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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and United States Forest Service (USFS) are collaborating with Adventure Scientists to fill water quality data gaps within the national Wild and Scenic River System. The objective of the project is to ensure water quality conditions are maintained or improved across designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. Water quality maintenance is a cornerstone of protecting and enhancing the outstanding remarkable values of the Nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Adventure Scientists is a nonprofit group located out of Bozeman, Montana that works to collect data crucial to addressing environmental and human health challenges. For this project, Adventure Scientists will leverage its volunteer communities of whitewater rafters and kayakers as well as backpackers, mountain bikers, day-hikers, and trailrunners to collect water quality data. Data collection will begin in 2020 targeting Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Western U.S. and Alaska. Volunteers will collect both chemical and physical data in-situ, including pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), conductivity, and habitat characterizations. Volunteers will also gather a limited number of water samples to be analyzed for key water quality constituents including major anions and cations (e.g., nitrate and calcium), nutrients (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus) and trace metals (e.g., arsenic and aluminum). Water quality samples will be sent to a nationally accredited facility that meets the requirements of state water quality agencies and EPA standards.

The BLM's Aquatic Habitat Management and Wild and Scenic Rivers Programs recognize the scientific and educational benefits of the project and support the effort. BLM collaborated with the NPS, USFS, and Adventure Scientists in designing this project. Water quality staff from State government and agency state and regional staff were contacted about the project. Adventure Scientists is working to connect volunteers with local field office staff prior to data collection to learn of local access conditions and other site-specific requirements. We ask that BLM staff support efforts of the volunteers. Please direct any questions or concerns to the BLM Project Lead, Scott Miller (swmiller@blm.gov), at BLM's National Operations Center.

We appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jay Thompson

Jay Thompson
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