

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AGENDA ITEM IV**



*August 3, 2015 City Council Meeting*

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**Subject: Support for Wild and Scenic River Designation**

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**Motion: "I move that the Franklin City Council sends their support for the Wild and Scenic River Designation."**

**Mayor calls for a second, discussion and the vote.**

- Letter 2014 -

December 26, 2014

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair  
Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee  
PO Box 3019  
Boscawen, NH 03303

Dear Michele,

The City of Franklin continues to endorse the designation of the Upper Merrimack River from Franklin to Garvin's Falls as a National Wild and Scenic River based on the "Partnership" Wild and Scenic River model used on the Lamprey River in New Hampshire. The City Council voted on this matter at their March 1, 2010, Council meeting and they continue to be supportive. Key provisions of the designation would include the following provisions:

- No Federal land acquisition would be authorized,
- The Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee would serve as the implementation committee for the National Wild and Scenic designation, and
- The Upper *Merrimack Management and Implementation Plan* would be the basis of Wild and Scenic River Management.

The City of Franklin being the "Three Rivers City" -values the Merrimack River. The city feels it is important to maintain access to the river, as demonstrated by the boat launching area behind the high school. The city believes in the need to protect open spaces along the river, as demonstrated by the cooperative work for the preservation of the farmland and river frontage on the Webster Farm property off Holy Cross Road in southern Franklin. The City values water quality of the river as demonstrated by sections of the site plan regulations that deal with storm water drainage management. The City also participates in, and cooperates with, the Winnepesaukee River Basin Treatment Facility. The City's Municipal Services Director serves as the chair of the Winnepesaukee River Basin board of directors. Insuring the treatment plant works efficiently and effectively contributes to the overall protection of the Merrimack River.

Please feel to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Dragon  
City Manager, City of Franklin



# Partnership Rivers News

## Bridge redesign improves road and benefits threatened bog turtle

**White Clay Creek  
190 miles flowing from West  
Marlborough, Pennsylvania to  
Newcastle County, Delaware  
Designated in 2000**

On Lamborn Run, a tributary of the Wild and Scenic White Clay Creek, collaboration between Wild and Scenic partners and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DOT) has resulted in a bridge reconstruction project that solved a serious road hazard and improved habitat for a bog turtle that is on the federal list of threatened species.

The erosive forces of Lamborn Run were undermining the stability of a bridge and a road in New Castle County, Delaware, so the DOT proposed to realign the stream channel and replace the existing bridge with a new, three-sided, pre-cast concrete bridge. While the bridge itself met most of the design guidelines of White Clay Creek's watershed management plan, plans for stabilizing the

bridge raised concerns about potential negative impacts on *Clemmys muhlenbergii*, a threatened bog turtle that uses Lamborn Run as a migratory corridor.

Since the bog turtle is one of the outstandingly remarkable values that led to White Clay Creek's Wild and Scenic designation, the National Park Service and the White Clay Watershed Management Committee joined in the project to help the DOT and other state agencies meet the state's transportation needs while protecting the turtle and other watershed resources.

The original engineering plan called for using rip-rap, or stone, under the bridge and around its wing-walls and footers to prevent bank erosion and scouring. Rip-rap, however, is a known hazard for bog turtles and other small amphibians and reptiles because they tend to get trapped in the gaps between the stabilizing rocks.

The Park Service and the Endangered Species Program of the state's natural resources and environmental department advocated filling the gaps in the rip-rap to mimic

See "Bridge," page 5



Repair of a crumbling bridge on Lamborn Run improved road safety and provided better habitat for a threatened species of turtle.

### A better solution: Hard work and collaboration

Welcome to the third issue of *Partnership Rivers News*, a newsletter designed to let you know a little bit more about the special "Partnership Rivers" in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The eight rivers currently in the system—seven in the Northeast and the Wekiva in central Florida—are managed through a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, local folks and non-profit groups, and the National Park Service. In this issue you will learn about creative ways river councils, management and advisory committees, and watershed groups work with government agency staff to meet the protection challenges facing their rivers.

The Wild and Scenic River Program may still be best known for the more remote rivers that flow through truly wild and unfamiliar places, but many of the rivers in the program bring their scenic qualities and special characteristics right to our doors, flowing through towns, farms, and countryside familiar to most of us. The eight

See "Partners," page 2

# Wiswall Park celebrates Lamprey's history



New riverside park tells the 8,000-year history of human use of the rapids.

People have used the Lamprey River in southern New Hampshire for thousands of years, as a source of food, water, and power, as a corridor to interior forests, and as a recreational resource. Much of this history is documented at a small site in Durham that the town now owns. Cooperatively with the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC), the National Park Service, and others, the town is developing a riverside park to highlight the river's uses, past and present.

The story being told at the Wiswall Park begins some 8,000 years ago, when Native Americans were drawn to the rapids to fish. Centuries later those same rapids attracted early colonists, although no dams were built at the site until 1835. Thereafter, commerce boomed and Wiswall Mills were the center of Durham's industrial life by the mid-1800s. Remains of structures from this period include the power canal, sawmill, paper mill and its hydroelectric plant, boiler room, a shed, stockhouse, three unidentified structures, and a crib dam. The property has been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places for its "considerable potential to

inform us about the organization of a small paper mill and the hydraulic relationship of three competing mills."

Today, the site is again a community focus with numerous groups working together to create a park that honors the site's history and commemorates John Hatch, an artist, historian, conservationist, and LRAC volunteer. Collaborators include the LRAC, the Town of Durham, the National Park Service, the town Recreation Committee, Boy Scouts, and neighbors.

The LRAC, the citizens group established under the auspices of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program and the state rivers protection program, and the National Park Service commissioned a mason skilled in historic preservation to rebuild the stone wall along the power canal. Park Service planners sketched preliminary park designs, which both the Town Council and neighbors reviewed. The town Recreation Committee cleared a canoe launch and path, while the Durham Public Works Department created a gravel parking lot and built a platform overlooking the canal. An Eagle Scout created a plaque describing the site's significance, and the LRAC paid for fencing, which the town installed. In addition, a number of federal, state, and local partners are working to develop fish passage around the dam.

Once completed, the site will offer students a lovely setting in which to learn about New England history and the role rivers played in it. Picnickers, canoeists, and other visitors also will have access to this piece of river history.

**Lamprey River**  
23.5 miles flowing from Epping  
to Newmarket, New Hampshire  
Designated in 1996

## Teamwork approach benefits rivers in Partnership Program

Partnership continued from page 1

Partnership Rivers belong to the latter group, and while they are familiar to us and deliver many benefits, they also face the mounting pressures of population growth and the resulting development that follows. These are the challenges that non-profits, individuals, and agencies at all levels band together to address through the Partnership Rivers program.

The issues described in this newsletter are myriad: wastewater discharges and non-point source pollution, increased recreational demands, historic preservation and park development, threatened and endangered species protection and streambank restoration. In each case, management partners gathered around the issues and worked together toward solutions. While tackling these issues, folks have patience, hard work, and many square feet of collaboration resulted in better solutions and healthier rivers than any one organization could have provided.

For more information on Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, please see our website at [www.nh.gov/pwsvr](http://www.nh.gov/pwsvr).

Charlie Stockman  
Program Manager

# Local partners protect 271 acres along the Great Egg Harbor River corridor

A quick response and cooperation among Wild and Scenic partners managing the Great Egg Harbor River have protected 271 acres within and adjacent to the federally designated river corridor and its designated tributary, Miry Run. The property includes significant wetlands and other important habitats along the river.

“This property is significant to our efforts to protect the Great Egg Harbor River,” said Dennis Levinson, the Atlantic County Executive. “Under existing zoning, as many as 25 homes could have been built on the property’s upland area. Instead, it will now be protected and preserved to enhance the quality of life of our residents and visitors, as well as future generations.”

In early 2001, a group of local residents formed to oppose a proposal from the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League, which wanted to create a 1,000-acre All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) facility for this undeveloped area.

Concerned about potential negative impacts on the federally designated river corridor, the residents contacted the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association and the Great Egg Harbor River Council

for assistance. Egg Harbor Township was involved also through its seat on the Council as a Partner Municipality in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

The residents’ primary concerns included noise, air quality, water quality, property damage, and off-site traffic impacts. Atlantic County, which owns considerable public recreational land adjacent to the proposed ATV facility, including a golf course, was concerned about public liability issues. Egg Harbor Township indicated that it did not want additional residential development in this area.

The Great Egg Harbor River Administrator undertook a characterization and assessment of the outstanding natural resource values at the proposed site and determined that the lands involved included significant wetlands, fragile Pinelands sandy soils, and threatened and endangered species.

Atlantic County decided to acquire as much of the critical watershed lands involved as possible for permanent protection, and announced acquisition of the 271-acre Polakoff property in June 2004. The county funded the \$301,500 purchase with state Green Acres grants and money

**Great Egg Harbor River**  
129 miles flowing from Winslow Township to Upper Township, New Jersey  
**Designated in 1992**

from the Atlantic County Open Space Trust Fund, which it had previously established for open space acquisition.

“Under existing zoning, as many as 25 homes could have been built on the property’s upland area. Instead, it will now be protected and preserved to enhance the quality of life of our residents and visitors, as well as future generations.”

—Dennis Levinson,  
Atlantic County Executive



The 271-acre Polakoff property, outlined in red, was protected in June 2004.

# Assabet River partners battle against low water quality standards on historic river

The scenic, historic Assabet River was a favorite of Hawthorne and Thoreau. Unfortunately, however, this Massachusetts Wild and Scenic River now fails to meet state water quality standards. Excess nutrients entering this slow-moving river from four municipal wastewater facilities cause severe eutrophication, and in the summer, a thick mat of green plants and algae blankets sections of the river, impairing recreation-

al use and making it difficult for fish to breathe.

The Organization for the Assabet River (OAR), a non-profit, has been working with regulatory agencies and municipalities for years to improve the river's water quality through science-based advocacy. Since the river earned Wild & Scenic designation, OAR has found a new ally in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic

River Stewardship Council (RSC), the organization created to help manage the river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. The RSC has provided critical funding and support for OAR's work on the problem of eutrophication, and has also weighed in publicly in support of the river. This work is beginning to pay off.

The permits that govern operation of the waste-

water treatment plants are jointly issued by the state and federal environmental agencies every five years and must enable the river to meet water quality standards. A three-year study of the Assabet River found that if no other actions were taken to improve the river, phosphorus limits for the wastewater treatment plants might need to be as low as 0.024 milligrams per liter (mg/L) to achieve water quality standards (phosphorus discharge limits are currently 0.75 mg/L for each of the four facilities).

Due to the high cost to municipalities of meeting very low phosphorus limits, the agencies settled on a phased-in approach, starting with a somewhat higher phosphorus limit of 0.1 mg/L. Compliance with this new limit is expected to result in substantial improvement to the river, although this action alone won't allow the Assabet to meet water quality standards.

The agencies also directed the municipalities to study the feasibility of sediment remediation and dam removal to identify possible alternatives for removing phosphorus from the river. If no feasible alternative is identified, the communities should expect to be required to meet lower permit limits in five years.

**Sudbury, Assabet, Concord Rivers  
29 miles flowing from Framingham to Billerica, Massachusetts Designated in 1999**

However, if study recommendations can be implemented, the communities may be able to save money on future wastewater treatment plant upgrades, and stream improvements could help restore the river to health. The study began in January 2005, supported by \$500,000 in state funding secured last fall by OAR and the municipalities with sewer systems.

Wild and Scenic designation has created greater opportunities for protecting the Assabet river by fostering cooperation and complementary efforts of key organizations and communities. The RSC and the National Park Service have joined OAR in advocating to protect the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was nominated into the National Rivers System. Today, the Assabet's future looks brighter than it has in years.



The beautiful and historic Assabet River in fall (above) and during the heat of summer (right), when excess nutrients from wastewater treatment plants fuel an explosion of algae and plants.





The recently protected Maurice River Bluffs—variously threatened by excavation, development, and transportation projects.

## Maurice River Land trust protects 370 acres

Capping off a nearly 15-year conservation effort, The Nature Conservancy in January 2004 purchased 370 acres of riverside land along New Jersey's Wild and Scenic Maurice River. Coupled with a series of other Conservancy land purchases south of this parcel since 2000, the recent purchase will stretch the protected area of the river's west bank to more than three miles. The New Jersey Green Acres Program facilitated the land sale.

Nearly all the recently purchased land along the Maurice is undeveloped upland, known locally as the Maurice River Bluffs. Through conservation ownership, the pristine riparian corridor's future is now secure, but this was not always the case. Gravel and sand excavation, a housing development, a river port, and a bridge crossing have all

been proposed along the bluffs of the Maurice River.

This series of threats to the Maurice River Bluffs was a key reason environmental organizations such as Citizens United To Protect the Maurice River moved to have the river studied for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in the mid-1980s. In fact, local, county, and federal participants identified the Maurice River Bluffs as a critical area for focusing protection efforts in the river's initial comprehensive management plan.

The National Park Service currently manages a cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy and, consistent with the management plan, is participating in a public planning process to explore opportunities for recreation and access to the property and river. The Conservancy will inventory the property first, and the Park Service will be a key partner in that effort. For more information on the Maurice River Bluffs purchase, please contact Bob Allen at the Conservancy, [Rallen@TNC.org](mailto:Rallen@TNC.org), or the Park Service's Paul Kenney at [Paul\\_Kenney@nps.gov](mailto:Paul_Kenney@nps.gov).

Maurice River  
35.4 miles  
flowing from Millville  
to Delaware Bay, New Jersey  
Designated in 1993

## Bridge replacement benefits river species

By Bob Allen, National Park Service

natural stream conditions and covering the side slopes with topsoil and grass. As a result, the DOT revised its plans and created a low-flow channel and filled gaps in the rip-rap with stream gravel and stone that had been displaced during the bridge construction.

They covered the rip-rapped side slopes with topsoil after the gaps were filled, and planted the area with grasses and willow trees. The vegetation on these side slopes has created a safe migratory corridor for the bog turtles, improved overall habitat value of the riparian area, and improved aesthetics. With these changes the Park Service determined that the project would not have an adverse impact on the bog turtles.

This project demonstrated to state transportation engineers and contractors that rip-rap can be covered without compromising the structure of the bridge and without causing significant cost overruns. It also showed that the added aesthetic and habitat value were worth the additional time it took to cover the rip-rap.



# Stream restoration project brings Lower Delaware community together

River restoration projects often bring community organizations together and help them focus on the challenges a river and its ecosystem face. Not only do participants learn about the river, they also develop lasting organizational relationships. One such recent river restoration on the Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic River involved Heaney's Run, a tributary to Tincum Creek, a designated segment of the Lower Delaware.

Heaney's Run is a high quality stream designated as "exceptional value waters" by the State of Pennsylvania. In 1999, however, hurricane Floyd dammed Heaney's Run with two large trees, ripped out the banks for several hundred feet, and deposited tons of rock debris and silt on its blue shale riffle-and-run creek bed. Overbrowsing deer exacerbated damage to the river's banks and, to make matters worse, positive fecal coliform bacteria counts were observed in Heaney's Run's otherwise excellent waters.

The Tincum Creek Watershed Association initiated the Heaney's Run Pollution Control and Streambank Restoration project to identify the source of the coliform pollution, open the natural stream channel, and restore the



Youth groups, local businesses, state agencies, and organizations helped the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Committee, Tincum Creek Watershed Association, and Tincum Township to restore Heaney's Run.

riparian vegetation in the most heavily damaged reach. Participants also took advantage of the great opportunity created by the project for teaching about the river and its environs.

Local help came from a Boy Scout Troop, a high school environmental club, and a plant nursery, as well as the Delaware Canal State Park, the Delaware River Greenway Partnership, Forbes Environmental Consultants, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Committee, and Tincum Township, which all joined forces to restore Heaney's Run. The Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Committee supported the

project with a \$4,000 grant from its Municipal Incentive Grant Program, and Tincum Township matched the grant.

Over two days, teams removed debris from the stream channel, installed bio-logs and coir blankets to stabilize the banks, collected stream samples every 100 yards to test for coliform, and planted trees and shrubs in the riparian zone to stabilize the area and improve habitat.

Working together, the partners achieved multiple objectives. The project identified wildlife as the source of the coliform bacteria. The new plant materials, which survived a cou-

ple of heavy downpours shortly after installation, are thriving after one year and stabilizing the banks. Project partners from Tincum, the state park, and Forbes Environmental created a seminar that teaches the requirements for the Boy Scouts' Soil and Conservation Badge and can be used with other restoration projects.

The project won a State of Pennsylvania Environmental Council award and has spawned three other stream restoration projects in the area, one of which is seeking another Municipal Incentive Grant.

**Lower Delaware River**  
67.3 miles  
flowing from  
Lower Mount  
Bethel,  
Pennsylvania  
and Harmony,  
New Jersey to  
Makefield,  
Pennsylvania  
and Ewing,  
New Jersey  
Designated in  
2000



**Farmington  
(West Branch)**  
14 miles flowing from Hartland to  
Canton, Connecticut  
Designated in 1994

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company installed a cofferdam across the Farmington River to allow digging to replace its pipeline.

## Farmington River

# Pipeline project presents stewardship opportunity

In the spring of 2002, the Farmington River Coordinating Committee (FRCC) reviewed the plans for a Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) pipeline replacement project in the Wild and Scenic section of the Farmington River in Barkhamsted, Conn. The FRCC took its responsibility to provide input on the Army Corps permit a step further, creating a process through which stakeholders could also provide input into the project to improve, rather than degrade the habitat of the river.

TGP replaced a 6-inch pipe that crosses under the river with an 8-inch pipe. The project required placement of cofferdams in the river to allow workers to remove the old pipe and place the new pipe in a 6-foot deep trench. The Farmington River is about 150 feet wide at the pipeline crossing, with water depths usually between 1 and 2 feet. Habitat in the project area was not very good due to past work on the pipeline crossing.

Through the work of the FRCC and the state Department of Environmental Protection Inland Fisheries Division, an advisory group formed to oversee the project and ensure that this necessary but disruptive work would yield environmental and recreational benefits. The group coordinated habitat enhancement of the area—placement of boulders and rocks—and the replacement of access stairs near the pipeline crossing area, which is a popular fishing spot. Volunteers finished the project by replanting with native plants the river bank areas that had been cleared.



Placement of boulders and rocks across the Farmington River, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Inland Fisheries, enhanced trout habitat in the disturbed area, which is also a popular fishing spot.



National  
Park Service  
U.S. Department  
of the Interior

Partnership Rivers News is published by the Partnership Rivers in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Program

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**For more information:**  
[www.nps.gov/pwsr](http://www.nps.gov/pwsr)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage

**EXPERIENCE  
YOUR AMERICA**

# What is a Partnership Wild and Scenic River?

Over the past 20 years, river conservation interests at the local, state, and federal levels have worked collaboratively to use the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in an effective, partnership-based approach to national river conservation and designation. Once dubbed “Private Lands Rivers,” this growing collaborative of rivers has been recognized by the US Congress as a distinct and locally responsive application of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, as they are now referred to, are federally designated components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that share the following:

- No lands are federally owned, and federal ownership and management are not authorized in legislation or recommended in the River Management Plan (see below).
- Administration of the designation and implementation of the Management Plan are accomplished through a broadly participatory “Council” or “Committee” organized on each river specifically for this purpose.
- Land use continues to be governed by local communities and state statutes, as prior to designation.
- On designated rivers the National Park Service is responsible for reviewing federally funded, sponsored or licensed projects to ensure federal consistency in pre-

serving the identified “Outstandingly Remarkable Values” for which the river was designated. This responsibility is coordinated with each river’s council or committee. NPS is also authorized to provide technical and financial assistance to the river organizations.

- The River Management Plan is locally developed and implemented through a broadly participatory process. The plan is locally approved and endorsed by relevant state and federal authorities prior to federal designation. The plan forms the basis of the designation and guides post-designation management.
- The costs and responsibilities associated with managing and protecting river resources are shared among all of the partners—local, state, federal, and non-governmental. Landowner participation and volunteerism are essential elements of the partnership.

Outside of this basic, shared framework, Partnership Rivers vary widely in the details of their administration and management, which are based on their wide-ranging physical, biological, and political characteristics.

As new rivers are designated, the model will evolve and adapt. We hope and believe that the basic tenets outlined above can continue to serve as a guide for existing and future Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers.

—A Message From the Partnership Rivers



## Wild & Scenic Rivers—Partnership Program Contact Information

### Comments?

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#### Farmington River

#### Great Egg Harbor River

#### Lamprey River

#### Delaware Greenway River

#### Maurice River

#### Gudbury Assabet-Concord River

#### Wekiwa River

#### White Clay Creek

### Local Contacts

**Farmington River**  
[www.FarmingtonRiver.org](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.org)

**The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association**  
[www.greategg.org](http://www.greategg.org)

**Lamprey River Advisory Committee**  
[www.lampreyriver.org](http://www.lampreyriver.org)

**Delaware River Greenway Partnership**  
[www.state.nj.us/drbc/wild\\_scenic.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/wild_scenic.htm)

**Citizens United**  
[www.cumauriceriver.org/pages/maurice.html](http://www.cumauriceriver.org/pages/maurice.html)

**River Stewardship Council**  
[www.gudbury-Assabet-Concord.org](http://www.gudbury-Assabet-Concord.org)

**FL-DEP, Wekiwa Springs State Park**  
[www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings](http://www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings)

**White Clay Creek Watershed Association**  
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Helping communities preserve and manage their wild rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

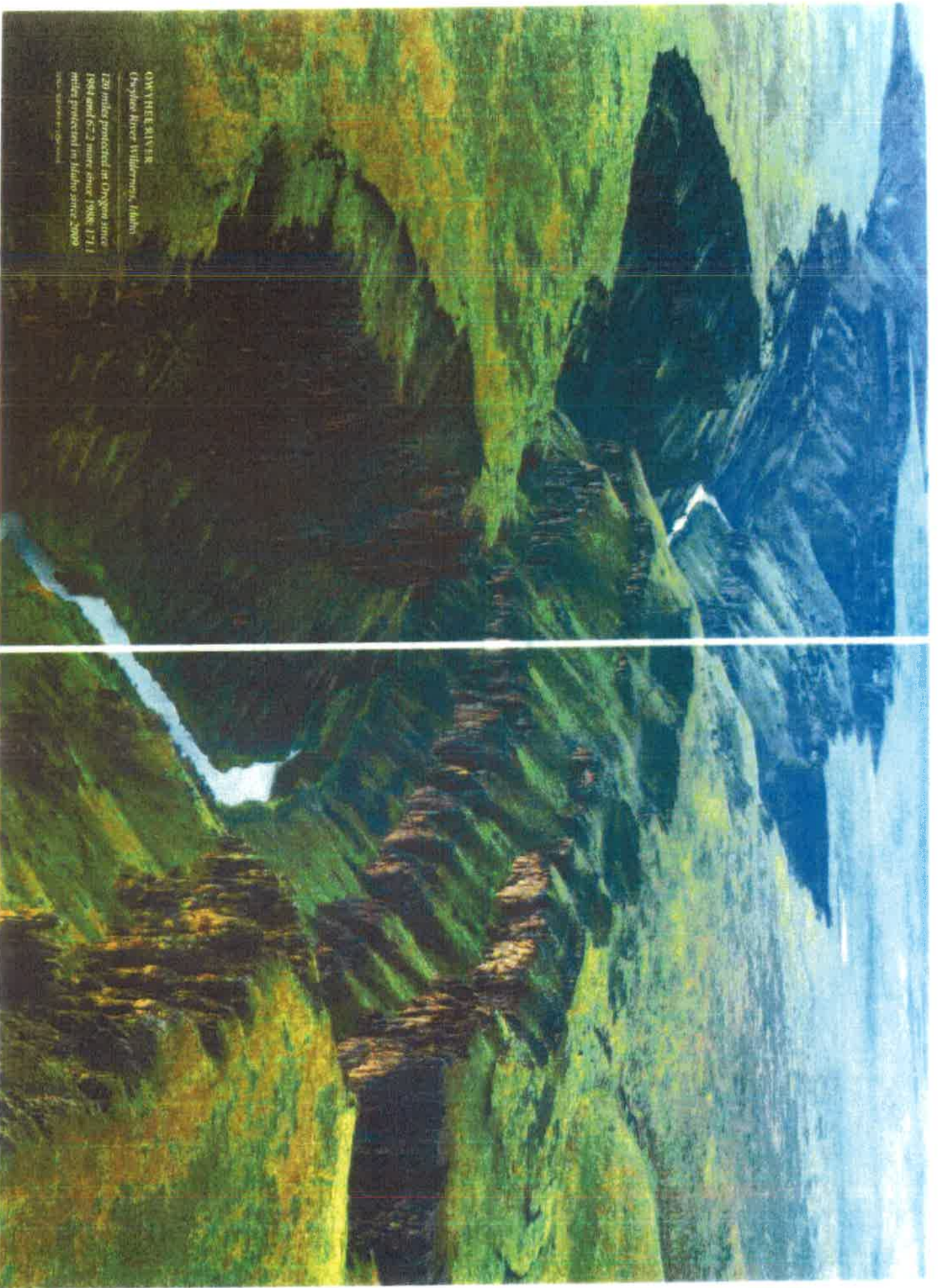


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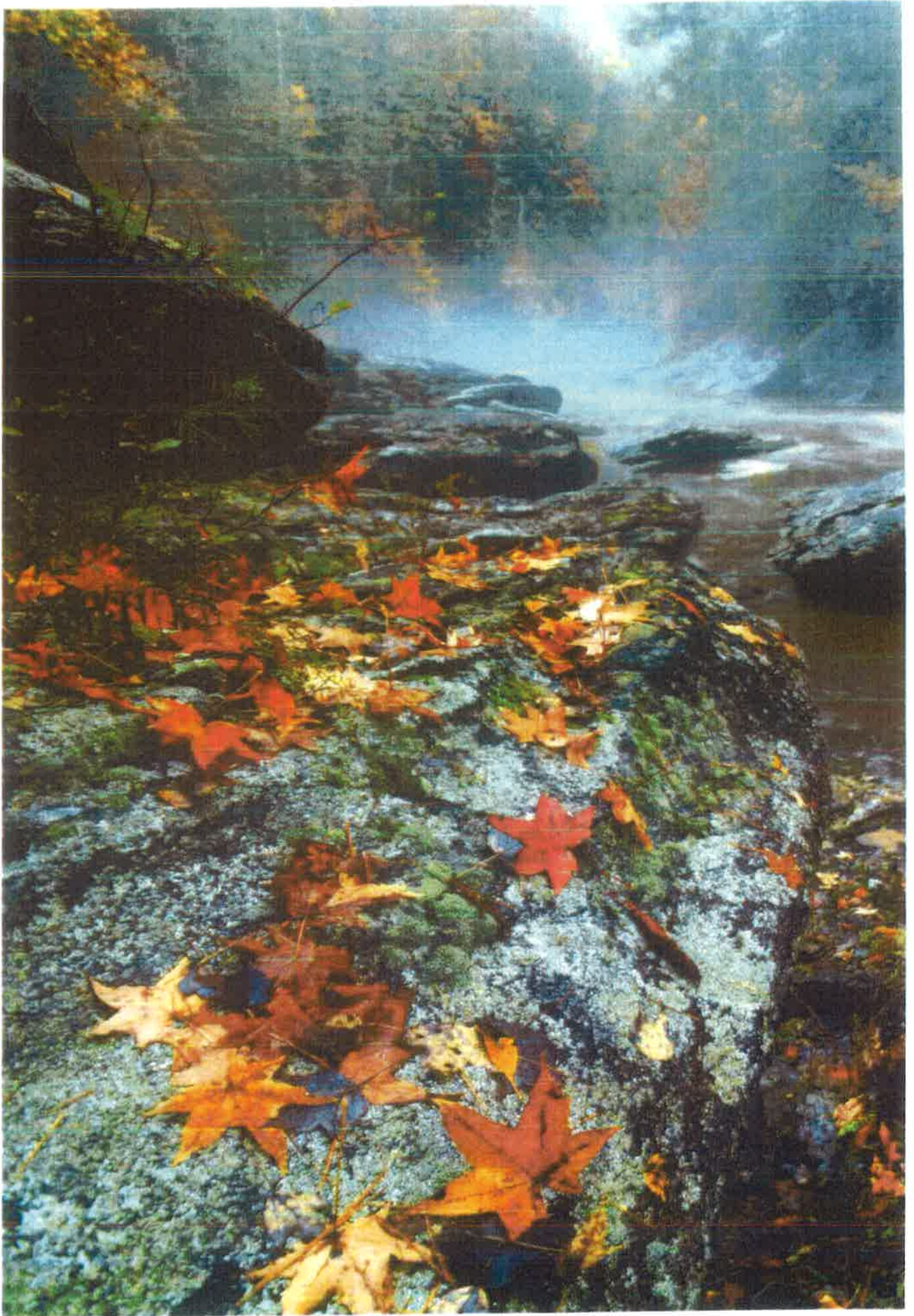
AMERICA'S WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

*More than four decades after it became law,  
a little-known federal act safeguards hundreds  
of primordial waterways.*





**OWYHEE RIVER**  
*Owyhee River, Williams, Idaho*  
120 miles protected in Oregon since 1984 and 67.3 more since 1988. 171.1 miles protected in Idaho since 2009.  
Photo: Steven F. Orland



BY JOEL K. BOURNE, JR.  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL MELFORD

The Middle Fork of the Salmon is not so much a river as an exuberant expression of water at play. It tumbles and turns and trips over itself for a hundred miles through the largest unbroken wilderness in the lower 48, the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness, named for the pristine Salmon River gorge and the Idaho senator who made sure most of its vast watershed would stay that way. No dams temper its flow. No roads line its banks. It dances down its canyon much as it has since the glaciers receded 10,000 years ago—in spring as a raging, tree-felling torrent, in late summer as a spare, crystalline rivulet.

Today it is one of the ultimate white-water experiences in the United States, drawing thousands of visitors each year. But 60 years ago its future—and that of hundreds of other rivers across the country—looked very different. For much of the 20th century, the federal government seemed determined to dam virtually all the major rivers in the country, harnessing their power for electricity, irrigation, navigation, water supply and flood control. The dam barge was particularly acute in the arid West, where even the Grand Canyon was slated for flooding. The Army Corps of Engineers evaluated five prospective dam sites on the Middle Fork alone. The river would have morphed into a chain of man-made lakes if two brothers hadn't helped stem the tide of concrete.

John Craighead, now 95, is legendary in the



Oregon's Rogue River is one of the original eight rivers that were protected from dams in 1968.

field of wildlife biology, famous with his twin brother, the late Frank Craighead, for pioneering studies of grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park and for numerous articles and documentaries published by National Geographic. Their groundbreaking work inspired efforts to save the species from extinction in the lower 48. Yet the proudest achievement of John Craighead's long and storied life, he says, is the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

It took a decade of reports, lectures, and political wrangling, but when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, much of its language came from the Craigheads. The initial act spared eight rivers and narrow buffer zones around them from dams and development. Today the list has grown to more than 200 rivers in 39 states and Puerto Rico.

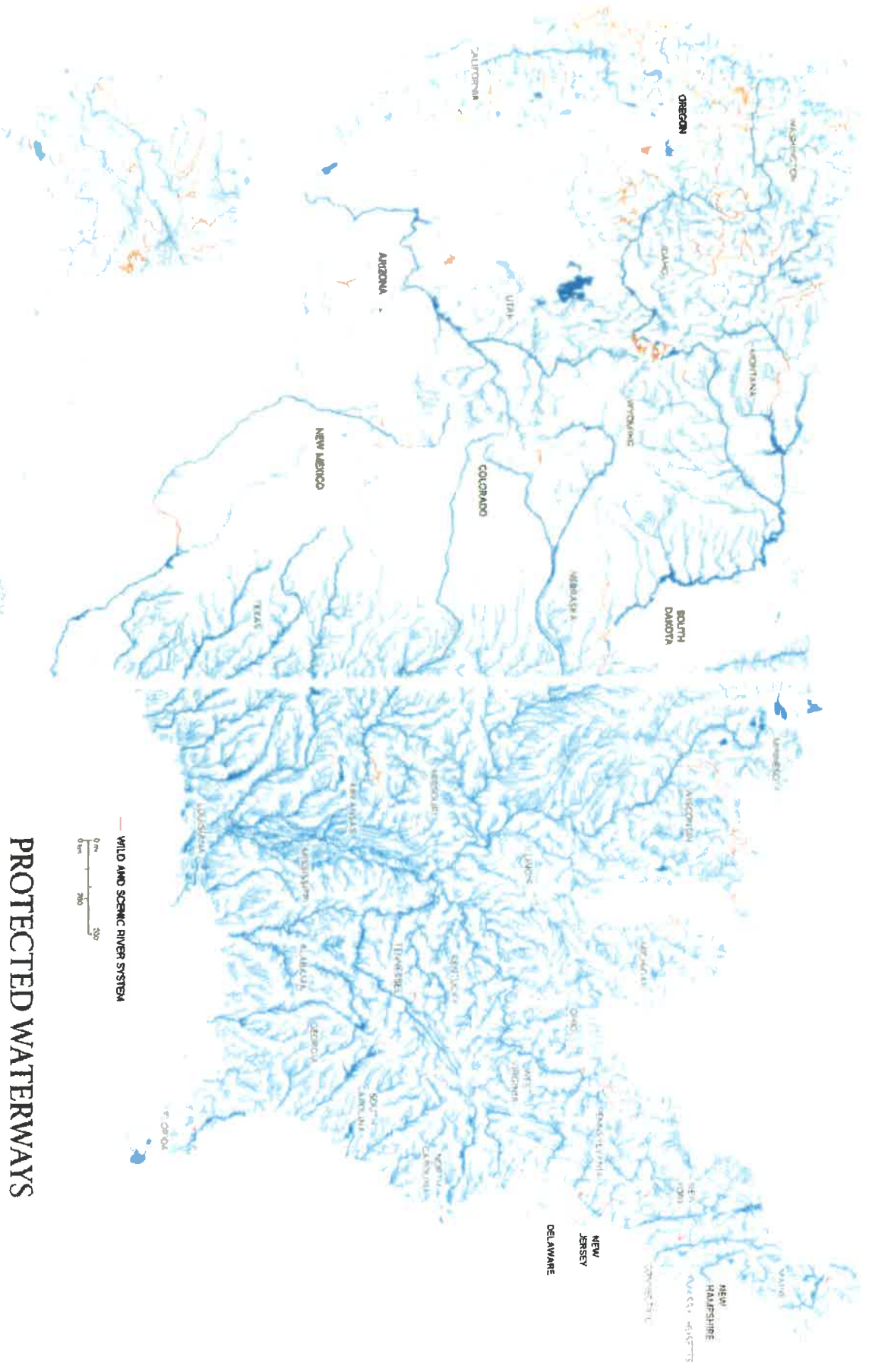
Craighead's memory fades in and out these days, but if you ask him which river inspired him most, his answer is quick and clear: the Middle Fork of the Salmon. My son, Sam, and I were headed there, but we'd stopped to visit Craighead at his Missoula, Montana, home on our way out to paddle that river. Before we left, Craighead gave Sam a dozen spider imitations tied just for the Middle Fork's native cutthroat trout. "You know, you can't buy that fly in a store," he said, as he shook Sam's hand and gave him a knowing smile.

IT TOOK TWO ATTEMPTS before our back-country pilot could penetrate the fog nestled in the deep valleys of the Frank Church, whose endless ridges bearded with whitebark pine keep the modern world at bay. But by midday

our party of 20 was gathered by the roaring river to listen to Diana Yupe, a Shoshone-Bannock archaeologist, tell us about her people. The Sheep Eaters lived in the river corridor for thousands of years before the U.S. Cavalry drove them out. She asked us to respect the old campsites that occupy nearly every river terrace, as well as the many pictographs, including child-size red handprints, that adorn the canyon walls. Then she sent us off with a Shoshone blessing for safe travel on the river and a safe journey through life.

The day was raw and gray, the big, dry yaks inviting. Sam nonetheless picked a pair of Joel K. Bourne, Jr. covered the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in the October 2010 issue. Michael Melford has been shooting for the magazine since 2003.

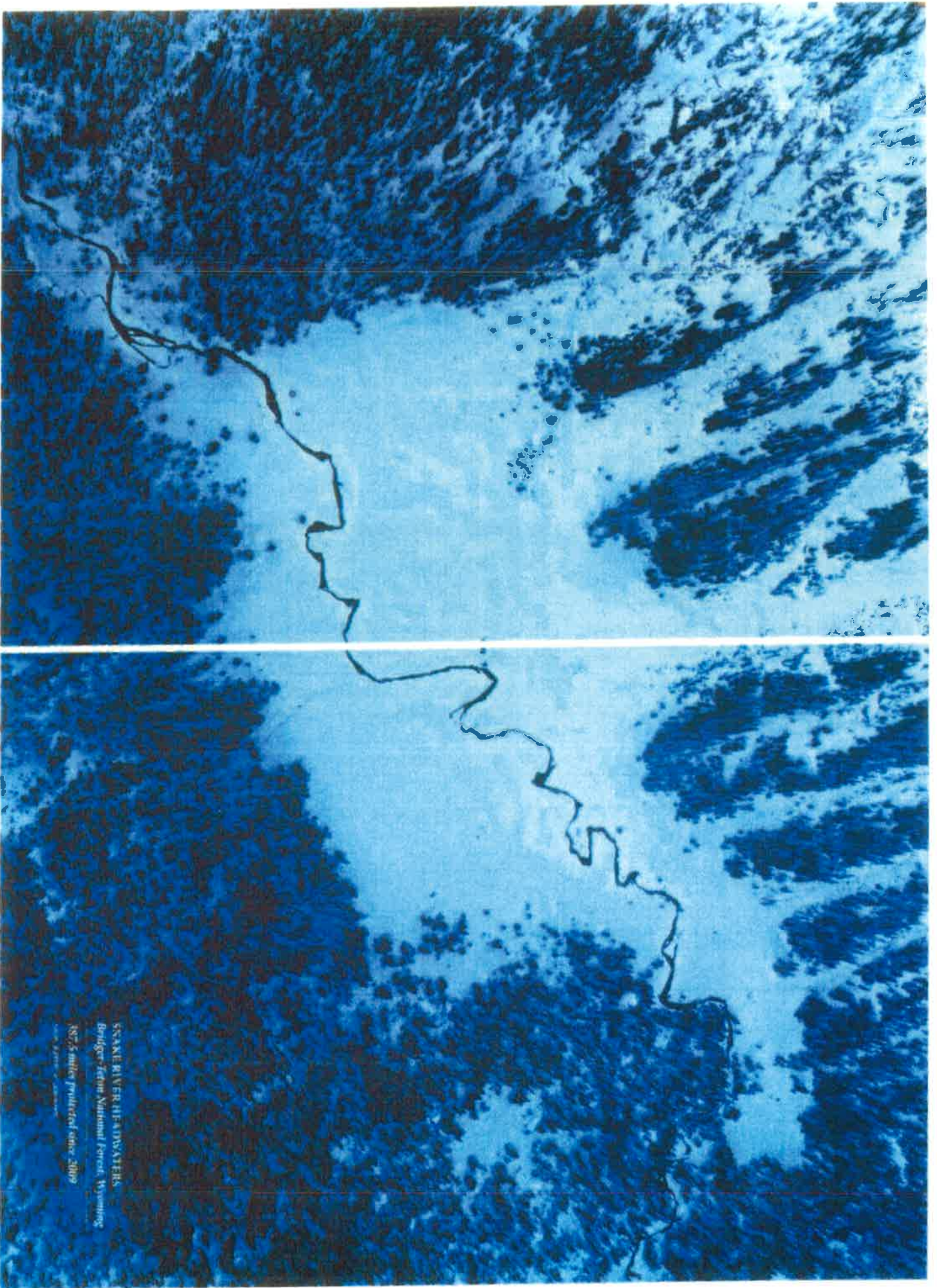




## PROTECTED WATERWAYS

"An unspoiled river is a very rare thing in this nation today," said President Lyndon Johnson as he signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, effectively ending the dambuilding era of the 20th century. About 200 free-flowing rivers (in red) are now protected by the law—a mere 0.35 percent of all U.S. river miles.

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SNAKE RIVER HEADWATERS  
Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming  
887.5 miles protected since 2009  
© 2010 National Geographic Society

inflatable kayaks, because nothing makes you feel more 11 than bouncing down a river in an oversized inner tube. Hed never been in white water before, and he soon discovered that paddling the little kayaks, called duckies, was hard work. We struggled with headwinds, grounded on rocks, and paddled hard to keep up with the rafts. Yet tired as we were, Sam came off the river almost skipping.

That night the Milky Way choked the sky, and we couldn't find the Big Dipper in the twinkling throng. Sam turned in early, so I went down to the water to listen to the river's simple symphony. Something splashed at my feet, and when I flicked on my headlamp, I beheld a tiny fish darting around the shallows: a native chinook salmon, offspring of the big shadows we'd seen lurking in the deeper pools. Chinook fed the Sheep Eaters for millennia. Duce tens of thousands of them came to spawn annually in the Middle Fork; now, eight major dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers have exacted a toll on the fish in their 900-mile journey to the sea—one of the greatest migrations in nature.

A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER designation is no guarantee that a river will remain truly wild. In fact, several of the nation's most cherished waterways have landed on the annual Most Endangered Rivers list produced by the advocacy group American Rivers. They include southern Oregon's Chelco, where gold miners plan to suction-dredge some of the best salmon spawning grounds in the state. Maine's legendary Allagash, the river that taught Henry David Thoreau the meaning of wilderness, has long been mired in controversy over bridges and additional access points in its protected corridor. And former Vice President Walter Mondale, a co-sponsor of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, says of the treasured St. Croix, which runs by his Minnesota summer home: "If this river is ever destroyed, it'll die of nicks and cuts. A bridge here, a power line there. These threats are everywhere," he adds, "and they have to be fought everywhere. Just go to one of the unprotected rivers in the Northeast or South and see how polluted they are."

The stream of my youth, North Carolina's aptly named Tar, is one such river, though my friends and I were too young to know the difference then. We caught bass and bluegills

## IT WAS A LIVING PAGE FROM AMERICAS PAST, WHEN EVERY RIVER WAS CLEAN, POTABLE, AND FULL OF LIFE.



*Moonlight bathes a birchbark canoe on Maine's Allagash Wilderness Waterway, a tranquil spot for paddlers.*

from beneath the rafts of old soda and bleach bottles that floated at each logjam. We shot the ducks that exploded from the quiet bends where discarded washing machines and tires lay. We waded when the water dropped to knee-deep in summer and carried a faint whiff of the sewage treatment plant upstream. Though I caught countless fish from the Tar's waters, I released them to their turbid home. My parents drew the line at eating them.

Such threats seemed many miles and moons from the clear, clean water of central Idaho. The next day the sun rose white-hot above the ridge-line, turning the Middle Fork into an undulating strand of emeralds. A herd of bighorn sheep joined us for breakfast. Bald and golden eagles glared at us from their perches as American dip-pers flitted from rock to rock. The guides filled

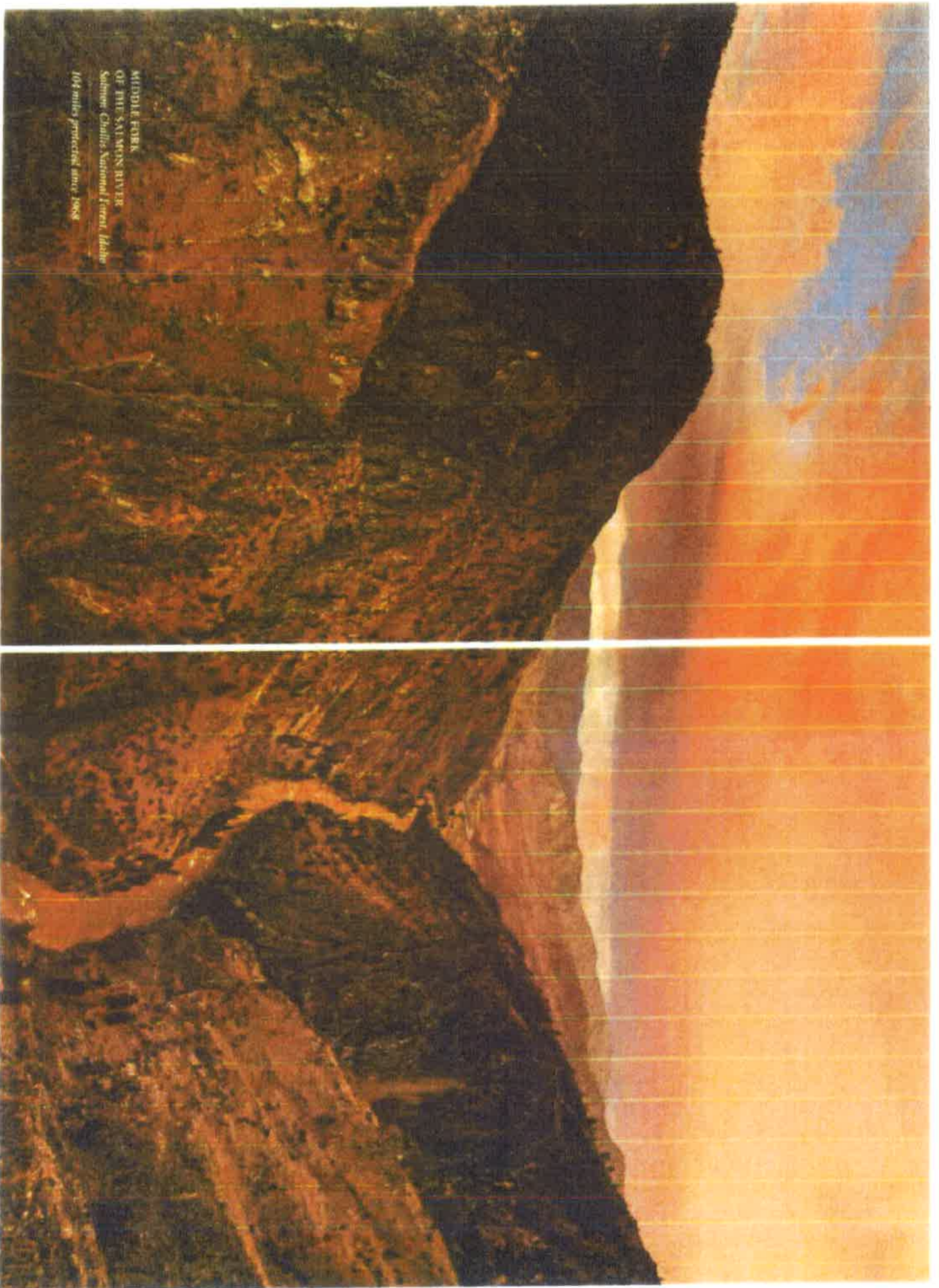
our water jugs from springs we passed while the anglers among us hooked hungry trout on what seemed like every other cast. It was a living page from America's past, when every river was clean, potable, and full of life.

After lunch on a gravel bar I sat in the shade and watched Sam struggle with the fly rod as most beginners do, flailing it like a whip instead of achieving that "art... performed on a four-count rhythm between ten and two o'clock," as Norman Maclean wrote in *A River Runs Through It*. But gradually he checked himself and stopped the rod close to ten. The line uncurled on the water like a prayer, dropping the Craighead spl-der fly into an alluring eddy. He was too pleased with himself to notice the shimmering torpedo emerge from the depths. Only when he tried to back-cast did he find himself hooked into a

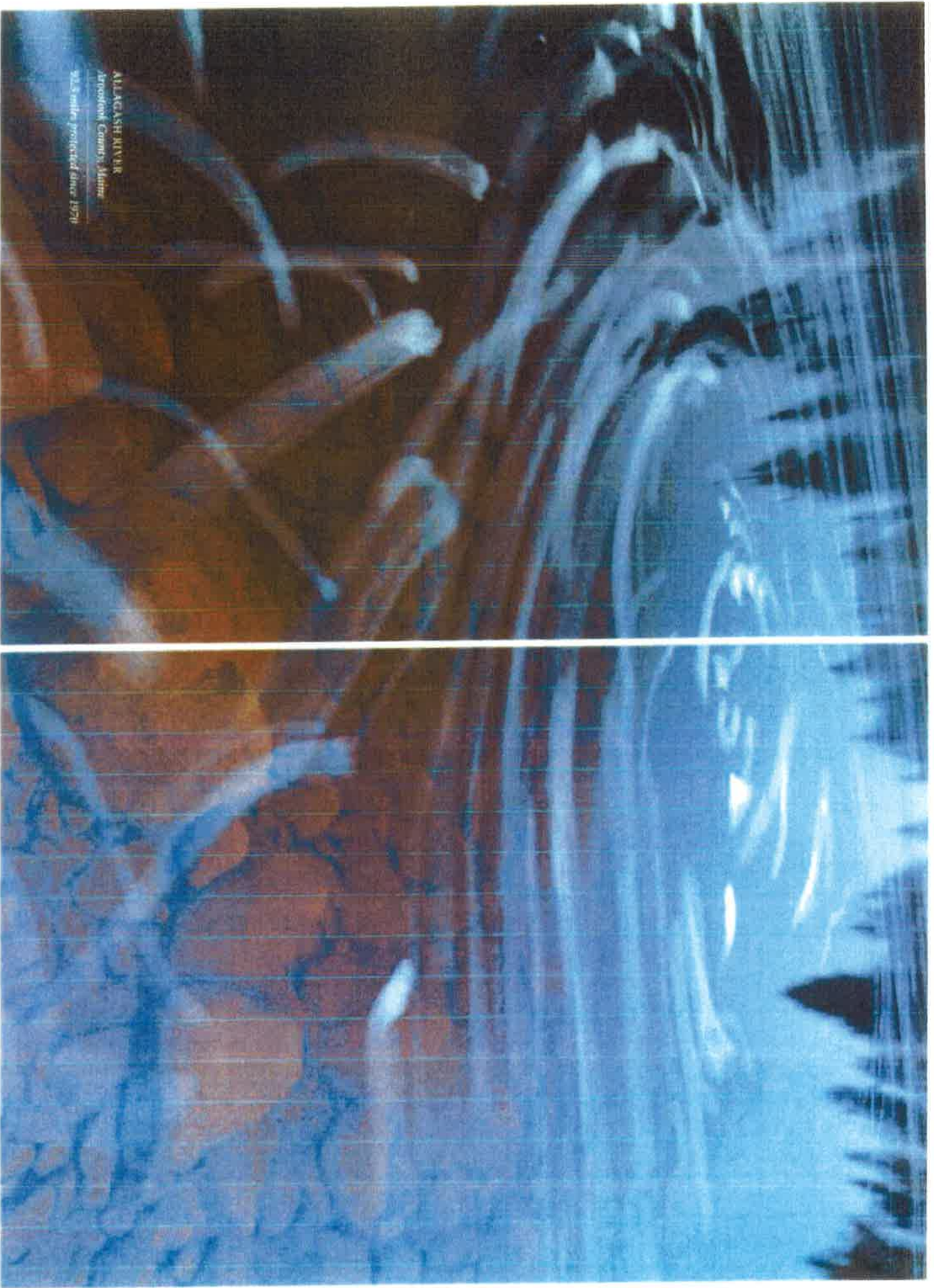
living, breathing dynamo. This was no video game, no virtual walleye of Wii. This was barefoot boy against banhammerweight pieces, and the age-old fight was on. As the two splashed in the cool, green water, whoops rose from the bank. The bronze bomber skittered onto shore, the same westslope cutthroat with its jaunty red sash that so delighted Lewys and Clark.

Sam was beaming, caught deep in Craighead's web. I once asked Craighead why wild rivers were such a crucial issue for him, thinking he would wax philosophical about the need for wild things in an increasingly man-made world. He shrugged. "I just loved rivers," he said.

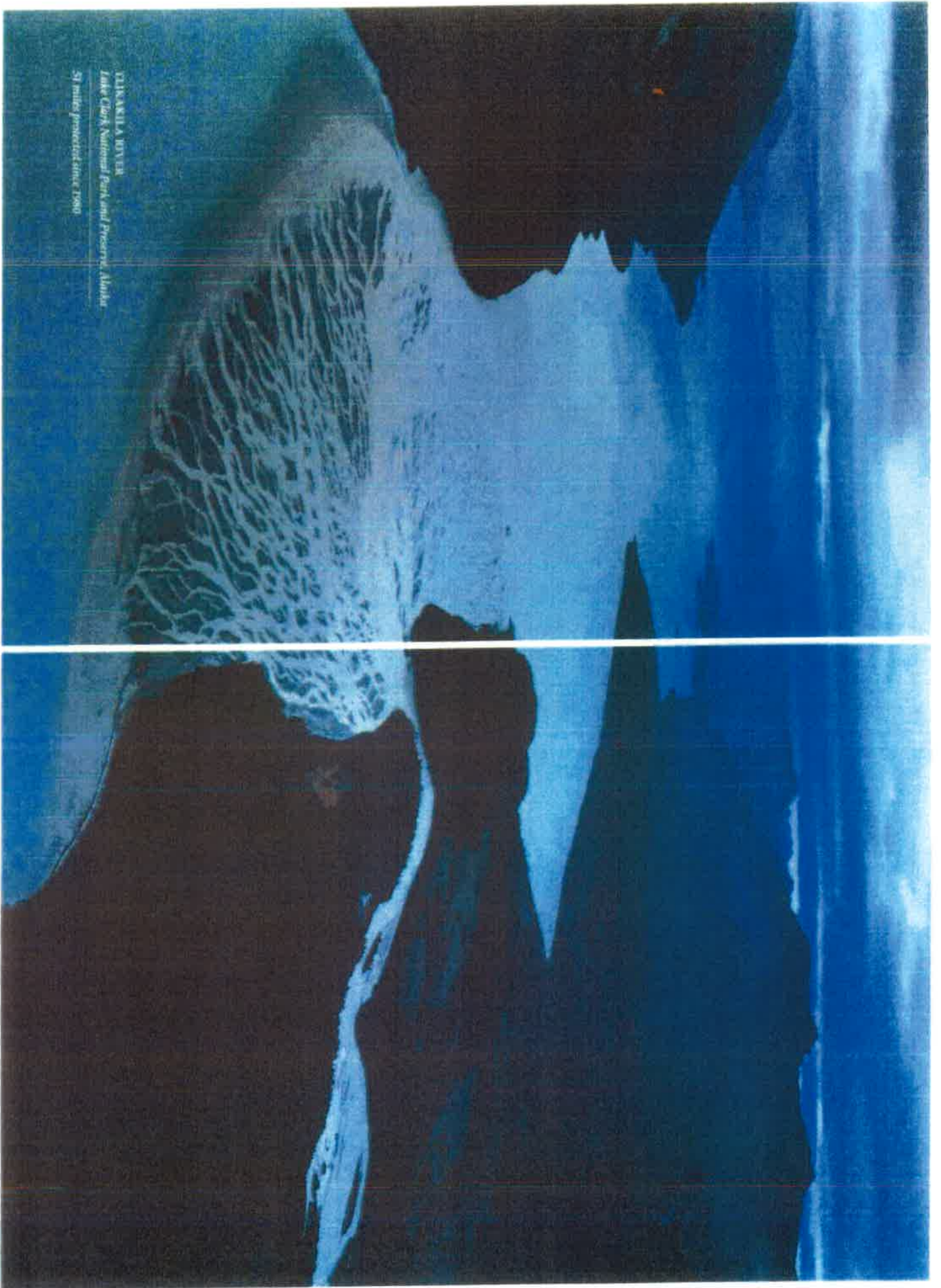
It was enough. Because he and others loved moving, living, untamed waters, we now have some left to cherish. To help us think more like a river, less like a dam. □



MIDDLE FORK  
OF THE SALMON RIVER  
Selkirk-Challis National Forest, Idaho  
104 miles protected since 1968



ALLAGASH RIVER  
Arrofont's Grant's Marina  
was under protection since 1970



KLAVIKLA RIVER  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska  
51 miles protected since 1980



**Federal funding awarded for conserving land along the Lamprey River**

**Federal funding helps preserve 125 acres**

November 17, 2009 2:00 AM

NEWMARKET — U.S. Sens. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., and Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H. recently announced that \$200,000 in federal funding for continued land conservation efforts along the Lamprey River has secured final approval.

These funds will allow the Southeast Land Trust partnering with the Lamprey River Advisory Council to continue their efforts to protect sensitive environmental lands along the Lamprey River and permanently preserve an additional 125 acres in Epping, Newmarket, Durham and Lee. These funds were included in the Conference Report to the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations bill, which was signed into law by President Obama Oct. 30. Funding for this project is included within the Committee allocation set out for Fiscal Year 2010 funding measures.

Gregg authored legislation to designate the Lamprey River as a Wild and Scenic River and has secured more than \$4.7 million for the continued protection of lands surrounding the Lamprey. To date, 1,938 acres have been conserved including 12 miles of frontage along the river.

"The Lamprey River watershed benefits the people and wildlife in the region and its continued protection is a vital part of preserving the spectacular natural character of the Granite State," said Gregg, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Shaheen stated, "The Lamprey River is one of New Hampshire's greatest natural beauties and an important habitat for many species. I am glad that this funding will expand conservation efforts and ensure public access to this natural treasure. This conservation project will help preserve our state's beauty and distinctive character, which will also lend support to our robust outdoor tourism industry."

Brian Hart, executive director of the Southeast Land Trust, said the funding secured by the senators is critical to the vision of a conservation corridor along the Lamprey River, where protected lands support clean drinking water, grow fresh produce, and provide public access to this great river.

The river flows 47 miles from Northwood to the Great Bay.



# What Does it Mean to be a Wild and Scenic River?

## What does it mean to be a Wild and Scenic River?

By the 1960s, it was becoming clear that our national policies and attitudes towards rivers were creating a crisis. Rivers were being dammed, dredged, diked, diverted, and degraded at an alarming rate. To lend balance to our history of physically altering our waterways, Congress created the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In October of 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pronounced:

*"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."*

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act remains the strongest tool to protect river ecosystems in the country. Some of the nation's premier rivers are protected for the benefit of future generations through their Wild and Scenic designations. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System now protects many of the rivers of our history, our literature, and our nation's youth including John Muir's Tuolumne River and his famous, losing battle to stop the flooding of Hetch Hetchy Valley; the Delaware River of the American Revolution; Zane Grey's famous fly-fishing river, the North Umpqua; and the Missouri of Lewis and Clark's journeys.

As you might guess, a large percentage of Wild and Scenic Rivers flow through the Northwest. Oregon has the most rivers designated—48—including the spectacular Klamath River and its incredible abundance of wildlife, which was added to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System following a 15-year battle over the proposed Salt Caves Hydroelectric Project. Alaska has the most miles designated—3,210—including such rivers of the imagination as the Yukon. Idaho has some of our most celebrated wild rivers—the Salmon, Snake, and Selway among others. Our northwest states contribute well over half of the rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. And there exists the potential for other rivers to be designated—the last section of the Columbia River in Washington not lying behind federal and private dams is eligible for designation. (Curiously enough, this reach is eligible because it has lain protected within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the site of Cold War atomic bomb production.)

But not all Wild and Scenic Rivers flow through the wildernesses of Alaska and the Northwest. Incredible fishing awaits anglers on Michigan's AuSable and Pere Marquette Rivers. The beauty of New England is reflected in the waters of Connecticut's Farmington River. The mysteries of the southern swamps call to paddlers in the Saline Bayou of Louisiana. Traces of Appalachia hold our imagination along West Virginia's Bluestone River. Our desire, our need to preserve our Revolutionary history helped lead to our adding Massachusetts' Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet Rivers to the National System. And just recently, the National System was extended beyond the states to include three exotic rivers in the rain forests of Puerto Rico. These designations reflect the diversity of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act includes a built-in flexibility that allows it to meet diverse river conservation needs. Designation as a Wild and Scenic River does not 'lock it up.' The idea behind the National System is not to halt use of a river; instead, the goal is to preserve the character of a river. Uses compatible with the management goals of a particular river are allowed; change is expected to happen. However, development must ensure the river's free flow and protect its "outstandingly remarkable resources." Congress's intent was to create a national system of protected rivers that co-existed with use and appropriate development. But the bottom line is that the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is not something to be feared by landowners. In fact, it is frequently sought after to preserve quality of life and property values.

Wild & Scenic protection explicitly prohibits the federal government from licensing or permitting new hydroelectric dams or major diversions on protected stream segments. The federal government may license new water resource projects upstream or downstream of protected segments as long as the projects do not unreasonably diminish the stream. Public lands within an average quarter mile wide corridor on both sides of the streams are managed to protect their outstanding scenic, recreational, historical/cultural, fish, wildlife, ecological, geological, and hydrological values.

#### **Will Wild & Scenic protection affect private property?**

No, because the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act confers no federal authority over private land use or local zoning of private lands. There is no practical impact on private property, except that federal protection typically increases private property values and contributes to the local economy by attracting tourists and recreational visitors.

## **What does a Wild & Scenic designation mean for the river and its community?**

A Wild & Scenic designation:

- Protects a river's "outstandingly remarkable" values and free-flowing character
- Protects existing uses of the river
- Prohibits federally-licensed dams, and any other federally-assisted water resource project if the project would negatively impact the river's outstanding values
- Establishes a quarter-mile protected corridor on both sides of the river
- Requires the creation of a cooperative river management plan that addresses resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, etc.

### **The three types of Wild & Scenic Rivers**

- "Wild" rivers -- vestiges of primitive America
- "Scenic" rivers -- free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads
- "Recreational" rivers -- readily accessible by road or railroad, may have some development along their shorelines, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.