

American Rivers MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS

FAQ

What is MER? --

America's Most Endangered Rivers, now in its 25th year, is American Rivers' most anticipated report. It is an annual call to action, spotlighting rivers facing significant threats, and emphasizing solutions for the rivers and their communities.

Criteria – how are rivers selected? --

Rivers are selected based on the significance of the threat, and whether a decision point in the coming year can determine the river's fate.

About the 2010 list --

The threats facing this year's rivers are more pressing than ever, from gas drilling that could pollute the drinking water of millions of people, to the construction of costly and unnecessary new dams, to outdated flood management that threatens public safety.

Success stories --

The report isn't all bad news. Thanks to the publicity America's Most Endangered Rivers generates, we have enjoyed tremendous victories over the past 25 years, from the Penobscot in Maine to the Big Sunflower in Mississippi to the Klamath in California.

The Endangered Rivers report proves that when citizens take action, we can achieve great victories for our rivers and clean water.

What can people do to help (or go for more info)?

Visit www.AmericanRivers.org to take action and donate to help save the endangered rivers.

Does "most endangered" mean the river is the most polluted? --

No, the report is not a list of the most polluted rivers in the country. Rivers that are endangered could be in pristine condition or severely degraded. The key factor is that

each of the endangered rivers is at a tipping point - we list them because their fate is likely to be decided in the coming year.

If a river is listed one year and not the next or perhaps never again, does that mean it is no longer endangered? --

For some rivers, this is the case. However, while the report has helped to achieve positive outcomes for many rivers, many others that have been listed continue to face severe threats even though they are not currently or repeatedly featured in the report. There are several reasons a river might not make the list again:

- * It is our practice to feature different rivers each year, making consecutive or repeat listings unlikely
- * We list rivers that are at a crossroads - even though a particular river may be threatened, there may not be a major decision point in the coming year that will determine the fate of that river