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The ten rivers named as America’s Most Endangered Rivers of 2011 highlight an issue of urgent concern to all Americans: clean water. It is vital to the health of our families and communities. Sixty-five percent of our drinking water comes from rivers and streams, but many of our rivers are too polluted to use.

Working with local partners and concerned citizens, American Rivers fights to safeguard our rivers and clean water for this year’s endangered rivers — and rivers nationwide — for generations to come.

1. Susquehanna River
2. Bristol Bay Rivers
3. Roanoke River
4. Chicago River
5. Yuba River
6. Green River
7. Hoback River
8. Black Warrior River
9. St. Croix River
10. Ozarks National Scenic Riverways
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About American Rivers:
American Rivers is the leading conservation organization fighting for healthy rivers so communities can drink American Rivers protects and restores the nation’s rivers and the clean water that sustain people, wildlife, and nature. Founded in 1973, American Rivers has more than 60,000 members and supporters, with offices in Washington, DC and nationwide.

Take Action at AmericanRivers.org


American’s Most Endangered Rivers™: 2011 Edition is made possible with generous funding from the Margaret T. Biddle Foundation.

American Rivers would like to thank Bert and Barbara Cohn for their long-time support of this campaign.

Cover Photo: Sampit River, SC | Charles Slate


kevin Daniel / Alamy Photos
Each year, America’s Rivers selects ten rivers from a broad array of nominations from groups and individuals across the country. Selection of the final list is based on the following criteria:

- A major decision in the coming year that the river and its communities, especially in light of a changing climate
- The significance of the river to people and wildlife
- The magnitude of the threat to the river and its communities

**Susquehanna River**

**New York** (Pennsylvania, Maryland)

**Threat:** Natural gas extraction

**At risk:** Clean drinking water, and supplies more than half of the fresh-water needs of metropolitan Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia.

**Why it’s at risk:** Natural gas extraction, hydraulic fracturing and supplies more than half of the fresh-water needs of metropolitan Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia.

**What you can do:** Join American Rivers, American Tribal Organizations, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe, the Riverkeepers, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Humane Society of the United States, and the National Wildlife Federation.

**Yuba River**

**California**

**Threat:** Water quality impairment

**At risk:** The Yuba River is one of California’s state refuges for amphibian Chinook salmon and provides drinking water and irrigation water for the communities of Sutter, Yuba and Butte counties. Yuba River spring-run Chinook salmon have been listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Two major lumber producers have dammed river headwaters and diverted flow to hundreds of miles of historic salmon and steelhead habitat. For 50 years, the Yuba River Commission has worked to protect wild salmon, steelhead and American steelhead trout from the Yuba River Basin. The Yuba River is one of California’s state refuges for amphibian Chinook salmon, and provides drinking water and irrigation water for the communities of Sutter, Yuba and Butte counties. Yuba River spring-run Chinook salmon have been listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Two major lumber producers have dammed river headwaters and diverted flow to hundreds of miles of historic salmon and steelhead habitat. For 50 years, the Yuba River Commission has worked to protect wild salmon, steelhead and American steelhead trout from the Yuba River Basin.

**What you can do:** Join the Yuba River Commission, local river protection groups, and river advocates to help protect the Yuba River.

**Black Warrior River**

**Alabama**

**Threat:** Strip mining for coal

**At risk:** Black Warrior River is one of the nation’s most fishable rivers and supports unique fish and wildlife as well as outstanding recreation opportunities. However, coal mining has destroyed salmon habitat in the river. The Black Warrior River is also threatened by a proposal to build a costly bridge over the river.

**What you can do:** Join American Rivers, American Tribal Organizations, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe, the Riverkeepers, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Humane Society of the United States, and the National Wildlife Federation.

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways**

**Missouri**

**Threat:** Water quality impairment

**At risk:** The Ozark National Scenic Riverways provides a wealth of beautiful scenery, abundant water-quality opportunities for paddlers and anglers, and is known for wildlife. However, a proposal to build a costly bridge over the river would severely impact its water quality and native fish habitat.

**What you can do:** Join American Rivers, American Tribal Organizations, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe, the Riverkeepers, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Humane Society of the United States, and the National Wildlife Federation.
Roanoke River 

Connecticut River—Massachusetts 

After: Clear drinking water and public health 

Hunting for more than 30 miles of trout, the Connecticut River provides drinking water to millions of people and is a major habitat for Atlantic salmon. Unless the American Indian Water Resources Association and the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island are provided with common-sense alternatives. American Indian Water Resources Association and the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island are partners in this project, which is supported by the National Park Foundation.

St. Croix River 

Wisconsin—Minnesota 

After: Clean drinking water and public health 

The St. Croix River, protected as a Wild and Scenic River, provides water to 700,000 people and is home to Atlantic salmon, herring, and trout. Unless Congress enacts legislation to remove dams and restore the river, the water will remain pristine for future generations. The American Indian Water Resources Association and the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island are partners on this project in the St. Croix River.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways 

Missouri 

After: Clean drinking water and recreation 

Ozark National Scenic Riverways, located in Missouri, provides clean drinking water and recreation. Unless the Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Parks Commission are able to complete protecting the river, visitors will continue to face pollution and erosion. The American Indian Water Resources Association and the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island are partners on this project, which is supported by the National Park Foundation.

Each year, American Rivers selects ten rivers from a broad array of nominations from groups and individuals across the country. Selection of the final list is based on the following criteria:

A major decision in the coming year that the public can help influence through the proposed action

The significance of the river to people and wildlife

The magnitude of the threat to the river and its communities, especially in light of a changing climate

Chicago River 

Illinois 

After: Clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and recreation 

The Chicago River provides drinking water to more than one million people, 10 miles of historic salmon and steelhead habitat for 50 years. Unless the Army Corps of Engineers mandates that this dam be removed, the river will continue to face pollution and erosion. The American Indian Water Resources Association and the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island are partners on this project, which is supported by the National Park Foundation.

Overuse and poor planning 

The Ozark National Scenic Riverways provides clean drinking water and opportunities for recreation. Unless the National Park Service is able to complete this project, visitors will continue to face pollution and erosion. The American Indian Water Resources Association and the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island are partners on this project, which is supported by the National Park Foundation.
Each year, American Rivers selects ten rivers from a broad array of nominations from groups and individuals across the country. Selection of the final list is based on the following criteria:

- A major decision in the coming year that the river and its communities, especially in light of a changing climate
- Maintenance of the significance of the river to people and wildlife
- The magnitude of the threat to the river and its communities, especially in light of a changing climate
- The role the river plays in providing water to the surrounding communities and industries
- The potential for a proposal to be enacted that would address the threat

Each river selected will face increasing health threats. Partners include American Rivers, Southern Environmental Law Center, and Wild Connections.

Roanoke River

Illinois
Threat: Sewage pollution
At risk: Clean water and public health
3
Roanoke River flows from Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains to North Carolina's Outer Banks. A headwater coast river, it flows less than one million acre-feet per year. The Roanoke River Basin is one of America's most productive and productive rivers. The Roanoke River provides drinking water to more than 1,000,000 people in the Roanoke Valley. However, the river is threatened by sewage pollution, dam removal, and development.

River Citizens League

Green River

Wyoming
Threat: Mining
At risk: Clean drinking water and wildlife habitat
5
The Green River provides drinking water to more than 20,000 people in the Green River Basin. The river's clean water is threatened by natural gas extraction, mining, and hydroelectric development.

South Yuba River Citizens League

Hoback River

Wyoming
Threat: Natural gas extraction
At risk: Clean water and wildlife habitat
6
The Hoback River is a major tributary of the Green River. The river is threatened by natural gas drilling, the proposed Hoback River Energy Center, and other developments.

Wild Connections

Yuba River

California
Threat: Hydroelectric power
At risk: Clean water and wildlife habitat
7
The Yuba River is one of California's water resources, with over 400 miles of pristine salmon and steelhead habitat. The Yuba River is threatened by hydroelectric development, habitat loss, and pollution from agricultural and industrial sources.

American Rivers

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Missouri
Threat: Dam removal planning
At risk: Clean water and recreation opportunities
10
The Ozark National Scenic Riverways is one of America's most beautiful and scenic riverways. The river is threatened by dam removal planning and development.

National Park Service

Black Warrior River

Alabama
Threat: Mining
At risk: Clean drinking water and wildlife habitat
8
The Black Warrior River is a major tributary of the Alabama River and provides drinking water to more than 50,000 people in the Tuscaloosa and Montgomery areas. The river is threatened by mining activities.

American Rivers

St. Croix River

Wisconsin
Threat: Hydroelectric power
At risk: Clean water and recreation opportunities
9
The St. Croix River is a major tributary of the Mississippi River. The river is threatened by hydroelectric development and development.

American Rivers

Susquehanna River

Pennsylvania
Threat: Natural gas extraction
At risk: Clean water and public health
1
One of the longest rivers in America, the Susquehanna River provides drinking water to millions of people and supports a diverse array of industries.

American Rivers

Bristol Bay Rivers

Alaska
Threat: Massacre mine
At risk: Livelihood of native tribes, salmon run
2
The wild and pristine rivers that flow into Bristol Bay support native communities.

American Rivers

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Missouri
Threat: Dam removal planning
At risk: Clean water and recreation opportunities
10
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National Park Service

Why these 10 rivers?

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River Citizens League

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Wyoming
Threat: Mining
At risk: Clean drinking water and wildlife habitat
5
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South Yuba River Citizens League

Hoback River

Wyoming
Threat: Natural gas extraction
At risk: Clean water and wildlife habitat
6
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American Rivers

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At risk: Clean water and recreation opportunities
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National Park Service

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