

# PACIFIC RIVERS FREE FLOW

<i>Volume</i>	02	<i>No.</i>	02
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# FALL - THE SEASON OF CHANGE

*Greg Haller - Executive Director*

For many people, fall is a favorite time of year. It is a period of reflection and a period of preparation for the winter and the year ahead. Warm afternoons, reminders of the fading summer, cooler evenings and the first hints of winter, propel a state of change for all living things. At Pacific Rivers, we're celebrating our signature achievement - the 30th anniversary of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988, which protected nearly 1,500 river miles on 40 iconic Oregon rivers, and preparing to implement bold strategies to protect our vital river networks across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Northern California. Change is in the air, but our conservation mission remains the same and we will work overtime to implement it.

My name is Greg Haller, and until recently I was the Conservation Director at Pacific Rivers. I spearheaded our efforts to reform outdated forest practices on Oregon's private forestlands and positioned our organization to address the impacts posed by the operation of dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. I've spent my career working to protect rivers and their watersheds throughout the Northwest. And now I'm the Executive Director. I'm thrilled to lead Pacific Rivers at this pivotal time.

We've been busy in 2018, and the year isn't over yet. We're finalizing reports on the the role National Forests in Oregon and Washington play in providing clean drinking water to millions of people in downstream communities. We worked with Columbia Basin tribes to ensure the U.S. State Department modernizes the Columbia River Treaty with Canada by giving the needs of salmon and the Columbia's aquatic ecosystem equal representation with the treaty's other purposes ( flood risk management and hydroelectric power production). Working with Dr. Charley Dewberry and students from the Phoenix Charter School of Roseburg, we continued our multi-year snorkel surveys of Canton Creek to document the abundance and distribution of steelhead and Coho salmon, laying

the groundwork for future habitat restoration projects. We continued our efforts to pass the Frank and Jeanne Moore Steelhead Sanctuary legislation. We hit the road to show our film, *A River's Last Chance*, to thousands of people in California. And we supported efforts to designate thousands of miles of rivers under the Wild and Scenic by producing *Run Wild, Run Free*, a film about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the courageous river heroes who fought to protect America's remaining undammed rivers. But it's what comes next that I'm most excited to share with you.

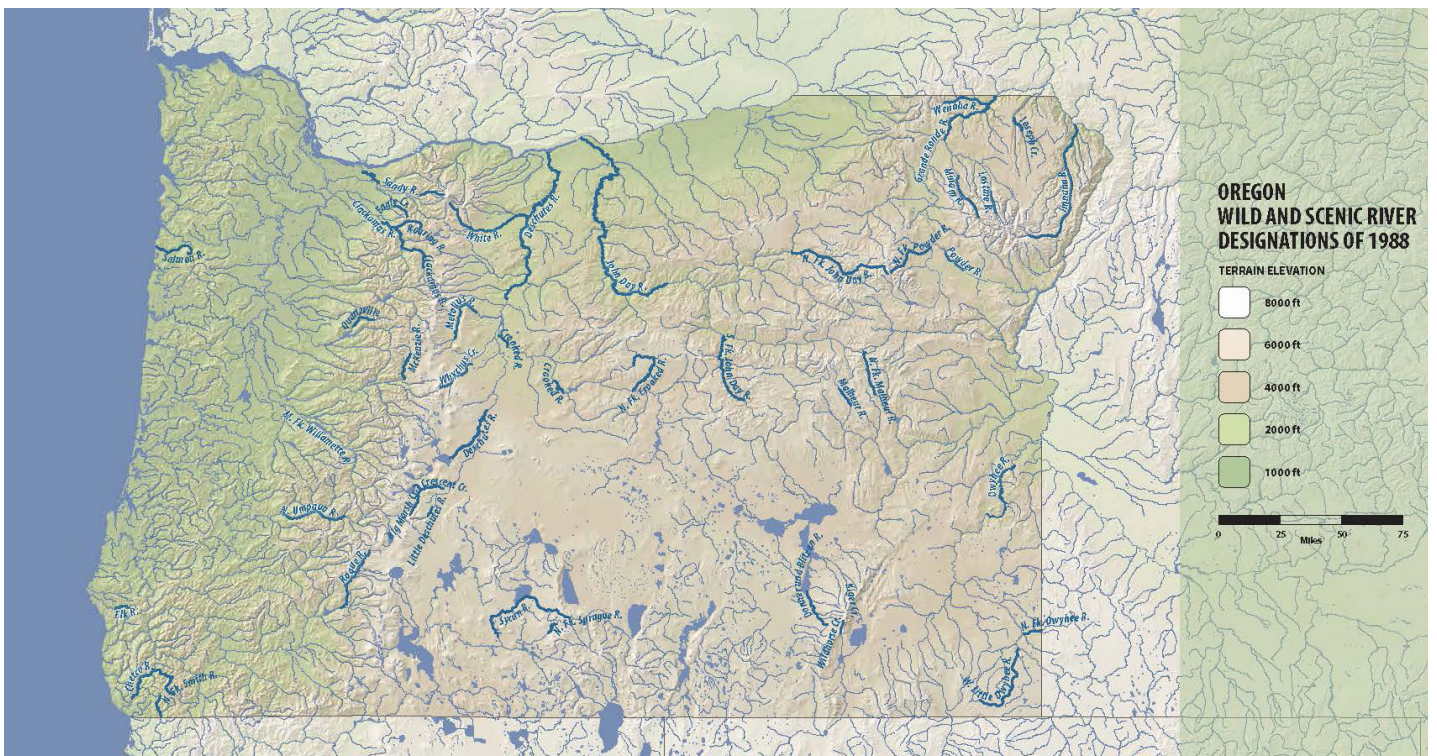
In 2019, we expect our legislative champions in the Oregon State Legislature to introduce two bills that we crafted with our friends at Center for Sustainable Economy that would protect drinking water from industrial forest practices and incentivize carbon-smart forestry. We will redouble our efforts to honor Frank and Jeanne Moore by passing legislation that would permanently protect Steamboat Creek in their honor. We will continue our snorkel survey project of wild steelhead and Coho in Canton Creek and expand the program into Steamboat Creek. We will investigate a proposed dam on Washington's Chehalis Rivers and offer alternative solutions to managing flood risk. We will continue our efforts to designate rivers in Montana, Oregon, and Washington under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We will also fight for wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake rivers through dam removal and better hydropower operations at private and federal dams.

So as the leaves turn color and fall to the ground, we can look back on 2018 with a measure of pride in our accomplishments. But as the weather turns cooler and the rain and snow begins to fall, we are laser-focused on implementing existing and new strategies for achieving our conservation goals in 2019. We couldn't do this without you - thank you for your ongoing support!





In 1988 the State of Oregon became the Wild and Scenic River Capital of the World: Upper Right: PR co-founder and current board member Rick George. Upper left PR co-founder Bob Dopplet. Lower left Senator Mark Hatfield made this vision a reality and bridged bi-partisan support: Lower Right Grass Roots organizers are the spirit behind any Wild and Scenic designation.



The Oregon Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill protected 40 years of Oregon treasures on October 28th 1988.



# RUN WILD RUN FREE

*Shane Anderson - Storytelling/Communications Director*

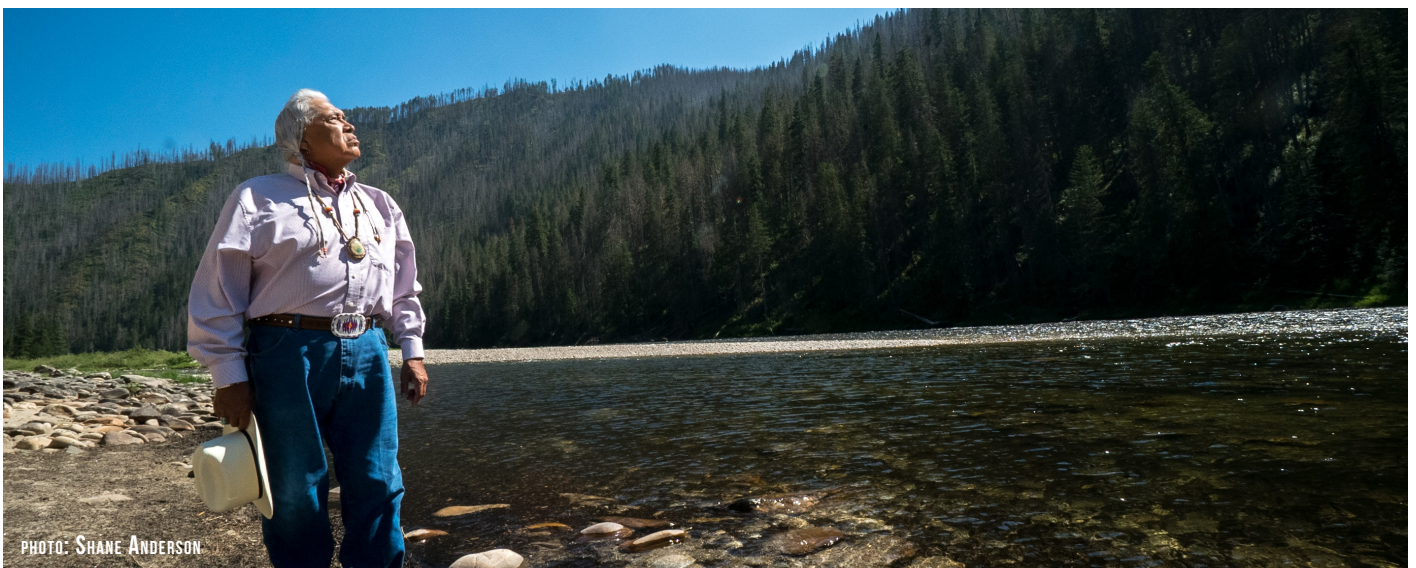
## THE MAKING OF RUN WILD RUN FREE

The original plan was to produce a video celebrating the 30th anniversary of The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988. One of Pacific Rivers most legendary accomplishments that made the state of Oregon the Wild and Scenic Rivers capital of the world. It just so happened that the 30th anniversary coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. So we devised a plan for a 10-15 film showcasing the past, present, and future but soon realized that this was a much bigger story. Thanks to Pacific Rivers supporters like you and a host of generous partners and sponsors, we were able to produce a 45 minute film in three months. On October 2nd, we launched the film online for a week and over 18,000 people watched it.

The filming adventure started in my backyard of the Olympic Peninsula where the rivers have yet to be designated Wild and Scenic even though some of them such as the Queets were included in the original list of eligible rivers in the 1960's. My friend and fellow photographer Jason Hartwick made the trek up from California to help me shoot. We drove around the Peninsula visiting several of the proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers such as; the Skokomish, Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, Dosewallips, Dunngeness, Elwha, Sol

Duc, Hoh, Queets, and the Quinault. There have been campaigns to designate these rivers for over 30 years as well as dam proposals along on the Dosewallips and Duckabush Rivers. Currently, the Wild Olympics campaign has been gaining traction and getting closer to designation. There is ample support in the state but unfortunately, national politics and an out of state Senator has gotten in the way. Hopefully, next year, the bill will be re-introduced and move forward.

We then traveled to the Wild and Scenic section of the lower Rogue River in southern Oregon. The trip was donated by OARS and we joined with partners from American Rivers, Rogue Riverkeeper, Native Fish Society, River Network and the Hispanic Access Foundation to discuss the Oregon Wild Lands campaign that would protect important tributaries to the lower Rogue. We floated by and documented several of these key tributaries, such as; Kelsey Creek, that provides the Rogue cold clean water year round. These vital streams have been threatened by the logging of old growth in the headwaters. The Oregon Wildlands campaign will also protect the North Coast's Nestucca River and the Molalla an hour east of Portland. The Oregon Wildlands Campaign just passed the Senate and we are all hoping for bipartisan support in the House.



Nez Perce Tribal Elder Silas Whitman showing us around the Selway River in Idaho.





PHOTO: JASON HARTWICK

The Dungeness River Flowing off the east flank of the Olympic Mountains in Washington is one of 19 rivers proposed for Wild and Scenic designation under the Wild Olympics Bill.

In July, I headed to Eastern Oregon to visit Pacific Rivers co-founder and current board member Rick George, who helped draft and put forth the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Rick told me it was one of his most memorable jobs as he traveled the state visiting all of the eligible and meeting local people in each of the communities. As Rick states in the film, “You need to not go into a cocoon and do your river protection work from your house, you need to open your door and go to your neighbors and talk to them about what their needs and values are.” [Click this link to learn from Rick George how you can designate a Wild and Scenic River.](#)

I continued east to Idaho and up into the Clearwater basin which was one of the original eight charter rivers designated under Wild and Scenic on Oct. 2, 1968. We met up with Nez Perce elders and legends Silas Whitman and Allen Pinkham Sr to hear their stories and perspectives about the rivers that run through Nez Perce Culture.

Kayaker Haley Stuart also met us in Lowell, Idaho at the convergence of the Lochsa and Selway rivers. It was a beautiful day and we headed straight to Selway Falls, which was once threatened by a proposed dam. Looking down at the gnarly class 5 section, Hayley casually said,

“Yeah, I’ll run it”, as Greg and I looked at each other with surprise. We spent several hours filming at the falls while Hayley did laps. We were all blown away by the beauty of the place and grateful for the foresight of those that came before us to protect not just the Selway but all of rivers. It was clear that we all have a responsibility to uphold the legacy of Wild and Scenic. Currently, there are 89 streams within the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests that are at risk of being stripped of protection by local Forest Service officials through a process called, “suitability”. These streams are what make up the Selway, Lochsa, and Clearwater systems. However, lifted protections could open the door for more logging and mining. Pacific Rivers will be actively defending these streams in 2019.

Next stop was to Montana. I had been searching for historical photos and context of the origins of Wild and Scenic for months but continued to come up short. All I knew was that twin brothers John and Frank Craighead, had the original vision for a river classification system and coined the term “Wild River”. I had tracked down John Craighead’s son Johnny and he informed me that he had what I was looking for but I would have to come out to Missoula to get it.





Shane Anderson filming Hayley Stuart for “Run Wild Run Free”.

When I arrived, Johnny had kindly already transferred some of the film footage to disks. I felt I had hit the jackpot with archival content. As a filmmaker, I live for bringing back to life these important pieces of history. I spent an entire day going through hundreds of slides of the Craigheads adventures exploring the wild rivers of the west before dams. They also kept extensive journals of their travels that were entertaining to read. This really gave me a better perspective on the genesis of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

I left Missoula and drove north to Glacier National Park and the Flathead system where dam proposals on the North and Middle forks are the reason we have Wild and Scenic today. Visiting those former dam sites, I was once again thankful for those that had the vision to protect these national treasures.

Eight years ago Pacific Rivers, along with American Rivers, started a new Wild and Scenic Rivers Campaign in Montana called “Montanans for Healthy Rivers” that would protect over 700 miles of important headwaters streams to the Flathead, Clark Fork, Yellowstone, and Missouri watersheds.

American Whitewater, The Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers have all joined forces on this campaign and hopefully, if Senator Tester is re-elected, we can have him introduce legislation in 2019. We all remain optimistic especially after the bipartisan designation of East Rosebud creek this past year.

From August into October, I was in edit mode working around the clock to put this story together. I am a firm believer in learning from the past and my big takeaway from this story was the importance of grassroots activism. Each and everyone one of us truly has the power to make a difference and campaign to protect the rivers we love. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was born through a bipartisan vision and this will be an important component moving forward. Pacific Rives will continue to build on the Wild and Scenic legacy in the years to come. Donate to Pacific Rivers today and receive a code to watch our film “Run Wild, Run Free”.

[Click here to watch the trailer](#)





Frank and John Craighead the visionaries behind the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



A dam proposal on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River in Montana got the attention of the Craighead brothers and inspired a river classification system that inspired the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



The Craigheads also floated the Snake River through Hell's Canyon in 1955 warning the world of plans to dam the second deepest canyon in America.



# A RIVER'S LAST CHANCE

*Shane Anderson - Storytelling/Communications Director*

A River's Last Chance has been on the road for 13 months, with 40 grassroots public shows and 16 film festivals. The film won "Best Feature Film" at the Colorado Environmental Film Festival, "Best Environmental Film" at the Yosemite Film Festival, "Best Movie Poster" at the Gig Harbor Film Festival, "Spirit of Jefferson" award at the Flix Fest and won the Impact Doc Awards. The film was shown as far east as Berlin and Toronto with an extensive tour throughout the Pacific Northwest and California.

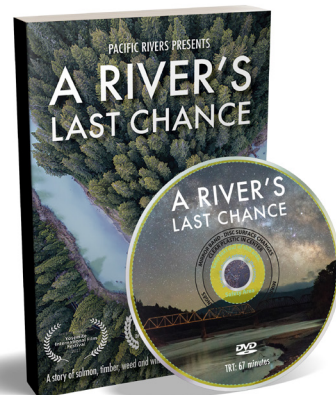
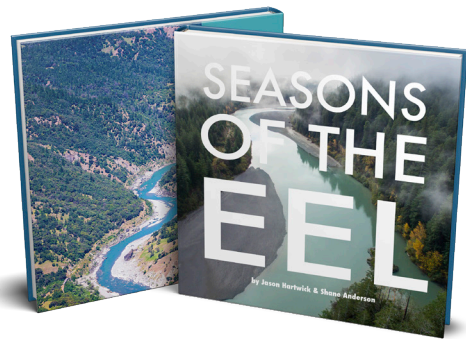
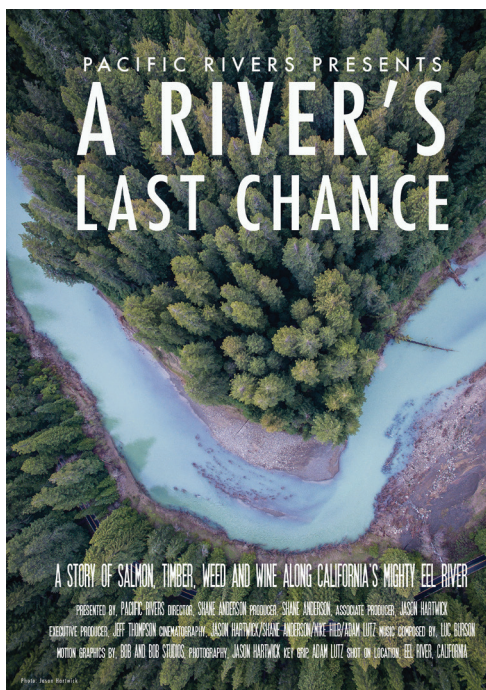
My personal milestone, was that the film got picked up to air in four California PBS markets including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sonoma, and the North Coast. The film will also air on Southern Oregon Public Broadcasting this December.

The film has continued to bring the Eel River watershed together and is being used in the curriculum at schools

across the basin. I have heard from farmers, loggers, fisherman and cannabis growers who have all been inspired by the film. There is momentum to continue to look for sustainable solutions to commerce that protect the mighty Eel.

In addition, important habitat restoration projects continue and a bill has been introduced to turn the abandoned railroad into 50 miles of trail in the Eel River canyon. Sustainable cannabis farming has also been catching on with legalization.

The big news has been with the Potter Valley Project. The two dams and diversions owned by Pacific Gas & Electric recently started a 5-year relicensing process but early this summer the utility stated they were going to auction off the project. Many questions remain about the future of the dams and diversion and what it means for fish passage. So stay tuned!





# 2019 Conservation Agenda

*Greg Haller - Executive Director*

## INDUSTRIAL LOGGING IN OREGON

As many of you are aware, the laws governing forest practices on Oregon's nearly 8 million acres of private forestlands are far weaker than those of our neighbors in Washington, California, and Idaho. Our streamside buffers, where they exist (headwater streams without fish are not required to have any buffer) are inadequate for keeping streams cool or for supplying crucial large dead trees which form fish habitat and control high water flows. Oregon also allows clearcutting on very steep and unstable slopes, resulting in massive pulses of sediment entering our stream systems during heavy rainfall. And Oregon continues to allow the aerial spray of harmful chemicals within drinking water source areas.

Over half of the private lands in Oregon are owned by multinational corporations, seeking profit with little regard for the mess left behind. Meanwhile, our fish, wildlife and drinking water continue to be impacted. In 2017, we crafted a bill that would overhaul the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which was the first time that comprehensive reform of Oregon's outdated forest practices has been proposed. And while the bill didn't pass, we found new allies in the legislature and beyond and we kept the conversation about Oregon's weak forest practices going. Since then, we've been laying the groundwork for building a diverse coalition that would focus on developing policy proposals to protect drinking water and incentivize carbon-smart forestry. What many people are unaware of is that Oregon's timber industry is the leading emitter of greenhouse gases in the state. Worse, the clearcuts that dot the landscape are carbon dead zones, continuing to emit greenhouse gasses for years to come. It doesn't have to be this way. In fact, Oregon is uniquely positioned to become part of a global solution for addressing the impacts of climate change. Douglas Fir forests in western Oregon can store more carbon more than any other forest type in the world. But we need to grow more big trees to realize the carbon storage potential of these forests. Growing more big trees along streams, including the tiny headwater streams, is a critical strategy for building climate and

fire-resilient forests that will create quality fish and wildlife habitat, protect drinking water and maintain a profitable forest industry.

Millions of Oregonians get their drinking water from streams and rivers flowing through industrial timber plantations and we strongly believe they deserve additional protection. This past summer we saw the effects of climate change with dangerous algae blooms in Detroit Reservoir and other locations. These outbreaks will become more common, which is why we need to secure our water supplies from the impacts of industrial timber management and make them resilient to the effects of climate change.

We are working with our friends at the Center for Sustainable Economy on a multi-pronged approach to reform Oregon's weak forest practices. We are building a diverse coalition to develop policy proposals focused on protecting drinking supplies and incentivizing carbon-smart forest practices. Working with our legislative champions, we crafted two legislative proposals for forest reform. The first would protect the drinking water supplies of millions of Oregonians by limiting forest management activities like clear cutting, and prohibiting the application of herbicides and other toxic chemicals in drinking water source areas. The second proposal would place a tax on the carbon emissions of industrial timber practices in order to fund carbon-smart forestry. We believe taxing carbon emissions and rewarding foresters who use sustainable practices to grow real forests is a much more effective solution to curbing harmful practices than a tax and trade system. Stay tuned for more information about these exciting developments.

## FORESTS TO FAUCETS: THE ROLE OF NATIONAL FORESTS IN PROVIDING CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN OREGON

Millions of people in Oregon and Washington get their drinking water from rivers and streams. How the lands



in these watersheds are managed directly impacts the quality of water coming from our taps and the cost of treatment. Recently, we completed a report about the link between healthy forests and clean drinking water in Oregon and we are finalizing a similar project focused on National Forests in Washington. Produced with our partners at American Rivers, the Oregon report outlines the economic and environmental benefits of well-managed forests, describes the value of current management practices on National Forests in western Oregon, and highlights several communities that rely on National Forests to provide their drinking water. Our goal in producing this report was to provide water providers and their customers a tool for protecting, managing and maintaining the clean water benefits provided by upstream forests during the upcoming revision of the Northwest Forest Plan.

### QUICK FACTS:

- *National Forests provide drinking water to over 66 million people across the United States.*
- *U.S. Forest Service lands occupy 6,720 sq. mi (33%) of Oregon's drinking water source areas.*
- *167 public water systems in Oregon rely on surface water for their drinking water. A majority of those systems are in western Oregon.*
- *2,175,000 people - 77% of the population of western Oregon - get their drinking water from source areas with U.S. Forest Service lands.*

Industrial-scale timber management on private lands poses a direct threat to drinking water supplies, which makes National Forests that much more important for maintaining good quality source water. Fortunately, the headwaters of every major river system on the west side of the Cascades lies primarily on National Forest lands, which are generally well-managed under the Northwest Forest Plan. In the coast range, however, the stream network is threatened by forest management activities on millions of acres of industrial timberlands. Clearcuts, slash piles, soils disturbed by heavy equipment, and thousands of miles of roads are chronic sources of sediment into streams, making it difficult for the many small treatment plants serving rural communities to treat water safely or in a cost-effective manner.

As Pacific Rivers works to reform private forest practices in Oregon, we will continue to highlight the important role that National Forests play in providing clean drinking water to millions of people.

[Read the full drinking water report here](#)

[Click here to watch a short film about Jetty Creek](#)

### COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN PROGRAM

The Columbia River Basin defines the Pacific Northwest. The Columbia, and its largest tributary the Snake, with their iconic salmon and steelhead populations, are the foundation upon which entire cultures, economies, and life itself have been built. It has been that way since time immemorial and it's our obligation is to see that remains that way far into the future. To that end, we are formalizing existing work on mainstem hydropower issues and expanding on it to form a single program with a defined conservation agenda for salmon recovery in the basin. This work will include: the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty, Hells Canyon Complex relicensing; lower Snake dam removal, and participating in state and federal water quality certification processes for dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers.

Collectively, these focus areas aim to increase survival of juvenile and adult salmon by restoring flows, improving water quality and restoring salmon populations to historic habitats in the U.S. and Canada.

Our work on the renewal of the Columbia River Treaty is focused on improving flows for salmon, restoring salmon to currently blocked areas in the U.S and Canada and integrating new governance structures that increase transparency and participation in treaty implementation. We have been working closely with Columbia Basin tribes and a coalition of fishing, conservation and faith-based groups in this effort. Recently, Pacific Rivers drafted a letter to Jill Smail, who leads the U.S. negotiating team for the State Department with a series of recommendations for the negotiating team. 31 one groups signed on to this letter, representing hundreds of thousands of ratepayers in the Northwest.

[Read letter here:](#)





PHOTO: JASON HARTWICK

Jetty Creek watershed supplies the main source of drinking water for Rockaway Beach, Oregon. It is one of many drinking watersheds negatively affected by private industrial logging across Oregon.



PHOTO: SHANE ANDERSON

Hell's Canyon dam is the end of the line for salmon heading up the Snake River. 80% of the Snake's fall chinook salmon habitat was cut off by Hell's Canyon.



# Chehalis: Life of a Threatened River

*Shane Anderson - Storytelling/Communications Director*

I first heard of a proposed dam on Washington's Chehalis river two years ago as plans quietly flew under the public radar. The Chehalis is the second largest watershed in Washington State not including the Columbia. The upper basin where the dam is proposed is a wild salmon and steelhead stronghold with one of the strongest escapements for the wild salmon and steelhead mile for mile in the state despite a legacy of industrial clear-cut logging and habitat degradation. Having this productive wild zone is a rarity in Washington State where the hatchery system dominates production of chinook, coho, and steelhead.

The upper Chehalis is also home to a very depressed spring chinook population as well as summer steelhead that are not recognized by the state despite being seen in snorkel surveys year after year.

There were proposals for a hydro project decades ago but a major flood in 2007 that closed down Interstate 5 for several days and caused catastrophic damage brought a dam proposal back on the table.

Eleven years later the Washington Department of Ecology has begun a year-long Environmental Impact Study. The dam is being touted as a temporary Flood Retention Facility that would only be used in major storms and flood events. But many questions remain. Who in the basin would benefit from this project and who would continue to be flooded out? Would the temporary reservoir be clear-cut logged in a geologically unstable area? What would this mean for the wild salmon and steelhead stronghold? And are there more ecological solutions by restoring habitat in the headwaters and floodplain that could benefit fish, people, and reduce flood risk?

So far this past fall biologists have counted 160 wild fall chinook redds or around 384 fish in a six mile reach above the proposed dam site. This is a bump from the past few seasons. I was personally blown away with the number of wild chinook I saw while filming in the upper basin and it was very evident to me that this stronghold needs protection.

[Click this link to watch a short video about the Chehalis.](#)



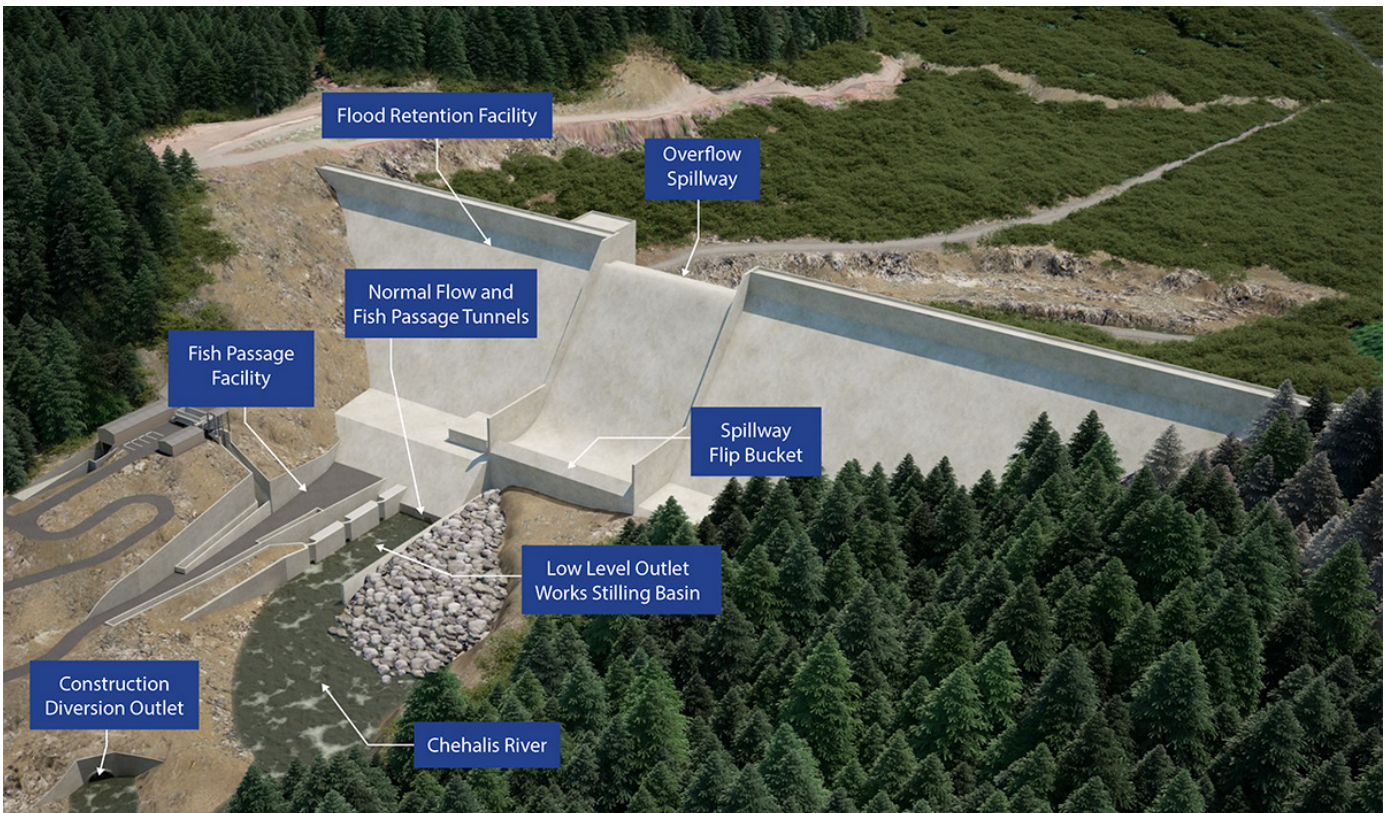
Looking up at the proposed dam site on the Upper Chehalis River. Washington's second largest watershed.





PHOTO: SHANE ANDERSON

The upper Chehalis is a wild salmon and steelhead stronghold. Wild Chinook Salmon are in dire shape across Washington. This past fall, biologists counted 160 wild chinook salmon redds in the reach above the proposed dam site and another couple hundred in the reach below the dam site, re-enforcing that this is a wild salmon stronghold.



Rendering of the proposed dam.



## IN MEMORY

# JIM RATZLAFF

This past August we lost a dear friend, long-term board member, trusted advisor and passionate supporter of our conservation mission, Jim Ratzlaff. Current board member Jon Kurtz had this to say about his friend. “Jim Ratzlaff was my friend and fishing buddy. We have fished the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia Rivers for trout and steelhead for 30 years. He was a conservationist and environmentalist and his desire to give back to rivers from where he had taken so much pleasure was contagious. Jim was integral in my connection as a board member to both The North Umpqua Foundation and to Pacific Rivers. The world would be a better place with more like him. He will be missed.”



Jim Ratzlaff with board member Jon Kurtz.

## DONATE TODAY!

Help us protect and enhance the watersheds of the Pacific Northwest. Please consider a tax deductible donation today!

[DONATE HERE](#)

## HOST A SCREENING

Community film screenings can be a great tool to start a conversation about the future of your favorite river.

If you are interested in hosting a community screening of Run Wild Run Free or A River's Last Chance please contact: [greg@pacificrivers.org](mailto:greg@pacificrivers.org) or [shane@pacificrivers.org](mailto:shane@pacificrivers.org)

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## LIFEBLOOD - A POEM

*Shaunna McCovey - Pacific Rivers board member & Yurok Tribal member*

Is it too much to ask  
to see the river  
as heart and lungs  
an artery of hydrogen  
and oxygen that nourishes  
the body of the earth?

Too much to ask them  
to let go of ego and  
embrace a worldview  
in which the center  
of the universe can be  
seen, touched.

In their house's they decide  
river fate, our fate,  
without ever feeling  
the lifeblood of the river,  
without fully knowing  
an Indian's life:

prayers to fix the world,  
a natural affinity for  
salmon and the sacred,  
the intrepid will to  
never grow tired,  
never give up.



PHOTO: SHANE ANDERSON

Chehalis River, Wa

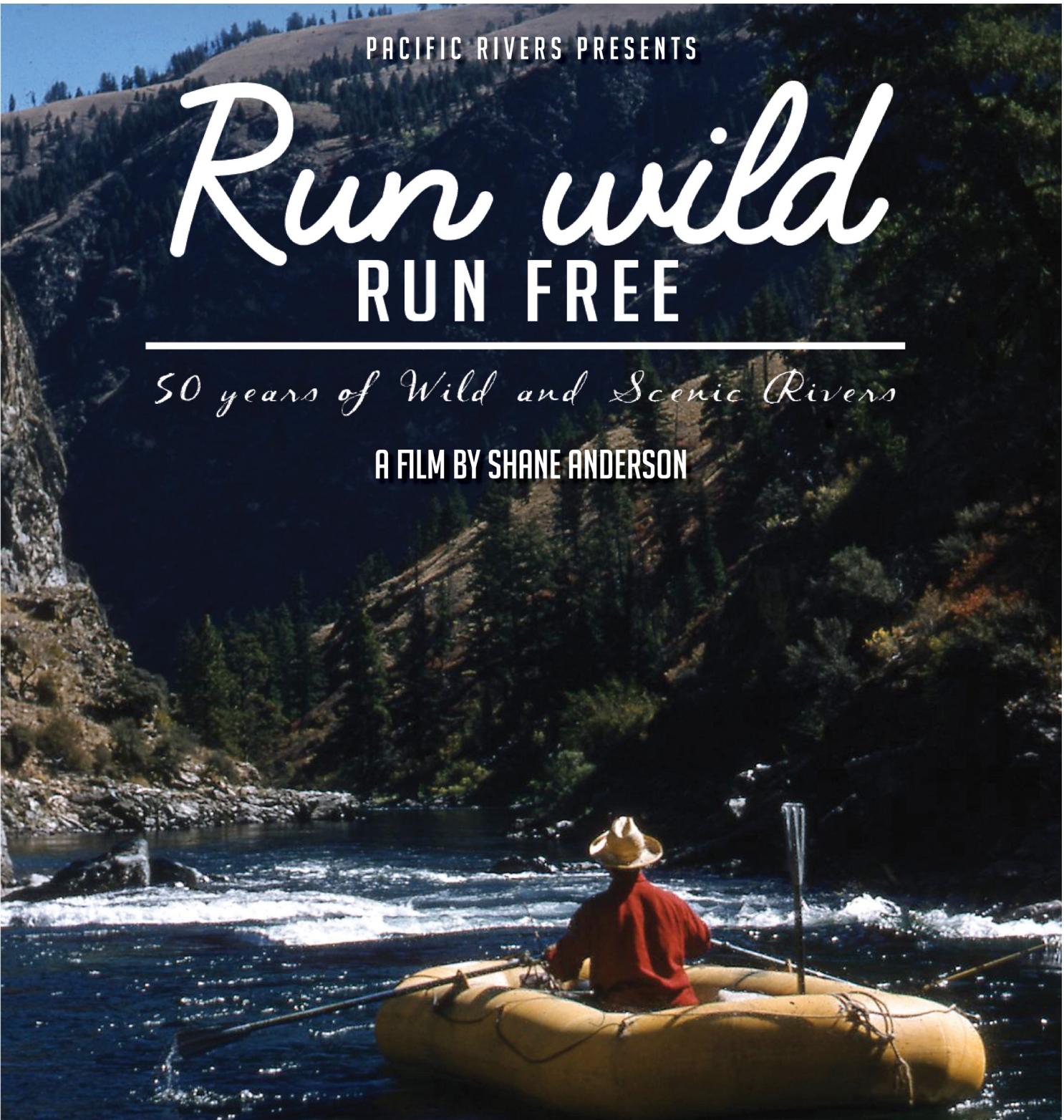


PACIFIC RIVERS PRESENTS

# Run wild RUN FREE

50 years of Wild and Scenic Rivers

A FILM BY SHANE ANDERSON



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Georgetown  
Brewing



LOCATION: MIDDLE FORK OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER, MONTANA PHOTO: CRAIGHEAD FAMILY ARCHIVES