



## From Otters to Anglers to Itinerant Farm Workers —

## Looking for What Brings Us Together

by Gail Snyder

Why would the words of a war zone journalist be relevant to river advocates? Photographer and journalist Ami Vitale offers these insights:\*

*“If we choose to look for what divides us, we will find it. If we choose to look for what brings us together, we will find that too.”*

Water in the west is filled with conflict among stakeholder groups who often feel misunderstood and sometimes maligned by each other. There are winners and losers, but too often, rivers and all the life that depends on them are on the losing side.

This had been true for the Deschutes River in Central Oregon, but positive change was finally underway. Then tensions came to a head in November

2017, when the first draft of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was made public. The plan addresses in part the ESA-listed Oregon spotted frog and proposed changes to the management of the Upper Deschutes.

After years of conservation groups pushing irrigation districts to conserve water and supporting the districts’ irrigation modernization efforts, negative reaction to the initial draft HCP threatened to derail the work being done by many, including the Coalition for the Deschutes (CFD).

Driven by our pressing and passionate desire to bring people together to engage in conversation, not conflict, in July 2017 CFD launched the **“Shared Vision for the Deschutes.”**

The *Shared Vision* brings diverse

*River otter on the Crooked River, a tributary to the Deschutes River, Oregon. Photo: Dave Rein*

interests together with the goal of working as partners to achieve:

- A healthy, restored Deschutes River
- Thriving farms and sustainable agriculture
- Robust and vibrant communities

To date, 42 organizations are *Shared Vision* partners. They include irrigation districts, breweries and outdoor recreation businesses, farms and agricultural businesses, environmental organizations, and hunting and angling groups.

In 2020, we will launch a new *Shared Vision* program we’re calling ***Share the Vision: Be the Change***. Individuals are invited to sign the *Be the Change* pledge and commit to conserving water in their daily lives. They can also donate to restoration projects and sign up to volunteer on restoration projects organized in collaboration with *Shared Vision* partners.



Ami Vitale, the war zone journalist, observes:

*“Stories about people and the human condition are also about nature. If you dig deep enough behind virtually every human conflict, you will find an erosion of the bond between humans and the natural world around them.”*

From otters to anglers to itinerant farm workers, we all rely on the river. CFD works to convey the message that there are reciprocal relationships between rivers and people, between rural and urban communities, etc. We see the need for a water conservation ethic that is embraced by all of us, an ethic in which everyone understands their individual and collective impacts, and our responsibility to share the water not only among ourselves but with all living things.

These discussions will continue long into the future, but by talking together today, stakeholders will be better positioned to see long lasting positive outcomes for our rivers. ♦

*Above: Kayak trip co-hosted by Coalition for the Deschutes and Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe on the Deschutes River through Bend, OR. Photo: Diana Lee*

*Inset: Coalition for the Deschutes field trip to an irrigated farm east of Bend. Photo: Gail Snyder, Executive Director of Coalition for the Deschutes*

*Below: Deschutes National Forest restoration project on the Upper Deschutes River with Coalition for the Deschutes volunteers. Photo: Dave Rein*



\* <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/09/life-changing-lessons-of-the-last-male-northern-white-rhino/>



## Building Bridges Between Traditional Landowners and River Recreationists on Montana's Blackfoot River

by Cannon Colegrove

"The canyon above the old Clearwater Bridge is where the Blackfoot roars loudest. Even the roar adds power to the fish or at least intimidates the fisherman," writes Norman Maclean. "The canyon was glorified by rhythms and colors." The Blackfoot River, only minutes outside of Missoula, Montana, is famously known as the centerpiece of Norman Maclean's novel *A River Runs Through It*. Although close to one of Montana's largest towns, the Blackfoot River is a diverse and wild river. Grizzly bears, bald eagles, elk, and river otters are often seen along the banks of the river. Whitewater enthusiasts, anglers, and floaters come from near and far to experience the Blackfoot River.

*An area known as River Bend in the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor. Photo: Cannon Colegrove*

The Blackfoot River begins at the snowmelt of the Continental Divide and flows 122 miles through western Montana. It meanders through wide valley bottoms where the jagged peaks of the Bob Marshall Wilderness stand tall in the distance and glides past giant rock slabs and timbered slopes as it flows towards Missoula. The 30 miles of the Blackfoot River, characterized as the most wild and scenic portion of the river, is known today as the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor. This section of river is a river enthusiast's dream, where tall stands

*(continued page 14)*



**RMS Main Office**  
Risa Shimoda, Executive Director  
PO Box 5750, Takoma Park, MD 20913-5750  
(301) 585-4677 / cell (301) 502-6548  
executivedirector@river-management.org

**National Officers**  
Linda Jalbert, President, Flagstaff, AZ  
(928) 638-7909 / l\_jalbs@yahoo.com

Bo Shelby, Vice President, Corvallis, OR  
(541) 760-1000 / bo.shelby@oregonstate.edu

Helen Clough, Secretary, Juneau, AK  
(907) 790-4189 / hcloughak@gmail.com

Dave Cernicek, Treasurer, Jackson, WY  
(307) 739-5417 / dcernicek@fs.fed.us

Jane Polansky, Chapter Liaison  
Nashville, TN  
(615) 456-3843 / jane.polansky@tn.gov

**Ex-Officio Advisors**  
Bob Randall, Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell LLP  
(303) 825-7000 / brandall@kaplankirsch.com

Nate Hunt, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP  
(303) 825-7000 / nhunt@kaplankirsch.com

Steve Chesterton, US Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
(202) 205-1398 / smchesterton@fs.fed.us

Marina Metes, U.S. Geological Survey  
Baltimore, MD  
(313) 410-0336 / mjmetes@gmail.com

**River Training Center**  
River Studies and Leadership Certificate  
(301) 585-4677 / training@river-management.org

**National Rivers Project**  
National River Recreation Database  
Jack Henderson, GIS and Program Assistant  
jack@river-management.org

**Professional Purchase and Merchandise**  
Judy Culver, Prescott, AZ  
(928) 443-8070 / judyculver@fs.fed.us

**RMS Journal**  
Caroline Kurz, Missoula, MT  
(406) 549-0514 / caroline@river-management.org

*RMS is a non-profit professional organization.  
All contributions and membership dues  
are tax-deductible.*

**Editorial Policy:** Articles are not edited for content and may not reflect the position, endorsement, or mission of RMS. The purpose of this policy is to encourage the free exchange of ideas concerning river management issues in an open forum of communication among the RMS membership. Unless indicated, points of view are those of the author and not RMS.

## Executive Director's Eddy

### This spring has presented challenges...

...to our resilience and creativity, just like running a steep rapid on an unfamiliar river. We know in order to end up at the bottom and to reach the final eddy safely, we need to rely on the skills and instincts of both our paddling group's collective experience and our individual compasses. It sure does not hurt that most RMS members and our colleagues include 'planning' in our position descriptions, so are oriented toward rational decision-making, even if accelerated or amidst environmental uncertainty.

Central to the opportunities are groups of individuals and organizations whose effectiveness is amazingly greater than the sum their parts. Each group has met and handled programmatic issues, financial challenges and oh, yeah, an international pandemic and states of emergency for the majority of our fifty states and the nation:

- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Commonwealth University** have been invaluable partners in the planning of the 2020 River Management Symposium, whose trajectory shifts dramatically as this issue goes to print. See a late-breaking Symposium article on page 4.
- **The Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition** has fueled a presence in the national river advocacy community, capped off late this past winter with a presence in the halls of Congress. We'll share more about this group's recent activities in the Summer 2020 issue of the RMS Journal.
- **State River Program Managers** – Assisted by a grant of professional guidance by the NPS Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program, Molly MacGregor (MN) and Rob White (CO) are developing priorities among participants whose organizations align with a state policy and/or practice.
- **Hydropower Summaries** – We have updated many of them in partnership with the members, Harry Williamson and the Hydropower Reform Coalition's Colleen McNally Murphy,

to improve their value as handy, informative references.

- **River Studies and Leadership Certificate (RSLC)** – Certificates will be awarded to nearly a dozen students who have graduated or will be completing the program during this academic year.
- **The Rivers Field Studies Network**, whose core leaders are also RSLC Advisors, will continue to use its 2019 'incubator grant' in support of the 2nd of three meetings this spring. The final application for a National Science Foundation-Research Coordination Networks Undergraduate Biology Education grant is due at the beginning of 2021.
- **A-DASH – The Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Collaborative** has been founded and will provide tools for change. See page 26 for more information.
- **Sponsors** – Federal agency and private agreements and grants support River Training Center workshops, instructor training events, the NationalRiversProject.com and RSLC student attendance at RMS events.
- **RMS Board and Chapter Leaders** – This group runs the organization as the body responsible for its financial and organizational health.
- **You** - RMS' membership dues from you and roughly 400 others pay for about two-thirds the cost of producing and distributing the RMS Journal.

Each of these groups is working together with RMS in the mix at varying levels. Keeping up with them is fun, challenging, and gratifying as we face the need to respond to change with the knowledge there is much to do in the study, protection and management of our rivers across the public and private sectors, and we know none of us can do it alone. ♦

Risa Shimoda  
Executive Director

## RMS President's Corner

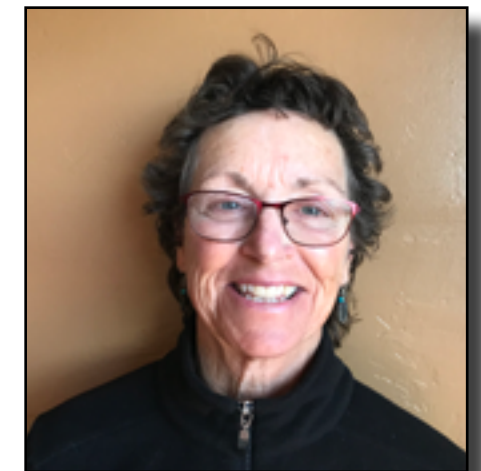
### The care of rivers...

One of the more tangible benefits of the RMS river community is sharing experiences. At the larger scale, shared learning opportunities are facilitated at organized events such as the Biennial Training Symposium, Chapter events, or training classes coordinated through the River Training Center. Additionally, and often casually, we develop relationships within our community and create a network of "go to" folks when we are seeking help, or when we want to share our concerns and lessons learned, as well as our successes and passions. Each year, RMS presents awards to honor accomplishments in the field of river management and contributions to the River Management Society. Outside these annual award celebrations, we occasionally hear from members of our community about accomplishments worthy of sharing.

*The celebratory cake honoring Heidi for her determination and dedication — "The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart." — Tanaka Shozo*



Beaming with pride, Kirstin Heins, BLM Assistant Field Manager in Prineville, Oregon, recently shared a story about an employee's perseverance and dedication. Expecting to attend a briefing with the District Manager, Heidi Mottl was surprised by the entire staff in the BLM District Office who gathered to celebrate her overall dedication to the river and for a hard-earned success with implementing the permit system for the Wild and Scenic section of the John Day River. Heidi has been involved with John Day river management for most of her career, and in 2011 first implemented a permit system to help spread use along the popular river segment. The online permit system faced technical difficulties for several years leaving successful implementation of the visitor use plan in limbo. Throughout it all, Heidi endured years of internet permit system transitions



and other problems. Finally, overcoming obstacles, on March 4, 2020, the John Day River permit system went live on [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

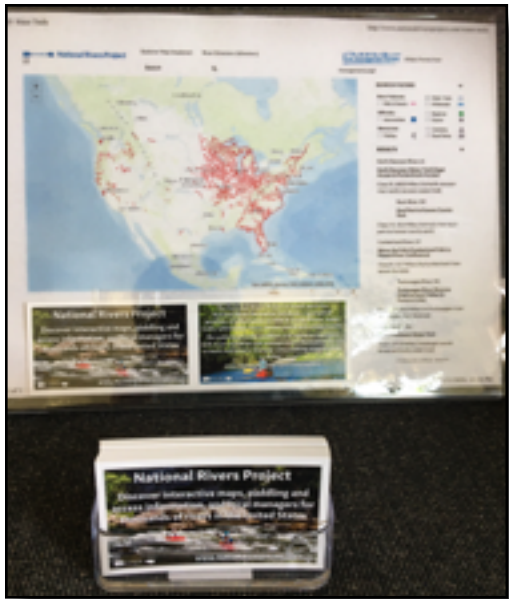
A bit of déjà vu? In 2011, Heidi received the RMS award for "River Manager of the Year." She was nominated by her peers, commercial river outfitters, non-commercial users, supervisors, and agency partners for her leadership in promoting and protecting the outstanding values of the John Day Wild and Scenic

River and for her commitment to providing the highest level of service to the people who visit the rivers (*RMS Journal*, Summer 2011). Thank you, Heidi, again for putting your heart into the care of the John Day and other rivers.

Thanks to you all for your dedication to river management and protection. You too have a story to share; we look forward to hearing from you. ♦

In appreciation,

Linda Jalbert  
RMS President



# National Rivers Project Cards

by Sigrid Pilgrim

Several weeks ago, I learned of the National Rivers Project. I am a Director of the Illinois Paddling Council, the state organization for paddlesport. We annually have a table at Canoecopia, the world’s largest paddle sport event in Madison, WI, hosting 15,000 attendees over three days.

Thinking it would be a great venue to promote NRP, I tried to print information from the website to distribute, and was not successful, so asked Risa if RMS had promotional material she could send. Jack Henderson produced some great, business-style cards and mailed them to me. I printed out the map from the website; inserted it into an acrylic 8”x10” stand; and taped two cards to it with others in a business card holder in front. I planned to explain details of the website and the (very impressive) three-minute tutorial.

It was to start March 13. However, an email arrived March 11th informing me that the event was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. But...there will be other events to use the display, and others are welcome to do the same!♦

## Welcome! New RMS Members

<b>Associate</b> Aimee Hoefs Planning & Environmental Coordinator Bureau of Land Management North Bend, OR	<b>Government / Corporate Organization</b> Bruce Wilk James River Park System Richmond, VA
Jeanne Klein Supervisory Recreation Planner Bureau of Land Management Medford, OR	Rosemary Galloway Morris VHB Richmond, VA
David Sanders, Supervisory Park Ranger Bureau of Land Management Salem, OR	<b>Lifetime</b> Kelly Owens, Forest Hydrologist US Forest Service Jackson, WY
Sarah Schapira, Park Ranger Bureau of Land Management North Bend, OR	Brian Goldberg, Planner US Forest Service Jackson, WY
Jaydon Mead, Outdoor Rec Planner Bureau of Land Management Price, UT	Mollie Chaudet Consultant / Training Instructor Redmond, OR
Bob Lange, Hydrologist Bureau of Land Management Grants Pass, OR	<b>Nonprofit / NGO Organization</b> Scott Eustis Community Science Director Healthy Gulf (formerly Gulf Restoration Network), New Orleans, LA
Kailee Bell, LA Resource Assistant US Forest Service Eugene, OR	<b>Professional</b> Francisca Adrian Assistant Recreation Staff Officer Red Rock Ranger District Coconino National Forest Sedona, AZ
John Colby, Hydrologist Bureau of Land Management North Bend, OR	

Rebecca Stubbs Water Resources Project Manager McAdams Durham, NC	Erich Hester, Associate Professor Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
Shaun Witt, Owner Expedition Consultants Frisco, CO	
Lauren Pidot Conservation Lands Program Lead Bureau of Land Management Portland, OR	
<b>Student</b> Colter Lemons Western Washington University Bellingham, WA	
Maxwell Leidig Western Washington University Brier, WA	
Caelan Johnson Western Washington University North Bend, WA	
Alexandra Trejo Western Washington University Bellingham, WA	

## Chapter Officers

### ALASKA

David W. Schade, MPA, President  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1020  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577  
(907) 269-8645 / cell (907) 230-6061  
david.w.schade@alaska.gov

Cassie Thomas, Vice President  
National Park Service, Retired  
11081 Glazanof Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907) 677-9191 / cassieinak@gmail.com

Sharon Seim, Secretary  
US Forest Service  
PO Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-8804 / sharongseim@fs.fed.us

### NORTHWEST

Lisa Byers, President  
Salmon River Ranger District  
304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, ID 83554  
(208) 839-2146 / lmbyers4@gmail.com

Joe O'Neill, Vice President  
Bureau of Land Management  
2 Butte Drive, Cottonwood, ID 83522  
homerocksjoey@yahoo.com

Martin Hudson, Secretary  
Bureau of Land Management, Retired  
P.O. Box 92, Pinedale, WY 82941  
(307) 367-5315 / 53silvercreek@gmail.com

Joni Gore, Events Coordinator  
National Park Service  
909 1st Street, Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 220-4006 / gore.joni@gmail.com

### SOUTHWEST

Rob White, President  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife, AHRA  
307 W Sackett Ave, Salida CO 81201  
(719) 539-7289 / cell (719) 207-2050  
rob.white@state.co.us

Matt Blocker, Vice President  
Bureau of Land Management  
125 S 600 W, Price UT 84501  
(435) 636-3631 / mblocker@blm.gov

Greg Trainor, Secretary  
2514 Snowmass Ct, Grand Junction CO 81507  
(970) 260-4670 / ptrainor7@msn.com

Stuart Schneider, Trip Coordinator  
Bureau of Land Management  
906 Sunny Slope Dr, Gunnison, CO 81230  
(970) 642-4964 / swschneider@blm.gov

### NORTHEAST

Emma Lord, President  
National Park Service  
54 Portsmouth St, Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 224-0091 / emma\_lord@nps.gov

John Field, Vice President  
Field Geology Services  
P.O. Box 985, Farmington, ME 04938  
(207) 645-9773 / fieldgeology@gmail.com

Walter Opuszynski, Trip Coordinator  
Vermont Dept of Forestry, Parks and Recreation  
5 Perry Street, Suite 20, Barre, VT 05641  
(802) 522-6022 / wopuszynski@gmail.com

### SOUTHEAST

Jane Polansky, President  
Tennessee State Parks  
Wm. R. Snodgrass TN Tower, 2nd Floor  
213 Rosa Parks Ave, Nashville TN 37243  
(615) 456-3843 / jane.polansky@tn.gov

### PACIFIC

(vacant)

### MIDWEST

(vacant)

**Canadian River Management Society (CRMS)**  
Contact: Max Finkelstein  
tel (613) 729-4004 / dowfink@gmail.com

The RMS is fueled by the amazing energy of its members, and we are looking for energy we know is out there among both new and seasoned members. The Pacific, Midwest and Southeast Chapters are looking for members who care about the management of their rivers to lead them forward. Potential leaders are team players who love working with others and believe a regional dialogue among members and a presence among peers in other parts of the country would help chapter members and the organization as a whole!

A membership in RMS makes a great gift for a colleague or friend!



## RMS Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Duties/interests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rivers you manage \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (please check one)

☐ Professional \$50/yr (\$200 for 5 years)

☐ Associate \$30/yr

☐ Government/Corporate Organization \$150/yr for up to (4) people / \$200/yr for (5-8)

☐ NGO/Non-profit Organization \$75/yr for up to (2) people / \$150/yr for up to (4)

☐ Student \$25/yr

☐ Lifetime \$500 (for individuals only)

Membership benefits are described online:  
[www.river-management.org/membership](http://www.river-management.org/membership)

Who referred you to RMS? \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to "RMS"*  
*RMS also accepts VISA or Mastercard:*

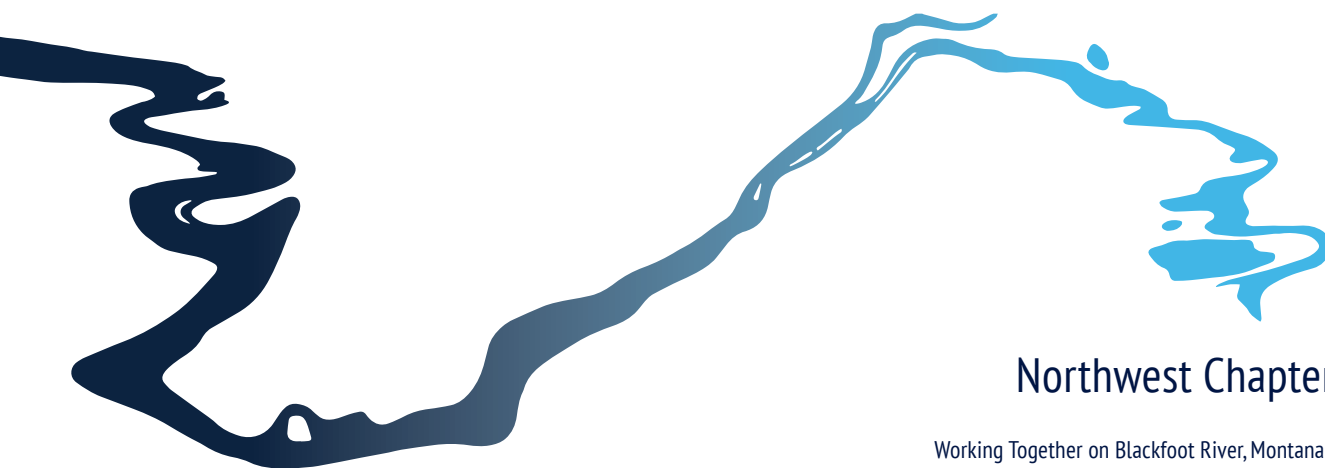
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this form, with payment, to:*  
*RMS, P.O. Box 5750, Takoma Park, MD 20913-5750*  
*(301) 585-4677 • [rms@river-management.org](mailto:rms@river-management.org)*



RMS, P.O. Box 5750, Takoma Park MD 20913

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage PAID  
Permit 536  
Missoula MT 59801



## RMS Journal Submission deadlines:

Spring 2020	Vol. 33, No. 1	Northwest	Feb 1
Summer 2020	Vol. 33, No. 2	Northeast	May 1
Fall 2020	Vol. 33, No. 3	Pacific	Aug 1
Winter 2020	Vol. 33, No. 4	Alaska	Nov 1
Spring 2021	Vol. 34, No. 1	Southeast	Feb 1
Summer 2021	Vol. 34, No. 2	Midwest	May 1
Fall 2021	Vol. 34, No. 3	Southwest	Aug 1
Winter 2021	Vol. 34, No. 4	Northwest	Nov 1

## Northwest Chapter Focus

Working Together on Blackfoot River, Montana .....	1
RMS Symposium Postponed .....	4
Introducing New RMS Logo! .....	6
New Protections for Montana Rivers .....	8
River Access Planning Guide .....	10
Wild & Scenic Rivers in Washington State .....	16
Shared Vision for the Deschutes, Oregon .....	20
Packrafting Down the Rio Grande, Texas .....	22
Introducing A-Dash Collaborative .....	26
Designating Soak Creek in Tennessee .....	28
WSR Workshop, OR - Implementing the Dingell Act .....	32
RMS Chapter Trips and River Ranger Rendezvous .....	34
National Rivers Project Cards .....	38