



October 9, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition, and other river partners across the country, we respectfully request that the Senate act this year to pass the nine river bills listed below—all of which have been reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee—either as part of the National Defense Authorization Act or other must-pass legislation this Congress. These measures preserve significant free-flowing rivers and headwater streams that safeguard drinking water for downstream communities, support a thriving outdoor recreation economy, provide natural flood mitigation, and protect fish and wildlife habitats.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition represents more than 60 local, state, and national organizations that support Wild and Scenic River protection and stewardship. Collectively, our members advocate for clean water and free-flowing rivers across the country through grassroots community engagement.

Washington

1. **Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act S. 1254** - 464 river miles, 19 rivers and major tributaries flowing within and out of Olympic National Park.

Oregon

2. **Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act S. 162** - 75 river miles, permanent mineral withdrawal for 58,000 acres.
3. **Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act S. 440** - 60,000 acres of wilderness, 128,000 acres of new riverside recreation areas, and a permanent mineral withdrawal for 101,000 acres at the headwaters of several Southwestern Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers.

California

4. **PUBLIC Lands Act S. 1776** includes:

- **Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act** - 480 river miles, 312,000 acres of wilderness, 360-mile Big Foot National Recreation Trail.
- **Central Coast Heritage Protection Act** - 159 river miles, 287,000 acres of wilderness, 400-mile Condor National Recreation Trail.
- **San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act** - 45.5 river miles, 30,000 acres of wilderness, 109,000 acres of National Monument lands, 49,000 acres of National Recreation Area lands.

Colorado

5. **Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act S. 636** - 68,000 acre National Conservation Area and Special Management Area on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, protecting the free-flowing character of 76 miles of the Dolores River.

New Mexico

6. **M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act S. 776** - 450 river miles, 144,000 acres of riverside land.

Montana

7. **Montana Headwaters Legacy Act S. 3346** (pending inclusion in a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee markup rescheduled post-election) - 385 river miles, 20 river segments including iconic streams like the Yellowstone, Madison, and Smith Rivers.

Massachusetts

8. **Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act S. 608** - initiates a Wild and Scenic River study for 76 miles of the Deerfield River.

Vermont

9. **Nulhegan and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Designation S. 432** - initiates a Wild and Scenic River study for a 22-mile segment of the Nulhegan River and an 18-mile segment of the Paul Stream.

Thank you for your leadership in making sure these important bills are considered this year by Congress.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the following members of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition:

- Sarah Kilbourne, Executive Director, **American Packrafting Association**, Missoula, MT
- David Moryc, National River Protection Director, **American Rivers**, Washington D.C.
- Kevin Colburn, National Stewardship Director, **American Whitewater**, Asheville, NC
- Joseph Zupan, Executive Director, **Amigos Bravos**, Taos, NM
- André Sanchez, Community Engagement & Conservation Policy Manager, **CalWild**, Madera, CA
- Christopher Curtis, Vice President, **Deerfield River Watershed Association**, Deerfield, MA
- Alison Sommers-Sayre, Executive Director, **Delaware River Greenway Partnership**, Stockton, NJ
- Aimee Petras, Executive Director, Farmington River Watershed Association, Simsbury, CT
- Dr. Denielle Perry, Associate Professor, Director, **Free-flowing Rivers Lab, School of Earth and Sustainability, Northern Arizona University**, Flagstaff, AZ
- Ronald Stork, Policy Staff, **Friends of the River**, Sacramento, CA
- Fred Akers, Operations Manager, **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association**, Newtonville, NJ
- Erin Steva, Montana Conservation Associate, **Greater Yellowstone Coalition**, Bozeman, MT
- Nick Kunath, Conservation Director, **Idaho Rivers United**, Boise, ID
- Mark Allison, Executive Director & Bjorn Fredrickson, Conservation Director, **New Mexico Wild**, Albuquerque, NM

- Grant Werschull, Co-Executive Director, **Smith River Alliance**, Crescent City, CA
- Patrick Lane, Senior Officer, **The Pew Charitable Trusts**, Washington DC
- Tom Uniack, Executive Director, **Washington Wild**, Seattle, WA
- Ashley Konon, River Ambassador, **Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System**, Sanford, FL
- Autumn Crowe, Deputy Director, **West Virginia Rivers Coalition**, Charleston, WV
- Shane Morgan, Program Director, **White Clay Watershed Association**, Landenberg, PA