To access the survey online, view here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rivernetworksurvey

River Network - State of the Network Survey 2022

Section 1 - Background

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The purpose of the survey is to understand the collective capacity and power of the network of groups working to protect water nationwide, and to identify the needs of organizations working on water issues. River Network plans to deploy this survey every five years to track the trends among those working to protect our waters and guide our planning for how best to serve and be responsive to our network. Once we analyze the data, we will share summary results in a format that you can use with your partners, members, and funders to demonstrate the value of our collective work together.

We ask that each organization only have one representative complete the survey. We anticipate it will take you 20-30 minutes to complete.

*Your participation in the survey is voluntary and responses will be kept confidential to River Network staff and consultants. Responses will be kept anonymous unless otherwise given permission to attribute quotes to organizations or individuals. **All survey participants will be entered into a raffle to win River Network Patagonia gear!***

Please reach out to Erin Kanzig (ekanzig@rivernetwork.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Section 2 - Familiarity with and support from River Network

River Network provides training, tools, resources, events, and more to support organizations in their efforts to address water issues and develop strong organizations and leaders. We want to know more about your greatest areas of need and how we may continue to support you and your organization in the future.

1. **Does your organization work on water issues in some way?**
   - ❏ Yes
   - ❏ No [skip logic → go to end of survey]
   - ❏ I'm not currently affiliated with an organization

2. **How familiar is your organization with River Network?**
   - ❏ Not at all familiar [skip logic to Section 3, Question 5]
   - ❏ Slightly familiar
   - ❏ Somewhat familiar
   - ❏ Moderately familiar

❏ Very familiar

3. ***How valuable is each of the following River Network opportunities, tools, or resources to your organization?*** [scale: not at all, slightly, moderately, very, extremely, don't know/unsure]
   ❏ Peer calls (i.e., facilitated peer discussion on a topic)
   ❏ Learning sessions (i.e., live webinars)
   ❏ Brief, pre-recorded tutorials (15 minutes or less)
   ❏ Training "bootcamps" (i.e. a series of interactive sessions on a topic)
   ❏ Funding (e.g. via regrants)
   ❏ Monthly digital newsletters (e.g. River Voices, Events & Education, Policy Updates)
   ❏ Online Community (i.e., Mobilize platform)
   ❏ Written toolkits and guides (i.e., Drinking Water Guide, Equitable Water Infrastructure Toolkit, Clean Water Act Manual, Community Led Research Toolkit)
   ❏ Articles and blog posts
   ❏ Annual River Rally Conference
   ❏ Regional events
   ❏ One-on-one consulting services
   ❏ Other (please describe)

4. ***The following is a list of skills and competencies that your organization may be interested in working on to improve its effectiveness. How much of a priority for your organization is developing or improving each skill or competency?*** [Scale: not a priority; low priority; medium priority; high priority, don't know/unsure)
   ❏ Board development and leadership
   ❏ Communicating with supporters and stakeholders
   ❏ Evaluating or measuring organizational impact
   ❏ Facilitating and managing collaborative processes
   ❏ Fundraising: members, donors, grants, endowments, etc.
   ❏ Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI): Integrating JEDI across organizational systems, processes and programs
   ❏ Organizational operations: financial management, human resources, and IT
   ❏ Policy analysis and/or advocacy
   ❏ Setting organizational goals, strategies, and priorities
   ❏ Navigating state and/or federal level regulations and programs related to water
   ❏ Other (please describe)

Section 3 - Collective Capacity and Reach

River Network works to build the collective capacity of organizations addressing water issues and to connect the network to achieve greater impact together. The following questions help us better understand the reach and range of work organizations in the network are engaged in and will help us all better to tell the story of our current and potential collective power to influence water issues.

5. ***What type of work does your organization engage in? Select all that apply.***
   ❏ Education, capacity building, and training
   ❏ Advocacy - legislative, regulatory, lobbying, etc.
   ❏ Legal advocacy - litigation, judicial advocacy, etc.

- ❑ Research and planning - related to water management
- ❑ Community organizing and engagement - coalition building, campaign planning, etc.
- ❑ Direct services and projects - on-the-ground conservation project implementation, water delivery, watershed planning, water quality monitoring, technical assistance, etc.
- ❑ Funding and finance - providing financial support through grants, loans, etc. to community organizations/non-profits.
- ❑ Other (please specify)

6. *How many full-time equivalent (FTEs) do you have on staff?*
   - ❑ All volunteer run, no staff
   - ❑ 1-5
   - ❑ 6-10
   - ❑ 11-20
   - ❑ 21-30
   - ❑ 31-50
   - ❑ Over 50
   - ❑ Unsure

7. *How many Board members do you have?*

8. *What is your organizational annual budget?*
   - ❑ Under 100K
   - ❑ 100K-250K
   - ❑ 251K-500K
   - ❑ 501K-1 M
   - ❑ 1M-2M
   - ❑ 2M-4.9M
   - ❑ >5M
   - ❑ Unsure

9. *On average per year, how many policy/advocacy campaigns does your organization lead or participate in?* *For the purpose of this question, advocacy means working to influence a policy outcome or regulatory decision through awareness raising, grassroots or grasstops organizing, participation in formal processes (e.g. public comment opportunities), and/or direct lobbying).*
   - ❑ None
   - ❑ 1-3
   - ❑ 4-6
   - ❑ 7+
   - ❑ Unsure

10. *On average per year, how many coalitions does your organization lead or meaningfully participate in?* *For the purpose of this question, coalitions are considered to be intentional, external partnerships with other organizations working together toward a common goal.*
    - ❑ None
    - ❑ 1-3
    - ❑ 4-6
    - ❑ 7+

❑ Unsure

11. ***On average per year, how many volunteers does your organization engage?***
   ❑ _____
   ❑ Unsure

12. ***On average per year, how many on-the-ground projects (e.g., restoration, trash clean-ups, rain barrel installation, tree planting) does your organization work on?***
   ❑ None [skip logic → question 14]
   ❑ 1-3
   ❑ 4-6
   ❑ 7+
   ❑ Unsure [skip logic → question 14]

13. ***Please explain what types of on-the-ground projects your organization works on***:
   [open response] (optional)

14. ***What types of organizations do you collaborate with to address water issues?*** (select all that apply)
   ❑ Water utilities (drinking water, stormwater and wastewater)
   ❑ Land use planning agencies
   ❑ Floodplain professionals and planners
   ❑ Social justice organizations (civil rights, racial justice, voting mobilization/get out the vote)
   ❑ Universities/academic institutions
   ❑ Soil and water conservation districts (or other organizations providing direct support to farmers and ranchers)
   ❑ Affordable housing agencies
   ❑ Community organizations
   ❑ Economic development and tourism agencies
   ❑ Corporate/business partners (i.e., providing volunteers)
   ❑ Other (please specify)
   ❑ None of the above

15. ***In what ways has River Network contributed to or supported you or your organization's growth and successes? If applicable, please list specific resources, tools, or events that were especially impactful or helpful.*** [open response] (optional)

16. ***Over the last five years, what has been one of your organization's greatest achievements related to drinking water, agriculture, resiliency, and/or water policy within your watershed and community that could be shared as a story or model?*** [open response] (optional)

17. ***What, if anything, is your organization doing or planning to do to address the impact of climate change on water issues?*** [open response] (optional)

Section 4 - Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

River Network is committed to providing access to clean water and healthy rivers for all people. As we work toward our justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion goals, we want to know more about your efforts and how we can support you. The following questions help us understand where your organization is currently at in regards to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) efforts.

18. ***Approximately what percentage of your staff positions are held by individuals who identify as women or non-binary?***

10% increments

19. ***Approximately what percentage of your leadership-level positions are held by individuals who identify as women or non-binary?***

10% increments

20. ***Approximately what percentage of your Board of Directors identify as women or non-binary?***

10% increments

21. ***Approximately what percentage of your staff identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)?***

10% increments

22. ***Approximately what percentage of your leadership-level positions are held by individuals who identify as BIPOC?***

10% increments

23. ***Approximately what percentage of your Board of Directors identify as BIPOC?***

10% increments

24. ***What has your organization done or is planning to do regarding the following justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) efforts? Select the response that corresponds with your organization's efforts.*** [scale: we have no plans to do this at the moment, we are planning on doing this, we are currently doing this, we have completed this, unsure]

- ❑ Created or modified your mission to represent your organization's commitment to JEDI
- ❑ Developed a public-facing written statement, case statement, or other documents that articulate your commitment to JEDI
- ❑ Established a Board and/or staff committee or workgroup to set goals and track progress on advancing JEDI

❏ Developed an organizational JEDI plan that is incorporated into other organizational plans (e.g. strategic plan, work plans)
❏ Set staff or board recruitment goals related to diversity
❏ Developed a tracking or reporting system (e.g. metrics, dashboards) related to JEDI
❏ Encouraged and supported staff and/or board discussions or trainings related to unconscious bias, dismantling racism, white dominant culture and privilege or related topics
❏ Offered BIPOC individuals on your staff access to affinity groups or other opportunities for support, mentoring or leadership development
❏ Other (please specify)

25. ***What are the challenges and barriers your organization faces in including racially and ethnically diverse voices and addressing issues of water equity*** (select all that apply)
❏ Lack of agreement among staff and board that it's a priority to include diverse voices and address issues of water equity
❏ Lack of knowledge, understanding or confidence about how to include diverse voices and address issues of water equity
❏ Programmatic initiatives as currently articulated are not relevant to and/or reflective of your entire community
❏ History of distrust of our organization by communities
❏ Inability to appropriately compensate participation from community members or groups reflecting diverse voices
❏ Unwillingness of staff, board or partners to cede and/or share power and funding
❏ Other – please explain

❏ N/A – we are not working to include diverse voices or address issues of water and equity
❏ N/A – we are not facing any barriers to include diverse voices and address issues of water and equity

26. ***The following is a list of skills and competencies about JEDI that your organization may be interested in working on. How much of a priority for your organization is developing or improving each skill or competency?*** [Scale: not a priority; low priority; medium priority; high priority)
❏ Training on unconscious bias, racial equity, dismantling racism, white dominant culture, white privilege, and/or related topics
❏ Integrating JEDI into programmatic work
❏ Engaging authentically and respectfully with diverse communities
❏ Building inclusive and equitable organizational culture
❏ Creating a staff JEDI committee with clear goals and authority to lead JEDI change efforts
❏ Developing a JEDI organizational plan to chart your course
❏ Developing and implementing inclusive communications practices (intentional language, inclusive and authentic imagery, accessibility, inclusive outreach, etc.)
❏ Defining and tracking metrics to gauge the impact and build accountability for your JEDI efforts
❏ Other – please explain

❑ N/A

27. ***What are the top 3 challenges/impediments to building a more diverse, inclusive and powerful movement for our nation's waters from your perspective? (optional) (open ended)***

Section 5 - River Network Key Programmatic Priorities

In addition to providing leadership development, River Network concentrates our efforts on five priorities: Advocating for or tracking policy and/or regulatory issues***;*** securing clean, safe, and affordable drinking water; achieving healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes; building community resilience to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and; using data to inform action for rivers and communities.

The following questions will help us understand how your work aligns with these key priorities and how we can better support you in the future. You will be prompted to answer follow-up questions based on the key priorities you identify as being part of your organization's work.

Policy

28. ***Does your organization work on advocating for or tracking policy and/or regulatory issues?***
    ❑ We are currently working in this area.
    ❑ We are planning to work within this area.
    ❑ We do not currently work and are not planning to work in this area. (skip to drinking water)

    [skip logic: remaining questions in this section only for respondents currently/planning to working in this area]

29. ***At what level does your organization focus/want to focus its policy efforts?*** *(select all that apply)*
    ❑ Federal
    ❑ State
    ❑ Local
    ❑ Other (please specify)
    ❑ Unsure

30. ***Which issues does your organization focus/want to focus its policy efforts on? (select all that apply)***
    ❑ Healthy rivers and waterways
    ❑ Protecting and restoring flows in rivers and waterways
    ❑ Clean, safe, and affordable drinking water
    ❑ Climate resilience and/or climate change mitigation
    ❑ Human health, safety, and quality of life
    ❑ Environmental justice
    ❑ Fish and wildlife protection or preservation
    ❑ Recreation
    ❑ Other (please specify)

❏ None of the above

31. **Which methods does your organization use/plan to use to advance policy goals? (select all that apply)**
   ❏ Working in coalitions
   ❏ Lobbying (local, state or federal)
   ❏ Regulatory advocacy
   ❏ Relationship building and collaboration/partnerships with policy-makers
   ❏ Grassroots organizing and mobilization
   ❏ Grasstops organizing and mobilization (e.g., mobilizing people with relationships and/or influence with decision-makers)
   ❏ Advocacy communications (e.g., paid media, earned media, social media, etc.)
   ❏ Other (please specify)
   ❏ None of the above

32. **River Network provides a range of support to our members to help advance policy goals. Which of the following resources and support would be helpful to your organization to advance policy goals? [scale: not at all helpful, slightly helpful, moderately helpful, very helpful, extremely helpful, unsure]:**
   ❏ Federal policy tracking and updates
   ❏ State policy solutions and examples
   ❏ Local policy solutions and examples
   ❏ Approaches and examples on how to work in coalitions with others and build collective power
   ❏ Approaches and examples on how to build relationships and collaborate/partner with policy-makers
   ❏ Lobbying strategy and examples
   ❏ Regulatory advocacy
   ❏ Grassroots organizing and mobilization strategies and examples
   ❏ Grasstops organizing and mobilization strategies and examples
   ❏ Advocacy communications (paid media, earned media, etc.) strategies and examples
   ❏ Other (please specify)

Drinking Water

33. **Does your organization work within the area of clean, safe, and affordable drinking water?**
   ❏ We are currently working in this area.
   ❏ We are planning to work within this area.
   ❏ We do not currently work and are not planning to work in this area.

   [skip logic: remaining questions in this section for respondents currently or planning to work in this area]

34. **Which issues related to drinking water does your organization/program focus/plan to focus on?** *(select all that apply)*
   ❏ Water affordability / water shutoffs
   ❏ Contamination / water quality

❑ Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance
❑ Water infrastructure
❑ Source water protection
❑ Other (please specify)
❑ None of the above

35. *At what level does your organization focus/plan to focus its efforts related to drinking water issues? (select all that apply)*
❑ Local
❑ State
❑ Regional
❑ National
❑ Other
❑ Unsure

36. *In what ways does your organization engage directly impacted communities on drinking water issues?*
❑ Community-led research initiatives
❑ Training community members to provide testimony or contact officials
❑ Direct services such as water bill support
❑ Providing water filters and/or bottled water
❑ Testing community members' water supply for contaminants
❑ Providing health screenings
❑ Protecting source water areas (e.g. planning, partnerships)
❑ Other (please explain)
❑ N/A - Our organization does not engage directly impacted communities

37. *Please describe how your organization plans to improve accessibility, affordability and/or quality of drinking water in the next 5 years and what support services would best help you achieve your goals? (optional)* [open response]

Healthy Rivers and Agriculture

38. *Does your organization work within the intersection of healthy rivers and clean water in agricultural landscapes?*
❑ We are currently working in this area.
❑ We are planning to work within this area.
❑ We do not currently work and are not planning to work in this area.

[skip logic: remaining questions in this section only for respondents currently working in this area]

39. *What topics would you most like to connect with other network members on to increase your understanding of healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes? Please indicate your level of interest for each topic. [scale: not at all interested, slightly interested, moderately interested, very interested, extremely interested]*

- ❑ Regenerative agriculture
- ❑ Accessing conservation funding through the farm bill
- ❑ Building relationships with farmers/ranchers
- ❑ Equity (e.g., disparate impacts of farming operations on low-income and communities of color, lack of access by farmers of color to land and funding)
- ❑ Conservation practices that benefit water quality and/or quantity (e.g., conservation tillage, livestock watering, and irrigation practices)
- ❑ Watershed or river health planning on agricultural lands (e.g., stream management planning, watershed health plans)
- ❑ Other (please specify)
- ❑ None of the above

40. ***Where do you feel your largest needs are for working with agricultural stakeholders that will best help you advance the mission and goals of your organization? (select all that apply)***
- ❑ Identifying funding sources for programming and/or project implementation
- ❑ Identifying funding sources to support staff
- ❑ Connecting with others doing similar work
- ❑ Working with agricultural stakeholders to implement conservation practices on their land
- ❑ Communicating with agricultural stakeholders
- ❑ Understanding issues of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in agricultural spaces
- ❑ Other (please describe)
- ❑ None of the above

Resilient Communities and Climate Change Mitigation

41. ***Does your organization work to build community resilience or mitigate the impacts of climate change?***
- ❑ We are currently working in this area.
- ❑ We are planning to work within this area.
- ❑ We do not currently work and are not planning to work in this area.

[skip logic: remaining questions in this section only for respondents currently working in this area]

42. ***Which issue areas does your organization/program focus/plan to focus on related to climate change mitigation and resilience? (select all that apply)***
- ❑ Climate adaptation and/or resilience planning
- ❑ Landscape-scale floodplain management and restoration
- ❑ Mitigating environmental impacts of climate change through on-the-ground projects (e.g., flooding, drought, heat, fire)
- ❑ Mitigating social and economic impacts of climate change (e.g., workforce development, anti-displacement, litter management)
- ❑ Monitoring environmental and social impacts of climate change
- ❑ Other (please specify)
- ❑ None of the above

43. ***How interested would you be in support from River Network related to each of the following areas to help you advance your community resilience and climate***

mitigation goals? [scale: not at all interested, slightly interested, moderately interested, very interested, extremely interested, unsure]

- Developing plans for climate adaptation, community resilience, and/or green infrastructure
- Securing funding or financing for climate resilience projects
- Strengthening community leadership for climate mitigation and resilience
- Advancing economic development and job creation through climate resilience investments
- Developing collaboratives/coalitions to coordinate mitigation and resilience efforts
- Integrating equity goals into resilience decisions and investments, including to avoid green gentrification and displacement
- Coordinating public and private climate resilience services in your community (i.e., local, state, federal)
- Strengthening local emergency response / disaster management planning and actions Understanding the range of strategies that build more resilient ecosystems and communities and assessing their feasibility
- Collecting data to understand climate impacts on local waterways
- Advancing landscape-scale floodplain management and restoration
- Other (please describe)

Data to Action

44. ***Does your organization work or plan to work within "Data to Action" (i.e., collecting or using data or information to drive change at the local, state, or national level)?***
- We are currently working in this area.
- We are planning to work within this area.
- We do not currently work and are not planning to work in this area.

[skip logic: remaining questions in this section only for respondents currently or planning working in this area]

45. ***What types of data or information do you collect/plan to collect? (select all that apply)***
- Water quality data
- Water quantity data
- Observational data on water health (e.g. smell, debris, bank stability)
- Flooding recurrence, severity and/or social/economic impacts (e.g., damage to property)
- Watershed assessment
- Visitation/recreational use data
- Community knowledge and values
- Impact of our programs
- Other – please specify
- None of the above

46. ***How are you using/plan to use the data or information that you collect? (select all that apply)***
- Local advocacy
- State advocacy
- National advocacy
- Education and awareness

- ❑ Trend monitoring
- ❑ Issue/contaminant specific monitoring
- ❑ To evaluate the success of a project or your organization's work
- ❑ We don't currently use the data or information we collect

47. ***How/where do you contribute/plan to contribute your data or information to a larger database or other shared resource? (select all that apply)***
- ❑ Federal database
- ❑ Regional database
- ❑ Watershed-wide database
- ❑ Online mapping sites
- ❑ Parameter-specific crowdsourcing tool
- ❑ We don't share our data/information

48. ***What kinds of support do you need to translate the data or information you collect into action? (No support needed, some support needed, a lot of support needed)***
- ❑ Data visualization
- ❑ Storytelling with data
- ❑ Using federal policy tools (e.g., Clean Water Act) at the local or state level
- ❑ Creating pathways for community members to take action
- ❑ Data analysis
- ❑ Informing the design or delivery of your programs
- ❑ Other – please specify

49. ***You just finished a series of questions about River Network's five priorities: Advocating for or tracking policy and/or regulatory issues; securing clean, safe, and affordable drinking water; achieving healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes; building community resilience to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and; using data to inform action for rivers and communities. Beyond these priority issues, are there additional water issues or topics that you would want River Network to address as part of building a more diverse, inclusive and powerful national network for clean water and healthy rivers? [open response](optional)***

50. ***Is there anything else you would like to share with River Network so we can better support your work? [open response](optional)***

Section 6 - About Your Organization

51. Organization name [open response] (required)

52. Type of organization
- ❑ Nonprofit entity / organization (local)
- ❑ Nonprofit entity / organization (state/regional)
- ❑ Nonprofit entity / organization (national)
- ❑ Nonprofit entity / organization (international)
- ❑ Government agency (local, regional, state, national)
- ❑ Tribal entity
- ❑ For profit corporation
- ❑ School or university

❏ Other (please specify)
❏ N/A

53. What basins or regions does your organization focus on or represent? (Select all that apply)
❏ National
❏ New England (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island)
❏ Mid-Atlantic (New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and West Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania)
❏ Southeast (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Kentucky)
❏ Great Lakes Basin (Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York)
❏ Upper Mississippi and Missouri River Basins (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Montana)
❏ Lower Mississippi River Basin / Gulf South / Red River Basin (Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas)
❏ Rio Grande Basin (Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, etc.)
❏ Colorado River Basin (Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada)
❏ Pacific Northwest / Columbia Basin (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana)
❏ California
❏ Alaska (includes Copper or Yukon Rivers)
❏ Hawaii
❏ Other - please specify

❏ N/A

54. Your name, position title, and email address. (required)

55. We would like to use responses from this survey in future reports and other published materials to highlight the work of the network. May we use your name and organization when attributing quotes to qualitative responses in reports and other published materials?
❏ Yes
❏ No

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the State of the Network Survey! Your contributions will help guide our work to best support you in the years ahead. Please reach out to Erin Kanzig (ekanzig@rivernetwork.org) if you have any questions. ***Winners of the Patagonia raffle will be informed via email by May 15th.***

www.rivernetwork.org