



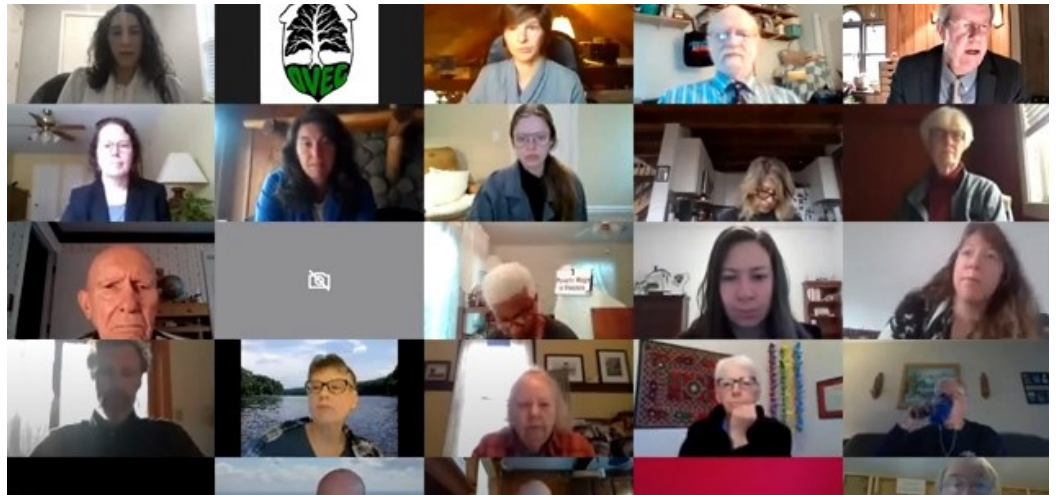
Remembering Some of our Favorite Moments of 2021

A REASON TO CELEBRATE

Public participation and citizen advocacy are at the heart of WV Rivers' policy work and it's all too easy to be disheartened by the challenges facing our environment. That's why it's essential we recognize and celebrate our successes!

One of the highlights of this past year we want to celebrate is witnessing the persistence of citizen advocates throughout the 2021 legislative session.

*Never underestimate the power of **persistent** citizen advocates.*



Citizen advocates participate in a virtual People's Public Hearing.

One of the most inspiring moments happened when advocates organized a virtual "People's Public Hearing" in response to the Legislature's refusal to hold a public hearing on a proposed exemption to the Aboveground Storage Tank Act. This exemption would deregulate more than 880 oil & gas storage tanks near drinking water intakes. More than 80 citizens, including members of the Legislature, joined the People's Public Hearing and the bill was defeated.

By the end of the session, **advocates had sent over 48,000 messages** to the Legislature in support of clean water. Now, that's reason to celebrate!

TAKE THE PLUNGE

Ian Urriola of Stephens City, VA is a WV Rivers' Paddling Partner, a donor who makes automatic recurring donations. He, too, appreciates the persistence of West Virginia's water advocates.

Ian says there's a special place in his heart for West Virginia. "**The tenacity of the people** and the natural beauty of the state are at the intersection of the things I care about," he said.

"I set up a recurring monthly gift because I know how important a steady stream of income is for small organizations."

When asked how he'd encourage other donors to consider becoming Paddling Partners, Ian immediately answered, "**Take the plunge! A gift of any size on a recurring basis can make an impact**, it helps WV Rivers plan for the future."



Double
your
impact.

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 30, 2021

GIVING
TUESDAY

We have the opportunity to
MATCH UP TO \$10,000
of donations postmarked by
November 30!

Dollar for dollar, your
donation – and impact – will
go further!

Make your gift online at
wvivers.org – or note
Giving Tuesday on your
check's memo line.

APP HELPS VOLUNTEERS REPORT POLLUTION

Indian Creek meanders through picturesque farmland as it crosses Monroe County, WV before it flows into the New River.

In July, Indian Creek Watershed Association President and volunteer water quality monitor, Howdy Henritz, discovered that construction of a turkey farm was polluting the watershed when muddy runoff drained into a sinkhole.

Howdy pulled out his smartphone and opened up WV Rivers' Stream Watch App to report the pollution. Within days of his report, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issued a water quality violation to the turkey farm and best management practices were put in place to prevent future runoff.

The Stream Watch App is a new handy tool that helps citizen scientists document and report certain types of water pollution.



Using the app, volunteers can easily submit photos of water pollution or habitat degradation as part of WV Rivers' volunteer water quality monitoring program, developed in partnership with Trout Unlimited.

The data submitted by volunteers is used to populate an interactive map which informs enforcement actions by regulatory agencies.

To learn more and download the Stream Watch App, visit wvivers.org/streamwatch

WILD & WONDERFUL MON NATIONAL FOREST

Wild & wonderful. It's a phrase we all know. A phrase that makes us proud.

But what is our wildest and most wonderful resource? We might be biased, but we consider it to be our abundant freshwater. And the home for many of our most beloved waters is the Monongahela National Forest.

The 1.7 million acre forest spans 10 counties and is managed by United States Forest Service (USFS).

Over the last year, we held virtual listening sessions with forest users on their relationship with the Mon and how maintenance, access, and their enjoyment of the forest might be enhanced.

We heard from user groups whose interests included topics like birdwatching, paddling, hiking, hunting and accessibility. The feedback provided will help guide our public lands programming and policy positions.

Accessibility, adequate signage, trail maintenance, habitat protection and overuse of prime tourist locations were top concerns across the interest groups.

While these findings are preliminary, you can read a report on the project by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



LEAVING A LEGACY OF CLEAN WATER

WV Rivers' board chair, Chrissy Zeltner, has always been drawn to the healing power of water.

Whether it's the sheer enjoyment she gets from kayaking on the rivers around the state or the importance of clean water for healthy living, this Preston County resident is passionate about all the benefits of clean water.

But, for Chrissy, it's also personal: "I want to leave a legacy of clean water for my niece and nephew."

That's why she documented a planned gift with WV Rivers. "I'm not able to give a major gift right now, but I can provide a legacy gift well into the future."

For Chrissy, planned giving is about the future: of WV Rivers and the waters that flow through West Virginia. "We need to be thinking now so future generations can enjoy the beauty of our rivers and streams."



Chrissy paddles the Little Sandy River.
Photo by Jeff Macklin.

"I want to leave a legacy of clean water for my niece and nephew."

If you've considered leaving a legacy gift to WV Rivers, our development officer, Chett Pritchett is here to help.

You can call Chett, (304) 315-4799, or email him, cpritchett@wvivers.org. If you've already created a planned gift, please reach out to Chett to ensure we are prepared to honor your legacy.

MINI GRANTS: BIG IMPACT

Since 2019 WV Rivers has had the opportunity to make mini grants to grassroots groups in West Virginia.

Our mini grant program is made possible through the generous support of a private foundation.

These small grants range from \$500-\$2,500 and are designed to aid

grassroots groups in organizing their communities on environmental issues.

If you know a grassroots group who could benefit from a mini grant please have them email wvivers@wvivers.org. Pictured right are participants at the Grassroots Policy Summit hosted by WV Citizen Action Education Fund, a recipient of a 2020 mini grant.

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WV RIVERS

By THE NUMBERS

This report is based on donations from October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021. It is intended to give a broad picture of who our donors are, where they are from, and the many ways they engage in the mission of WV Rivers

\$185.50
Average
Donation Amount

\$119,651
Amount Received
from Individual
Donors

75%
of donors are
from WV

25%
of donors are
from outside of
WV

238
New Donors

\$19,815.50
Amount Received
from New Donors

15
Donors have set
up recurring
donations

56%
of donations are
made online



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One of WV Rivers favorite memories of the past year happened in July when we gathered with friends in Tucker County. We spent the day along the banks of the Black Fork of the Cheat River appreciating the gifts of nature. Next year, we hope to have more opportunities to gather with you at special places across West Virginia.