



Greetings from American Rivers.

Thanks to the initial investments, the Life Depends on RiversSM campaign has inspired and funded expanded river restoration and protection work. Even in these early stages, the momentum is palpable. Together, we're building a powerful foundation to tackle our ambitious vision with increased speed and efficacy as the campaign unfolds.

We're excited to share the standout highlights that your leadership, resources, and dedication have made possible. Over the past year, we have accelerated our work across:

- **PROJECTS:** We've increased dam removals by 23% to reconnect over 1,000 river miles and restored more than 2,400 acres of floodplains and meadows, enhancing ecosystem health and community safety against flooding, drought, and wildfires.
- **PEOPLE:** We've expanded our organizational reach and impact by recruiting 46% more staff experts than in 2023, enlisting 32 new River Council members as nationwide river champions, and engaging over 72,000 advocates through email campaigns.
- **POLICY:** We've protected over 850 miles of rivers across the Southwest, Northwest, and Northern Rockies.

We have also been delighted by the groundswell of enthusiasm and support from our community. Passionate individuals and other contributors have committed \$27.9 million to the campaign, and we have exceeded our annual goal by \$5.9 million.

Looking ahead, we face a defining moment. Climate change is amplifying unprecedented threats to our waterways from dams, development, and pollution. Together, we're not just protecting and restoring rivers — we're preserving our most precious resource.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Life Depends on RiversSM campaign.

Onward together,

Tom Kiernan
President and CEO of American Rivers





WATAUGA RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA
PETER RAABE

Your support has helped restore 78 miles of the Watauga River in North Carolina — freeing it from dams for the first time in 150 years and reconnecting crucial habitat for threatened wildlife.

PROJECTS

Restore damaged rivers and waters

We're in a crucial window of opportunity to transform \$2.4 billion in federal funding, secured through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, into healthier rivers and waters. Your support is playing a critical role in helping us leverage this moment to remove 400 dams by 2027 in order to heal decades of damage to our waterways. To achieve this ambitious goal, we're focusing on improving state and federal policies, securing federal funding, and expanding our network of dam removal partners. Last year, we saw a remarkable increase in dam removal practitioners seeking our training and expertise — growing from 530 individuals to over 1,000. In states such as Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and West Virginia, we'll lead 12 dam removal projects, reconnecting more than 400 river miles. These restoration efforts will improve habitat for federally endangered fish and native wildlife, increase ecosystem resilience against climate change, and remove crumbling infrastructure that poses risks for people swimming and fishing.

Donor Testimonial

"I've always been intrigued by the transformative power of rivers — their ability to shape landscapes, nourish ecosystems, and sustain communities. For me, the Life Depends on RiversSM campaign represents a vital call to action, recognizing these lifelines as a source of beauty, wonder, and a foundation for our existence. By supporting this campaign, I hope to contribute to a future where rivers continue to flow with life, vitality, and the promise of a healthier planet for generations to come."

— **Angela Wiggins, board member, Campaign Cabinet co-chair, and donor since 2019**



PEOPLE

Build the advocacy power of the river movement

Mobilizing a diverse, bipartisan river movement is a dynamic and long-term endeavor. Key elements of this strategy include strengthening our national advocacy while forging deep relationships and community connections across all 50 states. Campaign efforts to expand our conservation and advocacy power are already taking hold. We've successfully recruited accomplished conservation leaders to enhance our impact, including Leda Huta as vice president of policy and government relations and John Zablocki as director of river protection. We've established regional experts in the Central, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast regions, expanding our ability to lead on-the-ground work in 24 additional states. And our advocacy email campaigns have reached over 72,000 members nationwide, generating more than 45,000 messages to decision makers.

In the coming months, your campaign investment will support this growing movement as we share the first-ever nationwide assessment of protected rivers. Through community listening sessions, we'll collaboratively identify priorities to guide decision-making at local, regional, and national levels. It's an exciting time to unite partners and communities in the shared goal of protecting our most vital resource.



ROGUE RIVER, OREGON
ADOBE STOCK

POLICY

Protect and sustain healthy rivers and waters

Even in the midst of an intense political season, we're driving forward our highest-priority policy objectives. On Capitol Hill, we're championing legislation that would protect over 4,700 river miles in Colorado, Georgia, Montana, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington. Meanwhile, we also achieved a major victory with the Bureau of Land Management's recently released Public Lands Rule, which outlines management plans for 250,000 miles of our most valuable rivers. American Rivers was a tireless advocate — alongside partners and supporters who lobbied Congress — for these robust protection measures. We're thrilled that for the first time ever, BLM will prioritize protecting intact watersheds and rely on detailed assessments to guide river conservation efforts.

Donor Testimonial

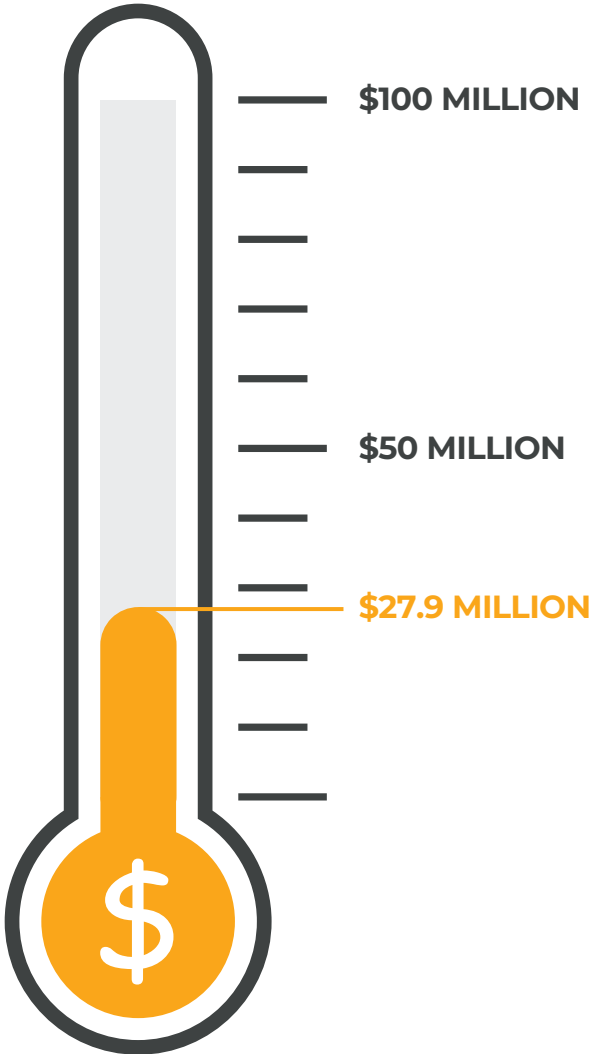
"The Life Depends on RiversSM campaign will make a big difference in the work American Rivers can do. While it will increase and accelerate river restoration, the impact of the policy work is most exciting to me. It can ensure permanent protection for rivers and ensure that floodplains, wetlands, and clean water are protected. "

— **Dotty Ballantyne, Northern Rockies River Council member, emeritus board member, and donor since 2006**

Life Depends on RiversSM

A campaign to transform the health of America's rivers

\$100 million comprehensive campaign over four years to support the goals of our ambitious strategic plan.



FY24 CAMPAIGN RESULTS