

# River Network

## Bulletin



P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207 (503) 236-8011

January 1991. Volume 2, Number 1

## THE GROWING RIVER GUARDIAN MOVEMENT

by Phillip Wallin

In 1985, I founded the Rio Chama Preservation Trust to save a stream in New Mexico from the ravages of the Corps of Engineers. In a three-year campaign, we stopped the filling of a dam and got the Chama designated a National Wild and Scenic River.

We had the feeling of being on our own out there in New Mexico. We had to invent our own wheel. That wasn't a good feeling, so in 1988 I founded River Network to support grass-roots river organizations.

We soon discovered that grass-roots river groups were springing up all over the country. Practically every major stream, and many minor ones, had been adopted by a local "river guardian," as we call them.

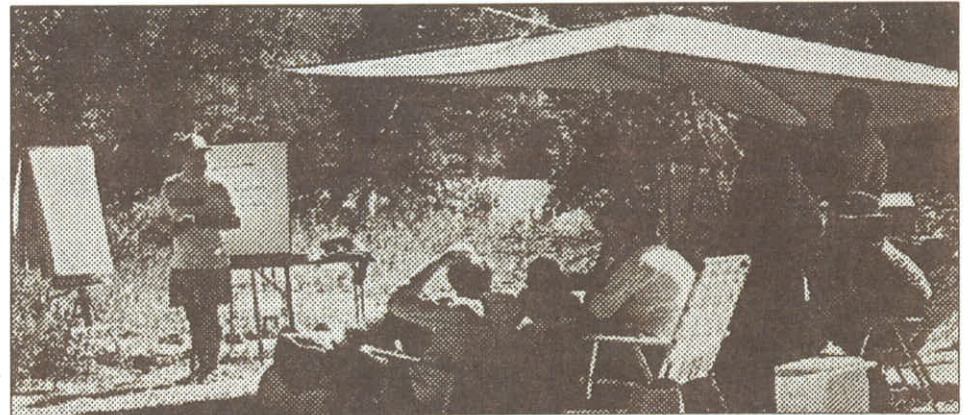
How do we define a "river guardian?" It's a non-profit, locally-based volunteer group working *with all the tools at hand* to conserve a local stream and its riparian corridor. (This distinguishes a river guardian from, say, a river land trust, which specializes in the tool of land and easement acquisition.)

Early this year, we brought together lists of river guardians from the National Park Service, American Rivers, and several other sources. We sent out a questionnaire to almost 1,500 individuals and organizations. What we got was a picture of the river guardian movement in America.

We learned that there are 1,200 of these groups *that we know of*, located in every state. They tend to be volunteer, without paid staff, with a relatively small budget. They are formed

in response to a group of problems (seldom just one) afflicting "their" river. Most often these problems have to do with, not just the stream, but the greater riparian environment, land as well as water. The problems most frequently

cited are land development and pollution, but river guardians cover the spectrum of environmental issues. They are working on dioxins from pulp mills, proposed hydropower dams, urban  
(Movement continued on page 2)



Marc Smiley of River Network leads members of the Northwest Rivers Council through a strategic planning meeting along the Yakima River in Washington.

## SURVEY OF RIVER ACTIVISTS

### The Results Are In

The grass-roots river conservation movement has been steadily growing in recent years. There are hundreds of river groups scattered throughout the country, with more being formed all the time.

The mission of River Network is to protect rivers by helping local river protection efforts. But, what does a "typical" local river group look like? What issues are groups working on? What kind of help do they need?

In July 1990, we mailed out 1,400 "River Activists Questionnaires" to local groups to gain a national picture of the grassroots river protection movement. Over 240 (17%) of the river activists re-

turned their questionnaires. The states of California, Michigan and Idaho have the greatest representation in these survey results. The "river guardians" who responded all have one thing in common: they are working to protect a local river (or rivers) from degradation.

However, each group and river is unique. They vary in location, membership composition, the type of river they are protecting, and the problems they are facing. The groups range across the entire country, from the St. George River in Maine to Putah Creek in California. Some of the groups are con-

(Survey continued on page 5)



(Movement continued from page 1)

sprawl, erosion from farmlands, acid mine leakage, and so on.

The most exciting projects, though, are the positive initiatives that river guardians are taking on: greenways, wetland restoration, a hiking and biking trail, a stream monitoring project, river festivals, state canoe trails, a National Conservation Area. A lot of you are getting out ahead of events and helping the community see that the river is a special place.

By and large, these river guardians are not very formally organized. Very few have a definite plan of action. All of them want assistance. Above all, they want information about resource issues, and they want help with fund-raising.

For River Network, it's a tremendous challenge to fill this niche, to provide support and assistance to a couple of thousand river guardians. We want to

## River Network

P.O. Box 8787  
Portland, OR 97207  
(503) 236-8011

River Network is a non-profit organization committed to building local support for river protection. We believe that local people are the voice of America's rivers and that without local action, rivers cannot be protected effectively, nor permanently.

Established in 1988, River Network opened its first office in the Pacific Northwest. Our scope is national.

River Network has three programs:

- the **River Clearinghouse** to provide information to local river activists,
- the **River Leadership Project** to develop river conservation leaders at the state and local levels, and
- the **Riverlands Conservancy** to acquire outstanding riverlands and convey them to the public for protection.

be the information source, the bulletin board, the connector for river guardians.

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*You are part of a movement, a movement composed of a hundred thousand activists with the potential to change America's attitudes about rivers.*

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For you, it should be exciting to realize that you're part of a movement, a movement composed of a hundred thousand activists with the potential to change America's attitudes about rivers. Just think of the impact if there were an active river guardian in every river valley in the United States, if every County Commissioner were hearing about the value of a natural river to the community.

The most exciting idea for me is that this movement could become a *river network*. By that, I mean that river guardians could talk with each other, could give each other assistance and support.

The Clark Fork Coalition in Montana could lend a hand to the Citizens for the Gauley in West Virginia. And vice versa.

Think of the possibilities. Think of what one river guardian could give to another:

- \* the benefit of experience in dealing with an issue
- \* help in lobbying for a common goal
- \* feedback on strategies
- \* models for river protection
- \* ideas for local fundraising
- \* technical information
- \* contact with experts
- \* models for brochures, newsletters, slide shows, presentations

...and much more. Not the least of which is moral support.

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, we're going to talk about the river guardian movement, *our* movement. Who we are, what we're doing, how we can work together. We're going to ask for your support in bringing this movement together into a **national network** for grass-roots river protection. □




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*The real challenge is to get the message out to people about these rivers. People take them for granted. We're sitting on a mountain of opportunity, but if we don't mobilize support for some of the rivers soon, they'll be lost to hydroelectric dams and other developments.*

*Chris Brown, National Park Service*

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## Grass-roots Accomplishments: Saving the St. John River in Maine

One of the great "success stories" in river conservation was the saving of the St. John, a wilderness river of northern Maine. From its source near the Canadian border, the river flows wild and undeveloped for 100 miles through lands owned by lumber companies, a mecca for canoeists.

But in 1973, it seemed that the St. John was doomed. Senator Edmund Muskie, chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, was pushing hard for a big dam at Dickey that would drown 55 miles of the St. John, producing 830 megawatts of power. With the OPEC oil embargo in effect, 22 of 25 Maine Congresspersons backed the project.

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*The St. John was saved by canoeists, people who used and loved the river. They were led by the total commitment of one individual.*

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But one dedicated person opposed it. Tom Arnold called together New England conservationists to form the *Friends of the St. John* in 1974. They took on the Dickey Dam Project.

They laid the groundwork by refuting the Corps of Engineers' case for the dam. They pointed out that the cost of the dam — \$1 billion — could produce 43 times the power if spent on attic insulation. The Corps had counted on "recreational benefits" to justify the dam; the Friends exposed the absurdity of creating a fluctuating mudflat in a land of natural lakes, destroying in the process a premier recreational river. The dam would create only 68 jobs, while drowning 110,000 acres of forest in a state economically dependent on forestry. Botanists put another nail in the coffin by discovering 20 rare plants along the river.

The Friends of the St. John lobbied against Dickey Dam for five years, mailing out 30,000 brochures. The L.L.

Bean store in Freeport served as an information center for the dam fighters. By 1979, they had turned public opinion around. Most New England Congresspersons recognized that Dickey Dam was a waste of taxpayers' money. In 1980, they accomplished the impossible: Congress deauthorized Dickey, even though substantial funds had already been spent by the Corps of Engineers.

The St. John was saved by canoeists,

people who used and loved the river. They were led by the total commitment of one individual who saw the fight through from start to finish. They formed a coalition with environmental organizations. They used the tool of economic analysis, showing the superiority of energy conservation to hydro-power. And they organized endlessly, generating letters and phone calls and attendance at hearings. The result: a magnificent river saved for all time. □

### To Be of Use

The people I love the best  
 jump into work head first  
 without dallying in the shallows  
 and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
 They seem to become natives of that element,  
 the black sleek heads of seals  
 bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
 who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
 who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
 who do what has to be done, again and again.

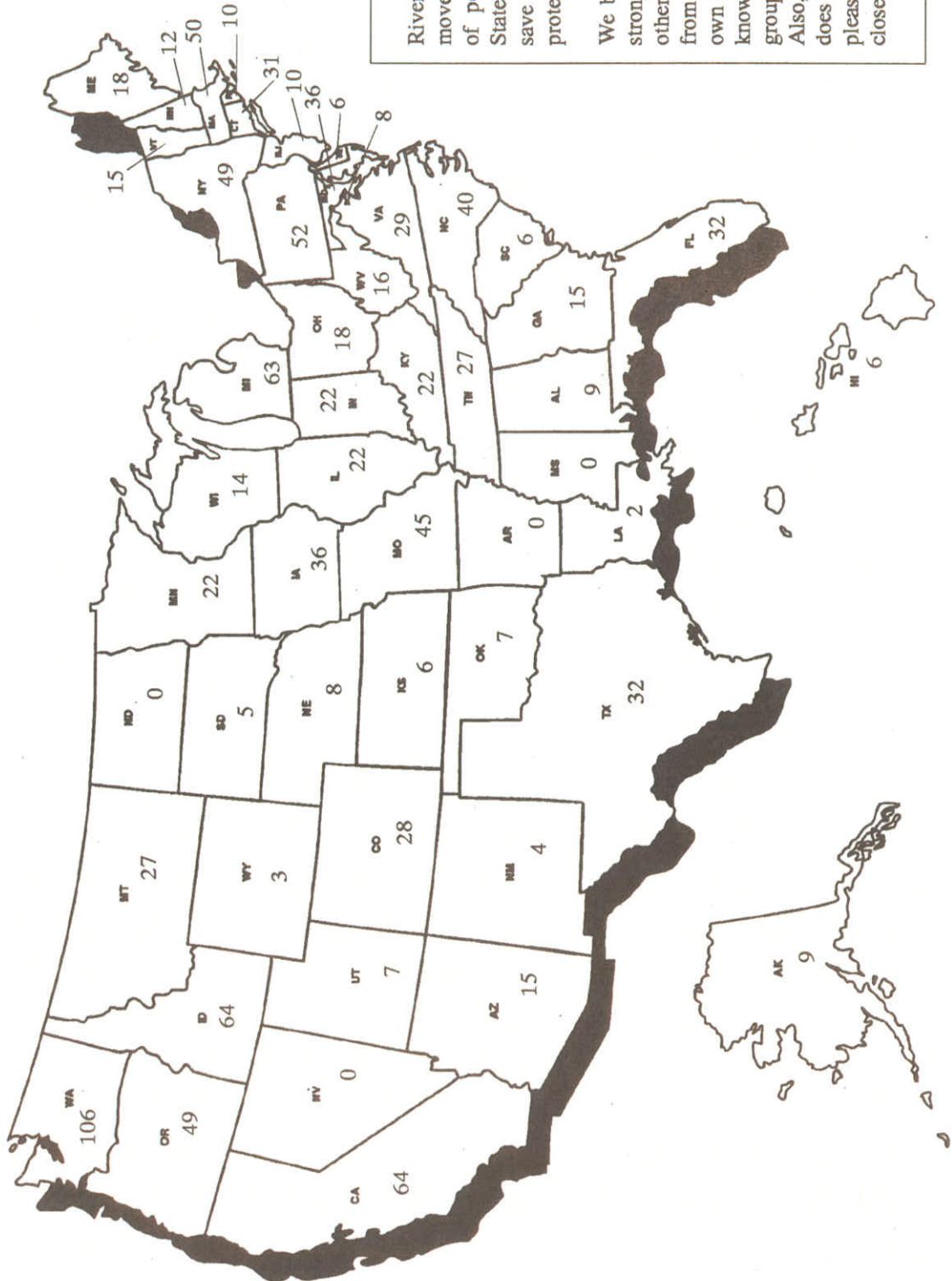
I want to be with people who submerge  
 in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
 and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
 who stand in the line and haul in their places,  
 who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
 but move in common rhythm  
 when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
 Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
 but the thing worth doing well done  
 has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
 Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
 but you know they were made to be used.  
 The pitcher cries for water to carry  
 and a person for work that is real.

Marge Piercy

# "The Network"

(The numbers indicate how many groups in each state are a part of the network.)



River protection is a growing movement. There are thousands of people throughout the United States who are actively working to save their local river. Many are protecting rivers in your state.

We believe river protection grows stronger by networking with each other. Each idea or lesson we gain from our neighbor, strengthens our own effort. If you would like to know how to contact other river groups in your state, give us a call. Also, if you know of a group who does not receive the *Bulletin*, please fill out and return the enclosed card to us.



## Letter to the Network

The Concerned Citizens of Alderson/Glenray has been fighting for the last three years a pressure treating wood plant that was under construction and has now been built. The plant is in the 100-year flood plain and the site was under water in the '85 flood of the Greenbrier River. We're in two courts and watching three investigations (S.B.A., F.B.I., and F.E.M.A.). All signs point to a government cover-up of wrong doing by government agencies in funding and regulation of the debacle. We have two attorneys, one pro bono and another paid environmental (he's great), but we need a pro bono attorney that knows about banking and federal law. We're in debt up to our ears and working in creative ways to find funding. We also need information on Riverkeepers. If you can help, please get in touch with us, the Greenbrier River is one of the ten most endangered in the U.S.A. (American Rivers).

Mark Blumenstein  
 HC 73, Box 11  
 Alderson, WV 24910  
 (304) 445-7822 ☐

*River Network encourages you to share your ideas, information, successes and problems with other river activists. You and over 1,400 other individuals and groups receiving this Bulletin are the ones who have first-hand, river-saving experience.*

*Please send your letters to:  
 River Network Bulletin  
 P.O. Box 8787  
 Portland, OR 97207*

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(Survey continued from page 1)

cerned local residents. Some are boating or fishing clubs who have taken on the task of protecting a stream.

There are also variations in the size of rivers involved and the threats that face them. Some are big rivers, like the Upper Mississippi; some are small, like James Creek in Montana. Some are threatened by pollution, some by land development, some by dams. Some rivers are being "loved to death" by recreationists.

### Profile of a "Typical" River Group

A "typical" river group is small and loosely organized. They are mostly volunteer run organizations. Only a small percent employ staff, and of these, many are half-time employees. Only 21% have a written plan of action. And, most groups spend very little funds (75% will spend less than \$5,000 this year).

The typical leadership group consists of 13 members. These individuals work within their community to build a membership ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand. The majority of groups (70%) have a membership base of less than 500. Most groups (86%) have 2,000 members or less.

Rarely are groups addressing only a single river threat. More often, river groups are working to remedy several problems facing their river. For example:

*"The Wekiva is threatened by development; drought (from overuse of water as well as lack of rainfall); outflow from sewage treatment plants; exotic plants; overuse as a recreational area; power boats."*

Friends of the  
 Wekiva River, Florida.

To address these numerous threats, local river leaders almost unanimously combine public education with an action program for protecting their river. Groups are making river protection a community value. They are also getting their hands dirty by improving fish habitat, monitoring stream quality, cleaning up trash, and stabilizing stream banks. Groups are involved in the management planning of their river. Sometimes they are seeking state or federal legislation to protect their river.

### River Threats

Rivers across the country are being threatened not only by dams, but by the activities occurring on the riverbanks. Nationally, activists rated land development as their number one concern (57%). Pollution came in a close second

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***River activists are involved in not just river protection, but watershed protection.***

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(56%) followed by erosion (52%). The findings indicate that river activists are involved in not just river protection, but **watershed protection.**

As you might expect, there are pronounced regional variations in this picture. Eastern rivers are threatened primarily by pollution and land development, with farming practices being a major problem in the midwest. Western rivers are beset by a greater variety of threats: dams, inadequate waterflows, mining and forestry practices

(Survey continued on page 6)



# Questionnaire Results by Re

Region	New England	North Atlantic	Appalachian	Southeast	Great Lakes	Midwest	Southwest	R
	ME, VT, NH, CT, RI, MA	NY, PA, NJ, MD, DE	WV, VA, KY DC, TN, NC	AR, MS, LA GA, SC, FL, AL	WI, MI IL, IN, OH	ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, MO, KS	OK, TX, UT, AZ, NM	M W
No. of Questionnaires	30	23	28	16	30	31	16	
<b>Help Most Requested*</b>								
<b>TOPICS</b>								
<i>Threats:</i>	Pollution Development	Development Pollution Landfills	Pollution Erosion Farming	Development Forestry Pollution Erosion	Development Erosion Pollution Rec. Over-use	Erosion Pollution Farming	Pollution Water Flows	Mi Wa Da For
<i>Solutions:</i>	Greenways Land-use Public Educ. Easements	Land Acq. State Program Public Educ. Land Trusts Lobbying	Public Educ. Lobbying State Program Easements	Lobbying Public Educ. State Program Wild & Scnc.	Public Educ. Clean-up Land-use Local Zoning Restoration Lobbying	Public Educ. Land-use Easements Lobbying	Lobbying Land-use State Program Public Educ.	Inst Wil Pub Stat Lot
<i>Non-Profit Management:</i>	Fundraising Media Newsletter	Fundraising Newsletter Membership Volunteers	Fundraising Admin. Media Planning	Fundraising Media Membership Leader. Dev.	Fundraising Newsletter	Newsletter Planning Media	Fundraising Media	Fur Co Nev Me
<b>Services Most Wanted:</b>	Written info Directory	Written Info. Directory	Written Info. Directory Bulletin	Directory Written Info.	Written Info Directory	Writtin Info. Directory	Written Info Directory Bulletin	Wri Dir
<b>Median Bdgt.:</b>	\$16,500	6,000	4,500	1,800	9,000	7,000	12,500	
<b>% Groups with less than 500 members</b>	65	67	69	80	65	82	69	
<b>% Groups with Staff:</b>	25	43	36	19	18	36	19	

\* Some topics "tied" in their ranking. Brackets, <, indicate those topics with equal ratings.

(Survey continued from page 5)

### Assistance Wanted

However, regardless of the geographic area or the river threat, groups want help changing public attitudes. Among all the tools for river protection listed in the questionnaire, public education drew the greatest interest (63%). Activists also want to know how to influence public officials (61%). They want help with land-use planning (57%) and state protection programs (57%). Other topics listed in the questionnaire which received a 50% or more response are: erosion (55%),

conservation easements (53%), forest practices (52%) and local zoning ordinances (52%). (Surprisingly, Wild and Scenic protection was of interest to only 49%).

Topics related directly to river protection were higher priorities than those related to non-profit management. The only exception was fundraising (55%). Again, however, the emphasis on public education and involvement could be seen by what groups rated highest among the non-profit management topics. Groups especially want help with media relations (47%)

on

	Western CA, HI NV	Pacific Northwest WA, OR,	National Total (including AK)
	17	23	242
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversion</li> <li>Development</li> <li>Erosion</li> <li>Forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry</li> <li>Dams</li> <li>Water Flows</li> <li>Erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution</li> <li>Development</li> <li>Erosion</li> <li>Forestry</li> </ul>
Flow conc. uc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land-use</li> <li>Lobbying</li> <li>Flow Regul.</li> <li>Restoration</li> <li>Public Educ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobbying</li> <li>Wild &amp; Scnc.</li> <li>Water Conserv.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Educ.</li> <li>Lobbying</li> <li>Land-use</li> <li>State Prog.</li> <li>Easements</li> </ul>
Organizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leader. Dev.</li> <li>Fundraising</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media</li> <li>Fundraising</li> <li>Membership</li> <li>Leader. Dev.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundraising</li> <li>Media</li> <li>Newsletter</li> </ul>
Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written Info.</li> <li>Bulletin</li> <li>Directory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written Info.</li> <li>On-Site Asst.</li> <li>Directory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written Info.</li> <li>Directory</li> <li>Bulletin</li> </ul>
	18,000	15,000	10,000
	53	80	70
	35	26	33

and newsletter/brochure production (46%).

Method of Assistance

We asked river activists to rank their preference for seven kinds of services: on-site assistance, a directory of resource specialists, written information, a bimonthly bulletin, conferences and workshops, a computer bulletin board, and a 1-800 problem-solving service.

The preference was clear. Groups most want written informa-

tion such as reports, fact sheets, "how to" manuals, bibliographies, case studies, and examples of newsletters and brochures (63%). Groups also clearly indicated they wanted the names of resource specialists in their area to contact for information and help (55%).

In addition to asking activists to rank the services we outlined, we also asked them to tell us what specific assistance would most help their efforts. Here there was tremendous variety. Many want success stories and models of river protection efforts. Others need help fundraising, specific technical help in protecting their river, or more hands involved in the work of their group.

Summary

We draw seven basic conclusions from our survey:

- 1) There is a national movement of incredibly *dedicated* activists working at the grassroots level to protect rivers.
- 2) These river guardians draw their strength primarily from the *environmentalist and boating* communities.
- 3) They are focused on *particular stream segments* in their own locale.
- 4) Each river guardian is grappling with a *variety* of threats to their river. These threats vary greatly from region to region, but they tend to relate to land-use (much more than dams).
- 5) Few of these river guardians have a written *plan of action*.
- 6) They place a great deal of faith in *public education*.
- 7) They need *information, money and volunteers*.

The river activists are inspiring. The questionnaires tell the story of how local people are making a difference. They outline the vast amount of work being accomplished by people putting their concerns into action. They portray a growing river protection movement, which has begun in the river valleys.

The responses of river activists shed light on how we can strengthen our efforts. We now have a better idea of the kind of help needed and the ways to provide that help. We know local groups are not looking for someone to "do it for them." Rather, local groups want access to information and someone to call on for assistance. Local groups can and want to help each other by sharing information and experiences. □

*The care of the rivers is not  
a question of rivers,  
but of the human heart.*

Tanaka Shozo



## River Guardian Profile: Friends of the Poudre

In 1986, the upper Cache la Poudre River in Colorado was designated Wild and Scenic. Unfortunately, a scenic lower segment was "compromised" away, and that segment of the Poudre is now the target for a major hydropower and storage project. Grey Mountain Dam would inundate 12 miles of the Cache la Poudre Canyon, site of 80% of the boating on the Poudre.

Grey Mountain Dam is being fought today by *Friends of the Poudre* (FOR), a small grass-roots river guardian based in Fort Collins. It's a little like fighting a ghost, since the proponent of the dam hasn't yet filed an application with FERC. But Friends of the Poudre doesn't feel they can wait.

While FOP has 260 members, the core of the organization consists of a very few activists who carry out an ambitious program. There are two basic prongs to their campaign to protect the Poudre: 1) monitor the Grey Mountain Dam proj-

ect, build the case against it, and be ready to intervene in the FERC licensing process; and 2) promote public use of the Poudre by boaters and hikers to build a constituency for the threatened river. Within this framework, Friends of the Poudre carries out a tremendous number of projects, including an annual Poudre Canyon Music Festival as a fund-raiser, a quarterly newsletter, "Don't Damn the Poudre" bumper stickers, legislation to "democratize" irrigation districts, trail improvement and river clean-up.

Friends of the Poudre is a typical river guardian in that it is entirely volunteer. The lack of paid staff means that the responsibilities have to be shared among several volunteers as and when they can spare the time. Energy is probably the single biggest problem. According to FOP President Len Loomans, "We lack leaders who have the time to commit to make the organization effective. Many

of our members are students who are only around for a year or two, making it difficult to maintain a consistent organization." FOP recently moved to the student center at Colorado State University, and is looking to make better use of students and professors. Says Loomans, "We're going to tap into the expertise here to make a compelling case against the Grey Mountain project."

Like so many river guardians, Friends of the Poudre has the problem of being basically *responsive* to a bad water project. This makes it difficult to mobilize support, since Grey Mountain Dam is still in the planning stage. Ordinarily, one might go for Wild and Scenic designation, but Loomans feels that would get little support from the Colorado delegation.

Anyone interested in volunteering help or suggestions to Friends of the Poudre can contact Len Loomans at: P.O. Box 1862, Ft. Collins, CO 80522, phone (303) 224-5614. □

### The 1991 River Guardian Award

River Network will honor an outstanding river activist with its 1991 River Guardian Award.

The award will recognize a grass-roots volunteer who has been successful in protecting a local stream from pollution, damming, dewatering, development or any other threat.

We're inviting nominations for this award from river conservationists throughout the country.

The guidelines for nomination are:

- \* must be a *volunteer*
- \* may be either an individual or a group
- \* may be anywhere in the country
- \* must have achieved protection for a particular stream
- \* the stream may be urban, rural or wilderness
- \* the nomination must make a case for recognizing the nominee.

Nominations will be accepted through July 1, 1991.

The selection will be made by the Board of Trustees of River Network and announced before the end of the year.

Please send nominations to:

Lindy Walsh, River Network, PO Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207. □

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*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

*Margaret Mead*

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## River Activist Profile: Mary Haughey

One highly motivated river activist in the network is Mary Haughey of the *South Yuba River Citizens League* (SYRCL) based in Nevada City, California. Mary has been the Director and only paid staff of SYRCL for the last year. She's been praised by SYRCL board members for "breathing new life into the organization" since she jumped in with both feet as a volunteer two and one-half years ago.

One of Mary's first projects with SYRCL was to fundraise. "No one likes to fundraise, but it's difficult to do much of anything without it." With some advice from Friends of the River, Mary has been very successful at raising money through public auctions. Last year SYRCL raised \$20,000 at their auction, which is "extremely good for a small community like Nevada City." Mary enjoys working with other conservation organizations, like Friends of the River. "There's no sense in reinventing the wheel. We all need to pool our resources and learn from one another."

Mary and SYRCL have a big agenda. Dams are the major threat to the South Yuba River. Mary is working to get a 39-mile stretch of the South Yuba permanently protected under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. To facilitate the Wild & Scenic designation, SYRCL is conducting a Wild and Scenic River Study that they plan to complete by January 1992. Mary hopes this SYRCL study will be a valuable resource to the Forest Service and BLM in compiling data for their joint W & S River Studies.

Another major project Mary has undertaken is to help the California Department of Parks and Recreation develop its first large State River Park. In 1988 the State of California allocated \$2 million to acquire land along the lower 21-mile stretch of the South Yuba. Mary is helping the State determine priorities for land acquisition.

Mary is also involved in a California statewide organization, the Environmental Water Leadership Council, which is working towards changing



Mary Haughey on the South Yuba River. Photo by Bob Lickter

statewide water policy.

Mary's interest in rivers stems back to the days when she was a river raft guide on the South Fork of the American River and the Stanislaus River. In the mid-

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*"We all need to pool our resources and learn from one another."*

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1970's, Mary was active in the struggle to save the Stanislaus River. To Mary, "Being on and near rivers is a renewing experience. Wild rivers are my favorite places in the world." Rivers are Mary's "passion". "We've sacrificed many rivers this past century. Our future genera-

tions deserve the right to know wild rivers."

When Mary's not working, she enjoys spending time with her three kids, aged 9, 12, and 15. She also enjoys hiking, swimming, birdwatching, music, and hot springs. Mary also works actively on other issues in her community. Mary was the coordinator for the Nevada County 1990 Earth Day Celebration, and she's on the board of her local food co-op.

What keeps Mary motivated to protect the South Yuba? "I can't *not* work to protect this treasure in my own backyard. The Yuba feeds my soul. The Yuba means so much to so many people." Mary loves to meet and work with people who are excited about the Yuba River. These Yuba River lovers should be excited that they have Mary working to protect their treasured resource. □



## River Wealth: Source of Fundraising Ideas

Have you been wondering how to raise that extra \$10,000 to launch a public education campaign or to fund some other worthwhile project? All groups need money to do the work of river protection, yet we differ in the ways we raise money.

Kenny Johnson, a River Network volunteer, has been canvassing river groups across the country for successful fundraising ideas. Kenny has been calling river groups who have raised funds to find out how they did it, how much they raised, and how much time and money it took to raise the funds. Once the information is collected it will be published in *River Wealth*, a river advocate's fundraising idea booklet. The booklet will include an outline of the fundraising ideas, as well as the name of the river group and a contact person who has successfully used the idea to raise funds.

The idea behind *River Wealth* is that our best source of financial support is our local communities. We can't all support our organizations through foundations grants. By learning what fundraising activities have been successful for other groups, we can diversify our local revenue sources and become better fundraisers for our river.

*River Wealth* is one way we can help each other protect our rivers. If you have raised money and would like to share your idea, please give Kenny a call at the River Network office (503-236-8011). □

*Nothing was  
ever accomplished  
without enthusiasm.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



## Library Additions...

### *1990 River Conservation Directory*

Hats off to the National Park Service and the National Association for State River Conservation Programs. They have produced the *1990 River Conservation Directory*, a useful and easy to use directory of river conservationists. In fact, you may be receiving this *Bulletin* due to their efforts. River Network incorporated much of the *Directory* into our mailing list for the *Bulletin*.

The *Directory* is organized by geographic area: national, regional and state. Listings include government agencies and non-profit organizations who are involved in river protection. A contact name and brief description of the organization is given, as well as address and phone number.

To order the *1990 River Conservation Directory*: write the River and Trails Conservation Assistance, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington DC 20013-7127. (202) 343-3775.

### *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenways Corridors*

Don't put your hats on yet, the National Park Service has also published another valuable document, *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors*. The book was produced to help non-profit groups and others "understand and communicate the potential economic impacts of their proposed or existing corridor project." It's a user-friendly, "how to" book on evaluating the economic impacts of saving your river.

The book covers topics such as real property values, tourism, corporate relocation, recreational benefits and others. Each topic includes examples and suggestions on how to communicate to your community the economic advantages of protecting your river.

To order *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenways Corridors*: Write the National Park Service, Western Region, P.O. Box 36063, San Francisco, CA 94102. (415) 556-6481. □



## River Network Recruits Specialists

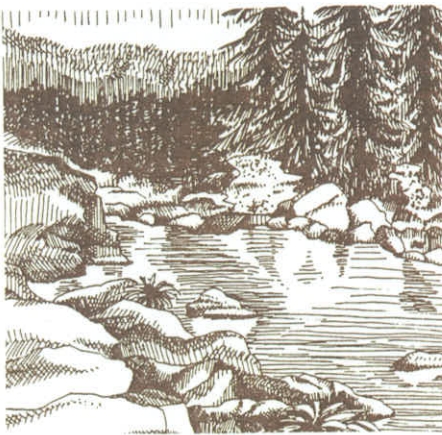
River activists indicated in our 1990 survey that one of the ways River Network could be most helpful is to facilitate contact with resource experts. In response to this preference, River Network is developing a national directory of river information specialists (DORIS). The purpose of DORIS is to put river activists in touch with river resource specialists who are willing to help them analyze and respond to problems that threaten their rivers.

DORIS will include resource specialists from the gamut of river issues. We are recruiting resource specialists within public agencies, environmental organizations, universities, and private practice. DORIS will also contain the names of grass-roots river organizations and individuals who have dealt successfully with resource issues and are willing to share what they have learned.

Initially DORIS will be in the form of a centralized database housed at River

Network. River activists will be able to access DORIS by calling River Network and describing their resource problem. Then we will query the DORIS database for specialists who may be able to help. We will then put river activists in touch with specialists who are willing to help them get a handle on the problems besetting their river.

The development of DORIS will take most of 1991. Our goal is to have DORIS up and running in fall 1991. □



*Unless those who administer the rivers in the public trust change present plans and proposed policies, the high water of one dam will reach the toe of the next dam. Like the California grizzly bear, the extinct symbol of the state, the free flowing river will be only a memory.*

*Maynard Munger, 1970  
former Sierra Club Director*

## Dam Foolishness

It's always tough to pick out one bad project for this regular feature. For sheer wrong-headedness, though, it's hard to beat the Garrison Diversion project in North Dakota, the water project that wouldn't die.

The Garrison Project is a simple proposition. When Congress divvied up the Missouri River in 1944, it authorized a million acres of irrigation in upstream states. Unfortunately for North Dakota, soils in its arid northwest are unsuitable for farming. Hence the Garrison Diversion Project to divert the Missouri's waters to the eastern part of the state, where rainfall is adequate three years out of four.

On the face of it, this diversion doesn't have much to justify its \$1.6 billion price tag. As described by Gary Pearson in *High Country News*, "Garrison would take more land out of agricultural production than it would bring in, degrade streams, destroy 60,000 acres of wetlands, and damage a dozen national wildlife refuges. There was nothing on the other side of the ledger: It would not save the state from drought nor significantly bolster the economy." Irrigation costs for the project are estimated at

\$6,352 per acre, far beyond the ability of farmers to repay.

Nevertheless, Garrison lurches along in spite of strong opposition in Congress, opposition from a succession of Presidents, a damning report by the Inspector General, opposition from Canada, opposition from a majority of North Dakotans (according to a 1980 poll), and lack of interest from irrigators.

What Garrison has going for it is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works: Sen. Quentin Burdick of North Dakota. Every year the project is zeroed out by the Administration and the House of Representatives, and every year Burdick secures a bit more funding from the Conference Committee to keep Garrison alive. As Burdick says, "We just shoulder the damn conferees around until we can make them agree with us." (Quoted in *High Country News*, 5/21/90.)

Can anyone drive a stake into the heart of the Garrison project? Probably not as long as Quentin Burdick chairs the key Senate committee. We can only hope that Garrison will be the last of the big-time boondoggles. □



### Help Us Rename the *Bulletin*

The River Network newsletter, the *Bulletin*, is in dire need of a better, more clever name. If you have any creative, catchy names for our publication, please fill-out and return the enclosed post-card.

In our next edition, we hope to rename the newsletter, as well as list some of the other more interesting suggestions and give credit to their creators.

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*Do what you can,  
with what you have,  
where you are.*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

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**Yes, I'd like to support the work of River Network,  
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\$35 Supporter       \$100 Contributor       \$1,000 Founder

I'm donating in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ River  
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**Yes, I know of a river group that may be interested in  
receiving the next issue of the River Network Bulletin.**

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: River Network, P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207.

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