5,000 MILES OF WILD

5,000 miles. 5,000 stories. One unified voice for America's rivers.

In 1968, Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a public law that protects “outstanding remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values” and to preserve them in “free-flowing condition… for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 2018. To celebrate, some of the country's most well-respected conservation organizations and outdoor businesses have collaborated to create the 5,000 Miles of Wild® Campaign.

Our campaign is a collective effort to protect 5,000 new miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers and one million acres of riverside lands by 2020. We are securing 1,500 miles of newly protected rivers through federal legislation initiated by grassroots campaigns across twelve states; the other 3,500 miles are coming through federal administrative protections. But the 5,000 Miles of Wild Campaign won’t stop there. We are also using the power of the people to collect and share 5,000 personal stories from around the country, get 500 kids out on rivers (free of charge) and secure at least 500,000 signatures to demonstrate broad support for river protection.

Now, perhaps more than ever, is the time to band together to protect some of our most precious public lands and waters. That’s why we’re garnering public support and involvement, as well as closely coordinating with federal agencies.

Through all of this, we aim to strengthen the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and launch the next 50 years of river protection with a bang.

Anyone can get involved by sharing their story in photo, video or written format. Sharing can be done directly through the campaign website at 5000miles.org or through social media by using the hashtag #5000MilesofWild. Together, we can preserve our remarkable rivers so they can be enjoyed by all for generations to come.

"Every individual and every family should get to know at least one river."
President Lyndon Johnson upon signing the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968
WHERE ARE THE 5,000 MILES OF WILD?

1,500 miles will come from grassroots campaigns in 12 states to protect new Wild and Scenic Rivers through federal legislation.

- Washington: Nooksack River – 113 miles; 36,000 acres
- Washington: Wild Olympics – 454 miles; 144,000 acres
- Oregon: Oregon Wildlands – 250 miles; 250,000 acres
- Oregon: Owyhee Canyonlands – 45 miles; 2.5 million acres
- California: Northwest California’s Mountains and Rivers 485 miles; 326,000 acres
- California: California Desert Protection and Recreation Act 73 miles; 400,000 acres
- California: Central Coast Heritage Protection Act 159 miles; 244,909 acres
- Montana: Montanans for Healthy Rivers 700 miles; 224,000 acres
- Colorado: Deep Creek and Crystal River 49 miles; 15,000 acres
- New Mexico: Gila River and San Francisco River 100 miles; 32,000 acres
- Connecticut: Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook 62 miles
- Maine: York River and tributaries – 120 miles
- Maine and New Hampshire: Nashua, Nissitissit, Squamacook Rivers – 64.9 miles
- Connecticut and Rhode Island: Wood-Pawcatuck and tributaries – 59 miles
- North Carolina: Nolichucky River – 7.2 miles

3,500 miles will come through federal administrative protections secured during the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management forest plan and management plan revisions.

- Montana: Flathead, Helena, Custer Gallatin, and Lewis and Clark National Forests
- Idaho: Nez Perce-Clearwater and Salmon-Challis National Forests
- Wyoming: Bridger Teton National Forest
- New Mexico: Carson and Farmington National Forests
- North Carolina: Nantahala Pisgah National Forest

Share your river story with us: 5000miles.org #5000MilesOfWild