

the SOURCE



2022
IMPACT
REPORT

BREAKTHROUGHS

RIVER SAVERS BROKE BARRIERS IN 2022.

When a dam is demolished and the river breaks through, the ground literally trembles. It's transformational: The entire ecosystem begins to recover and flourish — from bugs and fish to eagles and otters, and people, too. A river reclaiming its nature — breaking through — makes our hearts beat faster.

But it's the incremental policy improvements and victories achieved in community meetings and over countless email and phone conversations that improve a neighborhood's access to nature, make it possible for a species to survive, and lessen flooding in someone's front yard. Those are the breakthroughs we fight for.

This year, we won protection for ecosystems that are essential to imperiled wildlife (page 4). We burst through logjams to make drinking water cleaner and more accessible (page 6). We joined unlikely partners to help rivers thrive without sacrificing energy or agriculture (page 7).

Not one ounce of what we achieved this year could have happened without your generous support. We are especially grateful for your commitment because we know these times have felt overwhelmingly difficult — for individuals, for our communities, for our environment.

Our eyes are on making our country a place where rivers are respected, honored, cherished, and actively protected by and for us all.

The threats we are up against dwarf the challenges of the past. Climate change threatens communities with more flooding and droughts. We are losing fish and wildlife at an alarming rate. And safeguards for rivers and clean water continue to be unfairly enforced. American Rivers will need more and bigger breakthroughs to meet the opportunities and needs of the coming years. The solutions are within our grasp. That's why, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2023, we will launch a new strategic vision to accelerate and expand our work and guide the organization into an exciting new chapter. Register for American Rivers' 50th anniversary virtual celebration in early 2023. AmericanRivers.org/celebrate50.

We invite you to join us on this critical river journey. In the meantime, enjoy reading about big and small successes your support made possible over the past year.

Onward together,

Pallavi Phartiyal, Ph.D.
Chair of the Board of Directors

Tom Kiernan
President

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

Donna Bing

MEMBER SINCE 2007

What is your best river memory?

My best river memory is canoeing the Wisconsin River with my husband and my brother's family. We saw several eagles, and it was lots of fun seeing my nephew and niece try out kayaks for the first time. I hope that experience gave them a love for rivers that will last throughout their lifetimes.

Why does your life need rivers?

Rivers are the lifeblood of our country. They are the source of sustenance for us physically. They give us respite from the busyness of life, and they soothe our souls. Keeping them clean and healthy is as important as taking care of our own bodies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA BING

What is your favorite river?

My favorite river is one that I've never paddled — Ohio's Wild and Scenic Little Miami River. For the last several years, I have bicycled the Little Miami Scenic Trail, which runs along the river. It is beautiful with great views of the river.

Deepen your impact on rivers and clean water by joining the River Guardians, a community of people joining forces for rivers and clean water. AmericanRivers.org/RiverGuardians

Jon Bratta

BRAND VICE PRESIDENT, TRUE NORTH – PURE ENERGY SELTZER

What is your best river memory?

I have had the pleasure of enjoying many amazing rivers in my life, including some amazing scenery and adventures in Alaska. But my favorite river trips have been the ones I could enjoy with my son or daughters — rafting Idaho's Snake River or hiking Falls Creek in Yosemite National Park to catch the mist of the waterfalls.

Why does your life need rivers?

Rivers are a very important part of the True North lifestyle. And not just because we're a water-based product! We thrive in the outdoors and believe it's important to maintain and protect our outdoor spaces for generations to come. But rivers are more than just beautiful spaces and a fun place to play. Rivers carry nutrients that help sustain all types of species, they provide clean drinking water, and even support our economy. It's our job as humans to protect this planet and the life it supports.

What impact does True North want to have?

True North supports American Rivers to permanently protect and restore more than 10,000 miles of rivers nationwide, remove 650,000 pounds of litter through volunteer-driven river cleanups in more than 38 states, and work in 25 cities (such as Atlanta and San Francisco) to improve access to healthy rivers and clean water. We're even holding a special river cleanup day with our employees to get everyone involved, so they can be inspired to do more. We're excited to get our hands dirty and help save rivers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JON BRATTA

← Jon and his son, Mason, at Yosemite Falls, California.



HUDSON RIVER, NEW YORK

the source

IMPACT REPORT 2022

Tom Kiernan

President and CEO

Paula Wolferseder Yabar

Senior Vice President, Advancement

Katy Neusteter

Editor

Our Purpose

American Rivers believes a future of clean water and healthy rivers for everyone, everywhere is essential. Since 1973, we have protected wild rivers, restored damaged rivers, and conserved clean water for people and nature. Learn about the impact you can make on the rivers you love at AmericanRivers.org/Donate.



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If you have feedback, story ideas or wish to receive "The Source" electronically, please send us an email at TheSource@AmericanRivers.org.

Members: We are here to help! Contact us at 877-347-7550 to update your address or manage your membership preferences. We occasionally provide our list to other like-minded organizations. Please let us know if you do not want your name shared outside American Rivers.

JEFFERSON RIVER, MONTANA

PHOTO: DAVE LEHL

YOUR IMPACT IN 2022

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022



7 DAMS REMOVED BY AMERICAN RIVERS

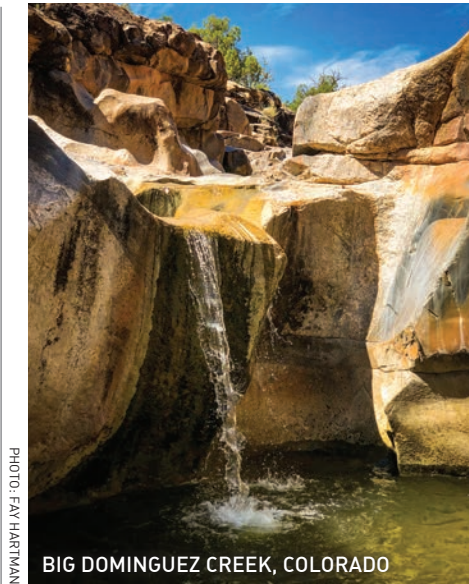


PHOTO: FAY HARTMAN

BIG DOMINGUEZ CREEK, COLORADO

26

STATES

where we protected, restored, and improved water resources.



200,000

acres of wildlife habitat saved in the Mississippi River Delta after American Rivers and our partners successfully stopped a proposal to drain the richest wetlands in the country.

PHOTO: ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

57

dams removed by partners, with support and assistance from American Rivers.*

291 MILES

of new river habitat open to fish and wildlife thanks to dam removal.

195

RIVER MILES PROTECTED

SECURED IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

\$ 55 BILLION

for clean water infrastructure —the biggest investment ever.

\$ 2.4 BILLION

for dam removal, dam safety, and environmental improvements at hydropower dams.

2,193

MILES OF HOMETOWN RIVERS CLEANED

through the National River Cleanup® program.

32,642

VOLUNTEERS

mobilized through the National River Cleanup® program.

837,334

POUNDS OF TRASH

removed from waterways through the National River Cleanup® program.



PHOTO: PETER BENNETT, CITIZEN OF THE PLANET

← Weirdest find

*latest data, 2021

BREAKTHROUGHS IN ACTION

THESE ARE SOME OF THE PLACES WHERE YOUR GIFT MOVED THE NEEDLE FOR RIVERS IN 2022.



PHOTO: SIMON EBERLE

RIO GRANDE, COLORADO




Scan this code to watch "Through Line."


WHEN THE RIVER IS THE THROUGH LINE


The Rio Grande ties together generations of people and communities across Colorado's San Luis Valley. Our film celebrates the history and future of water through the voices of women who are working together to meet the needs of communities and the river itself.

AmericanRivers.org/ThroughLine

MAP KEY

 America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2022 shined a national spotlight on how threats to rivers are threats to people's health and rights. AmericanRivers.org/EndangeredRivers

 Cities where we are working to improve water security and make water cleaner, safer, and more affordable.

 States where American Rivers, partners, and allies removed dams last year.*

 States where we supported local campaigns to protect rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

*latest data, 2021

MONTANA

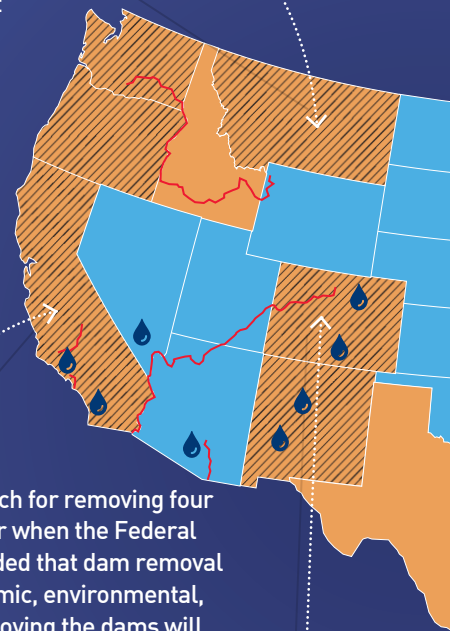
American Rivers and our partners won a lawsuit against the Department of Environmental Quality for issuing a mining permit at the headwaters of the famed Smith River. We have fought against the project since it was first proposed in 2015 and will continue to keep the pressure on until plans for a mine are tossed out for good.

CALIFORNIA

We entered the homestretch for removing four dams on the Klamath River when the Federal Energy Regulatory concluded that dam removal provides significant economic, environmental, and cultural benefits. Removing the dams will reintroduce salmon to over 400 miles of historical habitat and eliminate reservoirs that host toxic algae outbreaks each summer. American Rivers has advocated alongside Tribes and conservation partners for the dam removals for more than two decades. Deconstruction will begin in 2023.

COLORADO

We named the Colorado River America's Most Endangered River, citing the risk that devastatingly low snowpack and parching drought could threaten the drinking water, livelihoods, and food security for 1 in 10 people in the country. We are centrally involved in negotiating guidelines for use of Colorado River water, and even during a time of great uncertainty, we are still protecting rivers. In June, we won protection for 523 miles of streams that provide critical habitat for native trout and birds and clean drinking water for mountain communities.



WISCONSIN

Alongside the city of Milwaukee and local partners, we launched One Water Milwaukee to be a one-stop-shop where everyone can learn about their water and find local groups that align with their community's needs and interests.

PHOTO: JESSIE THOMAS-BLATE



KEHM RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

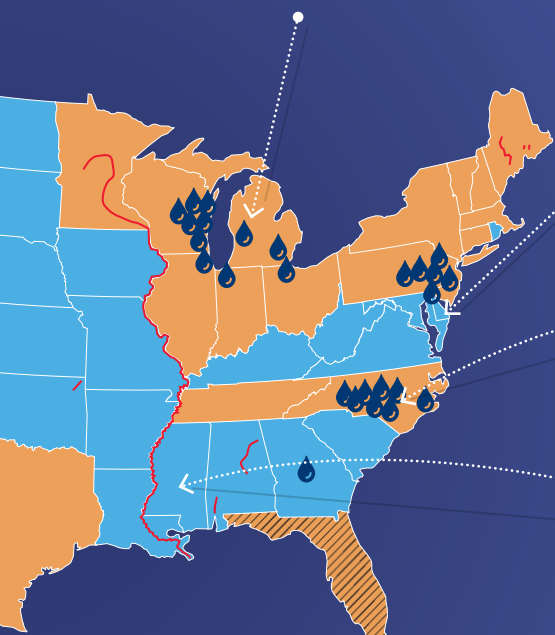
THE STORY OF KEHM RUN

Sometimes projects don't go as planned. This photo essay is the story of a Pennsylvania dam removal whose unexpected detours turned out to be blessings in disguise.

AmericanRivers.org/Kehm



Scan this code for a photo essay of the Kehm Run dam removal.



DELAWARE

We expanded our work to educate municipalities about natural ways to reduce polluted stormwater runoff in the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic regions. By building an army of clean-water champions in key cities, and encouraging private property owners to implement projects such as raingardens and bioswales, we will help rivers throughout these regions become cleaner and healthier.

NORTH CAROLINA

We named the Neuse River River of the Year in 2022 to celebrate this vital North Carolina waterway that's a national example for clean water progress. To learn about the good news on the Neuse — from a recent dam removal success to water supply improvements that benefit the community and river health — visit AmericanRivers.org/ROY2022.

MISSISSIPPI

After years of advocacy by American Rivers and our local partners, the US Environmental Protection Agency vetoed a proposal to drain the richest wetlands in the Mississippi River Delta. This victory safeguards nationally important habitat for over 450 species, including waterfowl and monarch butterflies, pallid sturgeon, alligators, and Louisiana black bears.

FINDING THE FLINT

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is the world's busiest airport — and the headwaters of Georgia's Flint River. Learn how a coalition of partners are working to restore the Flint River for people, wildlife, and the future of the growing city. AmericanRivers.org/FlintVideo

Scan this code to watch "Finding the Flint."

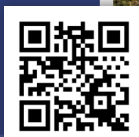


PHOTO: STACY FOUNDER/ARF



FLINT RIVER, GEORGIA

REACHING HIGHER FOR RIVERS

This was a year for achieving seismic breakthroughs that will have a long-term impact on the health of rivers and our communities. Here is how your support helped us do it.

POTOMAC RIVER, VIRGINIA

American Rivers' greatest breakthroughs in the past year bridged industry, agriculture, and conservation, influenced national policies and government agencies, and required both patience and advocacy. They will also change the way rivers are treated in every state in our country. Major victories like these require the time and dedication of many people and groups: We are grateful for the local partnerships and donor trust that allow us to drive forward national change for rivers.

WHEELS OF CHANGE PUT IN MOTION

Your contributions this year allowed us to influence major pieces of public policy, delivering once-in-a-generation wins for rivers and water. It all started with the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law in November 2021. The legislation is a historic investment in our crumbling infrastructure, which has been grossly underfunded for decades. American Rivers played an integral role in securing \$2.4 billion for dam removal, dam safety, and environmental improvements at hydropower facilities. The funding could set the river movement on a path to removing 30,000 dams and reconnecting 300,000 miles of rivers by 2050.

Passing that milestone legislation set in motion wheels that had been stuck for years: Five federal agencies convened to discuss how to fund more dam removals, and the Federal Emergency Management

Agency created a new dam-safety branch. FEMA's move is particularly significant because meaningful dam-safety enforcement leads to more dam removals, as owners of poorly maintained dams are forced to make decisions.

The same legislation delivered a historic \$55 billion in federal funding for water infrastructure. Despite our hard work, the legislation itself didn't require that states invest in green projects like rain gardens and bioswales. Such projects improve the livability of cities and the health of watersheds by slowing down and removing pollutants from stormwater that flows from streets and rooftops. As storms grow more severe and urban flooding worsens in the era of climate change, green infrastructure will be an essential tool for building the resilience of our cities.

American Rivers didn't back down.

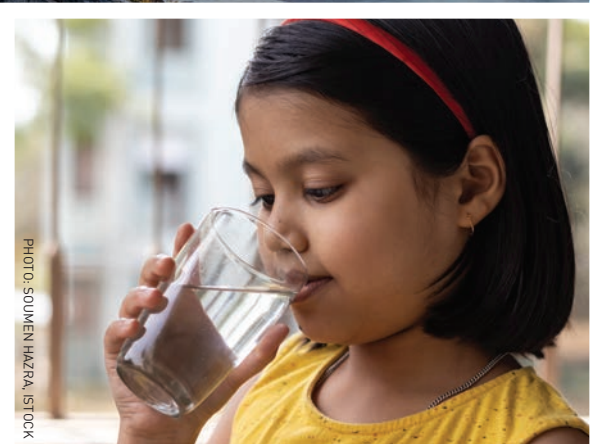


PHOTO: SOUMEN HAZRA, ISTOCK

↑ The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act dedicated \$55 billion to replace aging water infrastructure, remove lead service lines, and address contaminants in drinking water.

In fact, this is where the flexibility of your support really kicked in: It allowed our experts in the Clean Water for All coalition to pivot quickly and advise the US Environmental Protection Agency to require that funding bolster communities' ability to deal with climate change impacts. Forty-seven different organizations joined with us, and in the end, EPA not only adopted most of our guidance, but also strongly encouraged states to use funds for climate adaptation projects.

Now we have a five-year window to translate federal funding the legislation provides into healthier rivers, thriving ecosystems, safer communities, and cleaner water. And we're off and running: We hosted a fly-in day in Washington, DC, when our staff, supporters, and partners lobbied both sides of the aisle in Congress, advocating for dam removal, smarter hydropower, and river protections. With each conversation, we laid groundwork for future river wins.

RIVERS CAN BE LEVEL PLAYING FIELDS

Healthy rivers are for everyone — and the people who live closest to rivers live with a far greater risk of drought, flooding, and pollution. That is why we put your support to work to unearth solutions alongside our community partners, making positive change possible for the people who have rivers literally in their backyards.

In 2022, your generosity helped us shine a national spotlight on the efforts of local movements in the Southwest through storytelling that inspired understanding and action. Take “Craig America,” one of our newest films, which

shares the perspectives of a community upheld by coal but looking toward a future without it. The film brings to life the unique story of Craig, Colorado, on the Yampa River, and how its people, economy, and community are both resilient and adapting to a climate-changed future. Watch the film at AmericanRivers.org/CraigAmerica.

Meanwhile, in the Midwest, we are advocating for systemic change after a decades-long string of catastrophic storms and floods sparked an outcry to reform the way our country manages flooding and natural disasters. Alongside

partners, such as the NAACP and the Illinois Farm Bureau, we are finding ways to help communities recover from catastrophic flooding while engaging in a national conversation about who is most vulnerable to floods. Released in March, our “Illinois Floodplains Work” study proposes developing public-private partnership projects that reduce flood risk for communities located in floodplains and to restore river ecosystems.

By supporting American Rivers’ efforts to find solutions to river issues, you are creating change that goes far beyond your own river. Your impact is national.

TO FIND COMMON GROUND, WELCOME EVERYONE IN

American Rivers has always been known for our willingness and ability to work with local advocates and partners from the private and public sectors to do what’s best for rivers. Perhaps that’s what drew you to this organization: Because you know our focus is on *rivers*. And we’ll do what it takes to secure change that lasts. It’s certainly why we team up with people at the grassroots, decision-makers at the grassstops, communities, government agencies, industry leaders, farmers and ranchers, hydropower owners, agriculture, and conservation partners to build collective power.

While we push to accelerate the removal of harmful dams, such as those on the Lower Snake River in eastern Washington, our work over the last two years with the hydropower industry has allowed us to achieve what no one thought was possible: Consensus that we can work together toward common goals of saving rivers and harnessing their energy in smart ways.

Just recently, American Rivers reached a milestone agreement with the hydropower industry, Tribal Nations, and other conservation organizations that will improve how hydropower dams are licensed. In a significant step forward, the agreement extends

authority to Tribal Nations and will lead to healthier river habitats. As American Rivers’ President, Tom Kiernan, said in testimony before Congress, the package creates a win-win-win for conservation, Tribes, and industry.



PHOTO: LEWIS MARKS

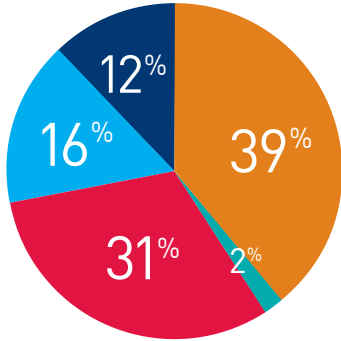
OHIO RIVER, KENTUCKY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Help us protect your rivers and clean water.
AmericanRivers.org/Donate

ONWARD, WITH YOU

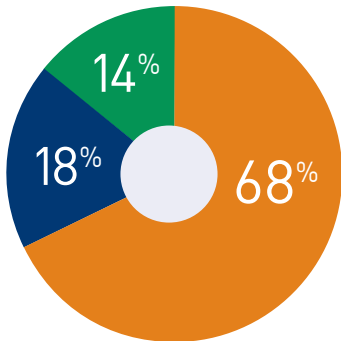
We deeply appreciate the generosity of the individuals, corporations, trusts and foundations who donated their time, expertise and financial support between July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

Find complete financials at AmericanRivers.org/Impact2022.



2022 REVENUE

- Individuals
- Corporations
- Foundation Grants
- Government
- Other



2022 EXPENSES

- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General

*Unaudited

DONATE

Protect and restore rivers with a gift of \$35 or more. AmericanRivers.org/Donate

JOIN

River Rescue Society:
Protect a river a month with a \$10 recurring donation.
AmericanRivers.org/Donate

River Guardians:

Join a community of donors who support rivers with gifts of \$1,000 or more.
AmericanRivers.org/RiverGuardians

River Legacy Society:

Make healthy rivers and clean water your legacy.
PlannedGiving@AmericanRivers.org

ACT

Be the voice for rivers you care about most.
AmericanRivers.org/TakeAction

“These places are so powerful. They are the greatest laboratory for our potential to reclaim our lives and become the best versions of ourselves.”

– Eric Weihenmeyer, advocate, adventurer, and the first blind person to kayak the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.



American Rivers
RIVERS CONNECT US®

MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WISCONSIN

