

Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership Funding 2021



OVERVIEW

Over the past three years, River Network, with support from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), **has awarded over \$150,000 to local organizations** working to steward their Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) providing support for a range of activities including river and riparian restoration, community outreach and education, and water monitoring. **This funding has leveraged an additional \$250,000 in direct and in-kind support directed toward the health of rivers and communities.** In 2021, River Network continued this Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership Funding, and provided awards to seven organizations nationwide who are working to increase stewardship and access on USFS administered WSRs.

SELECTION PROCESS

As in the past two years, demand for this stewardship opportunity well outstripped availability with 17 groups proposing projects totaling almost \$150,000, three times greater than available funding. To select projects, River Network established [selection criteria](#) including:

- **Impact** – Project includes stewardship activities on USFS administered Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) and surrounding lands and furthers the values of WSRs.
- **Reach** – Project increases the diversity and numbers of volunteers and community members engaged with the organization and/or with Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- **Feasibility** – Project has strong potential for success based on project design, leadership, and realistic budgeting.
- **Community Support** – Project proposal demonstrates strong partnerships/community support. Priority consideration will be given to proposals that support communities whose members historically lack adequate access to outdoor education, recreation and/or other stewardship opportunities.

To qualify, projects had to take a shared stewardship approach on a designated WSR administered by USFS. A review team with staff from River Network, USFS and American Whitewater evaluated and ranked all applications.



Photos: Enjoying the Sipsey Fork with Wild Alabama.

AWARDS

This Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Partnership Funding is supporting river and riparian restoration, community outreach and education, and water monitoring by local organizations, which is vital to protecting our nation's WSRs and expanding interest and care from the public to successfully conserve these rivers so they can be widely enjoyed and accessed by all people into the future. The 2021 awards include:

[California Wilderness Coalition](#) – is working to expand equitable access to the [Merced Wild and Scenic River](#) in California by pursuing data collection, outreach, and planning efforts to increase multilingual river signage and other materials.

[Humane Society of the United States \(HSUS\)](#) – in Oregon, HSUS will be convening the Bear Safe Rogue project to engage diverse stakeholders to develop a plan to manage bear-human conflicts along the [Rogue Wild and Scenic River](#).



[Love in Motion Foundation](#) – is launching volunteer trail maintenance, environmental education, and leave no trace training around Puerto Rico's [Rio Mameyes Wild and Scenic River](#), helping connect the community to the river.

[Salmon Valley Stewardship](#) – is building on their youth environmental education program on river ecology, cultural connectivity, science and recreation by getting kids out on Idaho's [Salmon Wild and Scenic River](#).



[Tin Mountain Conservation Center](#) – will partner with a local elementary school and local land trust to engage students in field science on New Hampshire's [Wildcat Wild and Scenic River](#).

[Umpqua Watersheds](#) – is building capacity for shared stewardship of fire-impacted public lands by providing service learning opportunities for local students and volunteers related to riparian habitat restoration on the [North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River](#) in Oregon.

LOOKING AHEAD

We look forward to supporting additional organizations in their quest to work with USFS to steward local rivers and increase access to a broader and more diverse range of communities. As increased interest in spending time outdoors continues, these projects can help meet that need while also conserving healthy rivers.

[Wild Alabama](#) – is working with volunteers on river clean ups, eradication of invasive plants, monitoring water quality, and providing leave no trace training on the [Sipsey Fork Wild and Scenic River](#).

REQUEST FOR LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

WHERE: Merced Wild and Scenic River between Redbud & Briceburg
ABOUT: Signage to improve responsible recreation

Our mission is to publish findings on how to best improve informational and interpretive signage to facilitate better stewardship and visitor services for the various communities that utilize the public lands in the designated area.



Our report will provide information on permits, regulations, messaging suggestions and protocol for signage and digital communication on the Route 140 corridor. We will identify sign installation options between Briceburg and Redbud and identify the most helpful information and languages for the signs, logistics for construction and installation. This report will be prepared for review in March 2022.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED:

- Ongoing - Interview via Phone or Zoom
if interested, visit: <https://bit.ly/Merced-River-Signage-Input>
- Feb 8 - El Portal Planning Advisory Committee
Visit www.mariposacounty.org/ESA/El-Portal for details.
- Feb 16 - Community Input Phone Conference
Visit <https://bit.ly/Merced-River-Signage-Input> for details.

We look forward to hearing your perspective on how we can provide visitors with the best information to enjoy the local resources without damaging or disparaging the lives of local residents who live, work, and enjoy the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor everyday.

Contact Us For More Information or scan the QR code:
André Sanchez



Top photo: Tin Mountain Conservation Center field trip.
Center photo: Love in Motion volunteer trail crews get to work in El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico.
Bottom image: Merced Wild & Scenic River sign project.