



MIDDLE FORK NOOKSACK RIVER, WASHINGTON
PHOTO: BRETT BAUNTON, WILD NOOKSACK

Views from the river...

While camping by a beautiful Appalachian trout stream this past summer, my youngest daughter crawled out of our tent one morning with the sound of the stream in the background. "It's still flowing," she remarked.

Even during COVID, our rivers are still there for us. They are fishing escapes from city life, and places to recharge and find peace. And because the rivers are still there for us, we need to be there for them.

Thank you for being an important part of our work to protect and restore healthy rivers. Enjoy these updates you made possible and stay safe.

Steve White
Director, Anglers Fund for
American Rivers

REVIVING FISH HABITAT IN WASHINGTON

Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout can now reach 16 miles of pristine cold-water spawning habitat. The Middle Fork Nooksack River had been blocked for almost 60 years by a 25-foot-tall diversion dam built to supply water to the city of Bellingham. American Rivers led efforts to remove the dam in partnership with the city of Bellingham, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, the Paul G. Allen Foundation and many others. The project has opened up critical salmon spawning habitat that will boost the entire ecosystem while maintaining city water supply. AmericanRivers.org/NooksackBlast

GOOD NEWS FOR ENDANGERED GILA TROUT

In a major victory for one of the Southwest's last major free-flowing rivers — and America's Most Endangered River® of 2019 — New Mexico effectively halted a diversion that would have threatened endangered Gila trout and the local outdoor recreation and tourism economy. Upstream, we are working with local partners to protect nearly 450 miles of the Gila and San Francisco rivers and their tributaries. New Mexico's senators introduced legislation in May. AmericanRivers.org/GilaW&S

FREEING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S GALE RIVER

Wild brook trout in the South Branch Gale River will soon be able to migrate freely to 30 miles of cold-water habitat. In October, American Rivers and our partners will complete removal of a 15-foot-high concrete dam originally built, but no longer used, to supply water to the town of Littleton. It's the first dam removed in the White Mountain National Forest. The project should be wrapped in time for spawning season — when brook trout upstream of the dam will meet the ones downstream for the first time in a generation.

KEY RIVERS IN MONTANA WIN PROTECTION

Every 15 years, national forests produce a management plan — a once-in-a-generation opportunity to safeguard rivers eligible for Wild and Scenic protection. American Rivers worked closely with the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest to help protect 45 Wild and Scenic eligible streams, including stretches of the Dearborn and Sun rivers, equal to 361 stream miles and more than 115,000 acres of wildlife-rich lands. That is nearly triple the number of stream miles protected previously.

AmericanRivers.org/HelenaLewisClark



RIVERS HOLD KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

In a major report released over the summer, American Rivers made the case for significantly boosting federal water infrastructure and river restoration spending. “Rivers as Economic Engines” calls on Congress to invest \$500 billion over 10 years in water infrastructure and river restoration. Healthy rivers flow money back into the economy through recreation activities, with watersports and fishing directly generating over \$175 billion in retail spending annually and over 1.5 million jobs nationwide. The ecological restoration sector directly employs approximately 126,000 workers nationally, and supports nearly another 100,000 jobs indirectly, contributing a combined \$25 billion to the economy annually. AmericanRivers.org/InvestInRivers

RESTORING URBAN CREEK BENEFITS MIGRATING SALMON

Due to its unique location between the Diablo Range and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin, Marsh Creek in the Bay Area city of Richmond is a high-value habitat for spawning salmon. It is the first tributary salmon encounter when they return from the ocean and travel through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. And salmon spawned in Marsh Creek enter the delta in a prime location: adjacent to Dutch Slough, one of the largest habitat restoration projects in the delta and downstream from most diversions. American Rivers worked with local groups and Contra Costa County on the restoration, which will improve habitat for birds and other resident fish.

STILL FIGHTING FOR THE SMITH

A copper mine that could devastate a key tributary to Montana’s famed Smith River is a step closer to becoming reality — despite overwhelming public opposition. The proposed mine, which would span 1,888 acres, would require massive water diversions and produce about 12.9 million tons of acid-generating waste, threatening water quality and important trout habitat. American Rivers and our partners filed a suit in June to challenge the project in federal court. Whatever happens will affect every drop of water downstream and every form of life that depends on that water, including fish, wildlife, livestock and people.

AmericanRivers.org/Smith

FIGHTING FOR SMALL STREAMS

Small streams and wetlands feed into larger rivers, delivering life-giving water to people, communities and ecosystems. Polluting those small streams can hurt the entire web of life downriver. That is why American Rivers has joined with other water-conscious organizations to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over its recent withdrawal of protection for many small, ephemeral streams and wetlands. AmericanRivers.org/DirtyWaterRule

FLYLORDS HONORS AMERICAN RIVERS

We are pleased to share that Flylords online fly-fishing magazine chose American Rivers as its Organization of the Month in honor of our work across the country to protect and restore important fish habitat. We’re grateful for the award and recognize that there’s a lot to be proud of — and still more to do.

AmericanRivers.org/Flylords



AmericanRivers.org/Join

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American Rivers’ Anglers Fund is a program for anglers who believe in the importance of healthy rivers. Joining allows you to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve water for people and nature — all of which improve the health of our rivers and the strength of our fisheries. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., and 300,000 supporters, members and volunteers across the country, American Rivers is the most trusted and influential river conservation organization in the United States, delivering solutions for a better future.