



Volume 8, Issue 6 - August 8, 2018

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FOR Action

State Senate To Vote On Safety Net Bill For Federal Wild Rivers

By Steve Evans, Wild and Scenic Program Consultant

AB 2975 (Friedman), the bill to provide a state safety net for federal wild and scenic rivers in California as a defense against environmental roll-backs by the Trump Regime and the Republican-led Congress, will be voted on by the California Senate as early as August 13, 2018. The bill has already passed the Assembly. Here is your last chance to urge your State Senator to support this crucial bill, which will provide state protection for federal rivers if President Trump or Congress signs an executive order or passes legislation to reduce or eliminate federal protection for the Merced or any other federal river in California.



Action Needed – Please Email Your State Senator Urging Passage Of AB 2975

Email your state Senator TODAY urging him or her to vote yes on AB 2975 (Friedman).

[Find Your Senator](#)

Legislation Introduced To Protect 480 Miles of Wild And Scenic Rivers In Northwest California

By Steve Evans, Wild and Scenic Program Consultant

In late July, Rep. Jared Huffman (D) introduced H.R. 6596, the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act. The bill provides for the restoration, economic development, recreation, and conservation of federal lands in Trinity, Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties.



H.R. 6596 proposes to protect 480 miles of wild and scenic rivers and 260,000 acres of wilderness. It also includes the establishment of a 730,000-acre forest restoration area encompassing the South Fork Trinity and Mad River watersheds where the ecological health of logged-over areas will be improved the danger of unnaturally severe fires be reduced. The bill will also help encourage the expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities by requiring a region-wide trails assessment, studying the establishment of

the proposed Big Foot National Recreation Trail, and studying the establishment of two public visitor centers in Del Norte and Trinity Counties.

Rivers and streams proposed for wild and scenic protection in H.R. 6596 include the unprotected upper segment of the South Fork Trinity and several of its tributaries that provide important cold water refuge for endangered salmon and steelhead. Other wild and scenic rivers proposed in the bill include segments of Redwood Creek in and upstream of Redwood National Park, the South Fork and Little South Fork Elk River in the Headwaters Forest Reserve, the Mattole River estuary and Bear Creek in the King Range National Conservation Area, and the upper Middle Eel River in the Yolla Bolly Mountains.

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival made a big splash!

Films, food, fun and activism were on the docket at Saturday night's Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Over 130 river enthusiasts flocked to the Cool Community Hall in Cool, CA to celebrate a monumental event: the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



The first film festival, hosted by Friends of the River, kicked off with 8 inspiring films about everyday activism. Films such as Shadow of a Drought, Forget Shorter Showers, Selah: Water from Stone, and Protected: A Wild & Scenic River Portrait highlighted the work being done by ordinary people that has brought about real change in public policy and environmental protections to rivers, lakes and watersheds in the US. Guest Speaker Steve Evans, Friends of the River's Wild & Scenic Rivers Consultant, discussed the impact Friends of the River has made, along with other collaborating organizations, to designate rivers as Wild & Scenic over the past 45 years—including the most recent addition of the Mokelumne River into the State system this past June.

Thanks to everyone who wore a Wild and Scenic Rivers bib on Saturday! **Special thanks to All Outdoors, ARTA, OARS and Mother Lode whose dedication to rivers meant 75 guides sported bibs in solidarity.**



The celebration continues on the river as boaters wear their Wild & Scenic River bibs on their PFDs. The bibs show support and spark conversations about the importance of river protection and how individuals—like you —can get involved. If you purchased a bib to support the Wild & Scenic protection of rivers, share it with us on social media #GetWildAndScenicWithUs.

To learn more about Wild and Scenic river protection, find volunteer opportunities or to purchase your own Wild & Scenic Rivers bib visit www.friendsoftheriver.org. Thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors who helped make this event possible!

Get Involved!

Thank you to our volunteers who have helped make this season happen so far! Want to get active with FOR? Join the Google Group where we announce opportunities. (Email [Toby Briggs](mailto:Toby_Briggs) to be added to the list.)

Upcoming volunteer opportunities—

If you do not know someone, email [Toby Briggs](mailto:Toby_Briggs) and she can connect you.

- **August 26th Opinion Leader Trip (South Fork American) Rafting**
Guides needed [Contact Toby Briggs](mailto:Toby_Briggs)
- **September 8th Friends and Family (South Fork American) Rafting**
All volunteers invited [Contact Toby Briggs](mailto:Toby_Briggs)
- **September 9th Gear Love Day (Camp Lotus) Rafting gear clean-up (close of season)**
10 Rafting and general volunteers needed [Contact Toby Briggs](mailto:Toby_Briggs)
- **October 20th California River Awards (San Francisco) Fundraising Event**
5 General Volunteers needed [Contact Brittney Schilpp](mailto:Brittney_Schilpp)



California River Awards

Saturday Oct 20, 2018 6:00pm
City Club, San Francisco

Please join us for the California River Awards as we celebrate **the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act** and the many heroes who worked on state and federal Wild and Scenic campaigns. As always, you can expect delectable food, fine wine, and unique silent & live auctions!

[Purchase Tickets and Sponsorships](#)

Join the momentum!

We are focusing on **citizen education** and demonstrating the groundswell of people who want Senator Kamala Harris to protect rivers and the environment and push back against the anti-environmental bills being proposed in the House of Representatives.



You can **come help canvass** districts where Congressmen are promoting environmentally destructive bills. **No experience needed!** We can train you in a morning and partner you with a RAT.

- August 25th--Modesto

[Sign up to canvass here!](#)

Friends and Family Rafting

As a perk to active FOR volunteers, we invite you to join us on **Saturday, September 8th for our Friends and Family Rafting Day**. We appreciate the contributions of our volunteers and invite them and their friends and family to come on this shared cost rafting day. FOR provides dinner on Saturday evening for all participants. [Register here](#). Camping reserved at Camp Lotus.



[Please contact Scott Arrants if you a current guide and want to help.]

Join us the next day for Gear Love! Our annual gear clean-up day is a fun time to help set us up for success next season. [Email Toby Briggs](#) if you are interested in volunteering.

River Currents

by Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

Full article includes...

Water Commission allocates Proposition 1 funds (finally, well mostly)

For good or ill, in the 2014 general election, at the urging of Governor Brown and most of the state's movers and shakers, California voters were persuaded to devote \$2.7 billion in taxpayer dollars to new water storage projects...



Temperance Flat dam - just drama after drama

It's no secret that Friends of the River does not think much of the proposed Temperance Flat dam on the San Joaquin River gorge. And although every visible politician from Merced to Bakersfield seemingly swore that the San Joaquin Valley would dry up and blow away without it, there never has been any truth there (Reclamation's preferred project was modeled to increase the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project deliveries by only 1%)...

Temperance Flat dam supporter reaction and strategy

The May decision to allocate no more than 6% of the costs of the dam came as a shock to Valley politicians. They had been counting on the Commission to fund half the cost of this dam, proposed to be the second highest in California, and \$2.8 billion before the almost inevitable cost overruns...

Some quick analysis of the results of the Water Commission vote

The groundwater storage and recycling projects received just over 25% of the \$2.6 billion dollars allocated by the Water Commission, amounting to nearly half of the total funding needed for these projects...

Shasta Dam Raise

Well, the Trump Administration continues to impress. We recently got the Administration's answers to a Congressional inquiry.

The questions were pretty simple: The state has asserted that raising the dam is inconsistent with the state's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has concurred in its final EIS for the project. Does the Administration disagree and on what basis?...

A lawless federal administration?

After many many years of waiting, the State Water Resources Control Board may adopt a Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Delta prescribing a range of expected contributions to the Delta from the rivers and reservoirs tributary to the Delta. (The exact details may have to wait a plan or plans of implementation.)...

And then there's the Congress:

During the previous federal administration, there was some adult supervision of the Congress. But now the Congress is free to make mischief, only supervised by Senate traditions and rules that require unanimous consent for uncontroversial items and 60% of the Senate to move more controversial items...

Don Pedro takeout improvement challenge

The Turlock and Modesto Irrigation District licensing of the Don Pedro Dam on the Tuolumne River is certainly ill-timed. In fact, it is doubly ill-timed. In 2005 the Energy Policy Act gave the owners of FERC-licensed dams the ability to challenge conditions on their licenses imposed by federal managers of the lands that their projects occupy. Federal land managers now are faced with settling the dispute or fighting the challenge — with all the expenses for a trial-type hearing coming out of the land managers' budgets...

AB 2975 Report

This Friends of the River-sponsored bill to put into the state wild & scenic river system any rivers taken out of the federal system during a potential two-term Trump Administration passed the Assembly a few months back...

Filming It

Friends saving rivers can be powerful.

And taking out a video camera and interviewing some folks about their local river is one way to do it. Friends of the River has a video on the Temperance Flat dam by Brittany Apps of Apps Photography. Coming soon will be another short video on the Temperance Flat dam meant to inform and inspire — and hope to lead to more...

[Click here](#) to read the August *River Currents* article by Ron Stork

Thank you for supporting rivers by staying informed. We can't wait to see you at our next event or talk!

Sincerely,
the FOR Staff--Eric, Ron, Brittney, Bob, Toby, and Kellie

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