led to the removal of a dam on Kinne Brook, a Connecticut River tributary in Chester, Mass., and the demolition of the International Paper Co. Dam on the Fall River in Gill, Mass., which opened access to over 40 miles of fish habitat. We will use these successes as a model for completing more river restoration projects across the basin.

Delaware River Basin

Making history: White Clay Creek is a tributary to the Christina River, which flows into the Delaware River. The creek is an important source of drinking water for residents of Pennsylvania and Delaware and is known for its beauty, wildlife and fishing opportunities. This year, American Rivers scored two successes to ensure the long-term health of the creek. We removed Byrnes Mill Dam, restoring 3.5 miles of migratory fish passage and making history with the first recorded dam removal in the state of Delaware. We also helped expand the creek's Wild and Scenic designation, making White Clay Creek the first in the nation to have its entire watershed protected as Wild and Scenic, a model for watershed conservation nationwide.



GREEN HERON ON DELAWARE RIVER, PA

Rivers of the Great Lakes Basin

Clean water wake-up call: One morning in the summer of 2014, residents of Toledo, Ohio woke up to a city-wide drinking water ban. A harmful algal bloom in Lake Erie, fueled by polluted runoff from farms and urban areas, forced the water utility to issue a health warning advising against drinking and bathing in the water. American Rivers responded to the crisis by calling for solutions to address polluted runoff, which resulted in legislation to end the practice of spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered ground and a process to establish source water protection plans for all the communities that get their drinking water from Lake Erie.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MN

Upper Mississippi River Basin

Truck, train or barge?: Through our leadership in the Nicollet Island Coalition, we worked to protect and restore the Upper Mississippi River by advocating for reforms to the navigation system. We built the economic argument for river restoration by looking at the fuel inefficiency of taxpayer-subsidized navigation barges compared with other modes of transportation. See www.nicollet-islandcoalition.org/busted



SELWAY RIVER, ID | Scott Bossé



PERK PERKINS

INTO THE PAST AND FUTURE

Rivers have taken me both backward and forward in time. When I've floated wild rivers such as the Suwannee, the Allagash, the Salmon, and Chattooga, I've seen how rivers used to be. And visiting rivers like the Selway in Idaho and the Colorado through the Grand Canyon, I see a future where we balance different uses, work out difficult solutions and still give people an amazing river experience.

I'm struck by the agelessness of rivers. Young and old, we all enjoy and connect to them. My granddaughter is ten months old and I'm looking forward to our first river trip. And I've been on the river with people who are so old they can barely walk, yet they still enjoy sitting in the raft, floating on the river. Whatever your age or ability, it's beautiful how rivers bring us together.

— **Perk Perkins**, CEO of The Orvis Company, Inc.

Colorado River Basin

Keeping it grand: We named the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon America's Most Endangered River® of 2015 because of a battery of threats, including the Escalade development — a proposed complex of walkways, restaurants, restrooms and a gondola that would irreversibly scar this national treasure with noise, trash and pollution. We led a major effort, coordinating advocacy, outreach and communications in opposition to the project. As American Rivers and our regional and tribal allies shined an intense national spotlight on the threat of the Escalade project to the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon, the project suffered a serious setback when Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye courageously announced his opposition to building it. While other threats remain and our work is not done, our America's Most Endangered River® campaign has helped protect the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.



COLORADO RIVER, AZ | Sinjin Eberle

Rivers of the Northern Rockies

Fighting for free-flowing rivers: More than 10,000 American Rivers members and supporters contacted Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead to urge him to abandon the idea of building two large dams on the Upper Green River near where it exits the Wind River Range. Following the wave of letters and phone calls, Gov. Mead thanked American Rivers for our advocacy and dropped the proposed new dams from the final Wyoming Water Strategy that was released in January.



GREEN RIVER, WY | Scott Bosse



AMANDA DEEVER ON THE SALMON RIVER, ID

FAMILY TIME

When I was a young adult, my dad took us on a family trip to fish the South Fork of the Flathead River in Montana. I had never been fishing before and it was magical just being on the water together. We had wonderful conversations while floating down the river. My dad and I both loved the fishing and the solitude. We had both found this passion and sharing it made it even richer.

Now my family goes to Idaho every summer. My girls love going back to the same places, all their own special spots, like the bend in the river where they build fairy huts. This past summer we fished the Salmon River for the first time and the girls loved it. I just sat on the riverbank smiling and watching the joy on their faces. Being on the river helps our family connect in a unique way — there are no devices, TV, homework or distractions. Just all of us together. Now, for a new generation, rivers are once again bringing us together. It's a gift.

— **Amanda Deaver,**
American Rivers board member



MIDDLE FORK PRATT RIVER, WA | Thomas O'Keefe

Rivers of Puget Sound and the Columbia Basin

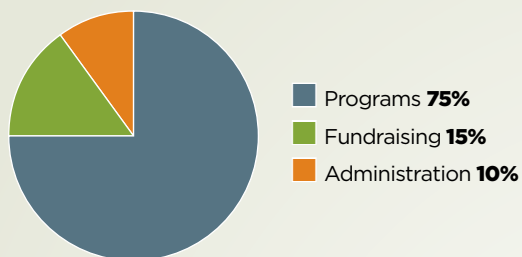
50 miles of wild: Thanks to advocacy by American Rivers, in December Congress passed and President Obama signed into law new Wild and Scenic River designations for more than 50 miles of rivers in Washington state — forever protecting the entire Pratt River as well as stretches of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and Illabot Creek, a Skagit River tributary.

Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin

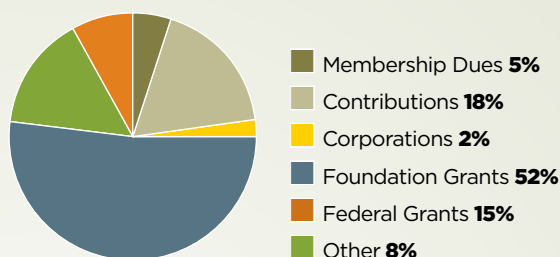
Finding solutions in historic drought: American Rivers was instrumental in securing over \$3 million in state drought response funds for small farmers and communities in the San Francisco Bay Area to improve their water supply security and reduce impacts from their diversions on steelhead and coho salmon in coastal streams.

2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXPENSES



SUPPORT & REVENUE



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2015

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Restriction			Total FY 2015
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Membership	849,696	—	—	849,696
Contributions	2,241,342	401,730	100,000	2,743,072
Corporate Donations	178,410	151,620	—	330,030
Foundation Grants	387,881	7,590,112	—	7,977,993
Federal Grants	2,310,983	—	—	2,310,983
Interest	13,472	30,888	4	44,364
Other	915,864	182,246	—	1,098,110
Realized Gain (Loss)	27,869	62,222	—	90,091
Support And Revenue	6,925,517	8,418,818	100,004	15,444,339
Net Assets Released From Restriction	6,770,732	(6,770,732)	—	—
Total Support And Revenue	13,696,249	1,648,086	100,004	15,444,339
EXPENSES	Restriction			Total FY 2015
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Program Services				
River Restoration	4,148,795	—	—	4,148,795
Federal River Management	2,863,169	—	—	2,863,169
Clean Water Supply	1,896,846	—	—	1,896,846
River Protection	1,189,185	—	—	1,189,185
Total Program Services	10,097,995	—	—	10,097,995
Fundraising	1,989,549	—	—	1,989,549
General and Administrative	1,439,241	—	—	1,439,241
Total Expenses	13,526,785	—	—	13,526,785
Change In Market Value Of Investments	(32,879)	(37,209)	—	(70,088)
Change In Value Of Split-Interest Agreements	(9,750)	—	—	(9,750)
Increase (Decrease) In Net Assets	126,835	1,610,877	100,004	1,837,716
Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	1,012,923	7,773,295	1,724,944	10,511,162
Net Assets at End of Year	1,139,758	9,384,172	1,824,948	12,348,878

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,397,750
Investments	2,904,863
Grants and Pledges Receivable	4,615,224
Accounts Receivable	1,388,317
Other Assets Principally Prepaid Expenses	210,381
Fixed Assets—net of accumulated depreciation of \$457,579	61,851
Total Assets	14,578,386

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	1,151,722
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	508,122
Refundable Advances	126,104
Charitable Gift Annuities Payable	150,261
Deferred Rent Abatement	290,483
Deposits	2,816
Total Liabilities	2,229,508

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	1,139,758
Temporarily Restricted	9,384,172
Permanently Restricted	1,824,948
Total Net Assets	12,348,878
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	14,578,386

Final audited report is available online at
AmericanRivers.org/AnnualReport

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RIVER LEGACY SOCIETY

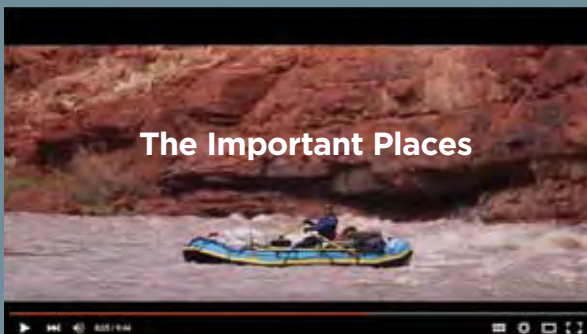
*Members of the River Legacy
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