

WINTER 2020

# My Public Lands

## Make Your Splash!

## JUNIOR RANGER



Gulkana River, Alaska



America's Wild and Scenic Rivers

Bureau of Land Management

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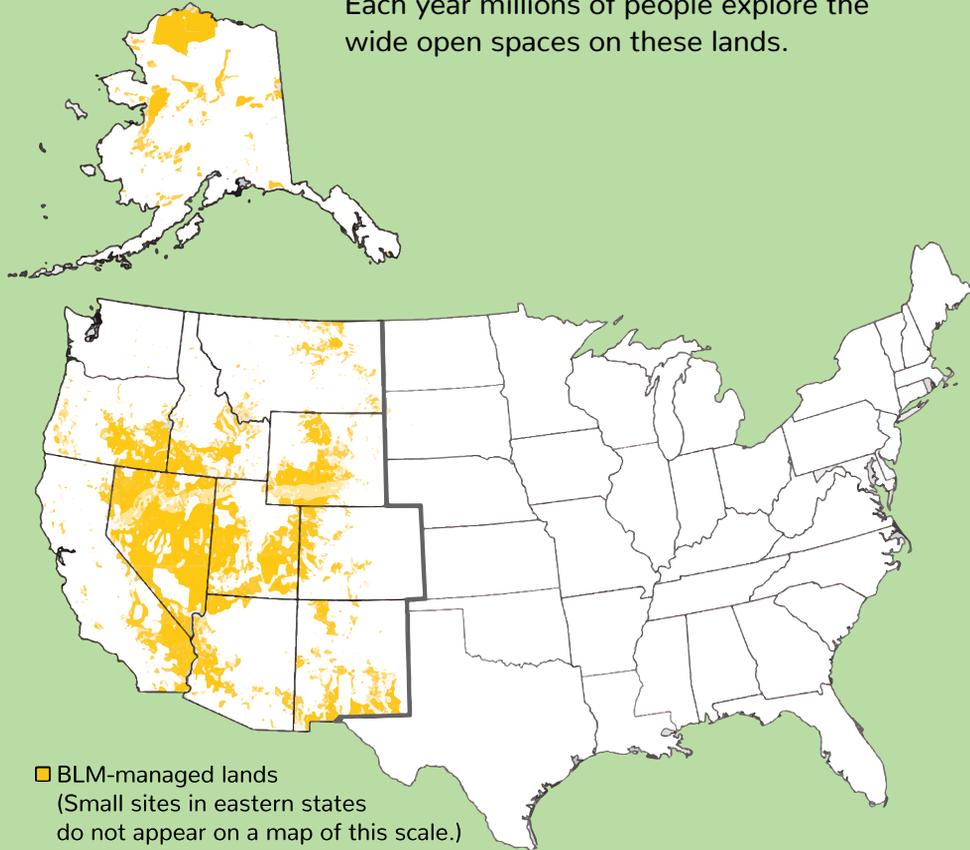
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# Public Lands Belong to You!

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a federal government agency that cares for public lands. These lands are managed for many different uses and belong to all Americans. Public lands provide energy resources, such as coal, oil, and natural gas. They provide habitat for wildlife, food for grazing animals, and timber for people. The lands contain evidence of the past, such as dinosaur bones and plant fossils. Archaeological sites on public lands help us learn about people who lived here long ago.

Each year millions of people explore the wide open spaces on these lands.



## Become a BLM Junior Ranger!

The Junior Ranger program introduces young adventurers like you to the lands and resources of the Bureau of Land Management. We invite you to join the adventure! Learn more at [blm.gov/education](http://blm.gov/education).

# It's Your River!

America's Wild and Scenic Rivers—  
Rolling Along for over 50 Years



## National Wild & Scenic Rivers

More than **200** Rivers  
Over **12,700** Miles  
In **40** States & Puerto Rico



RIVERS STREAMS CREEKS

canoeing camping climbing

picnicking playing paddling

fishing floating

WILD SCENIC RECREATIONAL

walking wading wondering swimming strolling splashing

FREE-FLOWING NATURAL CLEAN

biking boating backpacking rafting running relaxing



horseback riding hiking

# Shaping America's Landscapes

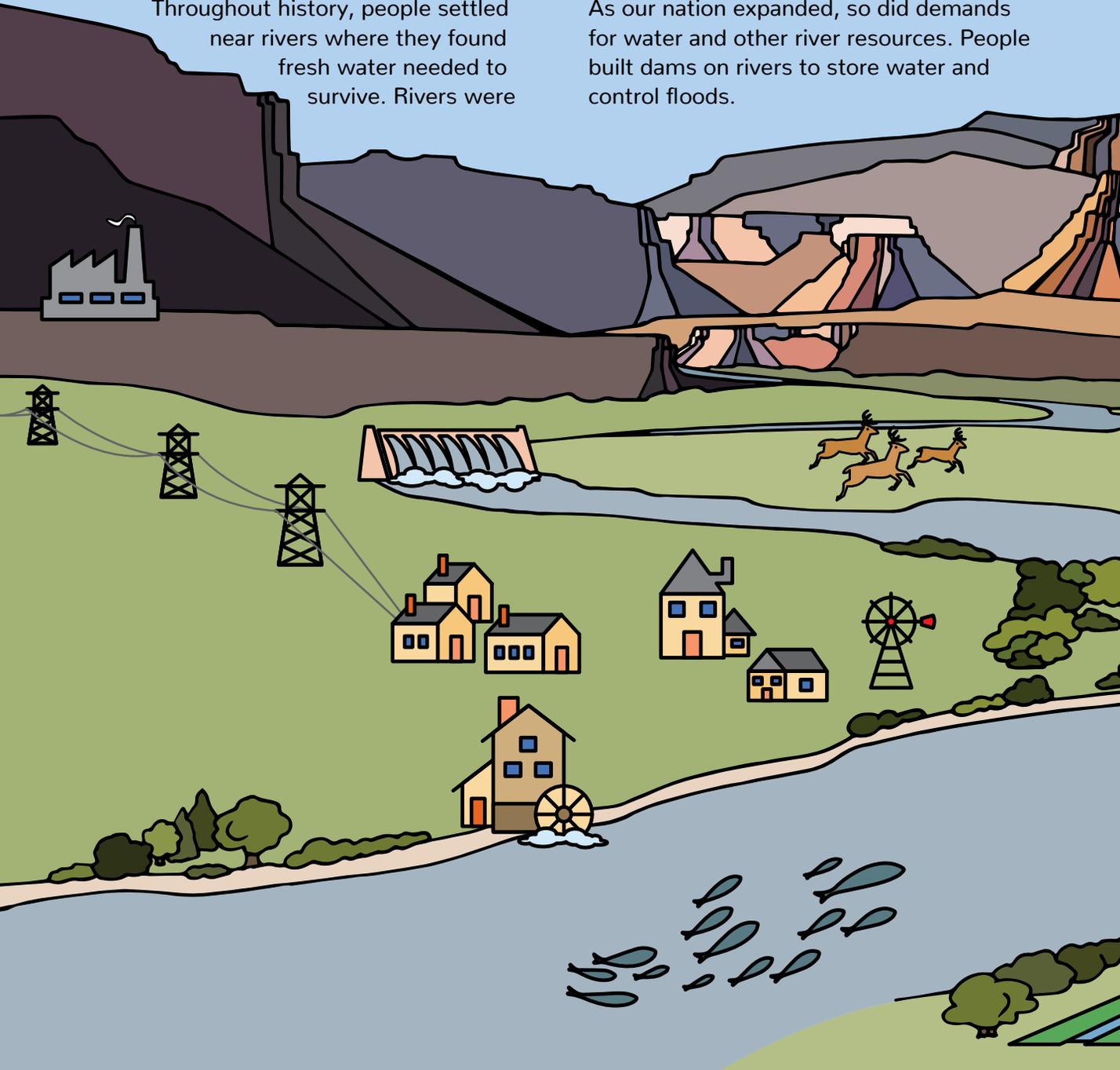
America's landscape was shaped by rivers. As they flow to the ocean, rivers constantly change the form of the land. Over millions of years, rivers carved canyons and created valleys, and carried soil and sediment downstream.

2

Rivers also shaped our cultural landscape. Throughout history, people settled near rivers where they found fresh water needed to survive. Rivers were

places to find food—fish and other aquatic animals, wildlife drawn to the water, and plants growing in the rich soil. Rivers provided routes for travel, trade, and communication. Settlements along rivers became towns, which grew into cities.

As our nation expanded, so did demands for water and other river resources. People built dams on rivers to store water and control floods.



They constructed canals for irrigation and transportation. Rivers were turning mill wheels, powering factories, and generating electricity. By the middle of the 20th century, dams, canals, and other structures had changed most of America's rivers.



## Protecting Rare Rivers

Free-flowing rivers are important for certain species of fish, for wildlife habitat, and for healthy watersheds. Many people value unspoiled rivers for their natural beauty and for recreation.

In the 1960s, Congress created a bill to protect free-flowing rivers. Certain rivers with special qualities, resources, or values would be protected as wild and scenic rivers. To meet the nation's energy demands, the bill allowed for new dams but set rules for their construction. On October 2, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the bill became law.

Today, over 200 rivers and streams make up the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Nearly 13,000 river miles are protected under the law. That might sound like a lot, but with over 3 million miles of streams and rivers in the United States, it's just a drop in the bucket.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act preserves some of America's greatest rivers—for the benefit and enjoyment of people like you. And it ensures these spectacular rivers will remain free-flowing for future generations of Americans to enjoy!

### ***It is hereby declared***

*that certain selected rivers with outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

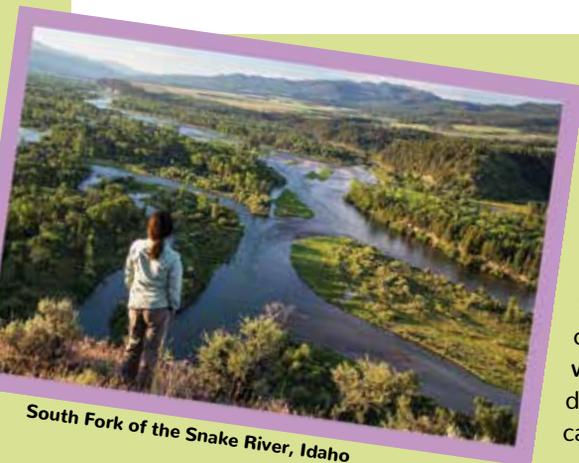
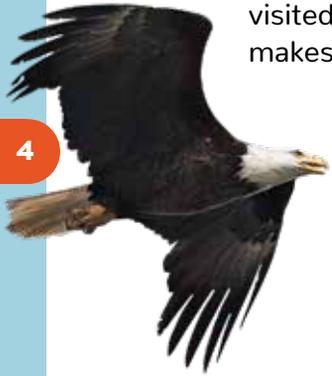
—Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968



# What Makes a River Special?

Think of a favorite river, stream, or creek near your home, or one you have visited. In the space provided, draw a picture, make a list, or describe what makes your river special.

4



South Fork of the Snake River, Idaho

Not just any river can be a national wild and scenic river. First, the river, or a part of it, must be free-flowing and in its natural condition. But that's not enough. The river must also have a quality or resource that makes it very special.

The law gives those special qualities and resources a special name—outstandingly remarkable values—ORVs for short. The law identifies the following categories: **scenery, recreation, geology, fish, wildlife, history, culture.** Rare wildflowers, dinosaur fossils, and everything else go in the category “other similar values.”



# Hop in the raft for an a-mazing river trip...

What river values do you see as you float along? Write the number for each value in the space provided. Can you find the way to the recreation area?

- 1. scenery
- 2. recreation
- 3. geology
- 4. fish
- 5. wildlife
- 6. history
- 7. culture
- 8. other values



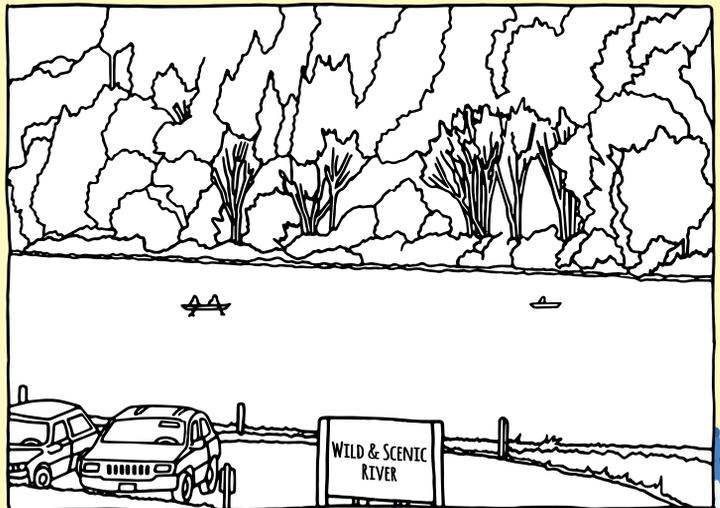
# Wild, Wonderful, Scenic,

## National wild and scenic rivers are designated as follows:

**6** **WILD:** For a river to be designated wild, it must be in its natural condition, unchanged in any way by humans. Wild rivers are rarely near roads, and most can be reached only by hiking in on a trail. The waters of these special rivers are unpolluted.

**SCENIC:** A river designated scenic must be in a natural state, free of structures such as dams or bridges. The shorelines appear natural, but there are places where people can drive in and park nearby.

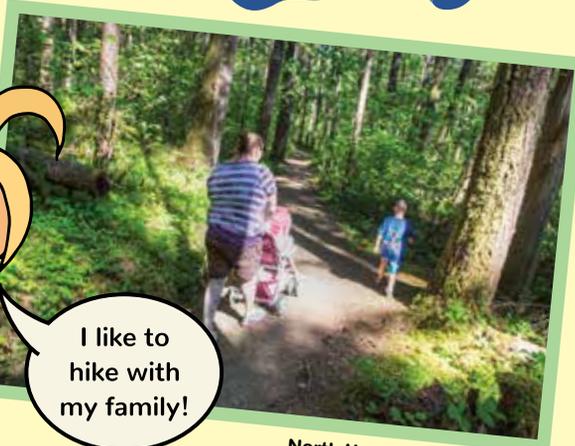
**RECREATIONAL:** Recreational rivers may have structures or other development along their shores. Most are easy to reach by car. People may have changed the shorelines or altered the way the rivers flow.



# and Fun!



I like to hike with my family!



North Umpqua River, Oregon



Crooked River, Oregon

Biking by the river is fun!



Merced River, California

Watch me make my splash!

## The BLM's Role in River Management

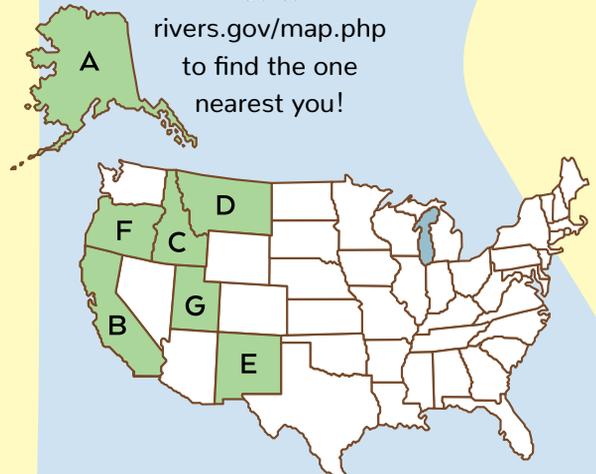
Over 200 rivers are in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Four federal government agencies share the job of managing and protecting these special places. The BLM is responsible for more than 2,600 miles of rivers, located in seven Western States. Managing these rivers means protecting their free-flowing condition, water quality, and natural resources.

The BLM manages wild and scenic rivers in those states that are highlighted on the map. Name those states.

- A \_\_\_\_\_
- B \_\_\_\_\_
- C \_\_\_\_\_
- D \_\_\_\_\_
- E \_\_\_\_\_
- F \_\_\_\_\_
- G \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a wild and scenic river in the state where you live?

Go to [rivers.gov/map.php](http://rivers.gov/map.php) to find the one nearest you!

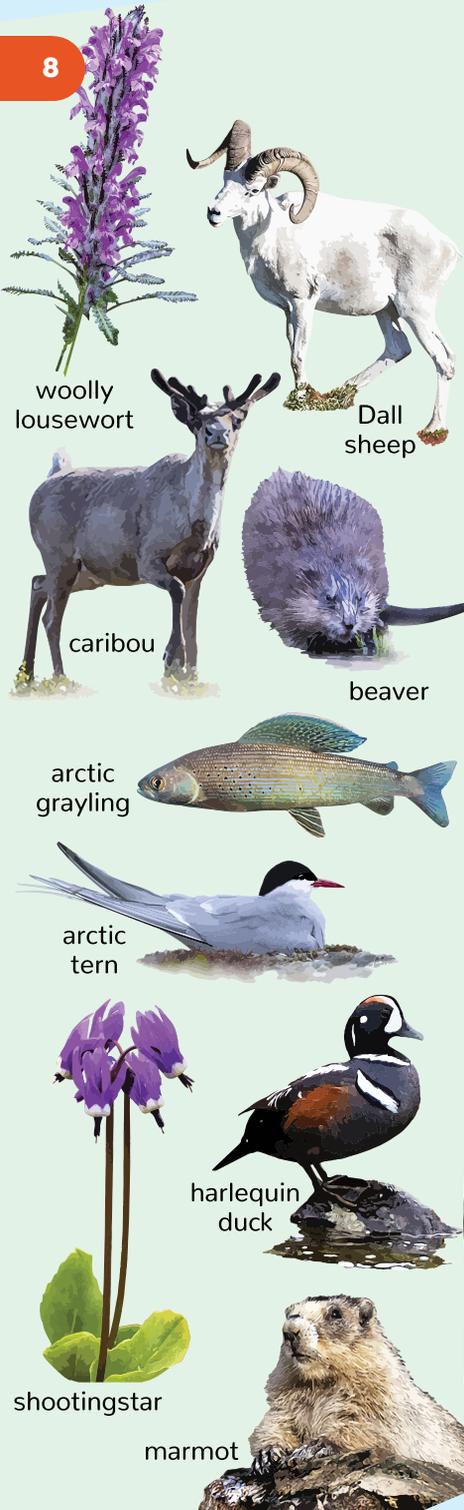


# Find the River Values



Take your family to Alaska for a wild and scenic river adventure. Go hiking, biking, fishing, floating, and camping. Enjoy wildlife viewing and birding, and try your luck panning for gold.

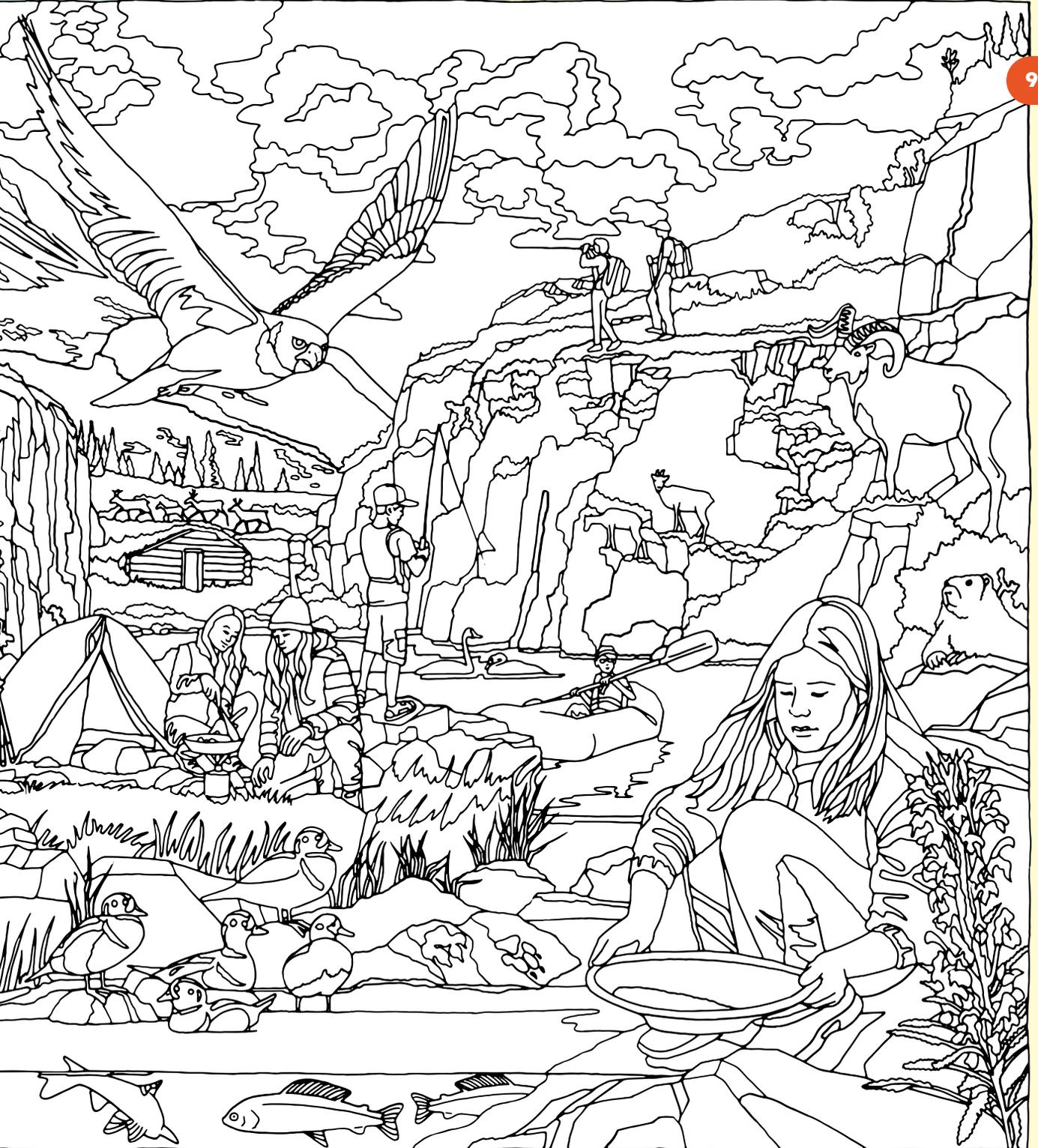
8



As you color the picture, look for fish, wildlife, native plants, and other river values. Do you see any remarkable geology or scenery? What recreation activities can you identify? Can you find the wolf tracks, the herd of caribou, and the historic cabin?



trumpeter swan



# Meet These Remarkable RIVERS

10

*Every individual and every family should get to know at least one river.*

*President Lyndon Johnson*

AMARGOSA RIVER, CALIFORNIA



The Amargosa River is the only free-flowing river in Death Valley. A source of rare water, it creates an area of lush green in the desert. Amargosa Canyon is known for its dense greenery and hanging gardens.

SHEEP CREEK, IDAHO



Sheep Creek is part of the Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee river systems. This area has dramatic, steep-walled canyons of volcanic rock. Years of erosion by water, wind, and ice have carved strange-looking rock formations called "hoodoos."

JOHN DAY RIVER, OREGON



Fossils of palm trees, crocodiles, and ancient horses are preserved along the river. A variety of fossilized plant and animal species—dating back millions of years—are on display at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

ROGUE RIVER, OREGON



The Rogue River abounds with wildlife. Bald eagles, golden eagles, and ospreys soar overhead. Great blue herons wade on the river's edge, while ducks paddle and otters play in the water. The river teems with salmon and steelhead. Squirrels, raccoons, mink, and even bear frequent its banks.

VIRGIN RIVER, UTAH



The Virgin River brings life to a harsh landscape. Cutting through canyons, the river creates a unique environment for rare plant and animal species. Plants growing on the canyon walls form "hanging gardens."



This section of the Missouri River is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. In 1805 the Corps of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, spent 3 weeks exploring the area. The river later became an important route of westward expansion.



Beaver Creek flows out of Alaska's White Mountains, past jagged cliffs and peaks, and through frozen valleys. Forests of black spruce, willow trees, and thick, grass-like plants paint the permafrost in shades of green. Enjoy the scenery while floating down the creek in a kayak.



From its source in the Cascades, the river cuts through the Klamath Mountains on the way to the Pacific. For thousands of years, the Klamath River has been an important resource and spiritual site for American Indians. The river has significant spiritual value for the Shasta Nation and the Klamath Tribes.



Prehistoric dwellings and rock art are evidence of the ancient people who lived near the Rio Grande. Today, people come to the river for fishing, paddling, biking, and horseback riding. La Junta Point offers a spectacular view of the river gorge and is wheelchair accessible.



The name "Jarbidge" comes from the Shoshone word *tso'apittseh*, a mythical monster believed to roam the river canyons. The Shoshone and Paiute people fish, hunt, and hold ceremonies in the Canyonlands, as they have for thousands of years.



The Trinity River tumbles out of the rugged Trinity Alps mountain range. It is famous for the "sea-run" salmon and trout that migrate from the Pacific Ocean. All year long, people can fish from its banks or while floating down the river in drift boats. Visitors can also have fun canoeing, hiking, riding horses, and panning for gold.



# River Adventure Recap

Use the words in the box to complete the statements about wild and scenic rivers.

12

culture  
 fish  
 free-flowing  
 geology  
 history  
 natural  
 outstandingly  
 plants  
 recreation  
 remarkable  
 rivers  
 scenery  
 values  
 water  
 wildlife

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects some of America's greatest

**16** \_\_\_\_\_ !

Wild and scenic rivers are **14** \_\_\_\_\_ - **15** \_\_\_\_\_ and in a **6** \_\_\_\_\_ condition.

These rivers have special qualities, or ORVs, which stands for

**7** \_\_\_\_\_ **5** \_\_\_\_\_

**8** \_\_\_\_\_.

They are clean and pristine, with excellent **1** \_\_\_\_\_ quality.

Wild and scenic rivers are home to a wide variety of life, including

**2** \_\_\_\_\_, **4** \_\_\_\_\_, and native **3** \_\_\_\_\_.

Some have unusual **10** \_\_\_\_\_, such as rock formations.

Some played a role in our nation's **12** \_\_\_\_\_ and are important to American Indian traditions and **13** \_\_\_\_\_.

Wild and scenic rivers are great places to go fishing, hiking, canoeing, and paddleboarding and enjoy other forms of **9** \_\_\_\_\_, surrounded by incredible **11** \_\_\_\_\_!





# What If Everyone... Takes Care of America's Rivers?



When the weather gets hot, lots of people head to the water to cool off. We can protect our rivers—and have fun—by remembering these simple rules.

14

1

## Stick to trails

The San Pedro River is a rare source of water in the desert. The green zone along the river is habitat for a variety of animals. Taking shortcuts packs down the soil, crushes small plants, and harms habitat.

If 10 people took 10 steps off the trail, how many footprints would that make?

*What if we are prepared to slosh through puddles and mud?*

- ▶ Wear old shoes or boots, or cover your shoes in plastic bags.

2

## Take pictures, not plants

Rattlesnake stickseed (*Hackelia ophiobia*) grows near the Owyhee River—and nowhere else in the world. From late spring into summer, its blue flowers adorn the canyon walls. Another name for this rare plant is Owyhee River forget-me-not.

If 100 visitors picked seven flowers each, how many flowers would be gone?

*What if we take pictures instead of picking flowers?*

- ▶ Take photos to share on social media, or draw pictures and create cards for friends and family.



3

### Leave things as you find them

Female salmon lay their eggs in the rocky streambed of California's Eel River. Moving river rocks can dislodge eggs and destroy nests.

If 100 people collected five river rocks each, how many rocks would be removed?

*What if we collect sounds instead of rocks?*

- ▶ Record the river sounds on your phone.

Listen to Wildhorse Creek trickling down Steens Mountain:  
[flic.kr/p/27X9f2J](https://flic.kr/p/27X9f2J)



4

### Pack out your trash

During the summer, tens of thousands of people picnic and play by the Wisconsin River. The food scraps and litter people leave behind can harm fish and wildlife.

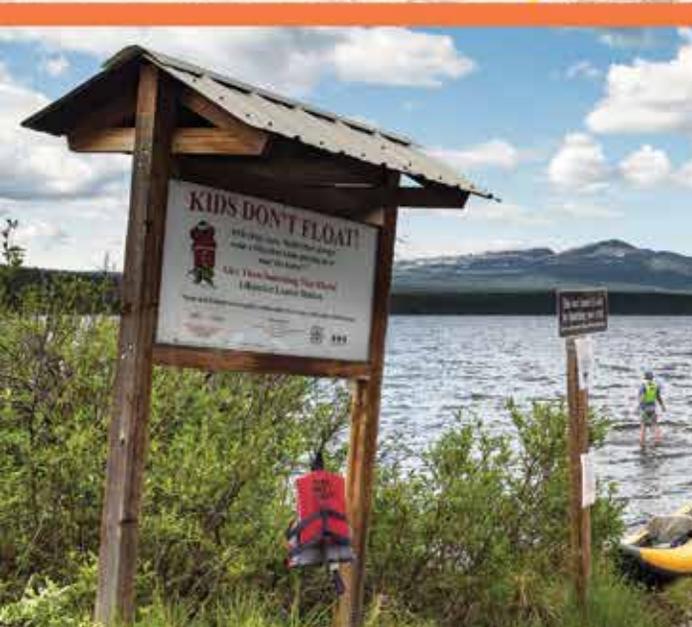
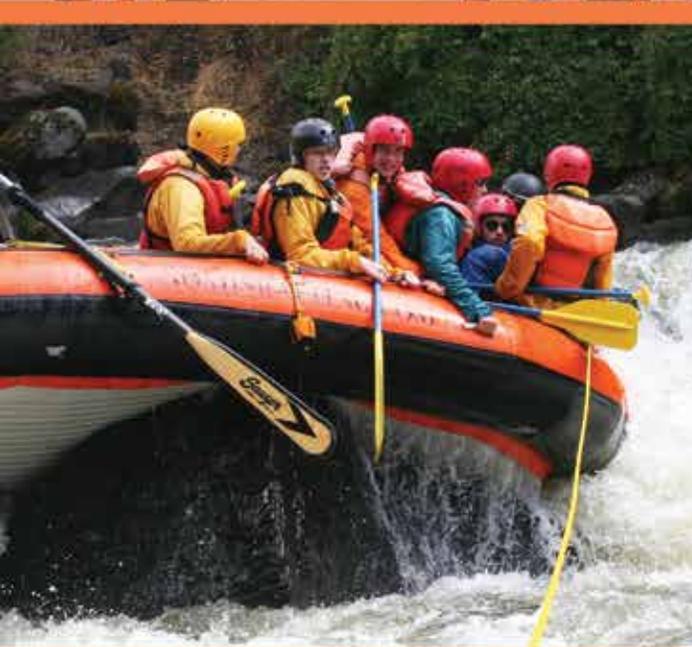
If 20,000 people each dropped one banana peel and one apple core, how many pieces of trash would be left?

*What if we bring bags for packing out trash?*

- ▶ Pick up just five extra pieces of trash in addition to your own.







# River Smart, River Safe

Wild and scenic rivers are great places for families to go fishing, swimming, and boating. But even a calm-looking river can hide many dangers. Here are some tips for ensuring a fun and safe river adventure.

**FILE A FLOAT PLAN.** Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Never swim or boat alone.

**WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING** for your river adventure, whether that is a hat and long sleeves for sun protection, or a dry suit for cold water rivers. Be prepared for changes in weather, and have dry, warm clothing in case you get lost or stranded. Water temperature less than 70 degrees can be life-threatening.

**ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET**, one that fits correctly and is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. Most people who have drowned in recreation accidents were not wearing life jackets.

**TAKE CARE** when playing or walking near rivers or streams. Accidental falls while climbing on rocks or taking selfies have resulted in drownings.

**BE YOUR OWN LOOKOUT ON THE RIVER.** Watch for dangers ahead—trees leaning over the water can sweep a paddler out of the boat. Logs, rocks, and submerged trees and objects become deadly “strainers,” allowing water to pass through while trapping people under water.

“Saved by the Jacket” stories at [safeboatingcampaign.com](http://safeboatingcampaign.com)



**Wear it like a winner!  
Don't just pack it! Wear your jacket!**

**For additional copies, contact:**  
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This publication was produced by the  
BLM Division of Education, Cultural, and  
Paleontological Resources.

Production services were provided by the  
BLM National Operations Center,  
Information and Publishing Services Section.

EE2038I  
BLM/NO/GI-19/0111+1115

**Learn more about wild and scenic rivers managed by the BLM at [blm.gov/wsr](http://blm.gov/wsr).**



Bruneau River,  
Idaho