
Flint River Given "Water to Watch" Designation

Contributed by Jenny Hoffner, American Rivers
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Atlanta, Georgia - In a positive move for the Flint River, named the second Most Endangered River in the nation by American Rivers in April because of the threat of new dams, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan today designated the Flint as one of ten "Waters to Watch". The designation could bring funding for key habitat protection and restoration projects.

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is a comprehensive effort to protect and restore critical fish habitat. American Rivers has played a lead role supporting federal funding for the plan's conservation efforts.

Jenny Hoffner, director of the water supply program for American Rivers, made the following statement:

"Our America's Most Endangered Rivers report has a strong track record of raising the profile of a river and its threats, and securing positive actions for the river's future. The Flint River's designation today as a "Water to Watch" is good news and strengthens the argument against building costly and destructive dams on the Flint."

"Spending hundreds of millions of dollars to dam the Flint River simply doesn't make sense when we are already spending taxpayer dollars to restore the river's health. What's more, there are water efficiency options available that are far cheaper, would deliver faster results, and would not harm local economies, fish and wildlife."

"Water efficiency is the 21st century solution that will meet Georgia's water needs and protect the Flint and other rivers across the state. Local leaders should adopt cost-effective water efficiency measures like fixing leaks, replacing old appliances and fixtures, and taking other common sense steps in our homes, businesses and communities to use water more wisely."

"The Flint River provides immeasurable benefits to the local communities who rely on the river for clean drinking water, recreation and economic benefits. The river also provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife."