Rivers are the salves we have relied on over the past year to calm our spirits and give us peace. Maybe rivers have given you the same sort of solace and hope. A way to get outside and laugh. And a lifeline that kept your body healthy. If you’re like us, rivers have also provided you with an avenue to make a positive difference in the well-being of our planet and communities.

As the hardships of the past year have made clear, we need each other to achieve our goals. American Rivers is no different: It takes listening to and learning from frontline communities and Indigenous Peoples. It takes partnering with local leaders, businesses, elected officials, and other conservation groups to notch wins that protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers, and conserve clean water for people and nature. It also takes you, our donors, without whom none of our accomplishments would be possible.

In the following pages, you’ll read about some of the key successes your support of American Rivers helped us achieve in 2021. These are your wins — from rivers we freed from the chokehold of dams, to ground gained in our untiring quest for clean water for all, to enormous leaps toward permanently protecting more river miles than at any other time in history. We couldn’t have achieved any of this without you.

And you have a vital role as we chart the path forward. Because withstanding the major challenges of our time — climate change, the accelerating rate of extinctions and environmental injustice — will take all of us paddling in rhythm in the same direction. Healthy rivers give us the opportunity to address each of these threats and ensure that our ecosystems, communities and nation are resilient. This is our moment to pull even harder as we drive forward the movement for healthy rivers and clean water.

We invite you to join us as we travel onward, together.

John Haydock,  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
Tom Kiernan,  
President and CEO  

AmericanRivers.org/Impact2021
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/MyImpact.

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.

MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER, IDAHO
PHOTO: CHRIS SCHILLER

RIVER FILMS TO INSPIRE YOU*

“Guardians of the River”
After watching this incredible film, you’ll understand why four dams on the Klamath River in California and Oregon must come down.

“Homecoming”
A beautiful short film about a success for people and salmon on Washington’s Middle Fork Nooksack River.

“Through Line”
Women in the San Luis Valley of Colorado connect the dots between rivers, ranching and a way of life.

“Water Flows Together”
Diné (Navajo) river guide Colleen Cooley takes you on a thought-provoking trip down southern Utah’s San Juan River.

*Watch all our best films at AmericanRivers.org/Films.

Michael Charles,
AMERICAN RIVERS MONTHLY MEMBER SINCE 2018.

What is your best river memory?
When I was in my 20s, I went whitewater rafting on the American River near Sacramento. It was a merger of pure fun and adventure. In a raft that sat about eight, we navigated the raging river and paddled the wider, calm stretches. Meeting up with other rafters, they would throw water at you and vice versa. It made no sense to me then or now, but what passes for fun is all good.

Why does your life need rivers?
There is a calmness to rivers. It allows high-strung people (used to be me) to go to a figuratively calmer place. Even if you live in a high-stress city such as Los Angeles, you can always reflect back to a fun, adventurous and calm atmosphere. With a calmer state of mind, I am better able to handle the uncertainties of life.

What inspires you to support American Rivers?
One of American Rivers’ goals is to return rivers to their natural state. I believe every river is disconnected in some way, often by dams. Even if the dams are decommissioned, they still block the free flow of the river. When I first watched a dam being removed on YouTube, American Rivers was part of the process. I have been a firm supporter ever since.

What is your favorite river?
It would have to be the American River—for the fond memories of whitewater rafting, and the free-flowing, fast-moving water that is almost hypnotizing.
YOUR IMPACT IN 2021
Here is what your support delivered in numbers.

July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

Miles of rivers we freed through dam removal (the approximate distance between Syracuse, New York, and Cleveland, Ohio).

280 River miles protected against harmful new dams, mining and development.

50 STATES Where we protected, restored and improved water resources through our national policy work and on-the-ground projects.

566+ MILLION Number of people* who read 300 news stories about America’s Most Endangered Rivers® of 2021 and the importance of healthy rivers in building a just society.

6,700 Miles of rivers and small streams in Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington that will be permanently off limits to new dams and development if federal legislation American Rivers helped craft is signed into law.

6,700+ cigarettes 6,600+ wrappers 3,200+ bottles

11 pieces of priority legislation introduced or enacted.

2 YEARS Time it took for alewives (river herring) to return to Maryland’s Patapsco River after American Rivers removed Bloede Dam.

FIVE VOLUNTEERS Mobilized through the National River Cleanup® program.

1,1+ million POUNDS OF TRASH Removed from waterways through the National River Cleanup® program.

32,149 VOLUNTEERS Mobilized through the National River Cleanup® program.

2,918 MILES OF HOMETOWN RIVERS CLEANED Through the National River Cleanup® program.

12,400+ cigarettes 6,600+ wrappers 3,200+ bottles

PHOTO: PETER BENNETT, CITIZEN OF THE PLANET
PHOTO: BOB IRVIN
PHOTO: BOB IRVIN
PHOTO: KENNY GAMBLIN
PHOTO: CRYSTAL CREEK, WYOMING
PHOTO: FLINT RIVER, GEORGIA

*impressions

POSTER ART BY GAVIN SNIDER

AmericanRivers.org/Impact2021
ON-THE-GROUND ACTION FOR RIVERS

THIS IS HOW YOUR GIFT IMPACTS THE RIVERS AND CLEAN WATER YOU CARE ABOUT.

OREGON
We removed three dams from tributaries to the Rogue and Columbia rivers this fall, opening 22 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon and at least 78 miles of habitat for other fish species.

CALIFORNIA
Our project to reverse more than 100 years of human impacts on 230-acre Ackerson Meadow in Yosemite National Park — one of the largest meadow restorations in the state — will enhance habitat for great gray owls, willow flycatchers and western pond turtles, and will increase water supplies in the South Fork Tuolumne River.

COLORADO
Two ballot measures we advocated for passed with overwhelming support, providing much-needed funding for healthy rivers, drinking water supply and agricultural heritage.

POWERING DAM REMOVALS NATIONWIDE

The easiest way to bring a river back to life is by removing a dam. In addition to providing support and technical assistance to states and other groups taking down dams, American Rivers led six dam removals, opening up spawning habitat for fish and other wildlife and reconnecting 325 miles of rivers in Oregon, Washington, North Carolina and New Hampshire.

69
DAMS
were removed from rivers in 23 states last year.*

MAP KEY

America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2021 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, 2020
MICHIGAN
To ensure people in Detroit and other Great Lakes cities had adequate access to water during the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, we provided impact grants to local groups to do outreach on water shutoffs and to provide bottled water to people in need.

SECURING CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR ALL
65% of our drinking water comes from rivers.
That’s why we’re working with communities big and small to use water more fairly and wisely. And we’re working with partners and the Biden administration to instate new, stronger policies that safeguard sources of clean water nationwide.

PENNSYLVANIA
In partnership with the Association of State Floodplain Managers, we led an effort to ensure that restoration projects to reduce flood risk consider the perspectives of communities most impacted — very often Black, Latino and other communities of color.

NORTH CAROLINA
After five years of work by American Rivers, North Carolina approved a new system to improve clean water, flood management, habitat restoration and habitat protection along the Neuse River.

GEORGIA
We worked with community leaders, environmental justice advocates, developers, the state and the city of Atlanta on a plan to address neighborhood flooding in the heart of the city.

DRIVING PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS
Your support made it possible for American Rivers to provide strategic vision, advocacy and outreach support to campaigns to permanently protect 6,700 RIVER MILES in Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington.
None of our hard-won wins this year would have been possible without the generous support of river-loving donors like you. Here is how your commitment is helping American Rivers apply every tool in our toolkit to solve the most pressing challenges humanity and our ecosystems face — by making sure our rivers flow clean, healthy and free.

TOGETHER, WE FREE RIVERS

SALMON IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST’S SNAKE RIVER, the largest tributary to the Columbia River, are facing extinction. Why? Because salmon that can’t migrate can’t reproduce. Four dams on the lower Snake are impeding the migration of salmon and creating an “extinction vortex” that could trigger a crisis for more than 130 species, according to biologists from the Nez Perce Tribe. Climate change is exacerbating the issue, warming water to temperatures lethal to fish. Scientists say removing these four dams must be part of any credible salmon-recovery strategy.

It’s why we’re supporting calls from Native American tribes across the region to remove the dams, and why we named the Snake America’s Most Endangered River in 2021.

Over the past year, we’ve seen bipartisan momentum toward our vision of a healthy, free-flowing lower Snake River. Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID) released a proposal for how to remove the four dams and replace their energy, transportation and irrigation services, and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee have committed to releasing their plan by July. We are pushing to have dam removal legislation introduced next year to ensure urgent action.

With you by our side, we also oversaw the removal of six dams last year, opening up 325 miles of river habitat to fish and wildlife in New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and elsewhere. And we’re accelerating the pace of river restoration by training and advising other groups on how to undertake their own dam removals. This is how your support makes a difference: American Rivers has removed or influenced the removal of 95 percent of the more than 1,700 dams torn down across the country since 1999.

Your generosity is also powering our advocacy to free rivers nationwide. One of the biggest steps forward for river restoration in the past year was the introduction of the 21st Century Dams Act. American Rivers was instrumental in negotiating this bipartisan legislation that would restore 10,000 miles of rivers by removing 1,000 dams.

We know dam removal works. It revitalizes fish and wildlife, reconnects communities to their rivers, improves public safety and enhances recreation. That’s why we’re going to keep pushing hard for a solution on the Snake, and to guarantee investment to remove harmful, outdated and unsafe dams nationwide. Because we need healthy rivers, and healthy rivers need to run free.

Turn to page 4 to see where your contribution freed rivers last year.
IMAGINE IF YOUR LOCAL WATER UTILITY told you it could no longer provide your home with clean water? What if it announced that the water coming from your tap — that your family uses for drinking, cooking and bathing — could cause learning disabilities, cancer or worse? That was what people in Iowa’s capital city, Des Moines, faced in 2020.

Pollution-fueled outbreaks of toxic algae combined with climate change-driven drought pushed the city’s drinking water utility to the brink of a crisis.

Waste from more than 750 factory farms in Iowa is spread on agricultural fields, often at rates that exceed the soil’s ability to absorb it. It then runs off into the Raccoon River, which provides drinking water to 500,000 people and fragile nesting grounds to nearly one-third of Iowa’s 200 bird species.

American Rivers joined local partners to mobilize advocates nationwide and demand action. We named the Raccoon River among America’s Most Endangered Rivers® of 2021 to call on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to finally address the increasing levels of factory farm pollution in the Raccoon River watershed through research, improved regulations and consistent enforcement.

Rivers like the Raccoon provide more than 65 percent of our drinking water nationwide. So if we want clean water flowing through our taps, we need to protect the source. Your support in 2021 allowed American Rivers to advocate alongside local clean water movements in Iowa, Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas. We are participating with our partners and the Biden administration in a process to expand Clean Water Act jurisdiction to ensure that protections once again apply to small streams and wetlands — which are the drinking water sources for 117 million people and habitat for countless bird, fish, aquatic and land species.

By trusting our experts to target your support to where it can make the biggest difference, you help defend rivers and water against polluters, and advance smart policies that ensure our communities have clean, abundant water for the future.

In 2022, American Rivers will celebrate the Clean Water Act, which was signed into law 50 years ago next October — and we will redouble our work to realize the promise of swimmable, fishable drinkable rivers everywhere. American Rivers is also proud to be providing strategic vision, advocacy and outreach support to campaigns to permanently protect the clean water and other benefits of 6,700 river miles across Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and

FOR TOO LONG, OUR RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER HAS BEEN IGNORED IN FAVOR OF ALLOWING INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS TO CONTINUE GROWING THEIR PROFITS. IT’S TIME FOR THE AGENCIES DESIGNED TO PROTECT US TO DO THEIR JOBS.”

— Emma Schmitt, American Rivers partner and Senior Iowa Organizer, Food and Water Watch

YOUR PASSION PLUS OUR EXPERTISE MAKES A MAJOR DIFFERENCE FOR OUR RIVERS. MAKE AN IMPACTFUL GIFT TODAY: AmericanRivers.org/RiverRescueSociety.
As the hardships of COVID-19 continued to batter our communities, supporters re-affirmed their commitment to a future of healthy rivers and clean water. The results below are testament to our many loyal donors, who supported our conservation mission during a very challenging year. We are truly grateful for your generosity.

**FUNDING AND CORE MISSION SUPPORT**
We successfully raised $19,829,184 million in philanthropic revenue from individuals, family and private foundations, bequests, corporations and government grants. A bright spot was the 11 percent increase in giving by individual donors at all levels. Our active membership has grown from approximately 28,000 two years ago to 38,000 — a 35 percent increase. Foundation support was also strong, ending the fiscal year 99 percent to goal for restricted grants and 103 percent over goal for unrestricted grants.

**LOOKING AHEAD**
In fall 2021, American Rivers launched the Leadership Circle to honor and engage individual donors who support our mission with gifts of $10,000 or more, as well as the President’s Circle for those whose make gifts or pledges of $100,000 or more. We are excited to launch these ways for individuals to collectively and individually increase the impact their philanthropy has on the health of our rivers. For details, please contact Mandy Hughes (MHughes@AmericanRivers.org).

We were also proud to launch a new partnership with FreeWill — a free online tool that allows individuals to write their wills and include American Rivers in their estate planning. To date, the partnership has resulted in new bequest commitments totaling $385,000. For details on making a planned gift, please contact Corey Christy (PlannedGiving@AmericanRivers.org).
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>Without</th>
<th>With</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Donor Restriction</td>
<td>Donor Restriction</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Corporate Donations</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Federal Grants</td>
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<td>State and Local Grants</td>
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<td>3,947,087</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>FROM RESTRICTION</td>
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<td>(8,459,086)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(1,186,522)</td>
<td>19,829,184</td>
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## EXPENSES

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<td>River Restoration</td>
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<td>Hydropower Reform</td>
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<td>Clean Water Supply</td>
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<td>River Protection</td>
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<td>Total Program Services</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<th>OTHER ITEMS</th>
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<td>Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements</td>
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<td>1,682,579</td>
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<th>With</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,937,779</td>
<td>10,818,671</td>
<td>13,756,450</td>
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*Contributions include $1,382,697 for the forgiveness of a Paycheck Protection Program loan.*

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: 10,779,558
- Investments: 3,724,137
- Grants and Pledges Receivable: 2,138,809
- Accounts Receivable: 3,307,339
- Other Assets - Principally: 208,904
- Fixed Assets - net of accumulated depreciation of $364,096

| TOTAL ASSETS | 20,224,809 |

### LIABILITIES
- Accounts Payable and Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits: 3,202,804
- Refundable Advances: 2,033,258
- Charitable Gift Annuities Payable: 155,800
- Deferred Rent: 408,355
- Deposits: 3,563

| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 6,468,359 |

### NET ASSETS
| Without Donor Restriction | 2,937,779 |
| With Donor Restriction | 10,818,671 |

| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 13,756,450 |

| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | 20,224,809 |