2012 Successes

Thanks to the commitment of supporters like you, 2012 was a remarkable year for rivers. Here is a snapshot of the inspiring conservation achievements that we accomplished with your help:

- **308** miles of rivers restored through dam removal
- **40** dams removed
- **$2,070,000** grants from American Rivers to local communities for river restoration projects
- **20** communities where we improved clean water and reduced flooding
- **400** miles of blue trails nationwide that we created, expanded, or sustained
- **1,200** acres of riverside land protected
- **10,000** young people we connected to their local rivers
- **85,000** volunteers who participated in National River Cleanup®
- **3 million** pounds of trash removed through National River Cleanup®

www.AmericanRivers.org/2012Successes
Since 1973, American Rivers has led the effort to protect and restore our nation’s rivers and streams. We know healthy rivers matter — for our health, our economy, our environment, and our communities. Rivers matter on a personal level, too. They are the places where we make memories with our families and friends. They are the places where we forge our values and learn about ourselves and the broader world.

We both spent time on rivers when we were boys. Bob spent summers at his grandparents’ small farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, where the nearby stream’s crayfish and minnows were disappearing because of pollution. Swep grew up exploring the bottomland forests of Mississippi, riding his horse in the afternoons to go fishing in his favorite creek.

These early experiences shaped us, and they inspire our efforts today to restore damaged streams and protect our last wild rivers. Just about everyone has their own river story. It’s why our work at American Rivers is so personal and so significant. Rivers connect us.

Thanks to the commitment of American Rivers’ supporters and the power of our vision, 2012 was a year of great success.

- **We led river restoration projects**, and celebrated some of the biggest dam removal efforts in history on Washington’s Elwha and White Salmon rivers and Maine’s Penobscot River.

- **We spearheaded river protection efforts**, were instrumental in creating a National Blueways System to promote recreation and conservation, and connected more than 10,000 youth with their local rivers.

- **We promoted 21st century clean water solutions** and helped twenty communities including Milwaukee and Atlanta reduce polluted runoff, flooding, and sewer overflows.

This year also presented challenges, with bedrock environmental laws like the Clean Water Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act under attack in Congress. We saw communities impacted by floods and droughts, which are becoming more frequent and severe with climate change. So while we celebrate our successes of the past year, we also rededicate American Rivers to addressing the challenges ahead.

We take seriously our responsibility to create a safe and secure future for our children and grandchildren. With your support, we will continue to fight for healthy rivers so that they will enrich our communities for generations to come.

Wm. Robert (Bob) Irvin, President
Swep Davis, Board Chair
It all begins with clean water

Splash with your kids in the local creek. Filling your glass at the kitchen sink. Enjoying a riverside picnic. Water — and rivers — touch virtually every aspect of our lives and are fundamental to our health and well-being. American Rivers is pioneering new ways to safeguard our clean water for today's communities and future generations. As climate change makes droughts, floods, and waterborne diseases more common, the need to protect clean water is more important than ever.

American Rivers helps communities develop green infrastructure solutions that prevent polluted runoff and sewage from fouling streams and rivers. We work with schools to transform old pavement into lush rain gardens. We work with cities to plant more trees and improve water systems in public housing. We partner with businesses to install green roofs. Then we share the lessons from this on-the-ground work with other communities and policy makers, multiplying these 21st century solutions across the country.

This year we published Banking on Green, in partnership with the Water Environment Federation, ECONorthwest, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. It details how green infrastructure saves communities money while producing other economic benefits like increased energy efficiency, less local flooding, and better air quality. Another report, The Economic Benefits of Green Infrastructure, analyzes the actual dollar savings of greening stormwater management in the Chesapeake Bay region. We also created an online tool (green.americanrivers.org) that allows users to virtually “green” a roof of their choice and calculate cost savings and clean water benefits.
A success story in Milwaukee

This year we helped General Mills install permeable paving and swales — marshy land designed to capture water runoff and filter pollutants — at its Milwaukee plant. The one-acre parking lot now absorbs more than 31,000 gallons of rainwater per one-inch rain storm, saving the company tens of thousands of dollars in sewer fees. Overall, our many projects in Milwaukee are filtering stormwater from over 12 acres of urban area, keeping more than 200,000 gallons of polluted runoff from entering the Kinnickinnic River when it rains.

“Nation’s river” is nation’s most endangered

Once so contaminated by industrial pollution and sewage that President Johnson called it “a national disgrace,” the Potomac River has made an impressive comeback thanks to the Clean Water Act. But as we celebrate the law’s 40th anniversary, the Potomac is again at risk from polluted runoff. And polluters and their allies in Congress are trying to weaken the Clean Water Act, threatening decades of progress on the Potomac and rivers nationwide. American Rivers sounded the alarm in our 27th annual America’s Most Endangered Rivers® report, naming the Potomac number one on the list.

Our annual America’s Most Endangered Rivers report spotlights rivers facing significant threats and critical upcoming decisions. Over the years, the report has spurred many successes including the removal of outdated dams, the protection of Wild and Scenic rivers, and the prevention of harmful pollution.

“Our two year old son loves playing in the water. We’re so grateful to American Rivers for protecting our local rivers. Without their actions, these rivers wouldn’t be as clean or healthy. It’s great to know that, thanks to American Rivers, our son, and someday grandkids, will be fishing and paddling here and having the same experiences we have today.”

Regan and Aimee Norris
Columbia, SC
The Potomac Highlands region of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia is home to some of the most diverse and globally important resources on Earth, supporting more than 116 different fish species as well as black bear, bobcat, and grouse. It also has a long history of logging, mining, and dam construction that threatens the region’s wildlife and river health.

American Rivers launched the Potomac Highlands Implementation Grant Program last year, with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency. And this year, we provided $1.37 million in grants to six projects that will benefit local communities, while protecting and restoring rivers, clean water, and wildlife in the Highlands region. Full descriptions of the six projects can be found at www.AmericanRivers.org/PotomacHighlands.

Grants for river restoration

A federal Wild and Scenic River designation is our nation’s strongest river protection tool, prohibiting new dams and other harmful development. Protecting Wild and Scenic Rivers has been a core part of the American Rivers mission for nearly 40 years.

Standing up for our last, best rivers

Rivers protected as Wild and Scenic boast outstanding habitat for fish, birds and wildlife. The bears and steelhead on Oregon’s Rogue River, the trout in the Snake River headwaters, and the osprey and bald eagles along the Delaware River all benefit from our advocacy to protect and expand the nation’s Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Unfortunately, this year we had to play defense on Capitol Hill to stop rollbacks to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We suffered a significant setback when, despite our opposition, a bill passed allowing construction of an enormous multilane highway bridge over Minnesota and Wisconsin’s Wild and Scenic St. Croix River. It’s a risky precedent that not only threatens the St. Croix, but hundreds of Wild and Scenic rivers nationwide.

We are working hard to fight another bill that waives the protection of Wild and Scenic designations and other environmental laws within a 100-mile corridor along the Canadian and Mexican borders. If passed, we could lose protection for rivers like the Allegheny, Rio Grande, and Allagash to a potential “no conservation” zone. In light of these threats, American Rivers is redoubling our efforts, working with members of Congress and local partners around the country to protect Wild and Scenic Rivers for future generations.
**Saving rivers of the Rockies**

Montana and Colorado have some of the most spectacular rivers in the country. But surprisingly few rivers in these states enjoy protections, putting them at risk of dam construction, water withdrawals, and energy development. American Rivers is working to change that. In Montana’s Yellowstone Basin, we helped local citizens generate media coverage and gather signatures in the ongoing effort to kill a proposed hydropower project and secure permanent Wild and Scenic protection for East Rosebud Creek. In Colorado, American Rivers joined a lawsuit opposing an application for water rights that would make it easier to construct new dams on the Crystal River, which is eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

**Victory for salmon in California**

California’s Yuba is considered one of the most promising opportunities for restoring wild salmon runs in the state. But two Army Corps of Engineers dams — Englebright and Daguerre Point — block migration of salmon and steelhead to more than 100 miles of historic spawning habitat in the upper Yuba. After listing the Yuba as one of our 2011 America’s Most Endangered Rivers, we scored a victory this year. The National Marine Fisheries Service ruled that the Corps must provide passage for Yuba salmon and steelhead upstream of the dams. American Rivers will stay closely engaged as the Corps studies fish passage options, including dam removal.

“With the work and support of American Rivers, we are restoring the watersheds and salmon that have supported my community since time immemorial. I thank American Rivers for their continued dedication to healthy rivers.”

**Phil Rigdon**
Deputy Director of the Yakama Nation’s Department of Natural Resources and a Yakama Tribal Member
Reconnecting communities with rivers

This year American Rivers made great strides improving the quality and accessibility of river recreation. As a result of our advocacy, the Department of the Interior established a new National Blueways System to make water-based recreation available to more people, encourage the conservation of large landscapes, and promote tourism that fuels local economies across America.

Through national and local partnerships, American Rivers helps bring home these benefits by developing blue trails. A blue trail is a river adopted by local communities that are dedicated to improving recreation such as boating, fishing, and hiking, and advancing conservation goals. In South Carolina we hosted paddle events on the Waccamaw and Congaree River blue trails to introduce youth to the rivers, and developed a Waccamaw Blue Trail map to help paddlers explore the natural features and the rich history of the region.

Restoring Maine’s Penobscot River

American Rivers has worked for more than 20 years to restore Maine’s Penobscot River. We named the Penobscot one of America’s Most Endangered Rivers every year from 1989 to 1996 because of threats from existing and proposed dams. As a founding member of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust, we’ve worked with many partners to bring this river’s restoration to reality. And this year, that landmark effort began with the removal of the Great Works Dam.

Removing the Great Works and Veazie dams and reconfiguring a third will open up nearly 1,000 miles of habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, river herring, and eight other species of sea-run fish. Many new and improved recreational opportunities, from paddling and fishing to river festivals and wildlife watching will bring tourist dollars to Penobscot communities. In addition to restoring recreational treasures, the project is restoring fisheries of cultural significance to the Penobscot Indian Nation, all while maintaining the amount of hydropower energy generated by the river.
New initiatives engage river users

River Ambassador Program
Recreational and tourism businesses, from guides and outfitters to restaurants and hotels, depend on healthy rivers. American Rivers is harnessing their unique passion and perspective with the River Ambassador Program. The membership program helps businesses connect with customers through our river conservation efforts.
www.AmericanRivers.org/RiverAmbassadors

Anglers Fund
Recreational anglers are critical stakeholders in river health, so American Rivers launched the Anglers Fund to give them a unique role in river and fisheries conservation. Member benefits include special fishing expeditions and briefings from American Rivers staff experts on fisheries conservation work.
www.AmericanRivers.org/AnglersFund

Revitalizing Washington’s White Salmon River
Thanks to the removal of Condit Dam on Washington’s White Salmon River, wild salmon and steelhead have been making their way upstream for the first time in 100 years. Paddlers have been exploring the newly free-flowing river as well. The river is recognized as a premier whitewater destination — ten outfitters run commercial trips on the river, and at least 40,000 boaters use the river each year. River restoration will create new recreation opportunities. American Rivers and partners including the Yakama Indian Nation worked for 20 years to remove the outdated dam.

“As a company and a business that is 100% dependent on healthy rivers and quality waters, Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures is proud to support American Rivers, an organization that is working hard and doing more to protect and restore our nation’s rivers and streams than anyone.”

Jim Klug
Director of Operations
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
American Rivers achieved a major conservation victory in June, when Congress passed, and the President signed into law, bipartisan reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). American Rivers helped draft legislative language and advocated the bill’s passage, partnering with a diverse set of allies — insurance companies, taxpayer organizations, and environmental groups — in the Smarter Safer coalition. The legislation reauthorizes the NFIP for five years, discouraging risky development and encouraging floodplain restoration. It will also improve public awareness of flood risks by modernizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood mapping program.

Despite large flood control dams and 1,000-plus miles of levees, the Central Valley’s flood risk is among the highest in the nation. Aging levees put more than 1 million people — and $70 billion of urban infrastructure — at risk. Thanks to the work of American Rivers and our partners, California’s Central Valley Flood Protection Board adopted the first-ever comprehensive flood plan to restore safe and healthy rivers in the Central Valley. Expanding the region’s floodways to give the rivers more room will lower the risk of flood damage while creating thousands of acres of floodplain habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife.
Restoring rivers, creating jobs

American Rivers leads the effort to restore rivers through the removal of unsafe, outdated dams. To date, we have documented more than 1,200 dam removals across the United States.

Our work not only improves the environment, it boosts the economy. A newly released study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows habitat restoration creates 17-33 jobs per $1 million invested.

Salmon return to the Elwha

The world’s largest dam removal project on Washington’s Elwha River (pictured left) is making outstanding progress. Less than a year after removal began, salmon and steelhead were spotted upstream of the former Elwha Dam site. Dam deconstruction and river restoration is expected to generate up to 1200 jobs, with even more jobs created from increased tourism to Clallam County. American Rivers advocated for dam removal on the Elwha for more than 25 years, from intervening in the dam relicensing proceedings to supporting the 1992 legislation authorizing dam removal, to helping secure $50 million in federal economic stimulus funding for the project. www.AmericanRivers.org/Elwha

Fighting for river restoration funding

Since 2001, American Rivers and the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program have provided financial and technical assistance to restore rivers, remove unsafe dams, and open up habitat for fish on both coasts. Our Rivergrants Program has funded more than 147 projects in 16 states, helping the recovery of threatened and endangered species, eliminating public safety hazards, and improving river health. In 2012 alone, we received 62 requests for funding seeking more than $6 million. We awarded six grants totaling nearly $700,000.

Even as the federal budget is shrinking, American Rivers has been successful at increasing federal funding for river protection and restoration. Working with House and Senate appropriators, the White House, NOAA, and the Commerce Department, we secured a seven-percent increase over the previous year for the Community-based Restoration Program in Federal Fiscal Year 2012.

But pressures to reduce federal spending are putting funding for our Rivergrants Program in jeopardy. With funding uncertain for Federal Fiscal Year 2013, American Rivers is leading the advocacy effort in Congress and the Administration to ensure this successful program lives on. www.AmericanRivers.org/NOAAGrants

“In 2005, the near failure of the Whittenton Pond Dam forced my office to evacuate, along with 2,000 other people in downtown Taunton. The threat of a potentially devastating flood produced a combination of fear, inconvenience, and economic loss for the community. Fortunately the dam held, but we learned a valuable lesson about the need to remove unsafe dams. I’m grateful to American Rivers for the leadership role they provided, not only in finally removing the unsafe Whittenton Dam for good this year, but also in making the removal of unsafe dams easier for Massachusetts communities and the entire region.”

Bill Napolitano
Environmental Program Director at the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District in Taunton, MA
# 2012 Financial Statement

## FY 2012 Statement of Activities
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012**

### Support and Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Unrestricted</th>
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### Expenses

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<tr>
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<td>River Restoration</td>
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### Change in Market Value of Investments

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<td>6,835</td>
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### Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets

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<td>140,849</td>
<td>605,617</td>
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## Statement of Financial Position
**June 30, 2012**

### Assets

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<tbody>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Grants and Pledges Receivable</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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### Liabilities

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<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits</td>
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### Net Assets

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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>11,201,089</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2012 governance

Board of Directors

Sweep Davis  
Chairman  
Bozeman, MT

Nora Hohenlohe  
Vice Chair  
Washington, DC

Dotty Ballantyne  
Secretary  
Bozeman, MT

Robert McDermott  
Treasurer  
Alexandria, VA

The Honorable Victor H. Ashe  
Vice Chair  
Knoxville, TN

Russell Daggatt  
Treasurer  
Seattle, WA

Sylvia Earle  
Oakland, CA

Ray Gardner  
Raymond, WA

Michael Gewirz  
Washington, DC

Javier Gonzales  
Santa Fe, NM

Laurie Kracum  
Chicago, IL

Richard Legon  
Fairfax, VA

Amanda Cohen Leiter  
Washington, DC

Lisel Loy  
Washington, DC

Jay Mills  
Chattanooga, TN

Jeffrey Mount  
Davis, CA

Jeffrey Nielsen  
Seattle, WA

Gordon W. Philpott  
St. Louis, MO

Dan Reicher  
Stanford, CA

Philip R. Rever  
Baltimore, MD

Marie Ridder  
McLean, VA

Anne H. Shields  
Chevy Chase, MD

Tom Skerritt  
Seattle, WA

C. Austin Stephens  
Atlanta, GA

Alex Taylor  
Atlanta, GA

Edward B. Whitney  
New York, NY

Tony Williams  
Washington, DC

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Jeffrey Mount, Ph.D.  
Committee Chair  
University of California, Davis

Michele Adams, P.E.  
Meliora Environmental Design, LLC

James Boyd, Ph.D.  
Resources for the Future

Norman Christensen, Ph.D.  
Duke University

Robert Glennon, Ph.D.  
University of Arizona

Gene Helfman, Ph.D.  
University of Georgia

James G. MacBroom, P.E.  
Milone and MacBroom

Nathan Mantua, Ph.D.  
University of Washington

David Marcus, M.A.  
Energy Economist

Judith L. Meyer, Ph.D.  
University of Georgia

David R. Montgomery, Ph.D.  
University of Washington

Michael Moore, Ph.D.  
University of Michigan

Margaret Palmer, Ph.D.  
University of Maryland

Duncan Patten, Ph.D.  
Montana State University

LeRoy Poff, Ph.D.  
Colorado State University

Sandra Postel, Ph.D.  
Global Water Policy Project

Joan Rose, Ph.D.  
Michigan State University

Robert M. Roseen, Ph.D.  
University of New Hampshire

Richard Sparks, Ph.D.  
National Great Rivers Research and Education Center

Regional Advisory Councils

Southwest  
Jay Mills, Chair  
Dana Beach  
Fitz Coker  
Rev. Mark Johnston  
Victoria (Vicki) Taylor

Northwest  
Brad Axel  
Thomas D. Hughes  
Matt Kellogg  
Craig Koeppler  
Nan McKay  
Jeffrey Nielsen  
Dr. Walter Pereyra  
John Schuitemaker  
Julie Tokashiki Skerritt

Montana  
Dotty Ballantyne, co-chair  
Gifford Cochran  
Fitz Coker  
Sweep and Brenda Davis  
Dave Grusin  
John Heminway  
Skip and Meg Herman  
Nora and Chris Hohenlohe  
Lanny Jones  
Michael Keaton  
Susie McDowell  
Whitney McDowell  
Bill and Linda Musser  
Nan Newton, co-chair  
Tom Skerritt  
Farwell Smith  
Ben Stanley  
K.C. Walsh  
Ken and Vickie Wilson

Support & Revenue

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Planned Giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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</table>
Platinum Donors
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