



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us

2011 the year of the river

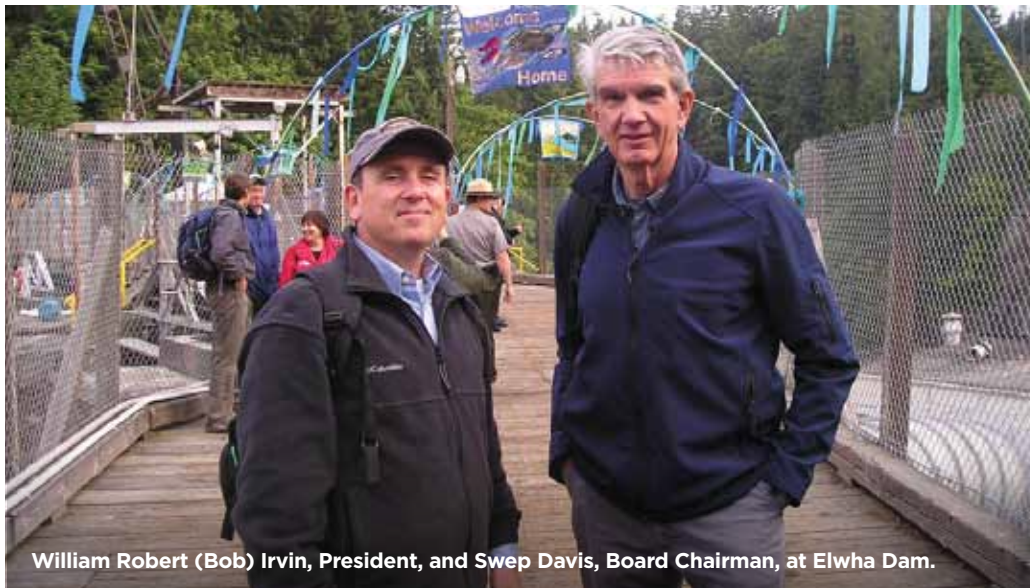
ANNUAL REPORT

BEFORE THERE WERE HIGHWAYS, RIVERS CONNECTED US.

For America's native inhabitants and the first European explorers, rivers provided sustenance and direction. They still enhance our lives, providing clean water, recreation, and a lifeline to the natural world. They connect us with our vibrant history and the promise of tomorrow. ~ Since 1973, American Rivers has fought to keep our rivers healthy. This year was particularly momentous. We were the driving force behind historic milestones in river restoration, timely responses to major threats, and increased public awareness of the value of rivers. ~ These are successes for all Americans. Rivers will always connect us and be the natural guides to our future—and American Rivers will always be their guardian.

2011

the year of the river



A SOLID SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

For nearly 40 years, American Rivers has led the effort to protect and restore the nation's rivers and streams. After decades of work on the national, state, and local levels, this year proved especially significant. Our persistence, expertise, and ability to bring people together resulted in several major victories.

We removed big dams, allowing rivers to flow freely for the first time in 100 years. We fought efforts to roll back the Clean Water Act, standing up for public health. We championed flood management reforms to protect communities along rivers nationwide. And we helped people across the country connect with their rivers through our *National River Cleanup*® Program.

As we address today's urgent conservation issues, we are guided by one overarching goal: a future in which rivers are clean, healthy, and able to provide a host of ecological, economic, and social benefits. We know from experience it won't be easy—but we also know we have the people, patience, and perseverance to get it done.

In September we stood together on the banks of Washington's Elwha River and watched as the first piece of the Elwha Dam was removed. Years of hard work are now culminating in the biggest dam removal project in history.

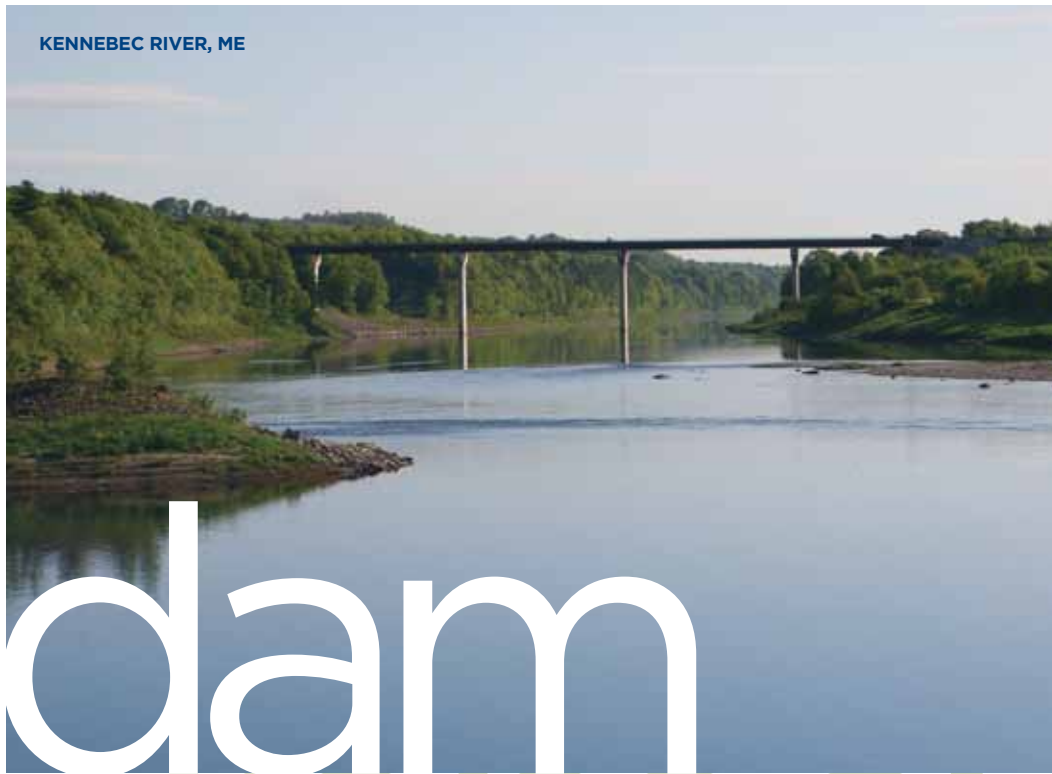
The small chunks of dam that we brought home as souvenirs remind us of all we've accomplished—and all we must continue to fight for. We will never forget looking down at the base of the dam to see the remaining salmon bumping against the concrete wall that for too long blocked their upstream journey. In a few years, demolition will be complete and the Elwha and the salmon that spawn there will again be free.

Those of us who battle for rivers often face obstacles, but we always fight for results that will benefit all. In these pages, you can read about some of these successes and how we plan to build on them. As we embrace our new roles as leaders of American Rivers, we couldn't be more proud and excited to begin this new chapter with you.

Handwritten signatures of William Robert (Bob) Irvin and Swep Davis in blue ink.

William Robert (Bob) Irvin
President

Swep Davis
Board Chairman



LEFT: The restored Kennebec River, after the 1999 removal of Edwards Dam.

dam removal

1,000 REASONS TO HOPE

Out of the heart of Olympic National Park in northwest Washington runs the Elwha River. Six species of salmon and steelhead once thrived here. But for nearly a century, two dams blocked the river's flow, decimating the fisheries and the cultural heritage of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

Like clots in arteries, outdated dams have detrimental effects on our nation's circulatory system. Not only do they block a river's natural course, they can harm water quality, destroy fish and wildlife populations, reduce recreation opportunities, and in the case of the Elwha, damage an entire ecosystem.

American Rivers fights to remove dams that no longer make economic or environmental sense. This year, we approach a remarkable milestone in the history of river restoration: 1,000 dams removed in the United States.

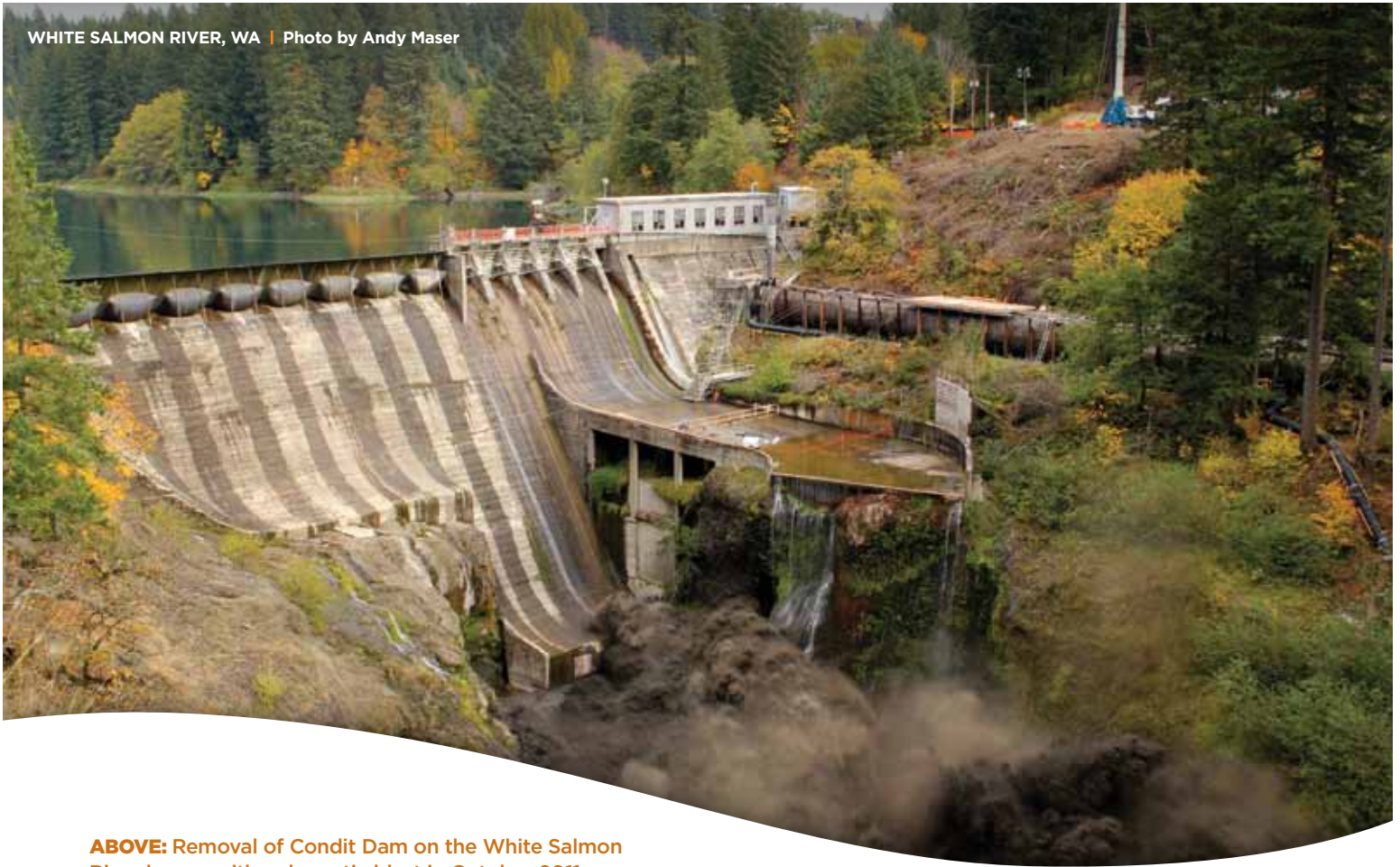
The world's largest dam removal ever began on the Elwha River in 2011 with the dismantling of the Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams. For more than 25 years, American Rivers has advocated for their removal, challenging relicensing of the dams, pushing to make removal a real option, and helping to secure more than \$50 million in federal funding for river restoration.

Another river was set free this year with the blasting of the 100-year-old Condit Dam on Washington's White Salmon River. After nearly two decades of work, American Rivers and our partners celebrated this restoration victory.

New Grant Will Help Restore a Region

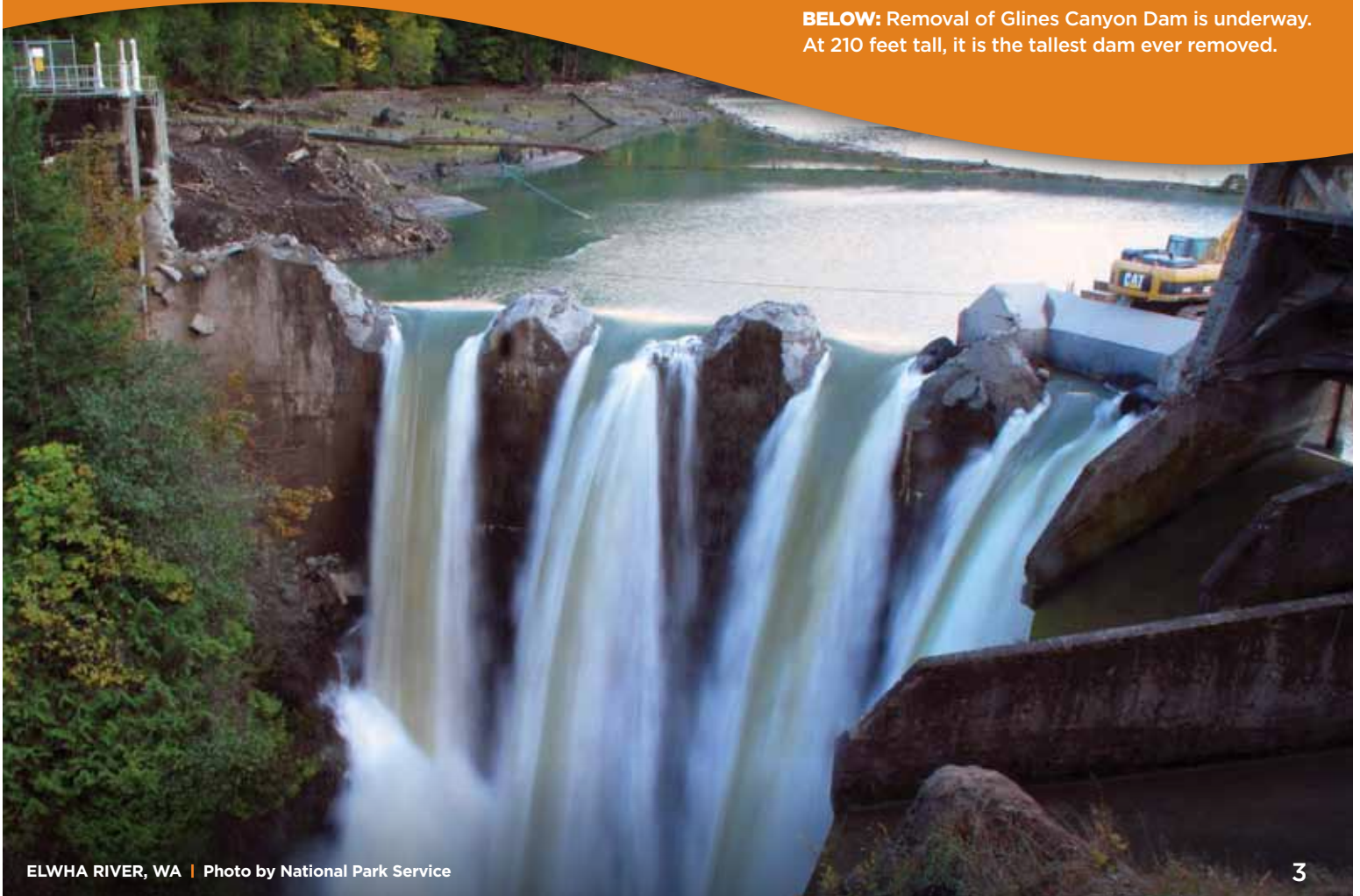
Home to an incredibly diverse and globally significant array of fish and wildlife, the rivers in the Potomac Highlands region—Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia—have faced many challenges over the years from mining, logging, and dam construction.

In April, American Rivers announced a new \$1.8 million grant program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will help communities in the four states confront these threats. Through river restoration and protection projects, the grant will help American Rivers improve community health and regional quality of life.



ABOVE: Removal of Condit Dam on the White Salmon River began with a dramatic blast in October 2011.

BELOW: Removal of Glines Canyon Dam is underway. At 210 feet tall, it is the tallest dam ever removed.





record

ANSWERS AND ACTION

Lives lost. Entire communities under water. Hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage. Americans across the Midwest and Northeast faced devastating effects from record floods this year.

American Rivers responded quickly, sharing solutions with decision-makers and the media: why rivers flood, why recent floods have been so extreme, and how we can better protect communities in the future.

Now, thanks to our advocacy, local, state, and national leaders are, in the words of a *Wall Street Journal* headline, “Rethinking Flood Control.” They’re turning away from levees and other “gray infrastructure” to incorporate natural methods we’ve recommended for years, such as floodplain restoration.

Our report, *Natural Defenses: Safeguarding Communities from Floods*, released this year, presents innovative strategies and policies that value river restoration and prioritize flood protection. It also makes clear to public officials that lack of preparation can take an enormous toll.

Meanwhile, through our leadership in California’s Bay Delta and Central Valley, we demonstrated ways to safeguard against future disasters by working to restore healthy floodplains and reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding. When spring floods came, the area was ready, and the project staved off damage. Also, on California’s Deer Creek we helped restore more natural flood patterns and riverside wildlife through a project that reconnected the community to the creek.



Photo by Ian Britton

LEFT: Current flood management policies put communities at risk nationwide.

In the Market to Save Millions?

Before American Rivers assessed the numbers, the research, and the methodologies, no one could estimate the economic advantages of green infrastructure—the term encompassing solutions such as rain gardens, green roofs, and wetlands.

With the publication of our report The Value of Green Infrastructure: A Guide to Recognizing Its Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits, the dividends are becoming clear. Managing polluted runoff from streets, roofs, and parking lots with natural solutions offers calculable payoffs.

PORTLAND, OR | Photo by Portland Bureau of Environmental Services



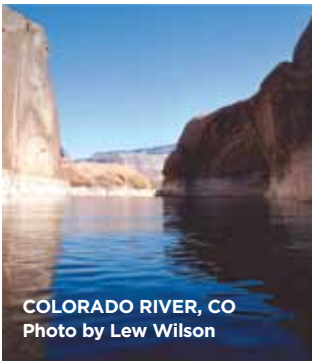
ABOVE: This green street in Portland, OR helps naturally absorb rainfall.

flooding

BELOW: Soldiers Grove, WI was devastated several times by floods but has avoided major damages since it relocated the downtown to higher ground.



SOLDIERS GROVE, WI | Photo by Jerry Quebe



Back to Our Roots

Almost 40 years ago, river advocates came together in Colorado to form American Rivers. While headquarters eventually moved to DC, we have opened an office in the state we first began. Our Denver-based office is focused on protecting and restoring Colorado's rivers.

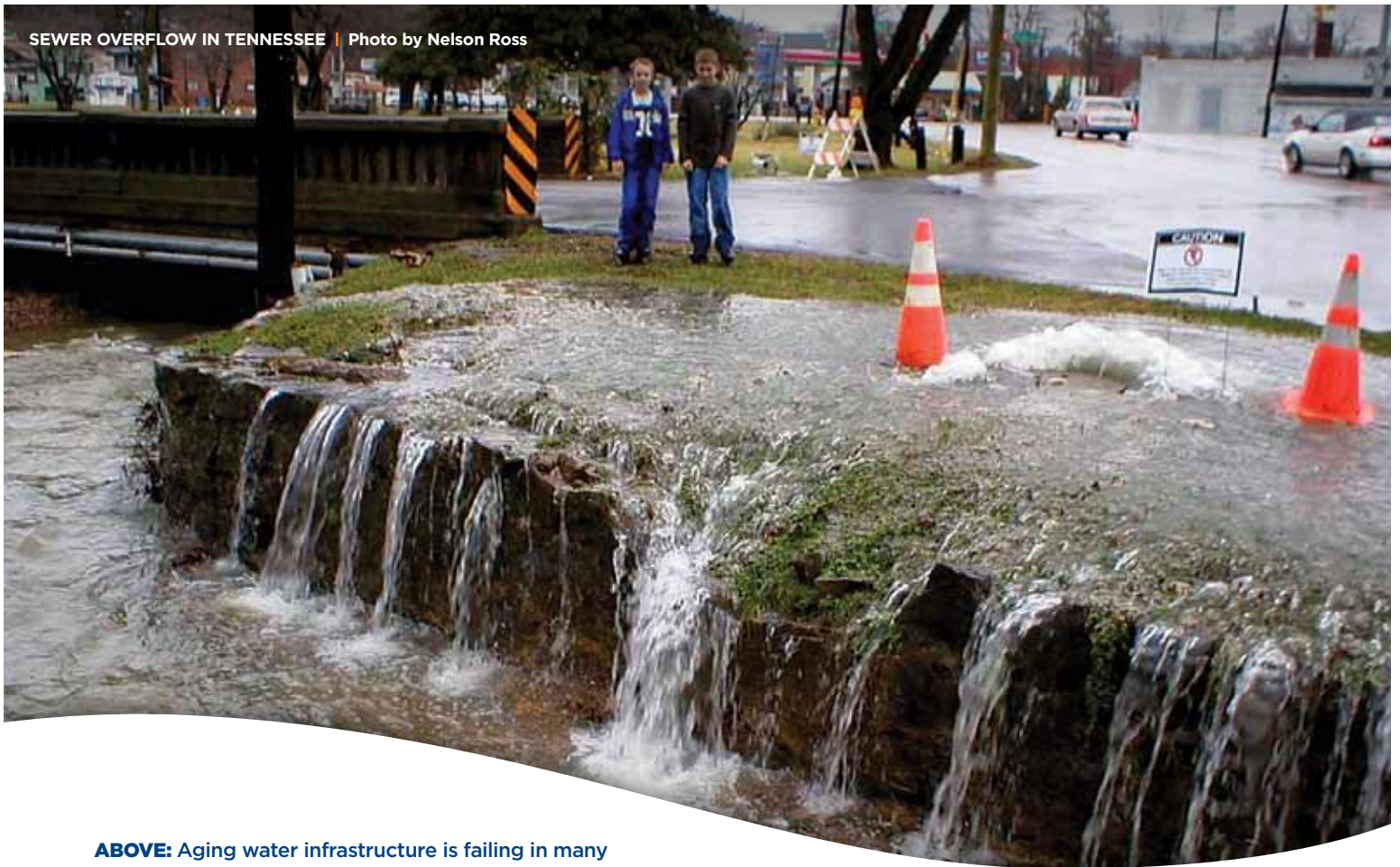
STARTS WITH CLEAR PLANNING

Water is the essence of life—a necessity delivered to us by our rivers. American Rivers helps guide smart policymaking about rivers and water management to ensure we have clean water flowing in our rivers and through our faucets.

Recently we helped Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington develop state-wide plans to prepare for floods, droughts, and other consequences of climate change. Top priorities were sustainable approaches to water management, including water efficiency tactics and green infrastructure.

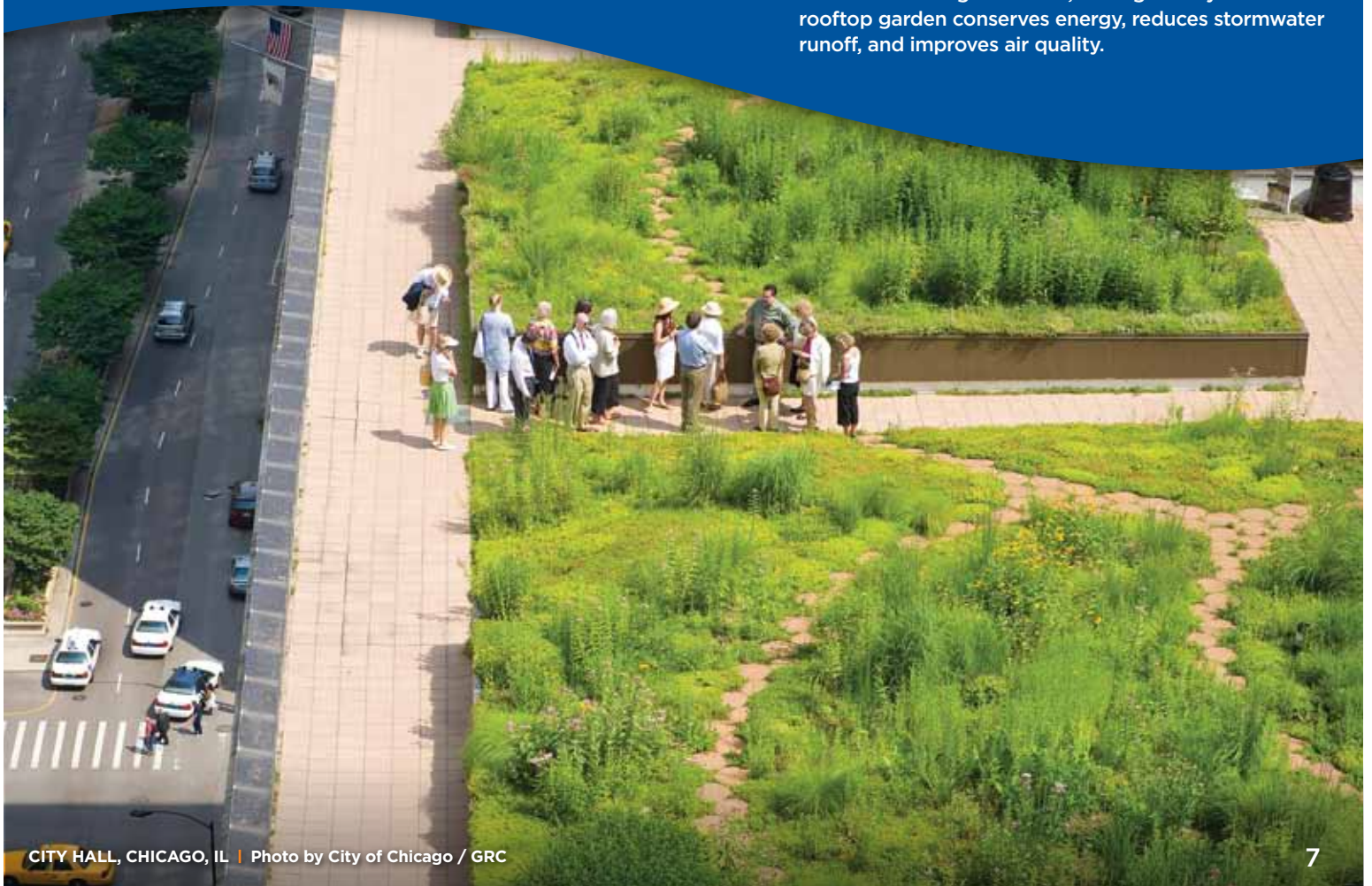
In Georgia, we helped shape the Georgia 2010 Water Stewardship bill, which established cost-effective water efficiency measures. And as a member of the state's Water Loss Task Force, we continue to help strategize ways to create and meet water-loss reduction goals for water utilities.

In Washington's Yakima River Basin, American Rivers helped bring diverse stakeholders together to find long-term water supply solutions. A historically divided group reached agreement on an integrated plan that combines fish passage, habitat enhancement, surface and groundwater storage, water conservation, and more. Our staff was instrumental in helping the various interests find common ground.



ABOVE: Aging water infrastructure is failing in many communities, creating health risks from sewage overflows.

BELOW: Like all green roofs, Chicago's City Hall rooftop garden conserves energy, reduces stormwater runoff, and improves air quality.





protecting

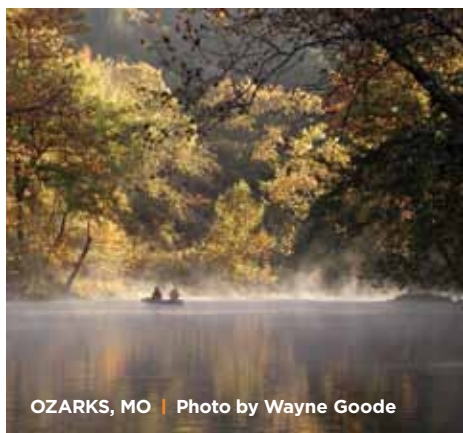
AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS®

One of our most effective river protection tools is our list of *America's Most Endangered Rivers*. Released annually for more than 25 years, the report spotlights rivers imperiled from urgent threats and helps mobilize the public to defend them.

Much more than a list, *America's Most Endangered Rivers* is the keystone for a public awareness campaign that empowers citizens to take action. Working with local partners, the media, elected officials, and concerned citizens, American Rivers directs attention to rivers at a turning point and illuminates how key decisions can change their future.

Over the years, these campaigns have achieved spectacular successes. We raised the alarm in Maine to stop dam construction on the Penobscot River, helped kill a proposal that would drain Mississippi wetlands and dredge the Big Sunflower River, and fought plans for a coal-fired power plant that would endanger the Minnesota River.

BELOW: A better management plan is needed to protect the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.



OZARKS, MO | Photo by Wayne Goode

This year, *America's Most Endangered Rivers* underscored an issue of urgent concern to all Americans: clean water. Sixty-five percent of our drinking water comes from rivers and streams, but many are too polluted to use.

Named as America's Most Endangered River in 2011, the Susquehanna is one of America's longest and gives the Chesapeake Bay more than half of its fresh-water. However, it's threatened by hydraulic fracturing—or "fracking," a process where deep rock and shale are cracked with a high-pressure mix of water, sand, and toxic chemicals to extract natural gas. As a result, fracking can pose serious risks to rivers and streams and the groundwater that replenishes them.

This year, we've seen 85 percent more actions taken by supporters in response to *America's Most Endangered Rivers*. These include keeping a moratorium on uranium mining to protect Virginia's Roanoke River and creating standards requiring disinfection of sewage discharged into the Chicago River.

LEFT: The Susquehanna River is an important source of clean drinking water, but is threatened by fracking.

rivers



BIG HOLE RIVER, MT | Photo by Scott Bosse

Montana Campaign: Prioritizing Headwaters

For inspiring action, knowledge is power. This year in Montana, American Rivers worked with partners to develop a series of maps to prioritize which headwater streams need protection most.

The maps identify where Wild and Scenic eligible streams and crucial native fish strongholds overlap. They are helping us focus our river protection efforts for some of Montana's—and the nation's—most valuable rivers and streams.

BELOW: In a huge victory for one of America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2011, within a month of the report's release, the local water district agreed to disinfect the wastewater going into the Chicago River.



CHICAGO RIVER, IL | Photo by Friends of the Chicago River



2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FY 2011 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

JUNE 30, 2011

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total FY 2011
Membership	856,845	—	—	856,845
Contributions	1,974,244	1,280,057	—	3,254,301
Planned Giving	55,212	—	—	55,212
Corporate Donations	377,587	151,820	—	529,407
Foundation Grants	255,607	6,252,934	—	6,508,541
Government Grants	3,061,279	—	—	3,061,279
Interest	12,564	36,042	20	48,626
Other	1,108,570	382,108	—	1,490,678
Realized Gain (Loss)	4,623	(88,930)	-	(84,307)
Support And Revenue	7,706,531	8,014,031	20	15,720,582
Net Assets Released From Restriction	5,429,019	(5,429,019)	—	—
Total Support And Revenue	13,135,550	2,585,012	20	15,720,582

EXPENSES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total FY 2011
Program Services				
River Restoration	7,104,010	—	—	7,104,010
Clean Water	872,591	—	—	872,591
Water Supply	352,485	—	—	352,485
River Protection	1,110,569	—	—	1,110,569
Total Program Services	9,439,655	—	—	9,439,655
Fundraising	2,522,881	—	—	2,522,881
General and Administrative	1,515,033	—	—	1,515,033
Total Expenses	13,477,569	—	—	13,477,569
Change In Market Value Of Investments	205,137	29,475	—	234,612
Increase (Decrease) In Net Assets	(136,882)	2,614,487	20	2,477,625
Net Assets At Beginning Of Year	987,661	5,206,872	1,719,779	7,914,312
Net Assets At End Of Year	850,779	7,821,359	1,719,799	10,391,937

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2011

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,231,587
Investments	2,600,394
Grants and Pledges Receivable	6,057,092
Accounts Receivable	1,035,007
Fixed Assets	262,554
Other Assets	196,396

Total Assets **11,383,030**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	413,769
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	281,743
Refundable Advances	29,510
Charitable Gift Annuities Payable	79,793
Deferred Rent Abatement	186,278

Total Liabilities **991,093**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	850,779
Temporarily Restricted	7,821,359
Permanently Restricted	1,719,799

Total Net Assets **10,391,937**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

11,383,030

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THANK YOU

In 2010, American Rivers received the largest single gift in its history, a \$4 million capacity-building grant from the Margareta Taylor family. This four-year grant supports American Rivers' vision that healthy rivers equip every human and natural community to thrive in the face of climate change.

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California Resources Agency
California State Water Resources
Control Board
CA Department of Transportation
Contra Costa County Flood
Control and Water
Conservation District
Massachusetts Environmental
Trust
Maumee Valley Resource
Conservation and
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