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# RIVER RALLY 2021

## OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

River Network seeks to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work and in the work of organizations across our network. We welcome, involve, and value all perspectives, voices, styles, and identities, with special attention to racial power dynamics. We foster inclusion by building internal structures and processes that promote a sense of belonging. We encourage inclusion throughout our network by validating the inherent worth and dignity of all people with an expectation of mutual respect.

River Rally is an interactive space for anyone interested in river and water issues to engage in a variety of topics. We recognize and honor the value of diverse perspectives and strive to create a safe place for all participants to connect, converse, and share their knowledge with each other. We do not, however, tolerate behavior that threatens, harasses, or otherwise jeopardizes this community and any individuals in it. Please share in our collective responsibility to create and hold a space for the benefit of all who attend River Rally.

## PERSONAL PRONOUNS

During registration we ask for your pronouns, and you have the option to include them in River Rally profile. Why do we do this? River Network is committed to fostering inclusion and promoting a sense of belonging through our internal structures and processes. We recognize that using an individual's correct personal pronouns is a way to show respect and foster an inclusive environment. Help us create and maintain a welcoming and respectful space for all at Rally by acknowledging the personal pronouns of all attendees. To learn more, please visit [mypronouns.org](https://mypronouns.org).

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

While River Rally 2021 will be held virtually, we encourage all registrants to acknowledge the importance of the land we each call home. We invite registrants to explore the history of the land and waters where they now live, through resources such as [native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca), and to reflect on how your organization may or may not address colonization and can partner with and support Indigenous communities.



# RIVER RALLY 2021

## IMPORTANT INFO

### RIVER RALLY PHOTO MOSAIC

Say cheese! Blue Art Collective will be merging together screenshots of River Rally attendee Zoom 'squares' to create a collage-style photo mosaic. In capturing our time together during conference sessions, we shall create and distribute an inclusive digital art piece.

### VIRTUAL VISTAS

We've all had to adjust to being confined to our residences in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. Those of us who are lucky enough to have found a place by the water in our own communities may have found solace, connection, and healing there. For Blue Art Collective contributor Kevin Jeffery, this place was the magnificent waterways and glaciers of Juneau. Over the past 6 months, Kevin has taken a series of 360-degree panoramas of this special place in Southeast Alaska, to share it with others. Use your computer, smart device, or even VR Headset to visit 36 unique spaces recorded over the last 6 months. From ice caves to mountain peaks, to sunsets, *Virtual Vistas: Juneau, AK* allows you to experience the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage without leaving your home.

### MENTORSHIP

River Rally attendees who signed up for mentorship before the April 15 deadline will receive information about their mentorship match and how to participate before live programming begins. Mentors and mentees are encouraged to schedule their 1-on-1 session during or after virtual River Rally.

Visit [riverrally.org](http://riverrally.org) for the latest info.



### RECORDING AT VIRTUAL RIVER RALLY

All Virtual River Rally live plenaries, workshops, and other events will be recorded through River Network's Zoom account. By participating in any of these events, you agree that your voice, name, and image may be recorded and become part of live programming recordings, and you authorize use of these recordings by River Network. If you do not wish to be recorded, please mute your microphone and turn off your video. Please contact [media@rivernetwork.org](mailto:media@rivernetwork.org) with any questions or concerns.

### WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS

Your feedback matters! Your reflections help us to assess the effectiveness of River Rally learning opportunities and make improvements for next year. After each session, please visit the evaluation link shared by River Network staff and let us know how it went!

## STAY CONNECTED

Official hashtag: **#RiverRally2021**  
Facebook: [facebook.com/rivernetwork](https://facebook.com/rivernetwork)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/rivernetwork](https://twitter.com/rivernetwork)  
Instagram: [river\\_network](https://instagram.com/river_network)

Join the buzz, and share your thoughts, photos, and River Rally highlights!



# 2021 VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

● Water & Agriculture 
 ● Organizational Capacity Building 
 ● Drinking Water 
 ● Policy & Advocacy 
 ● Science & Climate 
 ● Resilient Communities

	MONDAY, MAY 17	TUESDAY, MAY 18	WEDNESDAY, MAY 19	THURSDAY, MAY 20
10:30–11:30 am ET		Speed Networking	Compton Awards Reception	
11:30–12 pm ET	Break	Break	Break	Break
12–1:15 pm ET	River Rally Welcome	Rivers and Water for All—Our Evolution	Keynotes: Catherine Flowers & Sandra Postel	River Heroes Panel
1–1:30 pm ET	Break	Break	Break	Break
1:30–3 pm ET	The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission (SEITC) <span style="color: blue;">●</span>  Increasing Equitable Water Infrastructure Investment in Your Community <span style="color: teal;">●</span>  Stop Shouting into the Wind: Navigating the New Communications Landscape <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Land Loss Lookout: Tracking Wetland Loss in the Louisiana Mississippi River Delta <span style="color: purple;">●</span>  Soil Health on Working Lands for Resilient Communities <span style="color: orange;">●</span>  Watching the Current: Scenario Planning and Community Resilience <span style="color: green;">●</span>  Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States: Building an Ecosystem of Change <span style="color: teal;">●</span>	Peer Call: Federal Policy Roundtable <span style="color: blue;">●</span>  Building Smart Citizen Science: Community Data Collaborations for Watershed Management <span style="color: purple;">●</span>  Virtual Decision-Making: Leadership for Yes, No, and More <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Burning Up: Effects of Wildland Fire on Water Quality <span style="color: purple;">●</span>  Tribal and Agency Water Collaboration across Nations <span style="color: green;">●</span>  Holistic Approaches to Keep Toxic PFAS “Forever Chemicals” Out of Our Drinking Water <span style="color: teal;">●</span>
3–3:30p ET	Wild & Scenic Film Festival—Released	Break	Break	Break
3:30–5p ET	Learners to Leaders: Environmental Justice Literacy Curriculum <span style="color: green;">●</span>  Making the Case for River Friendly Farming <span style="color: orange;">●</span>  Making Water Quality Data Open and Accessible to Support Collaborative Water Stewardship <span style="color: purple;">●</span>  Connecting the Dots: Racial Equity, Water Conservation and Organizational Culture <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	It's Not Just What You Say, It's How You Say it <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>  Promoting Equity in Lead Service Line Replacement Programs <span style="color: teal;">●</span>  Using ECHO Database to Find Violations and Stop Pollution <span style="color: blue;">●</span>  Blue Art Collective: Art, Water, and Social Justice in a Digital Era <span style="color: green;">●</span>	Waste in Our Waters—Lessons from Coca-Cola Grantees <span style="color: green;">●</span>  River Network Healthy Rivers in Agricultural Landscapes Peer Call <span style="color: orange;">●</span>  Building the Legal Foundation for Access to Water <span style="color: teal;">●</span>	The Five Myths of Board Leadership <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>  How to Be A Lead and Copper Rule Watchdog <span style="color: teal;">●</span>  Storytelling & Resonance: Creating a Culture of Empathy and Support <span style="color: blue;">●</span>
5–6p ET	Young Professionals Happy Hour	UWLN Awards Panel	Leaders of Color Happy Hour	Trivia Night

All times are Eastern. Workshops with the ((P)) symbol indicates it is a live workshop.

Workshops with the E symbol indicates topics that intersect water and equity, diversity, inclusion, or climate justice.

Sessions surrounded by a blue box indicate plenary session.

# WORKSHOP TRACKS

## Water & Agriculture

Learn what it takes for agriculture and healthy rivers to exist side-by-side, what is possible in collaboration with farmers and ranchers toward clean water and healthy rivers, the connection to soil health and crop diversification, challenges of equity and justice in rural America, and examples of communities that have stood-up against bad actors.

## Resilient Communities

Explore how rivers can be drivers of the social vitality and economic future of cities and communities, how to help communities become less vulnerable to the impacts of floods and droughts, lessons for avoiding harm to vulnerable populations caused by restoration and recovery, and connections between urban and rural landscapes and perspectives.

## Drinking Water

Expand your understanding of the challenges faced by water utilities seeking to upgrade their infrastructure and improve their services to deliver greater access to safe drinking water, the unequal implications of rate increases (for service upgrades and other purposes) to low income and racially diverse communities in urban and rural settings, and novel approaches for a more equitable path forward.

## Policy & Advocacy

Grow your familiarity with laws and policies that protect healthy rivers and clean water in your community, new laws and policies that could help you strengthen protection for places you care about, how civic engagement for water may be what is missing in your community, and what you can do to enable activism and accountability moving forward.

## Science & Climate

Learn about how communities are engaging their residents in data collection, how data can help inform our understanding of both the overall health of rivers and water and also where harm is occurring (e.g., flood and drought impacts) and the impact of climate change, and opportunities to leverage what we are learning for bigger impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

## Organizational Capacity Building

Gain access to new ideas to help you transform your organization, lead change processes and inspire your team, become the staff or board leader that you aspire to be, identify and sharpen the skills necessary for the road ahead, become a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization, and expand your ability to tell your story and achieve fundraising success.



## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

River Network seeks to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work and in the work of organizations across our network. Workshops that intersect water and equity, diversity, inclusion, or climate justice are noted with a **E** next to their titles.



# LIVE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY, MAY 17TH

### 12pm – River Rally Welcome Ceremony & Remarks

Join River Network staff and board leadership for a fun welcome to River Rally 2021! Get a glimpse of the hope and inspiration we have planned and hear from Radhika Fox, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, US Environmental Protection Agency, and Tanya Trujillo, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (and Assistant Secretary Designee) for Water and Science, US Department of Interior.

### 1:30pm – Concurrent Workshops

#### The Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission (SEITC) **E** (P)

Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission seeks to protect Indigenous human rights and the customary and traditional way of life of Alaska Natives living in Southeast Alaska from large-scale industrial mining development in the Canadian headwaters of our shared transboundary watersheds.

*Frederick Olsen Jr. and Elizabeth Peterman, Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission*  
*Policy & Advocacy*

#### Increasing Equitable Water Infrastructure Investment in Your Community **E** (P)

Learn about and practice using tools in River Network's new Equitable Water Infrastructure Investment "Toolkit." We'll look at how water infrastructure is funded; how to advocate for equitable and sustainable infrastructure funding; and how to address water affordability and prevent water shut-offs. The workshop will help participants to find, and leverage, common ground between advocates and water utilities. We will look at affordability, as well as how the major funding streams for water projects flow from the federal government to states, and then to local communities.

*April Ingle, Sheyda Esnaashari, and Katherine Baer, River Network; Stacey Berahzer and Alanna Kinnebrew, IB Environmental, and Anna Wolf, Center for Neighborhood Technology*  
*Drinking Water*

#### Stop Shouting Into the Wind: Navigating the New Communications Landscape **E** (P)

COVID-19 has brought more attention to water challenges while making it harder to advocate for solutions. How can we adapt our communications? The Water Hub will share our analysis of water news now, and top tips for reaching audiences in an increasingly competitive media landscape.

*Kimiko Martinez and Nicole Lampe, Water Hub at Climate Nexus*  
*Organizational Capacity Building*

### 3pm – Wild & Scenic Film Festival

With support from South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), enjoy a program of thought provoking and beautiful films from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Films will be released Monday at 3pm, and available for attendees to view through May 21st. These films are part of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour Program. Visit [wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/](http://wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/) for details.

### 3:30PM – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

#### Learners to Leaders: Environmental Justice Literacy Curriculum **E** (P)

Through engagement with interactive activities from Groundwork USA's Learners to Leaders: EJ Literacy Curriculum, participants will build their own Water Justice Timeline, and learn directly from youth who are using environmental justice literacy to transform neglected waterways.

*Neambe Leadon, Groundwork Denver; Maria Brodine, Groundwork USA*  
*Resilient Communities*

# LIVE SCHEDULE

## **Making the Case for River Friendly Farming (▶▶)**

Many conservationists are exploring agricultural innovations, hoping to protect waterways and improve farm profits. But a big challenge is to win acceptance from skeptical farmers. Join us to learn what Minnesota farmers have to say about new soil stabilizing crops — and how to best pitch the idea. We'll compare their opinions to farmers in Michigan and Pennsylvania, and draw big picture conclusions about how river advocates can put their best foot forward when working with agriculture. *Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work, LLC; Sue Rich, Friends of the Mississippi River*  
*Water & Agriculture*

## **Making Water Quality Data Open and Accessible to Support Collaborative Water Stewardship (▶▶)**

When water quality data is open and accessible it can be used to inform water stewardship decisions and action. Learn how open-access tools like DataStream are providing the digital infrastructure for monitoring groups of all shapes and sizes to share and connect results in meaningful ways. *Carolyn DuBois and Lindsay Day, The Gordon Foundation*  
*Science & Climate*

## **Connecting the Dots: Racial Equity, Water Conservation and Organizational Culture (▶▶)**

Join us as we explore the connections between racial equity and water conservation work, examining how racial inequities surface in the context of water issues. We'll also look inward at how markers of dominant white culture show up in our organizations and how we can use counter-narratives to challenge the assumptions of dominant culture and advance equity and inclusion. *Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Jennifer Arnold, Reciprocity Consulting, LLC.*  
*Resilient Communities*

## **5pm – Young Professionals Happy Hour**

Calling all young professionals across the network! Join River Network Emerging Leaders Charles Miller (2021), Megan Nguyen (2020), and Kevin Jeffery (2019) for connection, networking, games, and more. This event is open to all who consider themselves a young professional.

## **TUESDAY, MAY 18TH**

### **10:30am – Speed Networking**

Get to know other River Rally attendees in a short amount of time during this virtual speed networking event. Introduce yourself in brief 1-on-1 introductions to discover common interests and how your work overlaps. Who knows, you might be seeing these folks at other live River Rally events!

### **12pm – Plenary Panel: Rivers and Water for All?**

Moderator Ronda Chapman (Trust for Public Land) will guide panelists Raj Shukla (The Nature Conservancy), Tom Kiernan (American Rivers), Nicole Silk (River Network), and Na'Taki Osborne Jelks (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance and Spelman College) through a reflective conversation about the evolution of river conservation and justice over the past 10–20 years, the biggest challenges and opportunities NOW, and hope on the journey ahead towards clean water and healthy rivers for all.

### **1:30PM – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

#### **Land Loss Lookout: Tracking Wetland Loss in the Louisiana Mississippi River Delta (▶▶)**

Land Loss Lookout is a citizen science tool that trains users to identify wetland loss on Louisiana's coast and label what might be causing wetland loss by categorizing infrared aerial photos. Participants will learn about wetland loss and contribute to the effort to protect these vital ecosystems. *Eliza Boetsch, Sara Wylie, and Sophie Spatharioti, Northeastern University; Scott Eustis, Healthy Gulf*  
*Science & Climate*



# LIVE SCHEDULE

## **Soil Health on Working Lands for Resilient Communities** (▶▶)

Whether you have a backyard garden or an expansive dryland ranch, or work with those folks, you'll learn fundamentals of soil physical/biological characteristics (webinars) and try on-the-ground activities. We'll build community by discussing all results in the healthy soil principles framework.

*Eva Stricker, Quivira Coalition*

*Water & Agriculture*

## **Watching the Current: Scenario Planning and Community Resilience** (▶▶)

Scenario planning is a scalable and engaging tool for organizations to prepare for a variety of futures. Attendees will learn the basics of a scenario planning tool, work through a relevant exercise to explore possible futures, and determine resilient actions for their organization or community.

*Larissa Read, Common Ground Consulting, LLC*

*Resilient Communities*

## **Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States: Building an Ecosystem of Change** (E ▶▶)

Today, more than 2.2 million Americans live without basic access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Convened by DigDeep, this workshop will focus on ongoing WASH access challenges in the US and will highlight a couple "hotspot" communities working to fill the water gap.

*George McGraw, Shanna Yazzie, Bob McKinney, and Julie Waechter Dig Deep Right to Water Project*

*Drinking Water*

## **Promoting Equity in Lead Service Line Replacement Programs** (E ▶▶)

Drawing on case examples and resources from its online toolkit, the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative will share examples of how communities have approached public outreach and tapped funding to assure more equitable outcomes from LSL replacement efforts.

*Lynn Thorp, National Campaigns Director, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund; Mason Hines, RESOLVE; Alexis Woodrow and Meg Trubee, Denver Water*

*Drinking Water*

## **Using ECHO Database to Find Violations and Stop Pollution** (▶▶)

Mike Barrette from US EPA who invented the Enforcement and Compliance History Online database joins Phillip Musegaas, Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) in explaining how to find the polluters and get them to stop polluting!

*Phillip Musegaas, PRKN; Mike Barrette, US EPA*

*Policy & Advocacy*

## **Blue Art Collective: Art, Water, and Social Justice in a Digital Era** (▶▶)

This workshop explores two sensory art mechanisms, music and movement, for bringing communities together, over online platforms or in person, to protect local waterways. Join us to continue the conversation about art, water, and social justice and get your creative juices flowing! All ages welcome.

*Sarah Davidson, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council; Kevin Jeffery, MRV Architects; Erin O'Grady, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay; Mina Girgis, Nile Project*

*Resilient Communities*

## **3:30PM – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

### **It's Not Just What You Say, It's How You Say It** (▶▶)

Protecting water involves sometimes talking with people who don't trust you or reaching out to communities that you don't feel yourself part of. Through a series of fun, interactive exercises, practice crucial communication skills to improve your ability to understand and to be understood.

*Karen Strong, Strong Outcomes, LLC; Brandon Hayes, Bold Bison Communications & Consulting*

*Organizational Capacity Building*

### **5pm – UWLN Awards Panel**

Join us as we celebrate and recognize the work of this year's Urban Waters Learning Network Award recipients. The Urban Waters Learning Network Awards, sponsored by the US EPA, celebrate significant achievements of individuals who have improved urban waterways and revitalized the neighborhoods around them. These members, welcomed by Sandra Connors, Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, exemplify the UWLN's goal of providing peer-to-peer support, solving challenges through collaboration, and sharing knowledge.

# LIVE SCHEDULE

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH

### 10:30am – Compton Awards Reception and Discussion

Join us for the first ever Compton Awards panel. The Compton Award is issued annually by River Network's Board of Directors to a specific individual in recognition of their significant and often lifetime achievements on behalf of our nation's rivers. To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of this award, the Board recognizes two individuals close to River Network whose impact has rippled throughout our community of water protectors: **Dianne Dillon-Ridgley** and **Suzi Wilkins Berl**. Hosted by current board chair **Jumana Vasi**, this panel will explore how our perspectives about rivers have evolved, where they find hope, and lessons learned from a lifetime of leadership and service.

### 12PM – KEYNOTES

#### **Environmental Justice Is Also Racial Justice** (*Catherine Coleman Flowers*)

Environmental justice will protect rivers as well as ensure equity for communities that have been left behind. This talk will connect the dots.

#### **From Rivers Catching Fire to Rivers Getting Rights** (*Sandra Postel*)

A brief look back at where we've been, where we stand today, and where we can go with this community leading the charge.

### 1:30PM – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

#### **Peer Call: Federal Policy Roundtable** (▶▶)

Get updates on the latest federal water policy news, learn ways to engage, and hear about water policy developments happening at the state and local levels around the country. We will also have a spotlight discussion on the Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act and how we can organize to pass the most comprehensive approach to improving our water systems and helping ensure that everyone in the US has access to safe, clean, affordable, public water. **Kristine Oblock**, *Environment America*; **April Ingle**, *River Network*; **Julian Gonzalez**, *EarthJustice*; **Rianna Eckel**, *Food & Water Action Policy & Advocacy*

#### **Building Smart Citizen Science: Community Data Collaborations for Watershed Management** (▶▶)

Learn about a collaborative network of volunteer-driven monitoring programs in seven Lake Erie communities. Define the tenets of "Smart Citizen Science" together with a panel of expert facilitators. Apply these tenets to your own community through breakout group discussions with other participants. **Max Herzog**, *Cleveland Water Alliance Science & Climate*

#### **Virtual Decision-Making: Leadership for Yes, No, and More** (▶▶)

Working virtually creates special challenges and opportunities for leadership of your group's decisions. This interactive workshop will give leaders of teams, boards and collaborative entities a framework and two specific online tools that enable virtual decision making that yields collaborative thinking, clear direction, and group cohesion. **Sarah Clark and Joy Jackson**, *Institute for Conservation Leadership Organizational Capacity Building*



# LIVE SCHEDULE

## 3:30PM – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

### **Waste in Our Waters - Lessons from Coca-Cola Grantees** (▶▶)

In 2020, there were 26 billion pieces of litter along America's waterways, according to data compiled by Keep America Beautiful. River Network is working with the Coca Cola Foundation and various community partners to address this issue head-on. Join us to learn about Waste in our Waters, a River Network program aimed at capturing litter downstream. This session will also cover various litter management practices, from strategies for organizing clean-ups to partnership opportunities for waste management. *Yohance Owens, Village Creek Society; Sally LaRue, Freshwater Land Trust; Kelly Thompson, St. Johns Riverkeeper*  
*Resilient Communities*

### **3:30–5pm – River Network Healthy Rivers in Agricultural Landscapes Peer Call** (▶▶)

Do you work for healthy water and rivers in Agricultural landscapes? Join River Network staff to learn about recent work to expand programming for the River Network Healthy Rivers in Agricultural Landscapes strategic priority area. Join this Peer Call to connect with others who to network and learn about the work others are doing to advance healthy water and rivers in agricultural landscapes. *April Ingle and Mikhaela Mullins, River Network*  
*Water & Agriculture*

### **Building the Legal Foundation for Access to Water** (E) (▶▶)

Access to water is built on a strong legal foundation. Laws create obligations and protections. We will explore the critical role law plays in guaranteeing the affordability of water and wastewater services, the effectiveness of infrastructure, and the financial security of utilities. *Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari and Luke Wilson, The Center for Water Security and Cooperation*  
*Drinking Water*

## **5pm – Leaders of Color Happy Hour**

All who self-identify as a leader of color in the water space are welcome in this affinity space. Come ready to share a bit about yourself, share joy, and network with peers. Stream last year's playlist [here](#) and send any song requests or questions to Sheyda Esnaashari at [sesnaashari@rivernetwork.org](mailto:sesnaashari@rivernetwork.org). Registration is required: [bit.ly/leadersofcolor2021](https://bit.ly/leadersofcolor2021)

## THURSDAY, MAY 20TH

### **12pm – River Heroes Panel**

Ready to get inspired one last time? On the last day of River Rally, join us to celebrate and honor six extraordinary individuals who go above and beyond the ordinary to achieve the extraordinary for rivers and waters at the local level across our nation. These are the people who never give up, who help others to make a difference, and who seek solutions that are inclusive and equitable. This year's River Heroes and Emerging Leader — *Ean Thomas Tafoya, Colette Pichon Battle, Beth Styler Barry, Tom Vaughan, Sky Jones-Lewey, and Charles Miller* — are sure to surprise and delight you with their passion.

## 1:30PM – CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

### **Burning Up: Effects of Wildland Fire on Water Quality** (▶▶)

Wildland fire extent and frequency are increasing in the US. These fires cause physical, chemical and biological changes in the forest ecosystems they affect, including the rivers that drain them. This talk reviews the water quality responses of streams and rivers to wildland fires. The technical content of the session will be focused in the first 30–40 minutes, then Michael will be available to answer questions and have further discussions. The technical portion of this session will be focused for 30–40 minutes, followed by an open forum for questions and discussion. *Michael Paul, Tetra Tech Inc.*  
*Science & Climate*

# LIVE SCHEDULE

## **Tribal and Agency Water Collaboration Across Nations** (»)

California's working to integrate two new Tribal Beneficial Uses into the Ocean Plan and Regional Basin Plan Amendments all while the San Francisco Bay Delta is being threatened. This workshop will discuss a more concise process that will better serve communities and we believe partnerships are key.

*Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA)*

*Resilient Communities*

## **Holistic Approaches to Keep Toxic PFAS "Forever Chemicals" Out of Our Drinking Water Sources** (»)

In this interactive workshop participants will learn about the many federal laws, state policies, and other initiatives available to protect water from per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Participants will also explore how to use mapping tools to identify source waters vulnerable to PFAS.

*Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund; Deirdre White, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators*

*Drinking Water*

## **How to Be a Lead and Copper Rule Watchdog** E (»)

The lead and copper rule is a very complex regulation that can be challenging for professional and resident advocates alike to understand. This workshop will train attendees how to be effective watchdogs of their own state and water system.

*Nick Leonard and Erin Mette, Great Lakes Environmental Law Center*

*Drinking Water*

## **Storytelling & Resonance: Creating a Culture of Empathy and Support** (»)

Creating a culture of empathy and support is an important tool to combat isolation and individualism in our organizations and movements, especially during COVID-19. Join River Network's 2020 Emerging Leader, Megan Nguyen, as she creates a space for attendees to share stories and listen to others' perspectives. Come away from this meeting with a better understanding of the value of connecting through storytelling and resonance, and how these tools can be weaved into your advocacy and outreach work.

*Megan Nguyen, California Trout*

*Policy & Advocacy*

### **3:30PM - CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

## **The Five Myths of Board Leadership** (»)

This workshop will help you navigate some of the common myths and misconceptions on what it means to be a board member; how to develop, recruit, and retain effective board members; and the vital role the Executive Director plays.

*Amy Zola and Allison Elder, San Antonio River Authority*

*Organizational Capacity Building*

## **5pm - River Rally Trivia Night**

Join River Network and American Rivers staff as they co-host a fun, interactive River Trivia night to close out our 2021 Rally in style. Trivia will include river facts as well as questions from Rally programs and water-themed music round. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers!





# ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS BY TRACK



## WATER & AGRICULTURE

### **The 'What' and 'How' of Indiana's River Friendly Farmer Awards Program**

The goal of Indiana's River Friendly Farmer Program is to recognize farmers who have protected and improved water quality through the implementation and management of conservation practices on their land. These practices often include additional benefits such as improved soil health and an increase in wildlife habitat. Learn how this statewide program, which began in 1999, has awarded over 1,000 farms through partnership with commodity groups, agricultural organizations and government agencies. For anyone interested in duplicating this awards program in their state, details and practical tips will be provided!

*Amy Work, Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts*

### **New Approaches to Quantifying How Much Water a River Needs and an Approach for Getting It**

Participants will learn about a new tool and a framework developed in California that is designed to assist practitioners with quantifying a river's flow needs and developing a collaborative approach to securing these flows while partnering with local communities.

*Amy Campbell, Julie Zimmerman, and Monty Schmitt, The Nature Conservancy*

### **Cultivating Water Leaders: Young Farmers Water Fellowship**

In 2020, National Young Farmers Coalition launched a fellowship program to elevate the voices of young farmers and ranchers in water policy in Colorado. This workshop will provide an overview of the program and how it empowered young farmers, women, and people of color to run for water boards.

*Erin Foster West, National Young Farmers*

### **Community Based Planning for Integrated Water Management**

Learn how community members are engaging in holistic water management in river basins across the western U.S. and how you can apply this on your own river.

*Nicole Seltzer, River Network; Tara Flint, US EPA*

## RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

### **EPA's SepticSmart Week: The Importance of Proper Septic System Use and Maintenance**

The U.S. EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program's annual outreach campaign, SepticSmart Week, promotes the maintenance of septic systems in the U.S. This presentation will provide a demonstration of SepticSmart Week highlights, including outreach products, community activities, and social media.

*Naomi Huff, Environmental Protection Agency*

### **Strategies for Equity in Restoration & Stewardship**

This session features experts from American Rivers (PA), Plaster Creek Stewards (MI), and Friends of the Chicago River (IL) in sharing projects focused on stewarding land and water with respect to the communities they intersect with. American Rivers' focus on equitable flood management, Plaster Creek Stewards' restoration of an urban wetland, and Friends of the Chicago River's benefits of a Blue-Green Chicago River Corridor all highlight the importance of working alongside communities when it comes to resilience and restoration projects.

*Deanna Geelhoed, Plaster Creek Stewards-Calvin University; Eileen Shader, American Rivers; Adam Flickinger, Friends of the Chicago River*

# ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS BY TRACK



## Urban Water Connections

The Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (Seattle, WA) and Openlands (Chicago, IL) will be sharing their stories of success in connecting urban communities to their local waterways. Puget Soundkeeper Alliance will showcase a water quality and environmental justice initiative completed in partnership with Unleash the Brilliance, a youth mentoring group in the Green-Duwamish Watershed. Openlands will share the development of an African American Heritage Water Trail that highlights nationally significant history in an underserved area of Chicago, with a discussion of how water trails inspire greater equity in river access and community resiliency. Both of these projects focus on including the greater community in learning and conversations about water.

*Lillian Holden, and Laura Barghusen, Openlands; Anna Bachmann, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; Chloe Trujillo, Emanuel Chavez, and Sharlene Pioquinto, Unleash the Brilliance*

## Flowing with Community: Just Community-Based Participatory Research

Participants will learn the value and implementation of community-based participatory research (CBPR) in building water resilient communities. LVEJO and CNT use CBPR to address concerns of urban flooding in South Lawndale, a frontline community in Chicago with a large Latinx immigrant population.

*Nancy Meza and Brenda Santoyo, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization; Cyatharine Alias, Center for Neighborhood Technology*

## Blue Index: Reimagining Urban Waterscape Design for Community Equity and Wellbeing

Blue Index utilizes public photo stations and assessments to connect people to water, collect qualitative data, and capture a visual record of change over time. This workshop explores how Blue Index applies to outdoor space design and planning to increase community equity and wellbeing.

*Kevin Jeffery and Sarah Davidson, Blue Index*

## How's My Waterway and Other EPA Water Tools

This workshop will highlight the recent enhancements to EPA's How's My Waterway tool, and feature the Watershed Index Online and the Recovery Potential Screening Tool. These EPA tools allow for a systematic comparison of watersheds based on characteristics relevant to water quality and successful restoration and protection. New features of these EPA tools include social and stressor indicators that explore topics of community demographics, environmental justice, watershed health and current/future watershed vulnerability. With knowledge of these tools, and the data that drives them, citizens can plan for more resilient communities in the future.

*Kiki Schneider and Miranda Chien-Hale, US EPA, Office of Water*

## Ensuring One Water Delivers for Healthy Waterways

The "One Water" approach to maximizing urban water supplies may threaten rivers if considerations for "healthy waterways" are not baked in to water supply planning process. Learn how to make sure river protections are part of your city's water future.

*Jennifer Walker, National Wildlife Federation; Myron Hess, Tributary Consulting, Law Office of Myron Hess; Sarah Diringer, Pacific Institute; Carrie Thompson, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment*

## DRINKING WATER

### Building Trust Between Communities and Utilities for an Equitable Future

Learn how water utilities are engaging with at-risk populations to build trust. Cleveland's Water Champion program, which aims to avoid shutoffs, will be featured. Attendees will be introduced to trust building programs, learn to identify effective practices, and apply learnings to their own work.

*Amy Weinfurter, Caroline Koch, and Georgia Beesmyer, WaterNow Alliance; April Ingle, River Network; Elizabeth Barlik, City of Cleveland Division of Water; Kairsten Nitsch, CHN Housing Partners*

# ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS BY TRACK



## POLICY & ADVOCACY

### Local Advocacy Success Stories

Advocacy efforts at the local scale can result in effective policy change, increased community engagement, and improvements to watershed health. Hear from advocates across the country as they share stories of how they energized activists, neighbors, community members, and the media; utilized collaborative approaches to amplify their efforts; and how they used policy, regulations, and public support to improve their watersheds.

*David Sligh, Wild Virginia; Jack Mullen, Friends of the Mahoning River; Tim Laramore, The North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy; Leah Holloway, Milwaukee Riverkeeper; Kelly Knutson, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed*

### Adapting Clean Water Act Implementation to Climate Change

Unprecedented rainstorms, stronger/more frequent hurricanes, flash flooding, higher temperatures, drought conditions, and wildfires have an impact on the management of pollution and protection of public health. Join us to hear how Clean Water Act implementation must adapt.

*Gayle Killam, Water Policy Pathways; Matt Rota, Healthy Gulf; Betsy Nichols, Waterkeepers Chesapeake*

### Sustainable Watershed Management Funding in Michigan: A Statewide Collaborative Approach

West Michigan partners will share a reliable funding source model addressing conservation, restoration, and preservation programs that are underfunded. This funding will allow property owners to invest in and contribute to regional watershed improvements and building capacity of local organizations.

*Wendy Ogilvie, Grand Valley Metro Council; Kelly Goward, Macatawa Area Coordinating Council*

## SCIENCE & CLIMATE

### Pull Together: Multi-State Coordinated Invasive Water Chestnut Removal

Invasive water chestnut blanket any waterbody it enters—wreaking havoc on native plants and animals and disrupting our recreational opportunities. Learn the methods and digital tools Connecticut River Conservancy employs to manage & showcase the multi-state, volunteer-driven removal program.

*Gabriel Chevalier, Connecticut River Conservancy; Erin Hofmann, The Commons*

### Eyes on the Water: Increase Access and Diverse Participation in Your Water Monitoring Program

Does your volunteer water monitoring program lack diversity? Are you looking to create opportunities that are equitable and inclusive? Learn how Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper utilizes the Water Reporter Platform to provide varied options for community members to engage.

*Elizabeth Cote and Wendy Paterson, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper*

### What's in the Water: Building a Community Science Monitoring Program in the Anacostia Watershed

Anacostia Riverkeeper started one of the first volunteer water quality monitoring programs in the DC region. ARK and their volunteers monitor 29 sites across the DC/MD region. Focusing on E. Coli, the goal is to engage residents by providing timely water quality data from May to September each year.

*Robbie O'Donnell and Christine Burns Olivia Anderson, Anacostia Riverkeeper*



# ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS BY TRACK

## **Lets Talk Trash: Addressing Floatable Pollution in the Bronx and East Harlem, NYC**

Floatable trash is a major pollutant in NYC waters. This workshop will feature groups active in the Bronx & Harlem Rivers UWP that have developed scalable methods for assessing, removing, and mitigating trash. Best practices, lessons learned, and successful engagement strategies will be discussed. *Christian Murphy, Bronx River Alliance; Rosana Da Silva, Hudson River Foundation/New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program; Chris Girgenti, Randall's Island Park Alliance; John Butler, Van Cortlandt Park Alliance*

## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

### **Leadership, Stewardship, and Community Engagement: Concretizing the Green Team Model <sup>E</sup>**

Since launching in 2017, Groundwork Southcoast's Green Team, who are youth employees that do hands-on work in and adjacent to our urban waters, has had an impressive retention rate of over 90%. This workshop is designed to share the work of evaluating and concretizing the model. *Maura Ramsey, Groundwork Southcoast*

### **Building Diverse Constituencies to Steward Wild & Scenic Rivers <sup>E</sup>**

Learn innovative approaches for working with federal agency staff and engaging new audiences as part of Wild & Scenic River stewardship that can be applied to any of our rivers! *Steve Chesterton, U.S. Forest Service; Reese Hodges, Idaho Rivers United; Oak Rankin, Glacier Peak Institute, Carla Ayala Crespo, Hispanic Access Fund*

### **Getting Past Your Fear of Fundraising**

Whether explicit or implicit, the fear of asking remains a big barrier facing river nonprofits fundraising from individuals. Rather than being set in stone, strategies exist to help nonprofit staff and board members push past their fear in order to raise more funds for their nonprofit. *Jonathan Poisner, Jonathan Poisner Strategic Consulting*

### **Securing Grants for Your Nonprofit <sup>E</sup>**

Too often, river protection nonprofits pursue grants one proposal at a time, instead of as a year-round activity involving research, relationship-building, and writing. In this workshop, we'll outline key steps participants can take to be more successful in pursuit of grants. *Jonathan Poisner, Jonathan Poisner Strategic Consulting*

### **Identifying Relevant and Meaningful Metrics for Watershed Organization Impacts and Successes**

We will share an approach to demonstrating impacts of Pennsylvania's Watershed Organizations using well-defined, measurable, and defensible performance measures that mirror intentions reflected in organization mission statements. We'll present why and how we launched the project, outcomes, and next steps. *Tali MacArthur, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers*

### **Podcasting 101 and Why YOUR Organization Should Have One!**

Attendees will learn the fundamentals of starting their own podcast and how it can be a useful tool for their cause or organization. Attendees will also hear how a podcast can become an influential platform to connect with key stakeholders. *Doug Parsons, America Adapts Media*

### **Paddling Upstream Without a Boat: Collaborating Is the Best Strategy**

Participants will learn to see the inter-connectedness of issues and the need to collaborate to find resolutions. As nonprofits reflect the greater society, they must also make the connections to get out of their own "silos" to make our communities healthy, safe, fair places for all. *Michele Colopy, LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.*

# COMPTON AWARD

Meet our Compton Award Winners on **Wednesday, May 18th at 10:30am**, at our Compton Awards panel. Issued annually by River Network's Board of Directors, this award recognizes individual efforts that contributed to positive impact on US rivers.



## DIANNE DILLON-RIDGLEY

**Environmentalism and Human Rights Activist (Iowa City, IA)**

A lifelong advocate for human rights, female empowerment, and sustainability, Dillon-Ridgley made her first foray into the environmental field as a college intern during the early days of the EPA. Since then, the Dallas native has traveled around the globe promoting women's rights and fighting for environmental sustainability. For nearly a decade, she served as the United Nations representative for the World YWCA. She attended the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio by appointment of the White House, followed by the 1997 UN General Assembly and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa. She is the only person to have participated in all three US delegations.

Dillon-Ridgley served four terms as the President of the Association of Iowa Human Rights Agencies. She has also served as the CEO of the Women's Environment and Development Organization. From 1997–2014, she served on the board of Interface, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of modular carpet tiles and a global leader in sustainable design. She has contributed her expertise, insights, and boundless energy to the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) as a member of the Board of Trustees and the first female Chair of the CIEL board (2014–2015).



## SUZI WILKINS BERL

**River and Land Conservationist (Black Mountain, NC)**

Wilkins Berl has dedicated her life to river conservation, accumulating over 40 years of experience in the nonprofit conservation field. Most recently, she served as an independent consultant assisting land trusts and river groups throughout the Southeast with organizational development, strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Wilkins Berl has worked as River Network's Southeast Coordinator (2000-2005), American River's Director of State River Programs (1989-1994), Farmington River Watershed Association's Executive Director (1984-1989), Connecticut Land Trust Service Bureau's Executive Director (1980-1984), and Long Island Sound Task Force's Executive Director (1978-1980). Wilkins Berl is a previous Chair of the Board of Directors for River Network. In addition to her unwavering focus on river conservation, for the past 10 years Suzi has been active with regional nonprofit dementia efforts.



# 2021 EMERGING LEADER

In 2019, River Network established the Emerging Leader award, inspired by former River Network board member Leslie Lowe, whose generous spirit and encouragement of emerging leaders provided a vision for how River Network's efforts could extend into a wider array of communities. The award has two primary purposes: to provide early-career recognition and acknowledgment to an individual who shows promise, knowing that this can help them expand their aspirations, gain confidence, and widen their network; and to provide a path to expand the community of people who work on water issues by recognizing and lifting up those individuals who are working at the juncture of water and justice.



## CHARLES MILLER

**Law Student & Junior Board Member at the Alabama Rivers Alliance (Birmingham, AL)**

Charles is a third-year law student at the University of Alabama School of Law and a board member at the **Alabama Rivers Alliance**. He has a strong interest in water law and democracy, with a focus on how this essential resource can be managed for the public good and with meaningful public input in the face of climate change. He has worked for One Roof, a non-profit dedicated to ending homelessness in Central Alabama, and at a local land trust. He has also interned at American Rivers in their Government Relations office and the Southern Environmental Law Center. Growing up on Green Mountain in northern Alabama, he gained an appreciation for the importance of wildlands and open space, especially in urban and suburban areas. Charles enjoys traveling, flatwater kayaking, and photography.



# RIVER HEROES

We will celebrate our River Heroes on **Thursday, May 20th, at 12:00pm**. Join us to be inspired by their reflections on their work to bring people together to find inclusive and equitable solutions to water problems, and what they hope for the future.



**BETH STYLER BARRY**

**Director of River Restoration of The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey (Chester, NJ)**

For more than 20 years, Styler Barry has worked toward watershed education and protection in New Jersey, including work with various stakeholders. She leads the development and implementation of major on-the-ground river restoration projects in the Paulins Kill watershed and leads the NJ Statewide Dam Removal Partnership. Her efforts and accomplishments in restoring the Musconetcong River and Paulins Kill are tremendous in scope and impact. Her commitment to river restoration is contagious and she serves as a relentless voice for New Jersey's rivers and the surrounding inhabitants.



**COLETTE PICHON BATTLE**

**Founder & Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy (Slidell, LA)**

Pichon Battle is a vehement defender of communities on the frontlines of climate change in the Gulf South. Despite serious challenges posed by COVID-19, Pichon Battle has anchored communities in Gulf South for a Green New Deal, which would advance long-existing work toward climate, racial, and economic justice in the region. She manages GCCLP's legal services for immigration law and disaster law and she was named an Echoing Green Climate fellow in 2015 and an Obama Fellow in 2019 for her work with Black and Native communities on the frontline of climate change.

# RIVER HEROES



**EAN TAFOYA**

**Colorado Field Advocate of GreenLatinos (Denver, CO)**

As Field Advocate and founder of the Headwaters Protectors, a mutual aid group serving the unhoused, Tafoya is innovatively fighting for clean and healthy water for all. Tafoya was raised a proud Xicano and his indigenous ancestors are Jicarilla Apache and Ohkay Owingeh from the Headwaters of the Rio Grande in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Tafoya is a performance artist whose music, dance, and poems focus on themes of water and justice. Tafoya is a tireless advocate and community organizer, whose accomplishments converge in the area of bringing people together to recognize the intersectionality of water issues in Colorado and nationwide.



**TOM VAUGHAN**

**Biologist and Co-Founder of the Rio Grande International Study Center (Laredo, TX)**

For 3 decades, Dr. Vaughan has made a sustained contribution to the conservation of the Rio Grande and the Rio Grande Watershed. In addition to founding the RGISC, Dr. Vaughan is credited for creating a water quality data program with the city of Laredo, leading free kayak excursions on the Rio Grande, preventing the near destruction of Manadas Creek in the early 2000s, and collected 13,000 signatures to save the Casa Blanca wetland.



**SKY JONES-LEWEY**

**Education Resource and Protection Director of Nueces River Authority (Uvalde, TX)**

Jones-Lewey has lived her entire life on the banks of the Nueces River in southwest Texas and has served as a formal river advocate since 2000. Jones-Lewey joined the Nueces River Authority as its first Director of Resource Protection and Education and has since touched the lives of thousands by pioneering a number of innovative and award-winning programs including Up2U and the Riparian Landowners Network curriculum.

# URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK AWARDS CELEBRATION

Join us **Tuesday, May 18, 5–6 pm** in honoring and hearing from this year's *Urban Waters Learning Network* (UWLN) awardees! The UWLN awards, sponsored by the US EPA, celebrate significant achievements of individuals who have improved urban waterways and revitalized the neighborhoods around them.



CARRIE MERSON

## SIGNATURE AWARD – SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY Environmentalist and Human Rights Activist (Iowa City, IA)

Our Signature Award recognizes three staffers from the San Antonio River Authority, Carrie Merson, Chris Vaughn and Rebecca Reeves, for their environmental education and water quality monitoring efforts. Carrie's innovative education programs cover issues ranging from nonpoint source pollution to urban sustainability and serve approximately 10,000 students and adults every year across over 100 unique schools and organizations. Chris has led a first of its kind Mission Reach Mussel Survivability Study to assess the potential to reintroduce freshwater mussels to the San Antonio River, providing a national model for improving urban water quality. Rebecca has led a critical Mission Reach Pilot Study to assess bacterial levels in the river, which has the potential to advocate for the return of swimming and to significantly improve perceptions of the water body. In addition to supporting the local communities they serve, Carrie, Chris and Rebecca's activities also advance the River Authority's leadership role in the San Antonio Urban Waters Federal Partnership.



CHRIS VAUGHN



REBECCA REEVES



# URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK AWARDS CELEBRATION



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EXPERT AWARD – **Dr. Bernard Singleton, Dillard University**

A Professor of Biology at Dillard University in New Orleans, Dr. Bernard Singleton goes beyond the core of teaching to promote Black students and minority youth in environmental science and research. He remains a key partner in the struggle to revitalize the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He listens to community needs and helps them achieve their goals through community science research, STEM education empowerment workshops and seminars, and environmental pollution monitoring for air and water toxicants. Dr. Singleton is also committed to implementing a Community Resilience Plan in the Lower 9th Ward, which will bring badly-needed resources and information to the neighborhood and create a permanent structure for residents to engage in city decision-making processes that impact the quality of life and health domains.



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXPERT AWARD – **Bianette Perez, Little Manila Rising**

A Stockton, CA native, Bianette Perez returned home after attending UCLA to support her community. She works with the organization Little Manila Rising to lead their Youth Health Advocates program, which injects youth perspectives into vital conversations surrounding immigration reform, transportation inclusion strategies, and the California State Delta Stewardship Council's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Climate Vulnerability Assessment. Bianette's transformative program centers the voices of young people of color and the communities they represent into a conversation that will shape California's adaptation strategies.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & EQUITY EXPERT AWARD – **Friends of the Rio de Flag**

Represented by Board Secretary Paul Beier, Friends of the Rio de Flag (FoRio) has grown from a small group of concerned citizens to an organized regional leader in watershed management and planning. The organization is committed to serving the Flagstaff, AZ community, especially those who have traditionally been left out of the conversations in natural resource planning efforts, and who have been burdened by decades of flooding due to historic decisions that reflect lasting racial discrimination by economic interests. Through years of coordination and partnership building with community members and natural resource managers, FoRio has built an alliance of key stakeholders committed to addressing watershed issues in the Flagstaff area.



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## OUR MISSION & VISION

River Network empowers and unites people and communities to protect and restore rivers and other waters that sustain all life. We envision a future with clean and ample water for people and nature, where local caretakers are well-equipped, effective and courageous champions for our rivers. We believe that everyone should have access to affordable, clean water and healthy rivers.

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