

# AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS OF 2005

TEN RIVERS REACHING  
THE CROSSROADS  
IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



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AMERICAN RIVERS



20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

## 20 YEARS OF SAVING RIVERS

**W**ith this edition of the *America's Most Endangered Rivers* report, American Rivers celebrates 20 years of cooperative action to highlight rivers across the country facing pressing threats and uncertain futures. The first of its kind, this annual effort has contributed to a long and growing list of victories — saving rivers and the benefits they provide: clean water, public health, wildlife populations, economic opportunity, and opportunities for family outdoor fun.

The America's Most Endangered Rivers report is the voice of large and growing watershed protection and restoration movement. American Rivers solicits nominations annually from thousands of river groups, conservation organizations, outdoor clubs, and individual activists. Over the past 20 years, 399 organizations have participated in the effort.

Our staff and scientific advisors review the nominations for the following criteria:

- The magnitude of the threat to the river
- A major turning point in the coming year
- The regional and national significance of the river

This report is more than a warning: it offers solutions, identifies those who have the power to save the river, and highlights opportunities for the public to speak out.

This year, American Rivers thanks and recognizes Bert and Barbara Cohn, whose financial support has made this campaign possible for the past ten years. "Every child should have the opportunity to swim or fish in a nearby river or stream," the Cohns say. By spreading the word about threats to our rivers, and highlighting rivers in the most precarious of situations, the Cohns hope more attention will be paid to our water sources before they become endangered.



## ABOUT AMERICAN RIVERS

**A**merican Rivers, founded in 1973, is the leader of a nationwide river conservation movement. American Rivers is dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers, and the variety of life they sustain, for the benefit of people, fish and wildlife.

### ON THE COVER:

The concentrations of pollutants shown on the front cover label do not necessarily reflect a national average, and will vary depending on the region, type of sewer and treatment system, and the volume of stormwater in the system. The current numbers are based on a moderate climate with moderate rainfall, and were obtained from the U.N. Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.

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# WHEN IT RAINS, SEWAGE POURS



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SEWER SPILLS AND  
OVERFLOWS THREATEN  
TO MAKE LIFE'S SIMPLEST  
PLEASURES UNSAFE.

**W**here does human waste mingle with household chemicals, personal hygiene products, pharmaceuticals, and everything else that goes down the drains in American homes and businesses? In sewers.

And what can you get when rain, pesticides, fertilizers, automotive chemicals, and trash run off the streets and down the gutters into those very same sewers? Sewage backing up into people's basements. Sewage spilling onto streets and parks. Sewage pouring into rivers and streams.

Each year, more than 860 billion gallons of this vile brew escapes sewer systems across the country. That's enough to flood all of Pennsylvania ankle-deep. It's enough for every American to take one bath each week for an entire year.

After bursting out of a pipe or manhole cover, this foul slurry pollutes the nearest body of water. Downstream, some of it may be pumped out, treated, and piped into more homes and businesses. From there, it goes back into a sewer system, and the cycle resumes.

This is the situation along the **Susquehanna River** — which tops this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers list. One hundred and twenty three major sewer systems in the Susquehanna River watershed link toilets and faucets from New York to Maryland. Where the Susquehanna widens and becomes the Chesapeake Bay, vanishing sea grasses and dwindling seafood harvests provide evidence of poor sewage treatment and frequent sewage spills upstream.

## A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH

Untreated human sewage teems with salmonella, hepatitis, dysentery, cryptosporidium, and many other infectious diseases. One hundred years ago, epidemics of these diseases helped limit the life expectancy of a U.S. citizen to about 50 years. Estimates vary for how many people sewage still sickens or kills each year, but they are all large.

Germs linger even after the stench of sewage has dispersed. Healthy adults may never realize that yesterday's swim caused today's cough, diarrhea, or ear infection. Young children, their grandparents, and people already weakened by illness are more likely to become seriously ill or die. Scientists believe as many as 3.5 million Americans get sick each year after swimming, boating, fishing, or otherwise touching water they thought was safe. A 1998 study published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology* blamed water pollution for one-third of all reported gastroenteritis cases and two-thirds of all ear infections.

It's not just the people who play in and around the water who are at risk. Between 1985 and 2000, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) documented 251 separate disease outbreaks and nearly half a million cases of waterborne illness from polluted drinking water in the United States. Another study by the CDC and the National Academy of Sciences concluded that most illnesses caused by eating tainted seafood have human sewage as the root cause.

The price of sewage spills isn't just measured by the number of illnesses and deaths.



Recreational economies like those in Winter Park and Granby, Colo. could suffer if sewage makes the **Fraser River** (#3 on this year's list) unappealing or unsafe to swim and fish in. There are countless rural towns in the same position nationwide.

The prognosis is for these problems to get worse... and soon.

## TREATMENT PLANTS FROM YESTERYEAR

To understand why this is happening, it's helpful to know some history. For centuries most American sewage poured into the nearest river or creek with little or no treatment, and few people gave it a second thought. That changed when Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 and the federal government began making significant investments to modernize sewage treatment infrastructure serving communities across the country.

Today, many of the plants built with that initial investment are undersized or are near the end of their effective lives. There are 600,000 miles of sewer pipes across the country and the average age is 33 years. Some pipes in cities along the eastern seaboard are nearly 200 years old. Some are even made of wood. In 2001, The American Society of Civil Engineers gave America's wastewater infrastructure a "D" grade overall.



USDA NRCS



ANDREW HARVEY

## RUNAWAY DEVELOPMENT TODAY

Poorly planned development compounds the problem of aging infrastructure. As urban areas sprawl into the countryside, new expanses of concrete and asphalt increase the amount of stormwater surging into sewers — and the amount of pollution spewing out.

Consider this: A single acre of wetlands can hold up to 1.5 million gallons of rain or melting snow. When that wetland is replaced by a parking lot or big box store, that water runs off and often winds up in the sewer system. Trees help keep water out of sewer systems, too. In fact, the group American Forests estimates that as Washington, D.C.'s tree canopy thinned by 43 percent between 1973 and 1997, the amount of stormwater running into the city's aging sewer system increased by 34 percent.

In the 1980s and 1990s, a boom in low-density, poorly planned development devoured millions of acres of wetlands, forest, and other habitat across the country. American Rivers estimates that metro Atlanta, for example, now contends with an additional 56 to 132 billion gallons more stormwater each year than it did before 1982. That's as many as three and a half tanker trucks of polluted water running into the

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS  
NATIONWIDE CAN'T KEEP  
UP WITH RAPID, POORLY-  
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT.

3.5 MILLION AMERICANS  
GET SICK EACH YEAR  
AFTER SWIMMING,  
BOATING, FISHING, OR  
OTHERWISE TOUCHING  
WATER THEY THOUGHT  
WAS SAFE.

# WHEN IT RAINS, SEWAGE POURS CONTINUED

**“CLEAN WATER HAS NO LOCAL BOUNDARIES... AMERICANS BELIEVE THIS IS A NATIONAL PROBLEM AND NOT JUST A LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY.”**

**POLLSTER FRANK LUNTZ  
FEBRUARY 2004**

sewer for each resident each year. Older sewage systems combine stormwater with household sewage, but even in systems where they are separated some stormwater ends up in the sewer, where it contributes to raw sewage overflows.

The compounding problems of aging systems and new development are illustrated by Ohio's **Little Miami River** (#7 on this year's list). Cincinnati's Sycamore Creek Sewage Plant can't handle its existing base of customers and has polluted the Little Miami with illegal discharges at least 840 times during the past five years. Adding insult to injury, a proposed bridge across the river would open new areas along the river for development, increasing pressure on the already inadequate facility.

## **SOLUTION: INVEST MORE TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER**

There is no getting around the fact that solving this problem will be expensive. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that sewer and wastewater treatment capital replacement will cost between \$331 and \$450 billion, or \$17 to 23 billion per year for the next 20 years. Former EPA administrator Christine Todd Whitman warned that

without this level of investment, sewage problems could return to 1970s levels by 2016.

This is a job that is too big for states and localities to do on their own, and the public knows it.

“Clean water has no local boundaries... Americans believe this is a national problem and not just a local responsibility,” wrote noted pollster Frank Luntz in February 2004.

“As they see it, a 21st Century nation should NOT have a 19th Century system to keep their water clean.”

Congress and the White House aren't listening to the public. The federal government will invest just over \$1 billion to help repair and build sewage treatment plants in 2005. That works out to just \$3.70 per U.S. resident — about a penny a day — to help maintain vital public health infrastructure that most people use every day. In fact, the federal contribution to wastewater treatment systems in the United States has declined by about 70



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**AN ALL-TOO-RARE SIGHT:  
NEW SEWER PIPES AWAITING  
INSTALLATION. FEDERAL  
SPENDING CUTS MAKE THE  
PROBLEM WORSE.**



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percent since the 1980s. President Bush is seeking further cuts in 2006.

As a first step towards rectifying this situation, Congress should reject further cuts and instead increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to \$3.2 billion in 2006 and beyond. Increasing investment to \$10.85 per U.S. resident per year would be a good start, but it's not enough. As a second step, lawmakers should establish a dedicated federal trust fund to disperse aid to water utilities on a consistent basis — something Congress has already done for airports, barges, and federal highways.

Finally, while Congress must appropriate the necessary funds, the EPA must enforce water protection laws regarding sewage discharges. Together, sufficient funding and vigilant law enforcement will encourage communities and sewer utilities to repair their systems, protect their citizens, plan wisely for future growth, and budget for capital replacement.

## SOLUTION: INVEST SMARTER

It isn't enough to simply invest more. Protecting and expanding natural areas helps prevent stormwater from rushing into the sewer in the first place — stopping sewer overflows before they start. That's investing smarter.

In fact, planting trees, constructing or restoring wetlands, and creating rooftop gardens are often the most cost-effective ways to expand the capacity of

sewer systems. A single mature tree with a thirty-foot crown can keep 4,600 gallons of water out of the sewer each year. For less than \$300,000, it's possible to construct an artificial wetland that can

intercept 3.25 million gallons of stormwater otherwise destined for the sewer. In June 2003, Ford Motor Company planted ten acres of vegetation on the roof of its Dearborn, MI truck factory, keeping as many as four million gallons of rain out of the sewer system each year.



USDA NRCS

Projects like these prevent sewage overflows as surely as bigger pipes — and cost less. That's why the law recognizes them as a legitimate use of federal clean water dollars. But there are other pots of money that can be tapped to stop sewer spills before they start. For years, Congress has directed a portion of the federal transportation trust fund to fight air pollution; lawmakers should follow suit and earmark a portion of those dollars to reduce the stormwater running off federally funded roads and into overflowing sewers.

Clean water. It's essential. It's irreplaceable. Every time we enjoy it, we are more indebted to the generation that spent so much and worked so hard in the 1970s and 1980s to guarantee it for us. If Americans today want our children and grandchildren to splash along the shore at sunset or drink from the faucet without worry, then it's time for us to live up to that example. It's time to make the commitment to keep raw sewage out of our water.

*Rebecca R. Wodder*

Rebecca R. Wodder  
President

**PLANTING TREES AND CONSTRUCTING OR RESTORING WETLANDS ARE OFTEN THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS TO KEEP SEWAGE OUT OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.**



NELSON ROSS

## AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS OF 2005



1. SUSQUEHANNA RIVER
2. MCCRYSTAL CREEK
3. FRASER RIVER
4. SKYKOMISH RIVER
5. ROAN CREEK
6. SANTEE RIVER
7. LITTLE MIAMI RIVER
8. TUOLUMNE RIVER
9. PRICE RIVER
10. SANTA CLARA RIVER



# #1 SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

THREAT: SEWER POLLUTION AND DAM CONSTRUCTION

## SUMMARY

Throughout the Susquehanna River watershed, aging sewer systems discharge enormous volumes of raw or poorly treated sewage, which eventually flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Unless local, state, and federal lawmakers invest in prevention and cleanup, the Susquehanna will remain among the nation's dirtiest rivers and more and more of the Chesapeake Bay will become a dead zone.

## THE RIVER

The Susquehanna River begins near Cooperstown, New York and flows 444 miles through Pennsylvania before broadening into a vast tidal estuary at Havre de Grace, Maryland. The Susquehanna drains 27,510 square miles — more than any other American river on the Atlantic coast. The West Branch of the Susquehanna winds through a rural landscape in central Pennsylvania that attracts hunters and anglers from throughout the region. The river boasts trophy smallmouth bass, a rebounding population of American shad, large annual spawning runs of herring, and one of the longest stretches of free-flowing river in the eastern United States.

For centuries, the Susquehanna has been a hard-working river. Many early industrial cities, including Binghamton, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York, were built along the river and its major tributaries. Four large hydroelectric dams have

blocked the river since the early 1900s, and countless mill dams have plugged the Susquehanna's tributary streams since before the Civil War. A century of coal-mining in the upper watershed has left a legacy of acid mine pollution to the river, and the infamous Three Mile Island nuclear power plant is located along the river downstream of Harrisburg.

The Susquehanna contributes half the freshwater flows to the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in North America. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation calls the river and the bay "two integral parts of one ecosystem." The Chesapeake was once the most productive estuary in the world, but today excessive nutrients in polluted runoff from farms and urban areas, and untreated and poorly treated sewage cloud the water, suffocate fish, kill underwater grasses, and devastate oyster and crab harvests. Despite these woes, the bay remains a major stopover for millions of migratory waterfowl and shore birds, and is an important tourism and recreation destination on the East Coast.

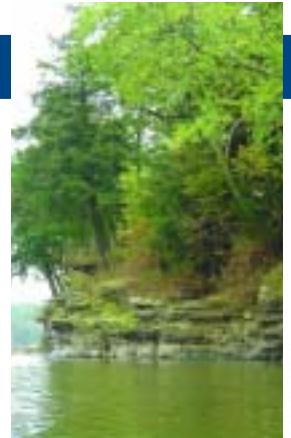
## THE THREAT

In the city of Wilkes-Barre, local officials hope to construct a giant inflatable rubber dam across the river to create a deep-water playground for jet skis and party barges. Ironically, this misguided scheme will graphically reveal the extent and consequences of pollution and aging sewer systems found throughout the river basin.

It's hard to imagine pleasurable boating and recreation in the reservoir — there are 16 sewage outfalls that pour untreated human waste into the very reach of river where the current would pool behind the dam. Twenty-three more outfalls empty into the river within 15 miles upstream.

An afternoon thundershower is sometimes all it takes to start raw sewage gushing into the river. Records show that in March 2002 just two of the 16 outfalls sent 150 million gallons of human feces, industrial wastewater, stormwater, hygiene products, pharmaceuticals, and food scraps into the Susquehanna.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service warned that sewage spills into the dam's impound-



DON WILLIAMS



PA BUREAU OF STATE PARKS

LEFT: AN INFLATABLE DAM, LIKE THE ONE SHOWN HERE, WOULD CREATE A FILTHY CESSPOOL ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN WILKES-BARRE.

A CRAB PICKER FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. FAILING SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER THREATEN CRAB POPULATIONS AND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY JOBS THROUGHOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

ment would lead to “unpleasant odors, unsightly algae blooms and deposits of suspended wastes within the pool.” The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added that “impoundment of poor quality river water may pose significant risks to human health from exposure to bacterial pathogens” like *E. coli*, salmonella, dysentery, and others. Dam proponents have withheld a study that concluded that the dam would trap so much pollution from abandoned mines upstream that the “river bottom, rock surfaces, bridge piers, boat bottoms, and safety buoys may become discolored, discouraging the general public from using the water for recreational purposes.”

Unfortunately, these troubles are not limited to the reach of river through Wilkes-Barre. EPA data reveals that similarly deficient sewer systems are found throughout the Susquehanna River watershed. On the river’s mainstem, for example, there are 10 combined sewer outfalls in Binghamton, 70 in Scranton, PA, and 65 in Harrisburg. On the West Branch of the Susquehanna, there are 12 in Clearfield, four more in Williamsport, and the list goes on.

Even where wastewater treatment is provided, it is largely inadequate and fails to use available technologies that remove excess nutrients and pathogens from discharged effluent. Of 123 large sewage dischargers in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna

basin, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has determined that nitrogen discharges from 97 of them are “unacceptable.” According to the EPA, the Susquehanna contributes about 40 percent of the nitrogen and 20 percent of the phosphorous that flows into the bay. Much of this runoff comes from agricultural and urban sources, in addition to raw or poorly treated sewage.

High levels of phosphorous and nitrogen in the water can cause algae blooms that suck up oxygen and block out the light that nearly every living thing in the water needs to survive. In recent years, a “dead zone” of water devoid of fish from Annapolis, MD, to Newport News, VA has appeared in the Chesapeake Bay each summer. Dwindling fish populations have caused the number of licensed commercial fishermen in the bay to drop from 14,000 to fewer than 10,000 in recent years.

Without action, these problems will only grow worse. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the population in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will increase from about 15 million today to 18 million by the year 2020.

## WHAT’S AT STAKE

The prospect of greater pollution in the Susquehanna River looms over the economic prospects of the Mid-Atlantic states. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that anglers spent more than \$580 million fishing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2001 — and fishing is just one of the many economic activities that depends on clean water. In fact, economists have estimated that the drinking water, waste assimilation, recreational use, electricity production, seafood harvest, tourism, and other benefits of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay watershed contribute more than \$1 trillion to the region’s economy each year.

If elected officials aren’t willing to invest the resources necessary to clean up the Susque-



DON WILLIAMS



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

hanna River and restore the Bay, an irreplaceable piece of America's natural and cultural heritage will be lost.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

In February 2005, State Senator Ray Musto, representing the town of Pittston along the Susquehanna River, introduced a bill to send a \$1 billion bond referendum to Pennsylvania voters. The funds would establish a Combined Sewer Overflow Grant Program to help communities clean up the Susquehanna and other Pennsylvania rivers. The full General Assembly should approve the measure before it adjourns.

Also in February, President Bush asked the U.S. Congress to cut clean water aid to Pennsylvania by more than \$14 million in 2006 and to slash other Chesapeake Bay cleanup measures, as well. Federal lawmakers should not only reject the proposed cuts, they should provide an additional \$12 billion in assistance



DON WILLIAMS

that the governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia have requested to aid in the Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

Luzerne County officials are expected to apply for permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in April 2005 for construction of the inflatable dam near Wilkes-Barre. The agencies will review the applications and accept public comments for between three and six months.

Both agencies have the authority and the legal obligation to deny the permits on the grounds that the dam will worsen water pollution problems, impede the recovery of migratory fish populations, and drown significant wetlands and shore-bird habitat in the river above Wilkes-Barre. It's just common sense not to create a recreational destination in a cesspool.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE ACTION:  
[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/SUSQUEHANNA2005](http://www.americanrivers.org/susquehanna2005)

**CONGRESS SHOULD STEP UP THE AMOUNT OF AID IT PROVIDES TO STATES TO MODERNIZE SEWAGE TREATMENT ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA.**



## #2 McCRYSTAL CREEK

THREAT: COALBED METHANE DRILLING

### SUMMARY

McCrystal Creek and much of the pristine Valle Vidal area that surrounds it face the prospect of intrusive coal bed methane drilling. Unless the U.S. Forest Service resists White House arm-twisting, the agency's promise to protect McCrystal Creek will be the next — but probably not the last — promise to posterity that will be broken in the quest for fossil fuels.

### THE RIVER

The Valle Vidal, or Valley of Abundant Life, is a 100,000-acre unit of the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains. McCrystal Creek drains the eastern portion of this wondrous landscape, including areas that may be opened for drilling. McCrystal Creek and its largest tributary, North Ponil Creek, have been identified by the Forest Service as possessing outstanding ecological and cultural values and being sufficiently pristine for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The valley boasts exceptional numbers and varieties of fish and wildlife, as well as remarkable scenery and recreational opportunities.

Home to the native Rio Grande cutthroat

trout, black bears, mountain lions, and the largest elk herd in the state, the Valle Vidal attracts hunters, anglers, campers, hikers, skiers, and horse-back riders from across the country. Grazing continues in the Valle Vidal, providing vital support for northern New Mexico's agricultural communities. The famed Philmont Scout Ranch, located adjacent to the eastern half of the Valle Vidal, has served as an annual gathering place since 1939 for Boy Scouts from across the nation to experience backpacking and camping adventures.

### THE THREAT

One of America's largest natural gas companies, El Paso Corporation, seeks to drill up to 500 wells in 40,000 acres of Valle Vidal, including the entire McCrystal Creek watershed. If the area is opened for gas extraction, the wells and associated infrastructure could pollute McCrystal Creek, damage its pristine watershed, kill its fish, and drive away wildlife.

Coal bed methane drilling extracts natural gas trapped within a coal formation or seam by water pressure. This method releases millions of gallons of groundwater from the coal seam. This water can contain dangerously high levels of dissolved solids, toxins, salts, and carcinogens and is often discharged in such large volumes that it scours out the receiving stream.

The intensive drilling proposed by El Paso Corporation would be accompanied by a dense web of roads, pipelines, well pads, and compressor stations in primary wintering range for the area's 2,500 elk, forcing the animals to abandon critical winter habitat, disrupting reproduction and herd movements. The constant din of heavy machinery would shatter the silence. Diesel smoke from trucks would



RAY WATT



ALAN LACKEY

COALBED METHANE DRILLING  
COULD TRANSFORM AN  
OUTDOOR PARADISE INTO AN  
INDUSTRIALIZED AND  
POLLUTED LANDSCAPE.



ALAN LACKEY

defile clear mountain air.

Ironically, another energy company, Pennzoil Corporation, donated the Valle Vidal to the American public in 1982 for its outstanding wildlife and recreational values. The U.S. Forest Service has invested heavily in protecting and enhancing the Valle Vidal's special wildlife population and initially resisted overtures by El Paso Corporation to drill in the area — until the White House Energy Task Force began to intervene aggressively. In August 2004, the Los Angeles Times quoted an anonymous Forest Service official, who described “almost weekly” phone calls from the White House.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The Valle Vidal and McCrystal Creek's pristine waters, clean air, scenery, and wildlife are irreplaceable assets for the nearby communities of northern New Mexico whose economies are heavily dependent on the Valle Vidal for recreation income. Drilling could pollute the waters where cattle and elk drink, delivering a sharp blow to the area's recreation and agricultural economy. Hispanic ranchers with a 400-year history of grazing the Valle Vidal could be displaced.

The area's other major source of jobs is likewise on the line. Elk hunters, trout anglers, horseback riders, hikers, skiers, and campers could shift their attention and dollars to other destinations. Thousands of Boy Scouts who have hiked into the area from the adjacent Philmont Scout Ranch would lose the trails where they learn about nature and self-reliance.

The reputation of the U.S. Forest Service is also on the line. If the agency succumbs to White House pressure to develop lands donated to the American people for their enjoyment, it will compromise public faith in similar promises in the future.

### THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

In May 2005, the U.S. Forest Service will release a draft of their “Proposed Action,” which will detail what activities will be allowed to take place in the Valle Vidal. The period of public notice and comment following the release of the “Proposed Action” will be the first chance for the public to speak for the protection of McCrystal and North Ponil Creeks from pollution and against drilling in

GARY KRELLER



the Valle Vidal.

After finalizing the study, the agency will complete its Forest Plan Amendment for the Valle Vidal Unit in late 2005, officially determining whether the proposed drilling can proceed. The public will then have another opportunity to speak out for conservation and protection of McCrystal Creek and the entire Valle Vidal.

### CONTACTS:

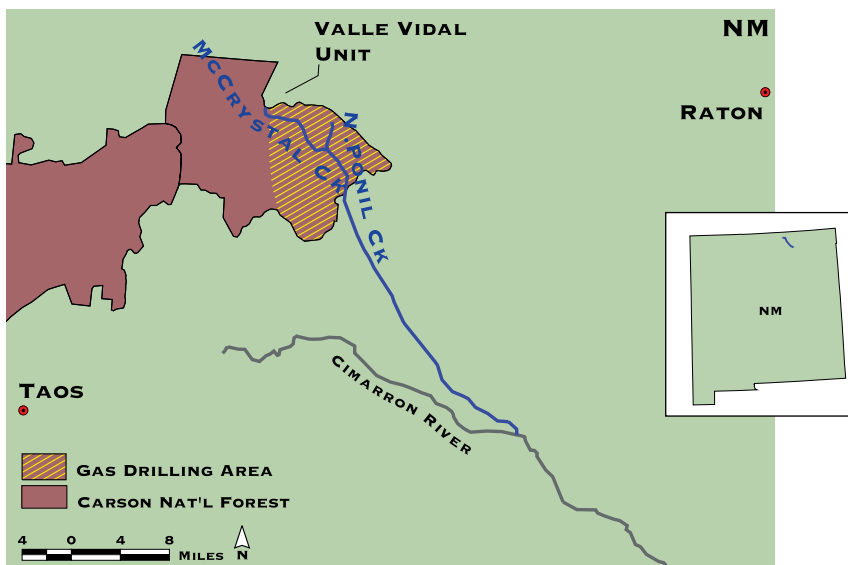
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**METHANE DRILLING COULD DISPLACE HISPANIC RANCHERS WHO HAVE GRAZED THEIR HERDS IN THE VALLE VIDAL FOR GENERATIONS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE ACTION:**  
[HTTP://WWW.AMERICAN-RIVERS.ORG/MCCRYSTAL2005](http://www.american-rivers.org/mccrystal2005)



## #3 FRASER RIVER

THREAT: WATER WITHDRAWALS AND TRANS-BASIN DIVERSION

### SUMMARY

For years, the Denver Water Board has siphoned out 65 percent of the Fraser River's water and piped it across the mountains to fuel runaway development along the Front Range. Now it plans to take most of the rest. Unless the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers puts a stop to the water board's plans, there won't be much left in the river except effluent from local sewage plants.

### THE RIVER

The Fraser River forms in the snowfields along the Continental Divide in the Roosevelt National Forest. The river flows 29 miles north and west before it joins the Colorado River, itself only a modest mountain stream at that point. The Fraser teems with trout, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower enjoyed many summers fly-fishing in the river's cold, clear waters.

The communities of Winter Park, Fraser, Tabernash, and Granby depend on the Fraser River to provide their drinking water, carry away their treated sewage, and entice visitors during the summer months when the ski lifts aren't running. Unfortunately, the Fraser's water is also coveted by faraway cities. The Denver Water Board captures the river in the Moffat Collection System outside of Winter Park, diverting water through the Rocky Mountains to the expanding communities of the Front Range.

### THE THREAT

The Denver Water Board, Colorado's largest utility, plans to assert its rights to increase the amount of water it takes from the Fraser River from 65 percent to a whopping 85 percent of the river's flows. Insisting the extra withdrawal is crucial to meet anticipated growth, the utility intends to deliver the water to suburbs, cities, and corporations in the Denver metropolitan area.

A recent scientific study found

that such a dramatic further reduction in stream flows would

cause the Fraser to fail health standards. There simply

wouldn't be enough clean water left in

the river to dilute the germs and chemicals in the effluent flowing out of the sewage treatment plants — an uninviting prospect for fly fishermen, paddlers, and parents whose children want to play in the deceptively clear water.

Other existing problems would get worse as water levels dropped. Each winter, road crews spread magnesium chloride and more than 6,000 tons of traction sand on U.S. Highway 40 to keep the roads open for skiers and truckers. These wash into the Fraser, slowly polluting the river and choking it with sand because the flow isn't strong enough to wash them away.

The water board's additional water withdrawals would reduce stream flows in the river to the bare minimum levels — or even lower — recommended by the Colorado Water Conservation Board to sustain wildlife, fish, and a generally healthy stream. Water temperatures in the river rise as flows shrink, diminishing the numbers and varieties of fish and wildlife.



KIRK KLANCKE



KIRK KLANCKE

IF DENVER PUMPS MORE WATER OUT OF THE FRASER RIVER, WHAT'S LEFT OVER MAY NOT BE SAFE TO SWIM IN.



KIRK KLANCKE



## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Since 1999, a drought has starkly revealed how important adequate water levels in the Fraser River are for the surrounding communities. Poor fishing in the depleted river has damaged the Fraser's reputation among anglers, who are choosing to go elsewhere. In the ski resort town of Winter Park, authorities had to deny a request to expand a housing project from 250 to 500 units, citing the lack of water. The communities along the Fraser River are facing the prospect of a perpetual, man-made water shortage imposed upon them by faraway city dwellers.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

In fall 2005, the Denver Water Board will submit an Environmental Impact Statement to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, describing their plan to divert and store 85 percent of the Fraser River. To secure the permit to store the water, the board must prove the withdrawals will not damage the environment or affect other downstream senior water rights. The Corps will make its decision about the diversion in December.

To protect the Fraser and the communities that depend on it, the Corps should consider the cumulative impacts of all utilities withdrawing from the Fraser and other Colorado

River tributaries and deny the water board's proposal to expand Front Range storage capacity. The agency should also insist that the water board maintain acceptable minimum

flows in the river and provide for seasonal fluctuations. This need not impose a hardship on the Front Range. Conservation, reuse and efficiency measures could meet the needs of the growing population for the foreseeable future. Experts at the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension estimate that most Colorado residents use more than 200 gallons of water per capita per day, while their neighbors in Arizona manage just fine with 160 gallons — 20 percent less.

The small towns along the Fraser River



EYEWIRE

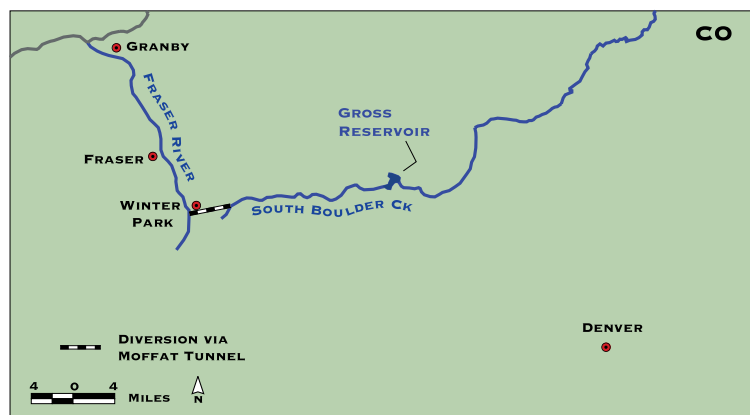
THE FRASER RIVER IS A  
POPULAR DESTINATION FOR  
RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS  
ALIKE, AT LEAST FOR NOW.

need federal and state assistance to construct state-of-the-art sewage treatment plants to protect the river that supports their livelihoods. Unfortunately, President Bush has asked Congress to cut clean water aid to the state of Colorado by almost \$3 million in 2006. Congress should reject those proposed cuts and increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to \$3.2 billion in 2006, of which \$25.5 million would go to Colorado.

## CONTACT

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[HTTP://WWW.AMERICAN-  
RIVERS.ORG/FRASER2005](http://www.american-rivers.org/fraser2005)



## #4 SKYKOMISH RIVER

THREAT: RUNAWAY DEVELOPMENT

### SUMMARY

**R**unaway development threatens to foul the clear waters of the Skykomish River, known for its fishing and other outdoor activities, working farms, forests, and rural quality of life. Unless the Snohomish County Council plans responsibly for growth and acts to protect the river, the very characteristics that make the valley so attractive to its residents could be lost.

### THE RIVER

The Skykomish River begins as a series of small streams trickling off snowy mountain peaks in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, northeast of Seattle. As the river flows west, it leaves forested slopes and moves through a landscape of family farms. The river's north and south forks meet near the town of Index, and where the Skykomish joins the Snoqualmie River they form the Snohomish River, which flows into Puget Sound at the city of Everett.

The Skykomish was the first river designated in Washington's Scenic Rivers Program. Local residents cherish the river and enjoy opportunities for salmon and steelhead fishing, whitewater boating, and other family outings. The "Sky" lures families from across the state to enjoy these activities, as well.

### THE THREAT

The Skykomish River valley is at grave risk of being loved to death. The population of Snohomish County, one of the fastest growing in the state, has increased by 30 percent since 1990 and is expected to expand by a third again by 2020. Without a strong plan to manage growth, runaway development will damage the health of the river and diminish the quality of life for watershed residents.

Poorly planned development devours forested shorelines and working farms. This is a nationwide problem because conventional construction practices for big box stores, strip malls, and parking lots smother habitat and lead to massive increases in polluted stormwater running into local streams and rivers. Stormwater carries high loads of pesticides, fertilizers, metals, automotive chemi-

cals, trash, and other pollution. In the worst case, stormwater can cause sewer systems to leak or overflow, filling rivers and streams with disease-causing germs. Concrete and other impervious surfaces prevent rain from recharging groundwater, causing lower river flows and leading to even greater pollution.

Lower water quality is a big reason why wild steelhead and salmon numbers on the Skykomish aren't what they used to be. There was a time when the river's renowned winter steelhead fishery lasted through winter until April. In recent years, low returns forced the state to close the fishery in February. Without protections for the river, fish numbers will continue to decline. Implementing protections now would be more cost-effective than paying for expensive restoration measures in the years to come.

As part of a locally-driven salmon recovery process, a diverse group of Snohomish County farmers, developers, local governments, tribes, and others have drafted a plan to protect and restore the Skykomish River. The draft plan reveals that without suitable land protections, salmon and steelhead will continue to decline.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Skykomish's clear, clean water and the salmon, steelhead, and char that swim in it are in danger. Farmers and other residents have set an example for neighboring counties with their efforts to restore salmon runs, but this investment will be lost if runaway growth



SCOTT CHURCH

POORLY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DEVOURS WORKING FARMS AND FORESTS, POLLUTING RIVERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE SKYKOMISH COULD BE NEXT.



NRCS



DUGGAN HARMAN

transforms the valley.

The quality of life for everyone who lives in the Skykomish River valley is also at stake. One local city chamber of commerce touts the scenery and excellent fishing on the Skykomish as reasons to move to the area, but out-of-control development jeopardizes those very qualities. Congested, dangerous roads can be a major problem without thoughtful land-use planning. Family farms and rural areas would be harmed or eliminated by gridlock and sprawl, and increased air and water pollution would threaten the safety and health of county residents.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

Snohomish County is drawing up two blueprints for the future that provide current residents with their best chance for protecting their property and lifestyle, while preserving clean water, salmon and wildlife, for generations to come.

The county is revising its Comprehensive Plan — its broad vision for growth and development. To protect the Skykomish River and quality of life, the county should direct new development to existing urbanized areas. The County Council should protect natural areas, expand public transit, establish parks, and link residential and commercial areas with hiking, biking and walking trails. These steps will

reduce the amount of stormwater that pollutes the Skykomish River and protect groundwater supplies. The Snohomish County Council should also reject proposals for new “Fully Contained Communities” — new cities that would likely replace forests with pavement and pollution.

The county will release the plan and accompanying studies in May and June 2005. After a series of public hearings, the County Council will make its decision on the Comprehensive Plan before the end of summer.

At the same time, the county is updating its Critical Areas Ordinance, which governs development in environmentally sensitive areas like wetlands and stream corridors. To safeguard the Skykomish and protect property, the Snohomish County Council should adopt measures protecting the main channel and tributary streams with science-based buffers, stronger stormwater controls, and low impact development methods that limit impervious surfaces and enhance native vegetation. The county will release the update and a study of its environmental implications for public comment in spring or summer 2005.

## CONTACT

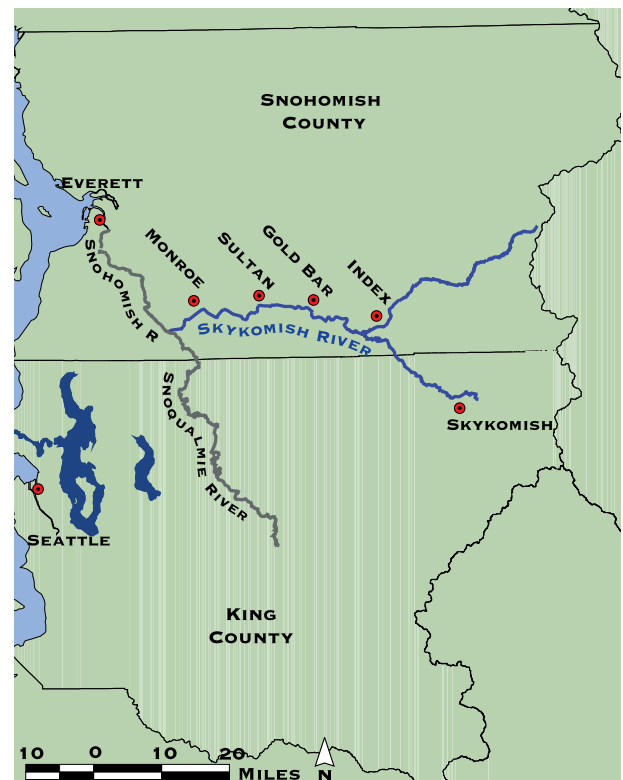
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**JOHN MAURO**, Pilchuck Audubon Society, (425) 252-1927, [john@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:john@pilchuckaudubon.org)

**RICH SIMMS**, Wild Steelhead Coalition, (425) 941-7041, [wscmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:wscmembership@yahoo.com)

**UNLESS SNOHOMISH COUNTY ACTS TO PROTECT THE SKYKOMISH, THE AREA'S CLEAN WATER AND FISHING COULD BE LOST.**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE ACTION:**  
[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/SKYKOMISH2005](http://www.americanrivers.org/skykomish2005)



## #5 ROAN CREEK

THREATS: FACTORY DAIRY FARM

### SUMMARY

The streams and rivers of the Appalachian Mountains have largely escaped the scourge of factory dairy farming — but that may be about to change for Tennessee's Roan Creek. Unless Tennessee officials establish and enforce stricter rules, cow manure could foul the stream, expose residents to disease, and jeopardize the region's economic prospects.

### THE RIVER

Legend has it that in 1760 Daniel Boone named Roan Creek, in the eastern corner of Tennessee, for an injured horse he recovered there. The stream begins near the town of Trade and flows 20 miles into Watauga Reservoir. Roan Creek drains an Appalachian valley of small farms, country stores, scenic byways, and fishing holes.

In 1998, the Tennessee Rivers Assessment Project identified Roan Creek as a river of "local significance, fully supportive water quality, and an excellent fishery." Just seven years later, the river's pollution problems are a grave concern. Mountain City's sewage treatment system is now so inadequate that last year plant operators were caught spreading sewage sludge on frozen ground within Roan Creek's watershed in the middle of the night. Agriculture, quarrying, and gravel mining practices have also contributed to the stream's decline.

MANY FACTORY DAIRY FARMS ARE NOTORIOUS WATER POLLUTERS. ROAN CREEK COULD BE NEXT TO BE SPOILED.

### THE THREAT

Factory farms have already blighted large areas of neighboring North Carolina, and now Tennessee's weak environmental rules are beckoning. Many Johnson County residents oppose construction of an industrial dairy operation near a family neighborhood that will further pollute Roan Creek.

Two companies, Maymead Inc. and High Mountain Hosteins, propose to confine 699 milk cows in a large barn in a residential neighborhood outside Mountain City. The cows would produce more than 12 million gallons of animal waste each year. That is more than the sewage produced by the 18,000 people living in Johnson County. The liquid animal waste will be stored in huge lagoons on a Roan Creek tributary.

Concentrated animal feeding operations, better known as factory farms, like the one under construction near Roan Creek, are notorious water polluters. If completed, the dairy facility could foul the Roan in several ways. Liquid manure could seep into groundwater below the holding ponds, contaminating nearby wells, springs, and Roan Creek. Once the lagoons fill up, manure will be spread onto farm fields, which could later wash into Roan Creek. Most ominously, the manure lagoons could spill during a storm, sending a wave of liquid manure down the valley and eventually into Roan Creek.

Factory farms aren't just undesirable, they are dangerous. Bacteria, viruses, mold, heavy metals, antibiotics, hormones, and noxious gases escape the lagoon pits into the surrounding air and water, threatening the health of workers and neighbors. The stench irritates noses, eyes, and lungs up to a mile away. The list of ailments associated with factory farms includes salmonella, E. coli, listeria, cryptosporidium, blue baby syndrome, bronchitis, asthma, miscarriages, and more. In fact, factory farms cause so many waterborne and respiratory illnesses that in 2003 the American Public Health Association called for a national moratorium on factory farm construction.



KELLY ALDRIDGE



USDA/NRCS



USDA/NRCS

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

For factory farm neighbors, the stakes couldn't be higher than the water they drink and the air they breathe, but the damage caused by factory farms extends far into the surrounding community. Researchers at Iowa State University have implicated factory farms for tearing the social fabric of rural life — depressing property values, curbing business growth, and driving away residents.

All this would be devastating to an impoverished county whose economic future hinges on the promise of fresh air, clear water, and clean country living to attract new residents, visitors, and businesses. If High Mountain Holsteins' factory farm harms the area's reputation along with Roan Creek's water, a handful of low-wage dairy jobs will come at a terrible price for the county as a whole.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

In the coming year, Johnson County citizens will continue to challenge the construction of the factory farm near Roan Creek, citing national studies and strong evidence that such facilities are detrimental to communities, local economies, and water quality.

Some 1400 local residents petitioned state officials in opposition to the original permit to build the factory farm. The permit coverage, issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, appears to violate the agency's own rules, which state that the agency "cannot authorize additional loadings of the same pollutants" into streams that are already polluted. The department should act responsibly and withdraw the coverage for the factory farm.

The Tennessee legislature will be asked to revisit state laws that govern factory farming, and also to review the rights of citizens regarding current agency practices. The legislature should provide Tennesseans with stronger recourse when factory farms poison wells, pollute air or water, or depress property values. This would encourage factory farms across the state to be better corporate citizens.

Mountain City and small towns throughout Appalachia need federal and state assistance to acquire the state-of-the-art sewage treatment plants that will protect the rivers that are the heart of their communities. Unfortunately, President Bush has asked Congress to cut clean water aid to the state of Tennessee by almost \$5.25 million in 2006. Congress should reject



KELLY ALDRIDGE

those proposed cuts and increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to \$3.2 billion in 2006, of which \$46.4 million would go to the state of Tennessee.

## CONTACT

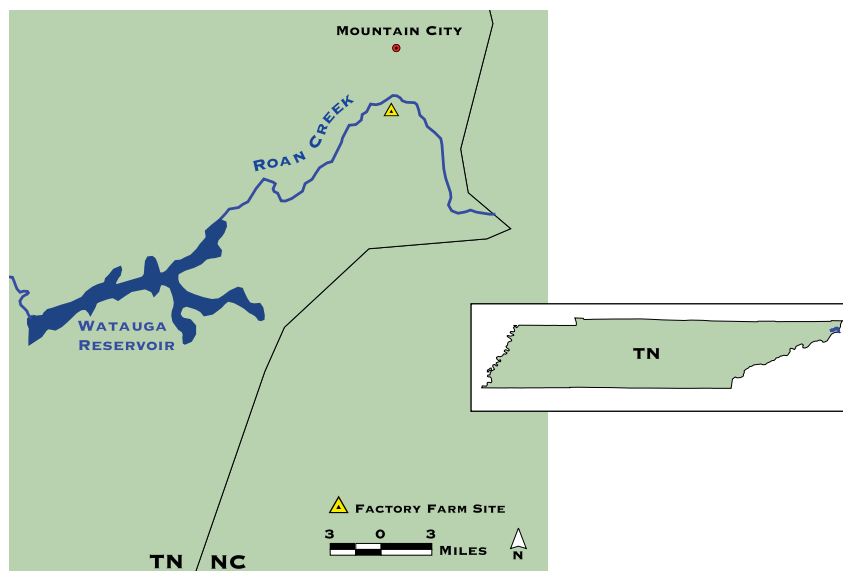
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**STEVE FERGUSON**, Johnson County Citizens' Committee for Clean Air and Water, (423) 727-2543, [fergusons@appstate.edu](mailto:fergusons@appstate.edu)

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**THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE SHOULD GIVE CITIZENS RECOURSE WHEN FACTORY FARMS POISON WELLS, POLLUTE THE AIR, OR DEPRESS PROPERTY VALUES.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE ACTION:**  
[HTTP://WWW.AMERICAN-RIVERS.ORG/ROAN2005](http://www.american-rivers.org/roan2005)





## #6 SANTEE RIVER

THREAT: HYDROPOWER DAM

### SUMMARY

For decades, an enormous hydropower dam complex has drained one of the East Coast's largest rivers virtually dry. Unless state regulators stand up to a powerful and uncooperative utility and demand that some of that water be put back, the Santee will continue to be South Carolina's "forgotten river."

### THE RIVER

The headwaters of the Santee River flow from the Appalachian Mountains in western North and South Carolina, braiding together on South Carolina's coastal plain to form the river southeast of Columbia. Shortly thereafter, the river is impounded into an expansive system of dams, canals, and reservoirs jointly operated by the state-owned utility Santee Cooper and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After exiting Lake Marion, the river, much reduced in volume, flows through an unpopulated area along the northern edge of the Francis Marion National Forest for almost 90 miles to the sea.

The Santee River Basin drains one of the largest watersheds on the Atlantic coast and is

### THREATS

Today, the ocean-going ships that sailed far up the Santee in centuries past would run aground within sight of the sea. That's because much of the river's water never makes it to the mouth. Instead, a massive hydropower system captures almost all the water and redirects it, with a large portion going into the adjacent Cooper River, which empties into the Atlantic in Charleston harbor, some 30 miles to the south.

Most of the time, Santee Dam releases just a trickle into its namesake river — only three percent of its natural flow. The Corps of Engineers funnels a little more water into the lower 50 miles of the river, but released volumes are erratic and do almost as much harm as good to the river and the floodplain forest.

With flows choked off, much of the bottom-land forest is transforming from rich, flooded woods of tupelo and cypress trees draped with Spanish moss into an ordinary forest of oaks and sycamores. Many of the back channels and sloughs where alligators once lurked and fish spawned have dried up. The Santee's fish community is so distressed and depopulated that scientists had to examine other coastal rivers to figure out which fish species should be found in the Santee's waters.

Thanks to this degradation, the Santee River has been nicknamed "the forgotten river." Despite boat ramps and trails to the river, fishing is poor and recreational use is low. Although most of the north bank of the river is in private hands, there are no substantial communities for many miles on either side of the river. Human activity in the floodplain is largely limited to a few tree farms and hunting leases.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

This excessive degradation of the Santee River is inconsistent with the values of South Carolinians. In a 2002 survey, 89 percent of state residents reported that they thought it was "very important" that "freshwater resources must be safe and well protected in South Carolina."

The degraded river is also a lost opportunity for the state's economy. Outdoor recreation is



CERRIT JOHNS



CERRIT JOHNS

MOST OF THE TIME, THERE'S NOT MUCH OF THE SANTEE RIVER LEFT BETWEEN ITS BANKS.

home to 125 species of fish, including American shad, herring, striped bass, and the endangered shortnose sturgeon. During the colonial period and the first decades of American independence, the Santee River was an important shipping route, and rice and indigo plantations lined its banks.



big business in the state — and would be even bigger if the Santee River were the destination it has the potential to be. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2001, anglers spent more than \$550 million on trips and tackle in South Carolina. Wildlife watchers spent another \$256 million.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

As degraded as the Santee River is, it doesn't have to be that way forever. Santee Cooper's license for the hydropower project will expire on March 31, 2006. This presents an opportunity for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to require changes that will restore much of the river's former richness and diversity.

Santee Cooper has publicly signaled its reluctance to put more water in the river and has resisted conducting some of the studies recommended by South Carolina and federal officials. During 2005, Santee Cooper will release an analysis of the benefits of restoring flows to the river. Citizens will depend on state and federal experts to scrutinize the document to determine the flows needed to restore this public treasure.

With study results in hand, state environmental

officials should require Santee Cooper to operate the hydropower facility in a manner that ensures enough clean water in the Santee River for South Carolinians to fish, swim, and boat. Even a modest increase in flows would reinvigorate much of the floodplain forest, fill sloughs and back channels, and lead to rebounding fish and wildlife populations and recreational opportunities along the river.

The state's vigilance here will foreshadow what is to come elsewhere. Duke Power, South Carolina Electric & Gas, Progress Energy, and Alcoa are all poised to follow Santee Cooper and re-license 18 more dams affecting rivers throughout the state. If state regulators don't stand up to Santee Cooper, other utilities will take advantage and resist steps to restore other rivers in South Carolina.



GERRIT JOBSIS

## CONTACT

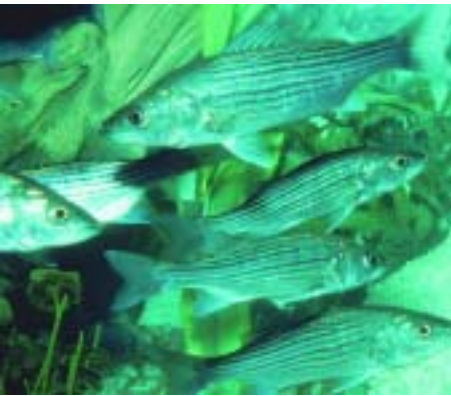
**ROBBIN MARKS**, American Rivers, (202) 347-7550 ext. 3051, [rmarks@americanrivers.org](mailto:rmarks@americanrivers.org)

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/SANTEE2005](http://www.americanrivers.org/santee2005)

THE SANTEE'S FISH COMMUNITY IS SO DISTRESSED AND DEPOPULATED THAT SCIENTISTS HAD TO EXAMINE OTHER COASTAL RIVERS TO FIGURE OUT WHICH FISH SPECIES SHOULD BE FOUND IN THE SANTEE'S WATERS.



SCDNR



## #7 LITTLE MIAMI RIVER

THREAT: SEWAGE AND POLLUTED RUNOFF

### SUMMARY

Proposed wastewater plant expansions and new bridges and roads are poised to pollute Ohio's Little Miami River with more sewage, stormwater, chemicals, and trash. Unless the state insists on modern sewage treatment and sensible transportation planning, the crown jewel of Cincinnati's and southwestern Ohio's outdoor destinations could be sullied beyond recovery.

### THE RIVER

The Little Miami originates near Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, outside of Dayton, and flows south through gorges, wooded bluffs, and rolling farmland. The river empties into the Ohio River on the rapidly growing eastern fringe of metropolitan Cincinnati. The Little Miami River is home to dozens of fish species, including three state endangered fish, and more than 250 bird species.

At least three million people live within an hour's drive of the Little Miami River, and many of them are attracted to the river. According to official estimates, more than 100,000 people canoe the river and over 200,000 enjoy riverside trails each year. Although the river is part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, its water becomes progressively more polluted as it flows past each of the 20 aging sewage treatment plants along the river.

OHIO RESIDENTS CLEANED UP  
THE LITTLE MIAMI RIVER  
ONCE ALREADY; NOW AGING  
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS  
AND PROPOSED ROADS  
THREATEN THEIR HARD WORK.



LITTLE MIAMI, INC.

### THE THREAT

During the late summer and other low-flow periods, up to 70 percent of the water flowing in the lower Little Miami is sewage plant effluent. One of those plants, Sycamore Creek Sewage Treatment Plant, chronically violates its discharge permits by releasing untreated sewage into a tributary of the Little Miami River. Despite this, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted a permit to expand operations without repairing its leaky collection system and without upgrading to the most sophisticated treatment technology available. The plant will be authorized to dump up to 32 million gallons of inadequately treated wastewater containing germs and high levels of pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorus into the river each day.

And that's just the beginning. The Ohio EPA is reviewing expansion applications for up to seven sewage treatment plants along the lower Little Miami.

Road construction and the subsequent real estate development boom threaten to make these pollution problems in the Little Miami River much worse. The U.S. and Ohio Departments of Transportation are planning the Eastern Corridor Project, a package of proposed new roads and bridges intended to speed traffic through Cincinnati and its eastern suburbs and exurbs. A key aspect of this project is a \$1.4 billion bridge and highway project through ten miles of the Little Miami River Valley that would seriously harm the river and its watershed.

The likely site for the bridge would be the "Horseshoe Bend" section of the river, the reach that supports the largest variety of animals along the entire length of the Little Miami. The highway would spur development in the valley, and the new big box stores, strip malls, and other development would increase the amount of polluted stormwater running into the river as well as further stress the region's already inadequate sewage treatment infrastructure.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Boasting a 60-mile greenway/bikeway and opportunities for family outings that draw hundreds of thousands of people each year, the Little Miami contributes much to the quality of life in southwestern Ohio. When the lower reach of the river was initially deemed too degraded for National Wild and Scenic River status, Cincinnati citizens and government agencies rolled up their sleeves, cleaned up dumps and pollution, reforested the riverbank, and restored the river. In 1980, the lower Little Miami received the prestigious Wild and Scenic designation.

Twenty-five years later, the fruits of these citizens' labor are at risk. Without fresh resolve to protect the Little Miami, it won't be long before wild animals along the river are rare, the scenery along this river is mostly trash, and the breeze along its banks is anything but fresh.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

Ohio EPA could rule on applications for expansion at several sewage treatment plants at any time. The state should require all plants in the watershed to fully modernize their treatment technology when upgrading. This will ensure that illegal spills of untreated sewage end and that treated wastewater will be within national Clean Water Act water quality standards.

Communities in the Little Miami watershed need federal and state assistance to acquire modern treatment facilities. Unfortunately, President Bush has asked Congress to cut clean water aid to the state of Ohio by more than \$20 million in 2006. Congress should reject those cuts to clean water programs, and increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to \$3.2 billion in 2006, of which almost \$180 million would go to the state of Ohio.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation will reveal the details of the Eastern Corridor Project and seek public comment in spring 2005. The agencies will identify their preferred options for reducing traffic congestion and specify any new bridges and roads they wish to build. The agencies should drop the proposal to build a new bridge over the Little Miami River and instead recommend expanding mass transit in the Little Miami River Valley.



LITTLE MIAMI INC.

## CONTACT INFO

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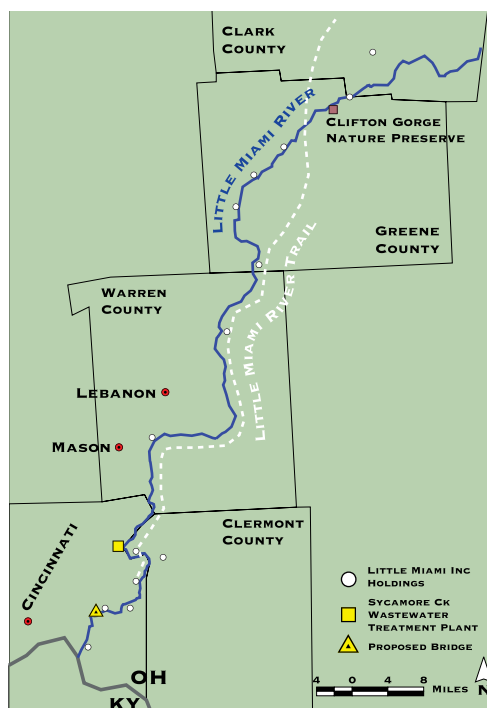
**ERIC B. PARTEE**, Little Miami, Inc., (513) 965-9344, [partee@littlemiami.com](mailto:partee@littlemiami.com)

**ANDREW BETTS**, Sierra Club, (513) 891-2299, [abetts@cinci.rr.com](mailto:abetts@cinci.rr.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE ACTION:

[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/LITTLEMIAMI2005](http://www.americanrivers.org/littlemiami2005)

WITHOUT FRESH RESOLVE  
TO PROTECT THE LITTLE  
MIAMI RIVER, THE CROWN  
JEWEL OF CINCINNATI'S  
OUTDOOR DESTINATIONS  
COULD BE SPOILED.





## #8 TUOLUMNE RIVER

THREAT: WATER DIVERSIONS

### SUMMARY

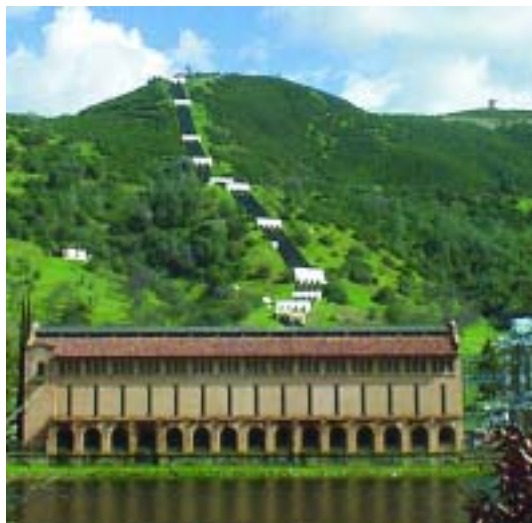
The City of San Francisco has proposed a new pipeline that could increase the water it removes from the Tuolumne River by as much as 70 percent. These additional diversions would deplete 100 miles of productive, pristine river habitat and compound pollution problems in San Francisco Bay. Unless San Francisco invests in making its existing supplies go further, California could lose some of its best salmon and steelhead runs, world-class outdoor recreation, and the economic diversity this river now provides.

### THE RIVER

The Tuolumne River begins within Yosemite National Park east of San Francisco in the Sierra Nevada range. One of the earliest defining moments of the environmental movement was John Muir's failed effort to halt a dam on the river in Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley. Below Hetch Hetchy, 83 miles of Tuolumne River are designated Wild and Scenic. This area is home to bald eagles, world-class fly-fishing, and thrilling whitewater. After passing Modesto, the Tuolumne joins the San Joaquin River, meanders north through the fragile Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, and empties into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The lower reach boasts the largest run of wild salmon in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Tuolumne is a lifeline to many on its journey from the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific.

WATER IS PUMPED FROM  
HETCH HETCHY RESERVOIR  
TO SAN FRANCISCO,  
MORE THAN 150 MILES AWAY.



TUOLUMNE RIVER TRUST

The recreational bounty of the upper reaches means jobs and economic diversity in California's mountain towns. Downstream, the river irrigates 300,000 acres in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation. Ultimately, the river provides 85 percent of the drinking water for 2.4 million people in San Francisco and surrounding communities.

### THE THREAT

San Francisco is poised to increase the amount of water it can remove from the Tuolumne River by up to 70 percent. Today, it takes an average of 235 million gallons each day. A \$4 billion project, known as the "Water System Improvement Program," includes pipelines and reservoirs that would increase withdrawal capabilities to 400 million gallons per day, with no safeguards preventing harmful diversions.

Because the city removes water close to the river's source, increasing diversions would have dire consequences for most of the river. Falling water levels mean shrinking habitat, fewer fish, and fewer family fishing trips. Less water in the river means fewer rafting adventures and less business for local hotels and eateries, as well.

About the only thing that goes up as water levels go down is the concentration of pollution. Less Tuolumne water means a diminished ability to dilute agricultural and urban wastes and runoff in the river. And with less cool water coming from the mountains, the river would become warmer, contain less oxygen, and produce fewer salmon. The extra diversions could reduce flow levels at the mouth of the San Joaquin to as little as 34 percent of the natural average. Water managers must sometimes request emergency releases of clean water from Tuolumne reservoirs to meet water quality standards in the delta. San Francisco's plans could foreclose this option.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

One of the nation's finest wild rivers is at risk. For decades, Californians have rallied around the Tuolumne River. In 1984, they secured its designation as a National Wild and Scenic

River. They restored Chinook salmon runs from fewer than 100 fish just ten years ago to as many as 15,000 in recent wet years. The results of those efforts are jeopardized.

Families that spend quality time together rafting, fishing, and enjoying scenery along the Tuolumne will lose out if San Francisco develops its plans. And so will rural communities like Groveland that rely on tourism to complement the agriculture and timber industries.

The city of San Francisco is confronting a choice between further depleting a magnificent resource or using its existing water supply more efficiently. Its reputation as one of America's most environmentally enlightened cities is on the line.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

In spring 2005, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will begin work on a year-long environmental review of the Water System Improvement Program, describing options and recommendations for protecting its water system from earthquakes — and whether to increase the amount of water it takes from the Tuolumne.

The commission justifies increased withdrawals by forecasting a 14 percent increase in demand by 2030. However, using data developed by the Pacific Institute, conservationists estimate that San Francisco area water users could cut consumption of Tuolumne water more than 30 percent by upgrading appliances around the home and altering their landscaping practices.

San Francisco should diversify its water supply options and embrace cutting-edge water conservation and efficiencies to meet water needs rather than withdrawing additional water from the Tuolumne River. The city should establish a watershed improvement program to fund land acquisition and recreation projects, provide for in-stream habitat enhancement, and maintain high-quality recreation flows in the entire Tuolumne watershed.

In November 2004, the California Resources Agency began reviewing independent studies that found that San Francisco could meet its needs for safe, reliable water supplies without O'Shaughnessy Dam in Yosemite National Park. Removing the dam would restore the free-flowing Tuolumne River through Hetch Hetchy Valley, once one of America's most stunning landscapes. The city



AMERICAN RIVER TOURING ASSOCIATION

should incorporate the results of this review into its long-term water planning, and develop a plan for a water supply that avoids additional withdrawals from the Tuolumne River.

**THE TUOLUMNE IS ONE OF AMERICA'S FINEST WILD RIVERS — AT LEAST FOR NOW.**

## CONTACT

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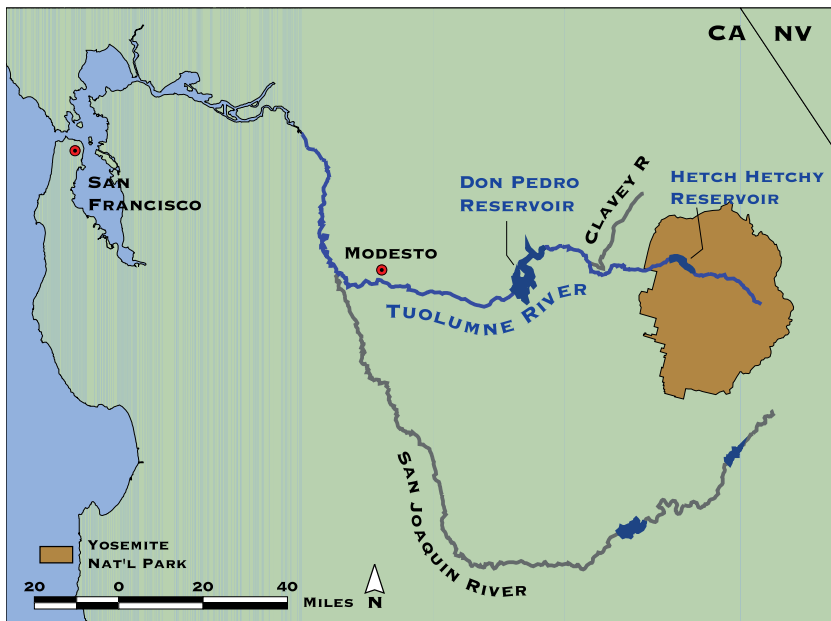
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[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/TUOLUMNE2005](http://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/TUOLUMNE2005)



## #9 PRICE RIVER

THREAT: DAM CONSTRUCTION AND DEWATERING

### SUMMARY

Near the remote headwaters of the Price River in central Utah, the Bureau of Reclamation is under pressure to build a dam and reservoir to take away one community's water and pipe it over the mountains to another. Unless the local water district comes to its senses and the Forest Service strengthens watershed protections, communities along the Price River could lose their water, their wildlife, and their hopes for a more prosperous future.

### THE RIVER

The Price River officially begins at Scofield Reservoir in central Utah, on the edge of the Wasatch Plateau. The river flows south and east through the towns of Helper and Price before emptying into the Green River. On this journey, the Price is bordered by dramatic 1000-foot canyons that are home to desert bighorn sheep and mountain lions. Springtime flows offer adventurous rafters the chance to float a spectacular, roadless gorge.

Native American petroglyph panels are found along the Price River, and Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch reportedly used the river canyon as a travel route. The Price River is a Utah Blue Ribbon Fishery and is wild enough to qualify for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

As stunning as the Price River is, two important tributaries rival the mainstem for beauty, fisheries, and recreational values. Gooseberry Creek and Fish Creek drain the eastern slope of the Wasatch Plateau in the Manti-La Sal National Forest in central Utah, coming together just upstream of Scofield Reservoir. Like the Price, both streams merit federal Wild and Scenic protection. Fish Creek is home to a stunning variety of bird species, and the Fish Creek National Recreation Area is a popular destination for hiking, fishing, and horseback riding.



DAVID BROWN



EYEWIRE

### THE THREAT

The Sanpete Water Conservancy District has dusted off an old proposal to build a dam at the Gooseberry Narrows upstream of the confluence of Gooseberry and Fish creeks and Scofield Reservoir. The irrigators envision creating a 17,000 acre-foot reservoir and piping about a third of the water each year across the Wasatch Plateau to Sanpete County, where approximately 250 irrigators would use most of it to grow a third cutting of alfalfa each year. It is likely that this water would one day be transferred to municipal use.

Below the dam, reduced water levels would be measurable for many miles. Portions of Gooseberry Creek could drop by as much as 74 percent. Fish Creek could drop by as much as 24 percent. These lower flows would lead to lower water levels in Scofield Reservoir, the only water supply for Carbon County. The fire



DAVID BROWN

A PROPOSED DAM WOULD  
DROWN A POPULAR  
RECREATIONAL AREA AND  
DEplete THE PRICE RIVER.



DAN MILLER



departments in the towns of Price, Helper, and Wellington warn that the water diversion could hamper their ability to fight fires.

Siphoning this much water out of the Price River watershed would not only reduce the amount of water for Carbon County residents to meet their basic needs, it would compromise the outdoor activities that their families enjoy and that draw visitors from around the state. Lower flows in Gooseberry and Fish creeks would damage popular fisheries for rainbow and cutthroat trout. Scofield Reservoir is currently designated a Utah Blue Ribbon Fishery, but lower water levels would make it less attractive to anglers, boaters, and campers.

Above the dam, valuable habitat would be drowned, including 100 acres of wetlands, a mile of upper Gooseberry Creek, and 4.3 miles of small tributary streams. Downstream, towards the confluence of the Price and the Green rivers, lower flows would shrink habitat available to the endangered pikeminnow, the top native predator in these waters but now perilously close to extinction.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Gooseberry Narrows Dam would not only take water from one community and give it to another; it would also suck money from the public purse. The project's official price tag is optimistically pegged at \$25 to \$30 million. Even at the conservative cost of \$25 million, providing this water will cost taxpayers \$4,620 per acre-foot.

Recreation and tourism are increasingly important aspects of the economy along the Price River. The communities can ill-afford to have some of their most valuable assets drowned or depleted to provide subsidized water to other areas that have other options.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

The Sanpete Water Conservancy District is pressuring the Bureau of Reclamation to advance the Gooseberry Narrows Dam proposal and release its findings for public review and hearings. The Bureau should reject the dam and instead act on an alternative plan developed by community groups that proposes meeting Sanpete County's needs by improving the efficiency of existing water delivery and irrigation systems.

In summer 2005, the Forest Service will



USFWS

release its management plan for the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The agency should recommend including Lower Gooseberry and Fish creeks in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a prestigious designation that would end the prospect of dam construction on these remarkable rivers once and for all.

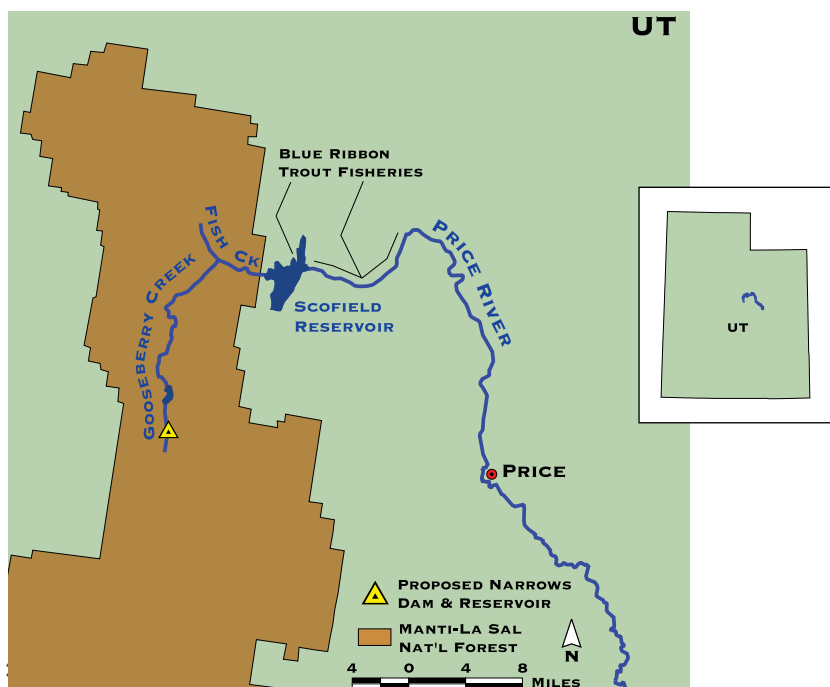
**THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SHOULD REJECT THE PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD TRADE WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR LOW VALUE CROPS.**

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# #10 SANTA CLARA RIVER

THREAT: RUNAWAY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

## SUMMARY

Until recent years, the Santa Clara River has largely escaped the intense development transforming most of Southern California, but developers are now eyeing the river and adjacent lands for a massive expanse of new condominiums and shopping centers. Unless regulators hold new development to high standards, Southern California will lose its last significant natural river.

## THE RIVER

The Santa Clara River, Southern California's longest free-flowing river, rises on the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles County and flows through Ventura County to the Pacific Ocean. During its 87-mile journey to the sea, the river meanders past mountains, desert, and berry and citrus farms. The river and its associated aquifer provide drinking water and carry away treated sewage from communities such as Santa Clarita, Fillmore, Santa Paula, and Ventura.

Sixteen species of animals and plants that are close to extinction cling to existence in the river and in the forested corridor along the banks. At the mouth of the Santa Clara in Ventura County, brown river water collides with ocean waves and white foam. The sand and sediment carried by the river settles out to nourish the area's world-famous surfing beaches.

## THE THREAT

Developers are seeking permits to build four huge housing projects and develop more than 2,000 acres along the Santa Clara River. Additionally, Newhall Land and Farming is seeking approval for the five-village Newhall Ranch Project, one of the largest urban development projects ever proposed in Los Angeles County.

If the developer secures the required permits for Newhall Ranch, it will unleash its bulldozers on 19 square miles of natural areas straddling the upper Santa Clara River, including 141 acres located on the river's floodplain. The developer plans to smother 15 miles of tributary streams with concrete and channelize 17 more.

These are the same heavy-handed and outmoded practices that have ruined almost every other river in Southern California. The consequences of burying and channelizing streams, paving wetlands, deforesting riverbanks, and the false security and hidden hazards of buried bank stabilization are well-documented — polluted water, trash-strewn banks, and vanishing wildlife.

Importantly, this type of development can also increase the frequency and severity of flash floods, such as those that swept communities along the Santa Clara in early 2005.

Even though construction has yet to start, the loss to the community has begun. Newhall has already closed about 15 miles of the Santa Clara and its shoreline to the public. As bad as the Newhall Ranch Project would be, there is more to come. Another 8,500 acres of development are on the drawing board.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Unless developers use 21st century techniques to reduce the damage that traditional development would have on the Santa Clara, the last major natural river in the area could be lost. The condition of the river is not just a senti-



ANDREW HARVEY



USFWS

MUCH OF THE SANTA CLARA RIVER REMAINS SCENIC AND NATURAL.

ANDREW HARVEY



mental matter. Newhall Ranch and other developments will send more pollution downstream, and increase the risk of flash floods.

By fragmenting the riparian corridor and fouling the river with polluted runoff, overly aggressive development will push the southern steelhead trout, southwestern arroyo toad, the red-legged frog, and other endangered species closer to extinction.

## THE 12-MONTH OUTLOOK

Newhall Ranch developers have already secured preliminary approval for their project from Los Angeles County and are awaiting final county approval for the first stage. They are also awaiting permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fill wetlands and modify shoreline along the Santa Clara River.

The Corps should deny Newhall Land's application — and every other floodplain development permit along the Santa Clara River — until it has completed an \$8.2 million river study launched in September 2004 in partnership with Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The study should examine cumulative impacts, as well as identify opportunities for sound watershed planning, and managing growth in the area to protect the river for future generations of southern Californians to enjoy.

In early summer 2005, the Corps and the developer will each release environmental studies of the Newhall Ranch project. Both documents should disclose the full range of consequences of the proposed development along the Santa Clara, and include strong provisions to prevent development in the river's floodplain.

Communities along the Santa Clara River will need state-of-the-art sewage treatment plants to preserve their water quality in the face of future growth. Unfortunately, President Bush has asked Congress to cut clean water aid to the state of California by more than \$25 million in 2006. Congress should reject those proposed cuts and increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to \$3.2 billion nationwide.

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**PETER GALVIN**, Center for Biological Diversity, (707) 986-7805, [pgalvin@biological-diversity.org](mailto:pgalvin@biological-diversity.org)

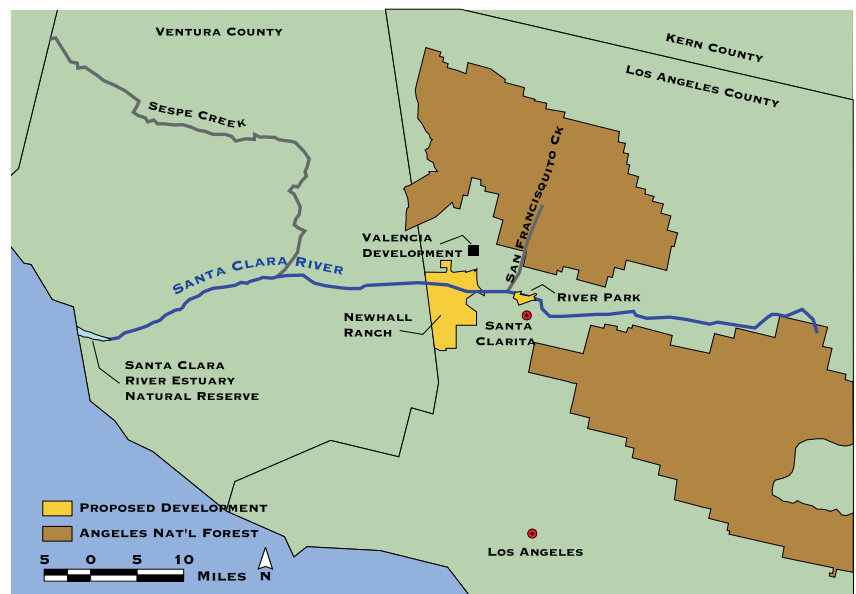
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**DANIEL COOPER**, Lawyers for Clean Water, (415) 561-2222 ext. 103, [cleanwater@sfo.com](mailto:cleanwater@sfo.com)

**MATI WAIYA**, Ventura Coastkeeper, (805) 382-4540

**MORE AND MORE OF  
THE RIVER IS BEING  
SQUEEZED BY POORLY  
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO TAKE ACTION:**  
[HTTP://WWW.AMERICANRIVERS.ORG/SANTACLARA2005](http://www.americanrivers.org/santaclara2005)





# THE VOICE OF A MOVEMENT: 20 YEARS

For 20 years, American Rivers has partnered with local river and watershed conservation organizations, national environmental groups, outdoor recreation interests, tribes, and local governments to highlight the pressing threats to rivers and the people working on their behalf. We thank each and every one of the 399 organizations that have teamed up with us over the past 20 years of our America's Most Endangered Rivers report and wish them all the best in their ongoing efforts to save their hometown rivers for themselves and their children.

1000 Friends of Florida  
1000 Friends of Washington  
Adobe Whitewater Club  
Alabama Rivers Alliance  
Alaska Center for the Environment  
Alaska Clean Water Alliance  
Alaska Rainforest Campaign  
Alaska Wilderness League  
All Indians Pueblo Council  
Allagash Alliance  
Allagash Canoe Trips  
Alliance to Save the Mattaponi  
Altamaha Riverkeeper  
American Canoe Association  
American Littoral Society  
American Watersheds  
American Whitewater Affiliation  
Amigos Bravos  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
Apalachicola Bay & River Keeper, Inc.  
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Appalachian Restoration Campaign  
Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corporation  
Arctic Connections  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
Arkansas Wildlife Federation  
Atlantic Salmon Federation  
Audubon Arkansas  
Audubon Dallas  
Audubon Society of New Jersey  
Audubon Society of Omaha  
B.A.S.S. Inc.  
Bass Anglers Sportsmen's

Alliance  
BC Wild  
Beartooth Alliance  
Biodiversity Associates  
Blue Mountain Audubon Society  
Bracy Tucker Brown  
Bucksport Town Council  
Burroughs Audubon  
Cahaba River Society  
California Hydropower Reform Coalition  
California Native Plant Society, Monterey Bay Chapter  
California Trout  
Canadian Nature Federation  
Carmel River Steelhead Association  
Carmel Valley Property Owners' Association  
Cascade Gateway Citizens Alliance  
Catawba Riverkeeper  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Conservation and Use of Natural Resources  
Central Arizona Paddlers Club  
Central Cascade Alliance  
Central Coast Fly Fishing  
Central States Education Center  
Charlotte County (FL) Commission  
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Chehalis River Council  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Citizens for Alternative Water Supply  
Citizens for the Preservation of Powers Gulch and Pinto Creek  
Citizens to Preserve the Upper James River Valley  
Clarendon Chamber of Commerce

Clark Fork – Pend Oreille Coalition  
Clean Up Our River Environment (CURE)  
Clearwater Biodiversity Project  
Coal River Mountain Watch  
Coal River Watershed Preservation Association  
Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River  
Coalition for Health Concerns  
Coalition for Outer Connector Alternatives  
Coalition for the Valle Vidal  
Coastal Coalition  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
Colorado River Alliance  
Colorado River Regional Sewer Coalition  
Colorado Trout Unlimited  
Colorado Whitewater Association  
Columbia Gorge Audubon Society  
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
Conservation Fund  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Coosa River Basin Initiative  
Crooked Creek Coalition  
Dallas Historic Tree Coalition  
Darby Creek Association  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ducks Unlimited  
Earthjustice  
EarthWays  
East Grand Water Quality Board  
ECHO River Trips  
Ecological Environmental Experiment for Everyone, Inc.  
Ecology Center  
Enlightened Energy  
Environmental Advocates  
Environmental Defense  
Environmental Federation of Southwest Florida  
Environmental Health Coalition  
Environmental Working Group  
Everglades Coalition  
Evergreen Legal Services  
Eyak Preservation Council  
Fish First  
Florida Defenders of the Environment

Four Corners Action Coalition / 'A-LP Central'  
Four Corners Rivers Sports  
Friends of Acadia  
Friends of Burton Park and the Scenic Clackamas River  
Friends of Mount Aventine  
Friends of the Animas River  
Friends of the Cheat River  
Friends of the Crystal River  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the East Fork  
Friends of the Elk River  
Friends of the Everglades  
Friends of the Fox River  
Friends of the Kaw  
Friends of the Los Angeles River  
Friends of the Minnesota Valley  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Friends of the Northfork and White Rivers  
Friends of the Payette  
Friends of the Poudre  
Friends of the Rappahannock  
Friends of the Reedy River  
Friends of the River  
Friends of the Russian River  
Friends of the San Pedro River  
Friends of the Santa Clara River  
Friends of the White Salmon River  
Galveston Bay Foundation  
Georgia River Network  
Gila Watch  
Gold County Flyfishers  
Goliad County Historical Commission  
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
Grand Council of the Crees  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
Green-Duwamish Watershed Alliance  
Greer County Landowners Association  
Gulf Coast Tenants Organization  
Gulf Restoration Network  
Gulf States Natural Resources Center  
Hackensack Estuaries and River Tender (HEART)

Hackensack Meadowlands Partnership  
Hackensack Riverkeeper  
Hardee County Citizens Against Pollution  
Heal the Bay  
Help Save the Apalachicola River  
High Country Citizens' Alliance  
Hoopa Valley Tribe  
Hoosier Environmental Council  
Horse Creek Community Association  
Housatonic Environmental Action League  
Housatonic River Initiative  
Huachuca Audubon Society  
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater  
Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Rivers United  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Iowa Audubon Council  
Ipswich River Watershed Association  
Izaak Walton League of America  
James River Association  
Johnson County Citizens' Committee for Clean Air and Water  
Kansas Natural Resources Council  
Kansas Riverkeeper  
Keep the Sespe Wild  
Kentucky Resources Council  
Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Lake Havasu City, Arizona  
Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club  
Lake Texoma Association  
Lake Watch of Lake Martin  
Land and Water Fund of the Rockies  
Lawyers for Clean Water  
LightHawk  
Little Horn Water Group  
Little Miami, Inc.  
Louisiana Environmental Action Network  
Lower Beaverdam Creek Task Force

# OF SAVING RIVERS TOGETHER

- Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe  
Lower Kern Recreation Association  
Mammit-Innut  
Manasota-88  
Maryland B.A.S.S. Federation  
Mattaponi Indian Tribe  
McHenry County Defenders  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin  
Menominee Nation  
Metropolitan Council of Governments  
Mid-South Peace and Justice Center  
Middle Tallapoosa River Conservation Association  
Mill Creek Restoration Project  
Mineral Policy Center  
Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Mississippi River Basin Alliance  
Mississippi Wildlife Federation  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
Missouri Natural Streams Campaign  
Missouri River Citizens, Inc.  
Missouri River Coalition  
Montana Environmental Information Center  
Montana River Action Network  
Montana Wilderness Association, Island Range Chapter  
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society  
National Audubon Society  
National Committee for the New River  
National Organization for Rivers  
National Parks and Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nebraska Audubon Council  
Nebraska Wildlife Federation  
Neuse River Foundation  
Neuse Riverkeeper  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
New York Public Interest Research Group
- New York Rivers United  
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
North Fork River Improvement Association  
Northcoast Environmental Center  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
Northern Plains Resource Council  
Northwest Rafters Association  
Northwest Sportfishing Association  
NY/NJ Baykeeper  
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
Oil and Gas Accountability Project  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Natural Resources Council  
Oregon Rivers Council  
Ouachita River Basin Group  
Ozark Mountain Center  
Ozark Riverkeepers Network  
Ozark Society  
P.R.O.T.E.C.T.  
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations  
Pacific Rivers Council  
Pamunkey Indian Tribe  
Park County Environmental Council  
Passaic River Coalition  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
Penobscot Indian Nation  
People Opposing Water Export Sales (POWER)  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust  
Potomac Headwaters Resource Alliance  
Powder River Basin Resource Council  
Prairie Rivers Network  
Prince William Sound Audubon Society  
Protect Our Rivers Now!  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Maine Chapter  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Tennessee Chapter  
Rainy River Watershed Program  
Regional Clean Air and Water Association  
Resource Alliance  
Resource Center for Non-Violence
- RESTORE: The North Woods  
Rio Grande Bosque Conservation Committee  
Rio Grande Restoration  
Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin Coalition  
River Alliance of Wisconsin  
Rivers Unlimited  
RiverWatch  
Rock Creek Alliance  
Rogue Fly Fishers  
Russian River Watershed Protection Committee  
Safer Waters for Massachusetts  
San Antonio River Basin Alliance  
San Jacinto River Association  
San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center  
San Juan Citizens Alliance  
San Marcos River Foundation  
Santa Clara River Alliance  
Save America's Forests  
Save Our Klamath  
Save Our River  
Save Our River Environment  
Save Our Streams  
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
Save the Trinity Alliance  
Save-the-Redwoods League  
Scenic Hudson  
Shenandoah Valley Natural Science Society  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club of Canada  
Sierra Club, Arkansas Chapter  
Sierra Club, Cascade Chapter  
Sierra Club, Dacotah Chapter  
Sierra Club, Dallas Group  
Sierra Club, Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter  
Sierra Club, Houston Chapter  
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter  
Sierra Club, Kansas Chapter  
Sierra Club, Living River Group  
Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter  
Sierra Club, Louisiana (Delta) Chapter  
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter  
Sierra Club, Mississippi Chapter  
Sierra Club, Nevada Chapter
- Sierra Club, North Carolina Chapter  
Sierra Club, Northwest Iowa Group  
Sierra Club, Teddy Roosevelt Group  
Sierra Club, Texas (Lonestar) Chapter  
Sierra Club, Thomas Hart Benton Group  
Sierra Club, Upper Columbia River Group  
Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter  
Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter  
Sierra Club, West Virginia Chapter  
Sierra Club, William Bartram Group  
Siskiyou Audubon Society  
Siskiyou Regional Education Project  
Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Snowmass Capital Creek Caucus  
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League  
South Carolina Wildlife Federation  
South Yuba River Citizens League  
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council  
Southeast Alaska Natural Resources Center  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Southern Rockies Forest Network, Aspen Wilderness Workshop  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Southern Ute Tribe  
Southwest Environmental Center  
Southwest Forest Alliance  
Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice  
St. Louis Audubon Society  
State Water Improvement Monitors  
Sunburst Unlimited  
Suwannee River Coalition  
Taku Protection Coalition  
Taku Wilderness Association  
Tatshenshini Wild  
Taxpayers for Common Sense  
Taxpayers for the Animas River  
Tennessee Clean Water Network  
Tennessee Izaak Walton League  
Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition  
Texas Center for Policy Studies
- Texas Committee on Natural Resources  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy of Washington  
The Nature Conservancy, Arizona Chapter  
The Nature Conservancy, Clinch Valley Bioreserve  
The Wilderness Society  
Tongass Conservation Society  
Trapp Hill Watershed Association  
Trout Unlimited  
Trout Unlimited, Big Blackfoot Chapter  
Trout Unlimited, Idaho  
Trout Unlimited, Montana  
Trout Unlimited, New York  
Trout Unlimited, Valley Forge  
Trustees for Alaska  
Tuolumne River Trust  
Umpqua Valley Audubon Society  
University of Arizona  
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
Upper Salinas Watershed Coalition  
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District  
Utah Rivers Council  
Ventura Coastkeeper  
Walker Lake Working Group  
Washington Environmental Council  
Washington State Audubon Society  
Washington Trout  
Wateree Homeowner's Association  
WaterWatch of Oregon  
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Mining Action Project  
Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
White River School of Fly Fishing  
Wilderness Watch  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Willamette Riverkeeper  
Wyoming Outdoor Council  
Yakama Indian Nation  
Yak-Tak Kwaan, Inc.

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