

PETITION TO RESTORE WHITEWATER

To our Elected Federal, State and Local Representatives:

Scheduled water releases for whitewater boating from the Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) New England dams have been provided for more than forty years. In the last two years however, the Corps has severely curtailed or eliminated whitewater releases claiming it has to do so to protect fisheries’ habitat. However, neither the Corps or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W) has studied any of these rivers to see if whitewater releases — which have never occurred for more than eight days in any one year — have any measurable detrimental environmental impact. Boating organizations, including American Whitewater (AW), the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and N. E. FLOW. have met with the Corps and USF&W periodically since 1998 to try to resolve these issues. In February 2004 the Corps announced their final decision that generally no releases will be allowed each year outside of the spring runoff period. Rivers such as the West in Vermont, Blackwater in New Hampshire, Millers and Westfield in Massachusetts where multiple Spring weekend releases had been provided in the past are now limited to just one weekend in March or April, if they determine there is enough water. The Corps’ action is in stark contract to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which has created or enhanced whitewater releases in all its applicable hydroelectric dam relicensings in the last 15 years.

Public and commercial whitewater boaters bring hundreds of thousands of dollars into a community’s economy each day there is a water release.

BOATERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE LOSING UNIQUE RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES FOR REASONS THAT ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY ACTUAL EVIDENCE OF IMPACTS TO THE FISHERY, AQUATIC RESOURCES OR WATER QUALITY.

We urge you to support the boating community and the local communities where these dams are located and help them restore and enhance the Corps’ historical level of whitewater releases in New England. We authorize AW, AMC and N. E. FLOW to act on our behalf.

Privacy Disclaimer: This information will not be used for purposes outside of the interest of recreational river management by N. E. FLOW, AW, AMC or any other supporting organization or individual. Thank You

