



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us®

connections

2016 annual report



2016 successes

Your support made possible major successes this year.
As these numbers prove, together we can make a difference for rivers.

16 dams removed

921 miles of rivers restored through dam removal or dam reoperation

2.4 million pounds of trash removed

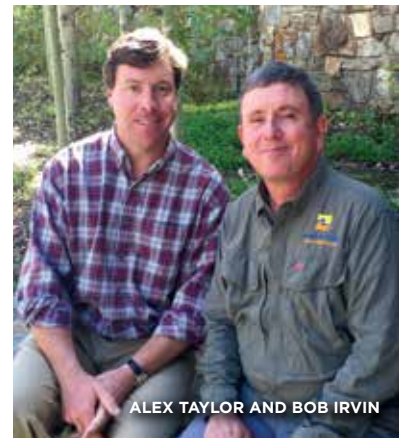
43,470 volunteers mobilized through National River Cleanup®

6,398 partners reached through trainings, workshops and presentations

\$100,000 granted to local projects to improve river health and recreation

261,366 letters sent by American Rivers activists to decision makers

we all live downstream



There's a popular saying in the river community: "We all live downstream." The phrase reminds us that we are all connected, and we have a responsibility to our environment and each other.

As a supporter of American Rivers, you embody these values, and we thank you.

We are connected by our commitment to clean water, our love of free-flowing waters and abundant fish and wildlife, our desire for a more sustainable world. We are connected by the rivers that run through our communities. Whether you live in the mountains, in a city, on the coast, or somewhere in between, when you look at our lives in relation to rivers you realize we're all in this together.

Rivers are the connectors of the natural world, linking landscapes, people and wildlife. Every gift you make to American Rivers strengthens these connections — because when we remove a dam or restore a floodplain or secure clean water protections, our rivers and communities are healthier and more resilient.

This annual report celebrates these connections, and the tremendous impact you, our generous donors, made over the past year. Your gifts ensure we can succeed in our mission to **protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water for people and nature.**

This past year brought major milestones in long-term river restoration efforts from Maine's Penobscot to California's Klamath to Washington's Elwha.

The year also brought new challenges, including the mining waste release in Colorado's Animas River, the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and efforts in Congress to weaken river protections nationwide.

Whether it is committing to tough, multi-year conservation efforts or nimbly responding to new opportunities, it is only because of your support that we can do the hard work to protect and restore rivers. Thanks to you, we can be strategic problem-solvers, innovative communicators, leading experts, helpful partners, and impassioned advocates — all in service to healthy rivers and the people downstream.

The stories in the following pages from friends, partners and supporters celebrate our connections and successes. As you will see, your support produced great gains over the past fiscal year in five key program areas: Conserving Clean Water, Restoring Damaged Rivers, Protecting Wild Rivers, Advancing National Policy and Raising Public Awareness.

We are honored and grateful for your commitment to American Rivers. The challenges facing rivers and clean water are many. But we are focused. We are persistent. We are stronger together, and, to paraphrase the author Norman Maclean, a river runs through us all.

Wm. Robert (Bob) Irvin
President & CEO

Alex Taylor
Board Chair

conserving clean water

Kathy Borgen remembers floating the wild Yampa River as a child in 1954 — an experience that fixed “a love of rivers and water, and their beauty and tranquility.”

Today, she resides in Denver and Vail and the Colorado River and its tributaries are a constant in her days with her grandchildren.

“growing to meet new challenges”

— KATHY BORGEN



Kathy’s support has been vital to our work in Grand County, Colorado, tackling persistent water supply problems and restoring the health of the Colorado River. Due to massive upstream diversions sending water to front-range cities, river flows have dropped and the channel has filled with sediment. The river is smaller, slower, muddier. Trout populations have diminished. The low water levels have left irrigation pumps high and dry and ranching families facing uncertainty about their water supplies and their future.

Kathy’s donations are allowing us to work with ranchers to restore the river by constructing 31 rocky riffles that restore habitat, improve water quality and quantity, and enhance irrigation operations. The riffles serve two purposes. The first is environmental — restoring habitat for aquatic insects to improve water quality, and improving river functions including sediment transportation. The second is agricultural — the riffles raise the water level to allow farmers to access water for irrigation during low flow periods.

This “win-win” approach is what draws Kathy to American Rivers, especially in an era of climate change.

“Our entire economy and human life are based on clean water and a stable climate. I appreciate how American Rivers is helping communities alleviate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Conservation organizations come and go, but American Rivers has proven its authenticity — staying true to its mission while growing to meet new challenges.”

“hopeful about our future”

— PAUL BRUCHEZ

The Bruchez family has been ranching in Colorado for five generations. The Colorado River is the lifeblood of their business and their home. “Healthy ranches need healthy rivers,” says **Paul Bruchez**, whose Reeder Creek Ranch is benefitting from American Rivers’ efforts. “We are fortunate to have American Rivers as a partner. For too long, agricultural and conservation interests have been at odds. But there is so much opportunity when we work together. I’m grateful for American Rivers’ commitment to restoring the Colorado River. It means the world to my family and I feel hopeful about our future.”





2016 successes

Conserving Clean Water

- Helped shape a landmark Colorado state water plan that recognizes the importance of healthy rivers and emphasizes conservation.
- Our call to move from water conflict to a new era of cooperation resonated in media stories nationwide when we named the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basin #1 on our annual list of America's Most Endangered Rivers®.
- Partnered with the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club to capture and filter storm-water runoff from rooftops at Hensville Park near the downtown stadium.

“an awesome experience”

— MAITE ARCE
President and CEO of the Hispanic Access Foundation

One-third of the nation's Latinos live and work in the Colorado River Basin. Healthy rivers and clean water are essential to the health and future of the basin's families and communities.

“It's critically important to engage the Latino community in river conservation, in the Colorado Basin and across the nation,” says **Maite Arce**, President and CEO of the Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF). “Our environmental values are strong and come from many generations.”

“We're getting Latino youth out on the river, many for the first time. The beauty and the memories stay with us and make us into advocates. It's an awesome experience,” she says.

American Rivers developed a strong partnership with HAF over the past year. We translated the short film “I Am Red” about the Colorado River into Spanish and distributed it to Latino audiences across the basin. HAF facilitated film screenings at 25 churches from Denver to Los Angeles and reached 4,000 Latino youth at special events. Spanish television stations including Telemundo



MAITE ARCE | Photo courtesy Hispanic Access Foundation

Denver and Univision ran the short film as a public service announcement.

The response to the film has been overwhelming. “The impact has been so strong,” says Maite. “We've received thousands of postcards from children and adults, sharing their thoughts and hopes for the river.”

“Before we met American Rivers, HAF didn't have a direct way to serve as advocates for the Colorado River. Now, working with American Rivers we have more opportunities for Latinos to be fully engaged on these issues that are so important to our communities.”

restoring damaged rivers

“a story of restoration”

— EZRA FIELD

As a child, **Ezra Field** spent summers in Maine with his family and learned to fish. Among his first fly fishing experiences was the Penobscot River — home to the last wild Atlantic salmon run on the East Coast. He remembers the salmon runs dwindling then disappearing altogether — the culmination of years of habitat destruction from dams, pollution and other impacts.



Years later, when he heard about the landmark Penobscot River Restoration Project, he was thrilled, knowing the removal of outdated dams would restore salmon runs and river health.

This kind of practical approach to conservation is one of the reasons why he supports American Rivers. “I love rivers and fishing. I appreciate American Rivers’ focused approach on preserving our remaining wild rivers and removing uneconomic dams in order to restore river habitats. I’m glad to be able to contribute to these efforts.”



This past June, thanks to the support of donors like Ezra, American Rivers and our partners celebrated the completion of the Penobscot restoration project. The multi-year effort included the removal of the Great Works (2012) and Veazie (2013) dams, as well as improved fish passage at Milford and Howland dams. Now, Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish have access to 1,000 miles of historic habitat for the first time in generations.

As of the 2016 migration, American shad have rebounded from almost zero to nearly 8,000. Anglers now catch them in waters where the fish had been absent for a century. Nearly two million alewives and blueback herring — up from fewer than 100,000 before the dams were removed — have returned.

Osprey, eagles, striped and smallmouth bass are benefitting, feeding on the silvery fish. A healthy Penobscot River is strengthening the entire web of life.

In 2014, Ezra returned to the Penobscot under different circumstances. “My father was in the Eastern Maine Medical Center, and I remember being there with him. His room overlooked the river. It was the first time I had seen the Penobscot since the [Veazie] dam was removed. It brought back old memories of family and fishing. My father passed at EMMC, but seeing the river returned to its natural state helped me reflect on the circle of life. At a very difficult time, I was able to find some solace in wonderful memories and the river’s story of restoration.”

2016 successes

Restoring damaged rivers

- Helped revive efforts to remove four large dams on the Klamath River after Congress failed to authorize the project. As a result, the largest dam removal project in history is on track to begin in 2020.
- A federal court ruled in our favor in the long-running litigation to compel the federal government to give serious consideration to removing four dams on the lower Snake River in order to restore endangered salmon.
- Spearheaded the removal of 16 dams nationwide, including on tributaries to the Connecticut River, Citico Creek in North Carolina, and the Patapsco River in Maryland.

raising public awareness

“driving positive change”

— MARK DEMING, NRS

“We support American Rivers because they do more than any other organization to protect the rivers our employees and customers love,” says **Mark Deming**, marketing director for NRS.

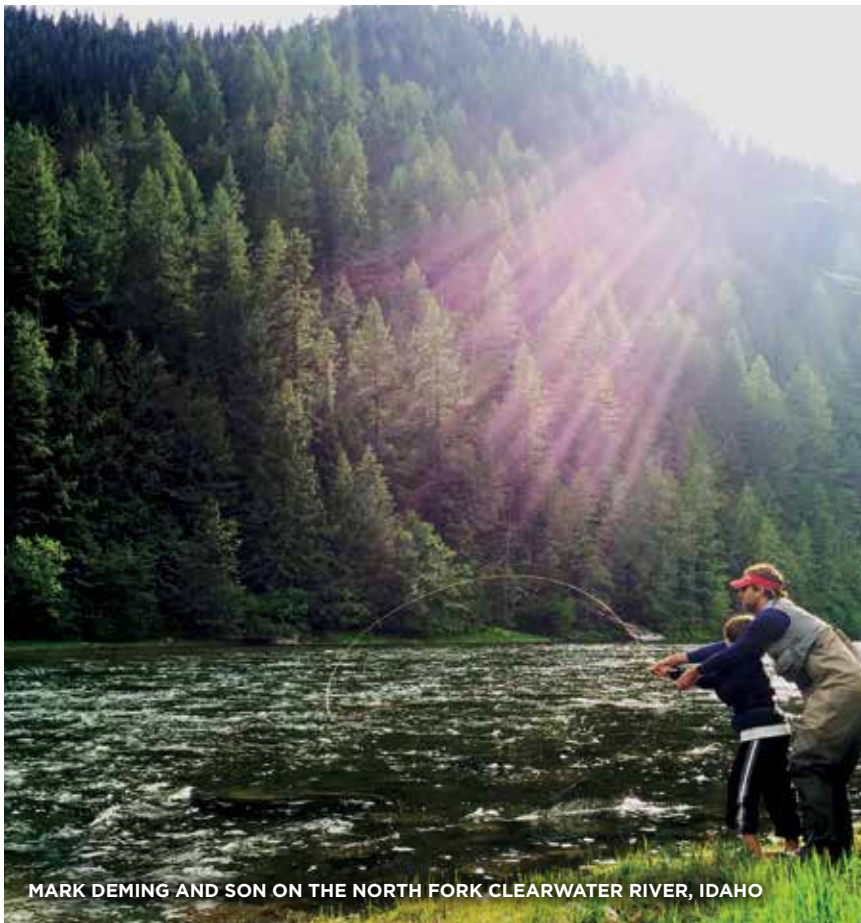
“Our commitment doesn’t end with financial support. We love that we can work with American Rivers staff to craft fun, creative and effective campaigns for river conservation. Partnering with American Rivers lets us put our company’s values into action. It’s inspiring to know that we are making a big difference for healthy rivers, together.”

The company’s generous donations help fund critical operations at American Rivers, along with our National River Cleanup® initiative. Thanks to

the help of NRS and other corporate partners during this year’s 25th anniversary National River Cleanup® celebration, we engaged more than 43,000 volunteers to remove 2.4 million pounds of trash from rivers nationwide.

NRS is also a cornerstone partner in our 5,000 Miles of Wild campaign, an effort to protect 5,000 new miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers and one million acres of riverside lands for the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 2018.

“It’s gratifying to know our company is driving positive change,” says Deming. “Doing the right thing and supporting river conservation is good policy and good business. Everybody wins.”



MARK DEMING AND SON ON THE NORTH FORK CLEARWATER RIVER, IDAHO

2016 successes

Raising public awareness

- Thanks to a grant from the Anne Cox Chambers Fund of The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, we launched a new website (www.AmericanRivers.org) with a fresh interface that is easier to navigate and is mobile-friendly.
- Completed an assessment of steps needed to enhance outreach to diverse communities in order to achieve our conservation objectives in the Rivers of Southern Appalachia and the Carolinas priority basin.
- Appeared in 350 print, TV, radio and online news stories, including CNN’s show *The Wonder List* featuring American Rivers staff working on the Colorado River.

protecting wild rivers

Building “the next generation of conservation leaders”

— BURKS LAPHAM



“The most valuable resource at American Rivers is its people,” says **Burks Lapham**, a long-time supporter of the organization. Burks and her family created the Anthony A. Lapham River Conservation Fellowship Program at American Rivers in 2007 to foster the next generation of conservation leaders.

The program honors her late husband, Tony, who served as a distinguished member and chair of the American Rivers Board of Directors from 1998 to 2006.

“We created the fellowship to honor Tony’s spirit and legacy, and to ensure a steady flow of talented young people who demonstrate his passion for and commitment to healthy rivers,” says Burks.

The Lapham Fellowship provides a professional experience for post-graduate students, linking science and policy research, field work, and local, state and federal policy advocacy. The program also generates information and tools that support the organization’s mission and goals.

“By attracting talented post-graduate students from the fields of law, science and policy, these fellows bring fresh, innovative ideas to American Rivers, enhance its advocacy and outreach work, and will go on to become part of the next generation of conservation leaders,” she says.

“This fellowship is giving me an incredible opportunity to take what I’ve learned as a student and researcher and apply it to real-world conservation and restoration objectives.”

— JONATHON LOOS, FELLOW 2015-2017

“The training I have received through the Lapham Fellowship has made me an adaptable scientist with not only academic expertise but also real world knowledge of policy implementation.”

— AMY TRICE, FELLOW 2011-2013

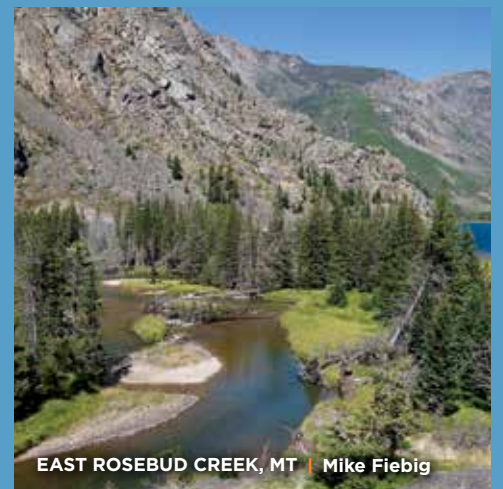
“I liked the independence and flexibility. I still refer back to the climate change strategies I learned from my fellowship while working in my current job.”

— MARCUS GRISWOLD, FELLOW 2010-2011

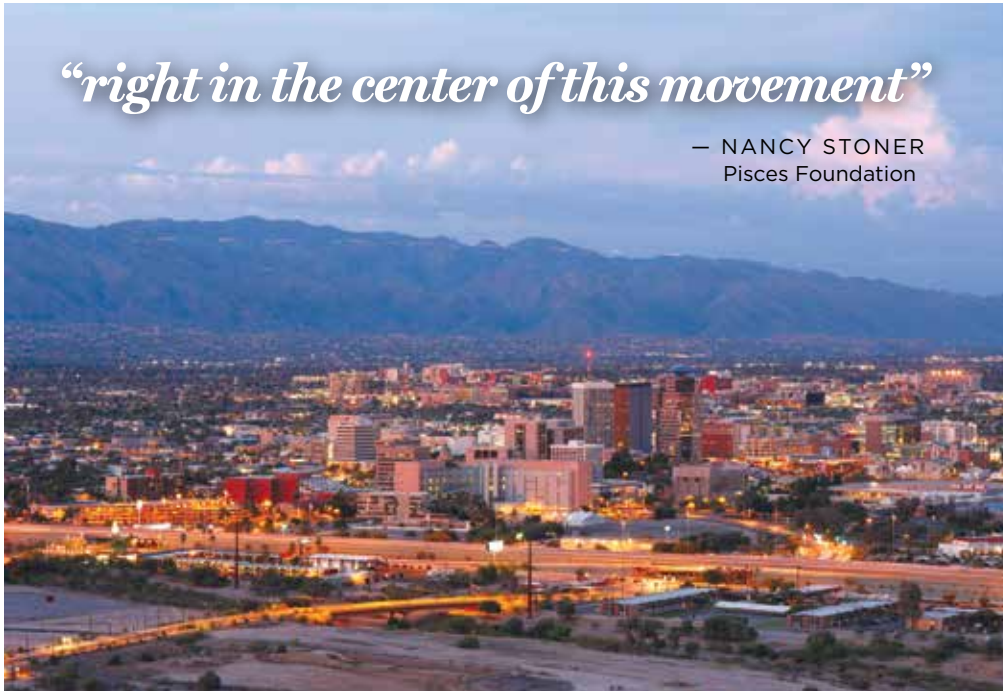
2016 successes

Protecting wild rivers

- Due in large part to our advocacy, the bipartisan Montana congressional delegation lent its support to protection of East Rosebud Creek as a Wild and Scenic River. Legislation protecting the river has passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.
- Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) came out in opposition to the New Madrid Levee, which would drain an area of wetlands the size of Washington, DC and disconnect the last remaining piece of floodplain from the Mississippi River where it winds between Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri. We worked closely with the Senator’s staff as he developed his position.



advancing national policy



“right in the center of this movement”

— NANCY STONER
Pisces Foundation

The Santa Cruz River flowing through downtown Tucson has run dry for decades because of depleted groundwater and over-allocation.

management responsibilities while protecting and restoring the natural hydrology of the aquifers and creeks of this desert city.

Together with American Rivers, Tucson Water is working with other city departments and agencies to improve stormwater management. This focus will dramatically improve the city’s ability to capture and use rainfall as a resource for “greening” the community with vegetation and rain gardens. In the long run, improved stormwater

capture could be an important source of aquifer recharge to support the local water supply.

“American Rivers has a great track record of partnering with local governments, water utilities and community groups to protect water resources,” says Nancy. “That’s why American Rivers is a terrific organization for the Pisces Foundation to invest in.”

City officials face a multitude of water-related problems, including insufficient water to meet current and future demands, flooding during intense rainstorms and runoff that picks up pollutants on its path to local waterways.

Through funding from the Pisces Foundation, American Rivers is helping cities adopt a new “Integrated Water Management” approach with multiple benefits for people and rivers. This approach, often referred to as “One Water,” integrates urban water management in all its forms — drinking water, stormwater and wastewater — and delivers benefits for the environment, economy and communities.

“Holistic water management has the potential to provide many more benefits for the public than traditional, single use approaches,” says **Nancy Stoner**, Director of the Water Program and a senior fellow at the Pisces Foundation. “I see huge momentum in cities to reclaim their waterfronts and to ensure that they have safe, sufficient, secure water resources for people and for nature. American Rivers is right in the center of this movement.”

Over the past year American Rivers provided guidance and technical expertise to city leaders and community stakeholders in Tucson, Arizona to integrate and coordinate their multiple water

2016 successes

Advancing national policy

- Opposed a concerted effort by the hydropower industry to weaken environmental requirements in dam licensing proceedings as part of the debate over federal energy legislation in Congress. American Rivers played a large part in convincing the Obama Administration to threaten a veto of the legislation.
- Successfully defended the Clean Water Rule, which restored federal protection to headwater streams and wetlands, from efforts to undo it in Congress.

2016 governance

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Atlanta, GA

Kimberley Milligan
Vice Chair
Nevada City, CA

Edward Whitney
Secretary
New York, NY

Austin Stephens
Treasurer
Atlanta, GA

Amb. Victor Ashe
Knoxville, TN

James Beh
Washington, DC

Martin Chavez
Washington, DC

Swep Davis
Bozeman, MT

Amanda Deaver
Washington, DC

Michael Gewirz
Washington, DC

Carrie Besnette Hauser
Glenwood Springs, CO

John Haydock
Charlottesville, VA

Bill Hoffman
Atlanta, GA

Nora Hohenlohe
Washington, DC

Jimmy Kimmel
Los Angeles, CA

Richard Legon
Fairfax, VA

Greg Luce
Washington, DC

Jaime Pinkham
St. Paul, MN

Dan Reicher
Stanford, CA

Philip Rever
Baltimore, MD

Abigail Rome
Silver Spring, MD

The Honorable Roy Romer
Holly, CO

David Schmitt
Cincinnati, OH

David Solomon
Chicago, IL

Fred St. Goar, M.D.
Menlo Park, CA

The Honorable Tony Williams
Washington, DC



REGIONAL COUNCILS

California River Council:

Kimberley Milligan
Co-Chair

Jeff Mount, Ph.D.
Co-Chair

Jeff Grainger
Dan Reicher
Fred St. Goar, M.D.
Gregory Serrurier
George Wendt*
Nancy White

**in memoriam*

Colorado River Council:

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Co-Chair

Carrie Besnette Hauser
Co-Chair

Michael Boyd
Charlotte Jorgensen
Patricia Lynch
Kate McBride
Robert F. McDermott, Jr.
Kimberley Milligan
Paul Noto
David Parker
The Honorable Roy Romer
Marcia Weese

Montana Leadership Council:

Dotty Ballantyne
Chair

Gifford Cochran
Swep and Brenda Davis
Dave Grusin and Nan Newton
John Heminway
Skip and Meg Herman
Nora and Chris Hohenlohe
Lanny Jones
Michael Keaton
Susie McDowell
Whitney McDowell
Bill and Linda Musser
Tom Skerritt
Farwell Smith
Ben Stanley
Ken and Vickie Wilson

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Co-Chair

Mark Busto
Co-Chair

Bob Denman
John Engber
Allison MacEwan
Steve Malloch
Jay Manning
Ed Pettigrew



ELWHA RIVER, WA | John Gussman

Washington's Elwha River flows freely after the removal of two large dams. This river restoration success, which began five years ago when the first chunk of concrete fell, wouldn't have been possible without the commitment of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, American Rivers and conservation partners.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jeff Mount, Ph.D. (*Chair*)

Public Policy Institute
of California
University of
California-Davis
Davis, CA

Michele Adams, P.E.

Meliora Design
Phoenixville, PA

James Boyd, Ph.D.

Resources for the Future
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Durham, NC

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Tucson, AZ

Will Graf, Ph.D.

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Nate Mantua, Ph.D.

NOAA-Southwest Fisheries
Science Center
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LeRoy Poff, Ph.D.

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO

Sandra Postel, Ph.D.

Global Water Policy Project
Los Lunas, NM

Joan Rose, Ph.D.

Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

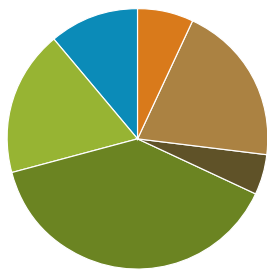
Rob Roseen, Ph.D.

Horsley Witten Group
Newburyport, MA

Jack Schmidt, Ph.D.

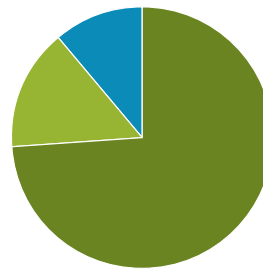
Utah State University
Logan, UT

2016 Financial statements



Support & Revenue:

- Membership Dues **7%**
- Contributions **20%**
- Corporations **5%**
- Foundation Grants **39%**
- Federal Grants **18%**
- Other **11%**



Expenses:

- Program Services **74%**
- Fundraising **15%**
- Management and General **11%**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Temporarily Restricted			Total FY 2016
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Membership	782,207	200	—	782,407
Contributions	1,982,563	316,110	—	2,298,673
Corporate Donations	242,517	378,750	—	621,267
Foundation Grants	388,740	4,092,918	—	4,481,658
Federal Grants	2,050,226	—	—	2,050,226
Other	1,109,092	200,186	—	1,309,278
Realized Gain (Loss)	499	31,834	—	32,333
Support and Revenue	6,555,844	5,019,998	—	11,575,842
Net Assets Released From Restriction	7,654,609	(7,654,609)	—	—
Total Support and Revenue	14,210,453	(2,634,611)	—	11,575,842
EXPENSES	Temporarily Restricted			Total FY 2016
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Program Services				
River Restoration	3,772,889			
Federal River Management	3,430,418			
Clean Water Supply	2,052,732			
River Protection	1,240,253			
Total Program Services	10,496,292	—	—	10,496,292
Fundraising	2,082,941	—	—	2,082,941
Management and General	1,544,775	—	—	1,544,775
Total Expenses	14,124,008	—	—	14,124,008
OTHER ITEMS				
Interest and Dividends	11,427	44,582	4	56,013
Change in Market Value of Investments	(1,536)	(61,521)	—	(63,057)
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	(10,730)	—	—	(10,730)
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	85,606	(2,651,550)	4	(2,565,940)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	1,139,758	9,384,172	1,824,948	12,348,878
Net Assets at End of Year	1,225,364	6,732,622	1,824,952	9,782,938

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2016

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,246,767
Investments	2,920,965
Grants and Pledges Receivable	2,573,289
Accounts Receivable	1,155,901
Other Assets — Principally Prepaid Expenses	365,503
Fixed Assets — net of accumulated depreciation of \$501,851	201,057
Total Assets	12,463,482
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	601,334
Accrued Salaries and Related Benefits	496,289
Refundable Advances	960,410
Charitable Gift Annuities Payable	142,325
Deferred Rent	455,370
Deposits	24,816
Total Liabilities	2,680,544
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	1,225,364
Temporarily Restricted	6,732,622
Permanently Restricted	1,824,952
Total Net Assets	9,782,938
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	12,463,482

Final audited report is available online at AmericanRivers.org/AnnualReport

how you can help

American Rivers depends on private support to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water for people and nature. You can help in a number of ways, including:

River Guardians

Annual donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized as River Guardian members. This special society of committed conservationists offers opportunities to become more involved in our work. Supporting American Rivers in this manner enables us to act quickly when new threats to rivers arise and sustains our efforts year-round. For more information, please contact Robinne Gray, Associate Director, River Guardian Program, at 202-243-7041.

River Rescue Society

Consider joining our special group of supporters who make monthly credit card donations of \$10 or more. By automatically renewing your membership, it reduces the amount of mail we send. To join, visit www.AmericanRivers.org/RiverRescueSociety.

Matching Gifts

Double your donation! Many employers match charitable contributions made by their employees. Check with your personnel office about your company's program.

Gift Planning

Our River Legacy Society recognizes and honors all who inform us of their intention to include American Rivers in their estate plans through bequests, trusts, or charitable gift annuities. To learn more about making a planned gift, please contact Georgette Blanchfield, Senior Vice President of Advancement, at 202-243-7050.

Workplace Giving/EarthShare

You may designate a portion of your paycheck to American Rivers through EarthShare, an alliance of the country's leading nonprofit environmental and conservation organizations, working under one name to safeguard public health and the environment. EarthShare promotes public education and charitable giving through workplace fundraising campaigns in federal, state, local, higher education and corporate communities across the country. If your employer does not have an EarthShare campaign, call 800-875-3863 or visit www.EarthShare.org to find out how you can help launch a program in your workplace. If you are a federal employee, you can participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign. Designate your gift using CFC #12063.

Amazon Smile

You can have Amazon donate a portion of your purchases to American Rivers. Just go to smile.amazon.com and choose American Rivers as your nonprofit. Donations will help protect and restore rivers nationwide.



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us®

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Facebook.com/AmericanRivers
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About American Rivers

American Rivers protects wild rivers, restores damaged rivers, and conserves clean water for people and nature. Since 1973, American Rivers has protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and an annual America's Most Endangered Rivers® campaign. Headquartered in Washington, DC, American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 250,000 members, supporters, and volunteers.



Printed with vegetable inks on paper
that is 55% recycled and contains
30% post-consumer recycled fiber.