



Wild and Scenic Rivers Hill Week 2025

Digital Sessions March 4-6

Sessions on March 4-5 are open to Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition members, prospective members and partners, agency river stewards, and students. The March 6 panel discussion is reserved for Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition members only. [Free online registration](#) is required to receive Zoom links.

Tuesday, March 4

Lightning Talks

10-11:30am mountain time

- **Enhancing Accessibility on the Wild and Scenic Sudbury River with Ron Chick, Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council**
Efforts to enhance accessibility along approximately 4,500 feet of the Wild and Scenic Sudbury River in Framingham, Massachusetts, will include four pedestrian foot bridges, a 1200-foot boardwalk, 1500 feet of accessible gravel trail, and three observation platforms to serve as experiential classrooms for the three schools located within a 10-minute walk of the river. With the upcoming removal of the Talbot Mills Dam scheduled for fall 2025, there will be an opportunity to undertake a migratory fish restoration initiative, reestablishing a migration pattern that has been in place over 300 years ago.
- **When and How to go “Public” to Protect West Virginia Rivers with Mike Jones, West Virginia Rivers Coalition**
West Virginia river protection efforts are focused on affording permanent safeguards to the 16 waterways in the Monongahela National Forest. Advocates have been walking a tight rope of not being 'too public.' At what point, and how, is it best to be "public" during a river protection campaign?
- **Army Corps Permitting: How aging infrastructure threatens protected rivers with Kelsey Cruickshank, American Rivers**
Army Corps permits guide development on and adjacent to the nation's navigable waterways. Although industrialized river corridors aren't eligible for designation as wild and scenic rivers, permitted projects are everywhere! Find out how old infrastructure impacts currently designated rivers, how new infrastructure could impact future designations, and how to engage on permitting reform.
- **Opportunities to Learn about Wild and Scenic Rivers Management with Risa Shimoda, River Management Society**

Learn about new learning opportunities through River Management Society's River Training Center. The Center is offering a series of webinars for fans of Wild and Scenic Rivers and their wise management, monthly River Management Roundtables that address 'on the river' and 'workplace culture' topics, and a nine-part series of short (really!) videos. A new "Recently Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers" series will debut at the upcoming River Management Symposium in early April

12-1:30pm mountain time

- **Developing Best Practices for Low-Impact Waste-Packout River Travel for Packrafters with Dan Broman, American Packrafting Association**

The American Packrafting Association (APA), given the unique nature of the sport combining backcountry wilderness travel with river travel, is engaging with Leave No Trace, land and water managers, and other conservation and recreation-minded non-profits to develop educational material for the packrafting community promoting low-impact travel. These materials will build upon long-established LNT principles and expand to cover ways in which packrafters are recreating, as well as reflect current recreational pressures on our public lands and waters. A second goal is to develop internal guidance on these best practices along with land and river regulation to support APA's responses to changing management plans.

- **Best Practices for Timber Harvest and Fire Mitigation in Protected River Corridors with Colter Pence, Flathead National Forest & Lisa Ronald, American Rivers**

Recent losses in wild and scenic eligible protections through land management plan revisions have been heavily influenced by cultural beliefs among agency employees that forest management activities are not compatible with river protections. Research on Montana's Flathead Wild and Scenic River will debunk this myth by identifying past timber harvest and fire mitigation projects that have occurred in recreational segment river corridors as a means for defining best practices.

- **Publicizing Arizona's Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers with Joe Trudeau, The Wilderness Society**

Federal agencies have conducted Wild and Scenic River studies for decades, but those studies are often published in relatively unappealing and inaccessible forms such as internal technical reports and Environmental Impact Statements. The Wilderness Society compiled three decades of agency studies in Arizona, along with decades of citizen proposals, into a single volume, complete with updated maps, stunning photos, and hyperlinked source documents. This book, as well as an accompanying webmap, will serve as a useful resource to advocates, land managers, and policy makers in Arizona for decades to come.

Wednesday, March 5

Lightning Talks

10-11:30am mountain time

- **Post-Disaster Road Reconstruction in River Corridors with Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater & Zack Waterman, American Rivers**

Extreme climate-driven flooding on the Nolichucky River in North Carolina in 2024 and the Yellowstone River in Montana in 2022 has resulted in challenges related to road reconstruction within river corridors. This talk will explore the status, challenges, and uncertainties associated with road reconstruction in both places.

- **Strategy and Messaging Driving River Protection Efforts in the Southwest U.S. with Mike Fiebig, American Rivers**

Advocates in the southwest U.S. are leading legislative campaigns, state designations, Tribal co-management, regulatory reforms, resource management plan revisions, and the defense of ecologically and culturally important places in the region. This talk includes the strategy and messaging advocates are using with the new Congress and administration.

- **Advocating Locally: Defending rivers through public processes under the Trump Administration with John Zablocki, American Rivers**

This talk will focus on identifying where there are needs/opportunities to engage on public lands at the local level (Forest / BLM District), exploring avenues for action at local scales (e.g., RMP revisions, CRMPs, etc), and identifying particular places to focus on for generating positive interventions.

Thursday, March 6

Government Affairs Expert Panel (*attendance limited to Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition members only*)

10-11:30pm mountain time

Strategies for River Advocacy in a Conservative Political Climate -- This panel of DC-based environmental and private sector government affairs experts will share their insights into the Trump Administration and the 119th Congress. This will include time for Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition members to ask specific questions about individual campaigns and/or defense work. Panelists include:

- Leda Huta, American Rivers
- Jim Bradley, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Charles Cooper, Brumidi Group
- Romel Nicholas, High Street Strategies