

From: Charles Still  
Friends of the West River.Org  
Regarding the West River in Jamaica, VT  
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518-779-8603

Dear Governor Douglas;

Re: Contested Fall Release of the West River in Jamaica VT Scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>,  
Local Economy To Be Impacted, Jamaica VT.

We need your help. I am faxing some one thousand plus signatures and an article from the Rutland Herald that highlights the troubles we are having. Please help us convene a forum to reasonably discuss and solve these issues. State Agencies are enacting policy changes that greatly impacts tourism and the local economy without the necessary public oversight.

Over the last decade, actions by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), (who manage Ball Mountain Dam on the West River), and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VANR), have significantly reduced scheduled opportunities for whitewater boating tourists to enjoy the West River in Jamaica VT. This loss of scheduled releases has had a negative economic impact on an area already hard hit by the global recession.

The West River in Jamaica, VT is one of the premier whitewater rivers in New England, and at one time hosted the Olympic Trials for whitewater paddling. In the past there have been two full weekends of whitewater releases starting in April and a two-day release in the fall.

While participants are hopeful for a large turn out, the one-day release scheduled discourages many to attend this event.

Historically, a scheduled two-day Fall release has drawn several thousand attendees to enjoy the river. A 2005 study, paid for in part by the Town of Jamaica, conservatively estimated a \$440,000 positive economic impact to Jamaica and surrounding communities for the two day event. The economic loss of reducing the release by one day is \$147,973 amounting to a 34% reduction in revenue to the local economy.

Several organizations including; The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), American White Water, New England Flow, Friends of the West River, and many volunteers have been attempting to work with the ACOE to enhance the recreational and economic opportunities provided by the existence of the dam.

Charles Still from the FriendsOfTheWestRiver.org states “The reduction in scheduled paddling days on the West River has a serious impact on Jamaica and the surrounding communities. Since limiting the release to a one-day event, attendance is down. The total loss to the community is easily in excess of a million dollars of lost tourism revenue since the initial

cancellation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the fall release in 2003. I am also disappointed in the VANR who is using bureaucratic posturing to avoid working with the various interested parties to find agreeable solutions.

The VANR and ACOE need to be held accountable to the citizens of Vermont and the country. In 2009 over a thousand whitewater enthusiasts won't be visiting the West River. The mismanagement of this resource could not come at a worse time for an area already struggling in a down turning economy. We need solutions that support tourism and generate direct revenue for local businesses and tax revenue for the local and state economy."

After significant discussions last fall and this winter, paddlers, including representatives from AMC, New England Flow, American Whitewater, Friends of the West River, commercial rafting companies, and concerned citizens questioned the planned release change and sought a solution that would support public use of the West River. Despite the feedback both public agencies were receiving the Fall Release is still scheduled for only one day.

The Friends of the West River has collected over a thousand signatures and will be forwarding them to the Governors office. "We are hopeful that we can get local and state politicians involved in this issue." said Still.

More information online at  
[www.friendsofthewestriver.org](http://www.friendsofthewestriver.org)  
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From the Rutland Herald September 19, 2009  
By Susan Smallheer

Regarding the Fall Release of water on the West River, comments by Phillip Morrison, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

*Morrison said he was skeptical that the economic impact was as great as the group claimed.*

*Kayakers and canoeists aren't big spenders or partiers, he said.*

*"It's because of the fish; and the fish are winning," he said.*

*"the cutback was really the decision of the Agency of Natural Resources, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."*

*- Phillip Morrison, U.S. Army Corps ranger at Ball Mountain*

These comments are most interesting and display exactly why we need public hearings on this issue.

The comment on the Economic impact is the most amazing given the fact that the only scientifically valid study that has been done on the West River is the 2005 Economic Impact Study by Crane Associates, LLC.

The June 2008 Basin Management Plan for the West River published by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Explicitly States: "no site specific flow studies have been conducted to define impacts of whitewater releases in the West River."

The Economic Impact Study, which was partially funded by the Town of Jamaica, has a 95% confidence level and was completed by Crane Associates, LLC of Burlington VT.

[www.CraneAssociates.us](http://www.CraneAssociates.us).

*"It's because of the fish; and the fish are winning," he said.*

The Fall Release cutback is quite simply not about the fish. Natural rain events occur dozens of times on the West River throughout the year and especially in the fall. A statistical analysis of these rain events over several years of data shows that 85% of them are of a higher rate of flow change than the scheduled fall release.

*"the cutback was really the decision of the Agency of Natural Resources, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."*

Yes, it's the bureaucratic shuffle, who's on first? Despite no one being accountable thousands of visitors no longer come to stay in Jamaica VT.

Charles Still [www.FriendsofTheWestRiver.org](http://www.FriendsofTheWestRiver.org)

The Petition

## **Army Corps Torpedos West River Releases (VT)**

Source: [American Whitewater](#) article by Kevin Colburn posted March 26, 2009

**Paddling representatives were shocked** this week to receive a letter from Richard Carlson of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) stating that the spring release on the Vermont's popular West River would be made during the week rather than on a weekend as has been the practice for decades. This news follows an ACOE decision last fall to move the release earlier into the spring when the state park that provides access is closed. In combination, these two decisions render the releases almost recreationally useless. What has for decades been a valued and vibrant recreational opportunity has been needlessly and senselessly eliminated by the ACOE.

This news is especially shocking because paddling representatives walked away from a meeting with the ACOE last fall feeling that a productive course of action was finally underway. Opportunities were discussed to shift the spring West River release into May to benefit salmon and paddlers alike instead of the ACOE proposal for an early April release. Also discussed were opportunities to slightly delay natural pulse flows to provide weekend boating opportunities. Now, without discussion, the releases will occur during the week in early April when use will be severely limited.

**We ask that West River paddlers take action on this issue. The two most important steps to take are:**

- 1. Call, write, or email the [Governor of Vermont](#)** requesting that he encourage the Vermont Department of Natural Resources to support whitewater boating on the West River.
- 2. Call, write, or email your [Senators](#) or [Representative](#)** (no matter whether you live in Vermont or just paddle there) and request that they ask the Army Corps of Engineers why they are not supporting whitewater boating on the West River at Ball Mountain Dam, near Jamaica, VT.

We ask that paddlers consider and share the following points:

- \* The Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Natural Resources, has eliminated planned recreational opportunities below Ball Mountain Dam without justification.
- \* Whitewater releases have an important economic value to local economies and had occurred historically
- \* There is no conflict between salmon or other environmental issues and whitewater releases if the releases are scheduled to avoid impacts created by the reservoir during the outmigration period.
- \* Whitewater releases resemble natural flows in their timing and magnitude.
- \* The West River system is highly manipulated for reservoir recreation and flood control. In this context the whitewater releases represent a miniscule departure from natural conditions.
- \* The Army Corps has communicated poorly and in a misleading manner with the paddling

public.

\* The Army Corps was supposed to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on their project operations several years ago, which has yet to happen, so these arbitrary decisions to curtail public recreation have no official record to justify them.

\* There are easy solutions for providing whitewater recreation, flood control, and environmental protection. It CAN be done, and it SHOULD be done.

\* Ask that releases be immediately rescheduled to occur on the weekend of April 11 and 12.

Please call, write, or email the Governor or your political representatives in DC right away.

For more information visit these websites:

[Friends of the West River](#)

[American Whitewater](#)

For current discussion of this issue visit:

[Northeast Paddlers Message Board West River \(VT\) Release Issue Forum](#)

[Friends of the West River](#) ([friendsofthewestriver.org](http://friendsofthewestriver.org)) ask that you please help the paddling community save (or reinstate) whitewater releases on the West River (VT). You can provide support for our position on this issue by signing this petition. Adding a short comment with you signature is appreciated and helpful in personalizing this issue from every paddlers' perspective.

Final note: This petition is not meant to replace your individual letters, emails, and calls to the above targeted parties. Please take those steps as well.

Thanks for your support,

[Friends of the West River](#) ([friendsofthewestriver.org](http://friendsofthewestriver.org))

The Signatures

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-the-west-river#signatures>

# 1010:

May 30, 2009, Jessica Davis, Massachusetts

# 1009:

May 25, 2009, Richard Carpenter, Connecticut

Its wrong to entertain upsetting a great tradition. Such studies should do a better job weighing the recreational benefits.

# 1008:

May 22, 2009, Tom Flint, Massachusetts

Why muck with tradition? The weekend releases work fine everywhere else that rivers are controlled.

# 1007:

May 21, 2009, Carol Pesti, Virginia  
Changing the dam release is unfair to the citizens of the West River region and the kayakers.

# 1006:

May 18, 2009, Craig Carmody Still River Outfitters, Vermont

# 1005:

May 18, 2009, Courtney Supple, California

# 1004:

May 17, 2009, Michael Supple, New York

# 1002:

May 14, 2009, Jordan Haskins, Vermont  
There is no reason not to atleast conversate with representatives of the whitewater community. Democracy should be enforced here!

# 1001:

May 13, 2009, Tim Horan, Connecticut

# 1000:

May 13, 2009, Jenney P Gallerane, Massachusetts

# 999:

May 11, 2009, Russell Swanker, New York

# 998:

May 10, 2009, Mark Hathaway, Massachusetts  
It would appear that part of the Army Corp's planning is driven as much by the need to show the recreational boater who is the boss as it is by concern over the fish. This feeling is reinforced by their failure to cooperate with providing an Environmental Impact Statement. And, let's be honest the environmental studies can at best be educated guesses that are open to disparate interpretations. It is truly hard to believe that the fish species were provided such tightly regimented control of the water flow by nature that anyone could know that a mid-week release instead of a scheduled weekend release was critical to their well being. It certainly smacks of a personal agenda.

# 997:

May 8, 2009, Nidhin Joseph, Massachusetts

# 996:

May 7, 2009, Dennis White White, New Hampshire  
Public water is first and foremost for the river and all its wonderful uses. Until this country start CONSERVING electricty, the utility companys will just keep hording and selling as much as they can.

# 995:

May 7, 2009, Phil Fisher, Pennsylvania

# 994:

May 5, 2009, Jason Piterak, New Hampshire

The spring West release has been a tradition for decades, giving thousands of starting whitewater paddlers their first chance to paddle pushy, exciting water. Paddlers come from states all around, and provide a significant boost to the local economy. Please don't take this away from us!

# 993:

May 4, 2009, Alex Verinis, Connecticut

# 992:

May 4, 2009, Dan Herzlinger, Rhode Island

The ACOE needs to re-consider the decision to move the April recreational dam release to the middle of the week. This recreational dam release provides a great recreational opportunity for paddlers while supporting local businesses. There needs to be a more balanced approach to management of the dam releases.

# 991:

May 4, 2009, Hope Haff, Massachusetts

# 990:

May 4, 2009, Matthew Steven, Switzerland

Although I am currently living in Switzerland, I spent many years living in upstate New York, attending Cornell University. I attended many many West River release in this time. They are an excellent venue for club groups, with sections suitable for all levels, and the organisational setup is wonderful. For individuals they are also great places to meet other paddlers and get on the water. I hope I can attend more West River releases when I am back in the US. SAVE THE WEST RIVER RELEASES!

# 989:

May 4, 2009, Richard Gaudette, New York

# 988:

May 3, 2009, Lynn Barnes, Michigan

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 987:

May 2, 2009, Jeremy Lucas Lucas, Maine

I have made it to the west releases for the past 14 years and I would hate to lose the opportunity. It is a great river to take novice kayakers down, please keep the release during the normal scheduled weekend in April.

# 986:

May 1, 2009, Jan Reimers, New Hampshire

Please restore the West River releases. Both the spring and fall releases have been a source of enjoyment to countless white water enthusiasts and a source for local income to local businesses for many years. It is a shame to needlessly deprive all those interests of what many have come to think of as an annual tradition.

# 985:

May 1, 2009, Bogdan Dumitrescu, Massachusetts

We should have the river back. They have a reason , what is their ACTUAL reason.

# 984:

Apr 30, 2009, Donald Williams Jr, Massachusetts

# 983:

Apr 29, 2009, Anonymous, Vermont

# 982:

Apr 29, 2009, Cal Viall, Colorado

In a distressed economy there is no reason to inadvertently stress out a local economy by essentially not promoting people to come to a location. By "wasting" this water you are un-inviting people to come stimulate the local economy...keep the water flowing for whitewater/recreational purposes and people will come and spend they will...

# 981:

Apr 28, 2009, Mark Soffa, Pennsylvania

PLEASE allow weekend releases in the late spring and summer so that paddlers can enjoy the whitewater and bring revenue to your state

# 980:

Apr 28, 2009, Matthew Crawford, Colorado

I have enjoyed paddling this river in the past and I am disappointed by the ACOE's deliberate and prejudiced management of this resource.

# 979:

Apr 28, 2009, Kevin Tate, Colorado

# 978:

Apr 28, 2009, Daniel Hays, New York

My father and I used to come spend money in Jamacia every year and we are not going to this year because of these recent decisions.

# 977:

Apr 28, 2009, Anonymous, Tennessee

Balanced releases?!? During a weekday?!? How many of your constituents will be there to enjoy it? These rivers belong to the citizens of THIS country...not a company

with only their own interests involved. You were elected by the people now show you will support the PEOPLES decision!

# 976:

Apr 28, 2009, Justin Piterak, Massachusetts  
Please support the recreational community that supports local businesses and contributes to environmental awareness and causes. We can all work together to enjoy, and be in balance with, nature in a positive way. Thank you.

# 975:

Apr 28, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 974:

Apr 28, 2009, Mike Moore, West Virginia

# 973:

Apr 28, 2009, Zachary Feldman, Arkansas

# 972:

Apr 28, 2009, Fran Duggan, New Jersey

# 971:

Apr 28, 2009, Luke Sutton, Wyoming  
Give them their weekend releases!

# 970:

Apr 28, 2009, Arlyn Agababian, North Carolina  
We want our white water releases!

# 969:

Apr 28, 2009, Todd Bilbrey, Tennessee

# 968:

Apr 28, 2009, Bethany Overfield, Kentucky

# 967:

Apr 28, 2009, Alisha Blakeney, Alabama

# 966:

Apr 28, 2009, Mark Blume, California

# 965:

Apr 28, 2009, Olga Kronn, Ohio

# 964:

Apr 28, 2009, Michael Maloney, Ohio

- # 963:  
Apr 28, 2009, Jimi Nixon, Ohio  
I'll add my voice to stand with you. We in Ohio are having the same kinds of problems with releases.
- # 962:  
Apr 28, 2009, Daniel Talley, New York
- # 961:  
Apr 28, 2009, David Cohen, Georgia
- # 960:  
Apr 27, 2009, Michelle Rogers, Massachusetts
- # 959:  
Apr 27, 2009, Lili Colby, Massachusetts  
The lack of communication between the ACOE and the community of the the West River/ Jamaica and the larger community of whitewater paddlers in the North East is just astounding. This situation is really disappointing. And in the middle of a recession...just when a rural economy needs the support! The decision of ACOE seems very short sighted and intensive to the local community and regional outdoor recreational interests.
- # 958:  
Apr 27, 2009, Kevin Taylor, Massachusetts  
Don't take away our right to recreate on the weekends!!
- # 957:  
Apr 27, 2009, Steve Parsons, Massachusetts
- # 956:  
Apr 27, 2009, Steve Goldfarb, Vermont  
WOW.... With the economy as it is, this is an inexpensive way for people to enjoy the outdoors, learn to appreciate our wilderness and for the local economy to see some assistance. I find it impossible to believe an event like this would get cancelled. This seems to be fiscally and environmentally irresponsible.
- # 955:  
Apr 27, 2009, Eric Carpenter, Vermont  
What a great event this is, a great chance to see some wonderful people and paddle some fantastic whitewater.
- # 954:  
Apr 27, 2009, Lennie Fillius, New Hampshire

# 953:

Apr 26, 2009, Jeremy Dube, Maine

# 952:

Apr 25, 2009, Dan Sandberg, Vermont

I've never gotten the chance to paddle this river or attend this event, it is something that I have really been looking forward to, and it would be a shame to see such a cool event disappear...

# 951:

Apr 24, 2009, JONATHAN MAYBRAY, New York

# 950:

Apr 24, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

Please don't take this away from us. I have paddled this river since I was a child and can't imagine my life without this extremely fun and satisfying event.

# 949:

Apr 24, 2009, David Brucas, New Jersey

I find it reprehensible that a government agency, after working with the public so long, has destroyed public recreational opportunity, for no good reason. Other units of the ACE have earned a well-deserved reputation for working at cross-purposes with the public; it is a shame that this unit is now following the same poor behavior. I hope that this ACE unit rethinks its plan, and starts working with the public again to provide recreational releases for the enjoyment of all.

# 948:

Apr 23, 2009, Johanna Jenkins, California

# 947:

Apr 23, 2009, Don Cochrane, New Hampshire

# 945:

Apr 23, 2009, Paul Leclerc, Rhode Island

When people are involved directly with the enjoyment of their natural surroundings, they undoubtedly become stewards to their chosen habitat's protection. It is a mistake not to continue with scheduled WW rereleases on the West River, both for long term protection and a local boost to the economy.

# 944:

Apr 22, 2009, Don Stone, Massachusetts

# 943:

Apr 22, 2009, Wendell Futrell, New York

I really miss the West releases when they were two days twice a year. I always came up for those and would do so again. Give us back 4 days a year!!

# 942:

Apr 22, 2009, Marvin Tisdale, South Carolina

# 941:

Apr 22, 2009, Tanya McCabe, New Jersey

I would think that the reason the change was made to the release date was due to the fact that no one is aware of the importance weekend releases are to paddlers, both within NH and surrounding states. Coordination must be made for the early release and an open camp ground. the government, both Federal and state, and paddlers must work together to promote recreational use and tourism. Surely this is a matter that can be resolved to both the government and paddlers satisfaction. Thanks for all you do!

# 940:

Apr 22, 2009, Michele Bucci, New Jersey

# 939:

Apr 22, 2009, Valerio Viti, New Hampshire

# 938:

Apr 22, 2009, Cheryl Guyre, New Hampshire

Please give paddlers back the opportunity to stimulate the economy in Jamaica, VT and other nearby towns!

# 937:

Apr 22, 2009, Ethan Brush, Indiana

As a former resident of Vermont and frequent visitor, I feel strongly about this issue!

# 936:

Apr 22, 2009, John Kluza, Massachusetts

Please work with recreational watersports enthusiasts to make the release useful for everyone. It will help VT's economy and it will help paddlers!

# 935:

Apr 22, 2009, Sandra Cody, New Hampshire

Having the releases during the week will take away many things from many people. Many boaters will not be able to take advantage of the wonderful white water and many merchants in the town will suffer.

# 934:

Apr 22, 2009, Erica Thibeault, Massachusetts

# 933:

Apr 22, 2009, Derrick Rockosi, Massachusetts

I was looking forward to paddling the west for the 1st time. This will cost Vermont \$\$'s as I won't be heading up to the river staying at a hotel or eating in Vermont restaurants. Please do not let this local economy suffer during these tough economic times!

# 932:

Apr 22, 2009, Linda Polstein, New York

# 931:

Apr 22, 2009, Bill Canfield, New Jersey

Don't waste a positive economic opportunity for the local river communities.

# 930:

Apr 22, 2009, Susan Burnside, Massachusetts

Please don't end the Spring West River releases on a weekend. This is a very popular release for recreational boaters. I really can't see any rational purpose for changing the release to a weekday. It seems this is a capricious decision by the ACOE. Thanks.

# 929:

Apr 22, 2009, Frank Perry, Connecticut

# 928:

Apr 22, 2009, Marge and Bill Hone, New York

# 927:

Apr 22, 2009, Rudi Markl, New York

Dear Sirs: The Corps of Engineers' unilateral decision to release water from the Ball Mountain (West River) dam in Jamaica, VT during the week makes no sense and deprives whitewater paddlers of a traditional recreation weekend of whitewater paddling. It also deprives that area of the economic boost such an influx of paddlers brings. Please reinstate the traditional weekend releases. Thank you.

# 926:

Apr 22, 2009, Lauren Farrell, Connecticut

# 925:

Apr 22, 2009, Kurt Brummund, New York

# 924:

Apr 22, 2009, George Colby, New Hampshire

Dear Sirs, The West River release is an important part of the tourist and recreational activities in Vermont and has been held as a key regional opportunity by the paddling community for many years. I fail to understand the logic of changing the release schedules to eliminate these opportunities harming the State, Town and paddlers with no apparent benefit. This action would hardly seem in keeping with the current

administrations thrust on improving life and environment for the country and its citizens. Please reconsider these actions for the betterment of the whole.

# 923:

Apr 22, 2009, Sean Reese, New Hampshire

It's sad to see a non-motorized, non-polluting form of enjoyment of the state's natural resources thwarted by the long arm of government.

# 922:

Apr 22, 2009, Jason Kates, Massachusetts

I was looking forward to paddling the west for the 1st time. This will cost Vermont \$\$'s as I won't be heading up to the river staying at a hotel or eating in Vermont restaurants

# 921:

Apr 22, 2009, Allan Berggren, New Hampshire

The impact on wildlife is no greater than a three-inch rain. The Jamaica community gains substantially from the paddlers and campers.

# 920:

Apr 22, 2009, Armand Juneau, New Hampshire

# 919:

Apr 21, 2009, Paul Berry, New Hampshire

The West River releases have been a great opportunity for many boaters. I first went to a West River Release about 40 years ago, when I was a member of the Norwich University Outing Club. I had a wonderful time then and have continued through the decades.

# 918:

Apr 21, 2009, Paul Martin, Massachusetts

The cancellation of the release or moving it to a weekday is contrary to one of the very benefits that you claim to make on your website. There is no scientific basis for the changes you are implementing, and it is contrary to the movement throughout the United States during hydropower relicensing to reach settlement agreements that include multiple recreational uses, not single uses, such as just recreational fishing. The West River whitewater releases have provided an opportunity for me to introduce my 3 children to whitewater paddling, camping, and enjoying the outdoors, both spring and fall. There is a festival atmosphere during these weekends, focused on clean wholesome fun that engenders a desire to protect our nation's outdoor recreation opportunities for present and future generations to enjoy. Please restore the weekend whitewater releases.

# 917:

Apr 21, 2009, Lisa Egan, Vermont

Visit the Army Corps of Engineers website about Ball Mountain Dam, and you will find it extolls the recreation opportunities provided for paddlers that the dam provides, and brags about the benefits provided by the two weekends a year when the dam

releases. Ironically, ACOE is taking credit for very releases that, in actuality, they have continually resisted, and have finally destroyed. I am a local Vermonter who deplors the loss of income, community involvement, and good-will that ACOE's actions have caused VT. I will actively monitor the responses of the various local officials to this situation, and will certainly remember them when I vote.

# 916:

Apr 21, 2009, David Davison, Connecticut

I've only canoed on this river one time. I doubt this issue will affect me directly. But I am an enthusiastic outdoors person who wishes to see appropriate management of our natural resources and who wants those people who do live and play on the West River to get the most out of this recreational jewel in New England.

# 915:

Apr 21, 2009, David LaMarche, Maine

Equal distribution of natural resources is an important part of maintaining a healthy community. Please re-evaluate the release schedule.

# 914:

Apr 21, 2009, Ben Guttridge, Vermont

please restore the recreational releases! They are a vital part of Vermont's tourism industry

# 913:

Apr 21, 2009, Timothy Wright, Massachusetts

If there is going to be a release on the West it should be on the weekend. It is more beneficial to the Vermont economy to do so. People go up there to camp and spend money in Vermont local stores. Don't you guys need jobs up there in Vermont. The West release is a natural economic stimulus package. All you have to do is change the release to be on the weekend and preferably when there is no snow at Jamaica State park so people can get in and use the facility. Thanks you for considering my opinions.

# 912:

Apr 21, 2009, Kyle Burke, Rhode Island

The West River was the first river that I ever ran without an instructor. It was a memorable experience that should be passed on and shared with others. The West River release brings business and tourism to the town of Jamaica, even if it is only once or twice a year.

# 911:

Apr 21, 2009, Steve Hooper, New Hampshire

# 910:

Apr 21, 2009, Sean Farrell, Massachusetts

Please restore the recreational whitewater releases. They benefit the local economy and are an invaluable resource.

# 909:

Apr 20, 2009, Karen Klawiter, New Hampshire

For as long as I've been paddling, the West Release has been a treasured event that draws recreational boaters from near and far. (sometimes VERY far!). It's a huge event for us, and we're happy to support the local businesses, campgrounds, and parks. Please don't turn your back on the dedicated whitewater boaters who have come to Jamaica year after year to enjoy this traditional event! Join us in supporting the traditionally scheduled weekend recreational whitewater releases. Please!! thank you for your consideration. Karen

# 908:

Apr 20, 2009, Ryan Stump, Pennsylvania

# 907:

Apr 20, 2009, Davey Leland, Vermont

# 906:

Apr 20, 2009, Sophie Szeferowicz, France

# 905:

Apr 20, 2009, Jean and John Souter, Vermont

# 904:

Apr 19, 2009, Steve Burstein, Virginia

# 903:

Apr 19, 2009, Brian DeLisle, Connecticut

# 902:

Apr 19, 2009, Anonymous, Rhode Island

# 901:

Apr 18, 2009, Stuart Goldberg, New Hampshire

# 900:

Apr 18, 2009, C Reynolds, New York

# 899:

Apr 18, 2009, Guy Magnano, Vermont

With no justifiable reason for the placement of west river releases on dates that severely inhibit recreational use, begs the question, why? Seems there is always someone in a position of power at the root of an arbitrary decision like this that either has an axe to grind or is simply miserable and wants to spread the pain. So to whomever may read this and have the ability to find and "fix" the problem please take the time to do so. This is needles "muscle flexing" on someone's part. What a shame.

- # 898:  
Apr 17, 2009, Denise Hurt, New Hampshire
- # 897:  
Apr 17, 2009, Billy Friedman, New York
- # 896:  
Apr 17, 2009, Constantin Asinovski, New York  
I paddled the river for years. I am shocked about the way ACOE treats the other parties involved.
- # 895:  
Apr 17, 2009, Anonymous, California
- # 894:  
Apr 16, 2009, Misty Williams, Vermont
- # 893:  
Apr 16, 2009, Dylan Shafman, New Hampshire  
I really hope the west river keeps releasing water for the spring and summer festivals. I enjoy them alot.
- # 892:  
Apr 16, 2009, Desiree Shafman, New Hampshire
- # 891:  
Apr 16, 2009, Joshua Harvey, Florida  
Restore the privelages please. Small things like this is what constitutes the culture of New england as such a special place.
- # 890:  
Apr 16, 2009, Dale Shafman, New Hampshire
- # 889:  
Apr 15, 2009, Jonathan DeBay, Vermont  
this is such a fun river to run and the recreational paddlers bring a lot of money into the area.
- # 888:  
Apr 15, 2009, Gayle Smith, Connecticut
- # 887:  
Apr 15, 2009, Davis Gove, Idaho
- # 886:

Apr 14, 2009, Jamie Lee, California

# 885:

Apr 14, 2009, Sandi Stewart, Massachusetts

I have paddled this river and I, like many, looked forward to the releases every year. It would be a shame not to allow future paddlers the joy of paddling this beautiful river. The town and the school benefit economically from the many paddlers who buy their goods and services. This is a blow to all concerned.

# 884:

Apr 14, 2009, Douglas Wheeler, Connecticut

# 883:

Apr 14, 2009, Benjamin Natusch, Massachusetts

# 882:

Apr 14, 2009, Tom Vickery and Family, New York

We were surprised and dissappointed to find out about planned changes to the release on the West River. We enjoyed spending a little time in our home state of Vermont paddling the West River. What really surprised us was just how unneighborly, and unVermont-like the decision was to the businesses of the Jamaica area. Being a Native Vermonter, that no longer lives in VT, this decision just shows me one other reason why Vermont ain't what it used to be. The ACOE needs to show a gesture of goodwill to the surrounding area, and resume and expand the releases for one good reason, local economic benefit.

# 881:

Apr 13, 2009, David Graham, Connecticut

The West River releases are good, clean fun enjoyed by boaters and non-boaters alike. It is a great way to spend a spring weekend in VT and is a lot of fun for the entire family. It's good for the local economy too.

# 880:

Apr 13, 2009, Erik Hansen, Massachusetts

Even though I am not active in the white water paddling any longer, at least in an unofficial way, I am shocked to imagine the West River without acceptable dam releases. I hope that the Army Corps is listening to the concerned group of boaters and environmentalists and will reconsider there demands. The West is one of the favorites spots to paddle and boaters are very aware of issues concerning the use of this valuable resource. Sincerely, Erik Hansen

# 879:

Apr 13, 2009, Mervi Rantala, Finland

# 878:

Apr 12, 2009, David Schilling, Vermont

Please consider the many impacts of shifting the release dates of the West River to a time that would preclude recreational paddling.

# 877:

Apr 12, 2009, David Goff, Massachusetts

# 876:

Apr 12, 2009, Stephen Brown, New Hampshire

please reconsider this wonderful release that brings so much energy and good will to the community, in addition to much needed revenue for the town and state. From what i can tell, this release does no more harm than usual flooding from a significant rain event, especially if it were to be held may, june, july or august. thank you

# 875:

Apr 12, 2009, Heather S. Roe, Massachusetts

Please restore the traditional West River releases to the a weekend each in the end of April and the end of October. Thank you.

# 874:

Apr 12, 2009, Ronald Lemoine Jr., New Hampshire

# 873:

Apr 12, 2009, James Hopkins, New York

In 1997 I was headed to Killington & Okemo in a Spring snowstorm when I saw a Volvo wagon overloaded with 4 snow covered WW Kayaks and a ski box at a NY Through Way rest stop. I wondered what the Idiots were doing so I asked. They had the same destination plus were running the West. Now I am that Idiot with a playboat & a creek boat on my Volvo XC wagon and the interior stuffed with snowboard/ski/tele equipment in the "transition" season. The West WEEKEND releases are an excellent reason for Western New Yorkers to make the Fall/Spring pilgrimages to Vermont to boat and help the local economy. The COE could do what the Industry is doing, "Monday is your day off this week, you are working Saturday because we have an important order to get out." When the COE is concerned about the environment the BS detector meter is pegged at 100%. The only tree they ever hugged was one a beaver was gnawing because the beaver was competing with them for Dam Building Rights.

# 872:

Apr 12, 2009, Barry Jaspan, Massachusetts

This ridiculous conflict with the Army Core of Engineers regarding the Ball Mountain Dam in Jamaica, VT has been brewing for years. The paddling community has engaged in good faith efforts to negotiate the situation and the ACOE has never even bothered to tell the truth about their motivations. Please restore the traditional West River releases: one weekend each in late April and October, or provide a sound basis for not doing so.

# 871:

Apr 11, 2009, David Charis-Mink, Vermont

The West River release for whitewater paddlers has a very positive economic impact on our community. Our local village school raises a significant sum of funds by operating a food vending service during the release. Our community church also raises money by providing an evening supper for the visiting paddlers, which also helps them make connections with the people who live here in Jamaica. Not to mention the local markets here in our town & in surrounding towns. Jamaica State Park fills all of its' campsites for this event as does Winhall Brook Campground. I certainly would like to see Atlantic Salmon return to the headwaters of the West River, however, I believe that we can find a balance in the actions that will support the salmon and our local communities.

# 870:

Apr 11, 2009, Becky Cyganiewicz, Massachusetts

# 869:

Apr 11, 2009, John Boehrer, Vermont

Think about the children...our future needs this!

# 868:

Apr 11, 2009, KC Gandee, Vermont

As a manager for Okemo Mountain Resort, I have been trying to package outdoor adventures to bring more tourism dollars to Vermont. By reducing the recreational releases on the West River, I cannot promote whitewater in Vermont and work with local outfitters to provide services to guests. As a whitewater boater, I never miss a West release and enjoy spending my money in my home state on whitewater. I have few chances to do this as it is. For both personal and professional reasons we need to be increasing recreational releases NOT decreasing them. Please- increase recreational releases!! -KC Gandee Recreation Manager Okemo Mountain Resort (802)228-1444

# 867:

Apr 11, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

I have been involved with the ACOE on this issue since I attended a meeting in the Jamaica, VT town hall in 1998, when the ACOE promised a "Master Plan" to guide their management of this incredibly beautiful and valuable resource. The best question we can ask our representative is: after 11 years, where is this plan? Read the Meeting History area of the Friends of the West River website for details.

# 866:

Apr 10, 2009, Kevin Magde, New York

# 865:

Apr 10, 2009, Mark Archambault, Massachusetts

I am not sure what the reasoning is for the change in the release but this is a disappointing decision to move the release date to a useless date. The town gets some money out of this. The schools benefit from this.

# 864:

Apr 10, 2009, Andrea Cashman, Massachusetts

# 863:

Apr 10, 2009, Anonymous, Vermont

# 862:

Apr 10, 2009, Valentin Puscasu, Washington D.C.

# 861:

Apr 10, 2009, Dave Su, Massachusetts

Dear Governor Douglas: I live in Massachusetts but I regularly teach and do work in Vermont - for more than 20 years now. I'm a veteran of the Corps of Engineers, Viet Nam era. I pay taxes in Vermont. I do volunteer work in Vermont. I bring classes to Vermont. My first racing experience was on the West River. And I paddle the West River and its' tributaries several times per year. What does the Army's COE reduction of flows - both proposed and over the past few years mean to me? It means I don't bring friends and students to paddle in VT, to meet and eat in Jamaica and Newfane, to gather for class in Brattleboro, and instead seek out river experiences, welcoming, and opportunities in NH, MA, and NY. I love the West and hate to miss the opportunities but it's just business and fun and I've already started making changes - it'd be too bad if the Corps didn't also. Sincerely, from Amherst, MA

# 860:

Apr 9, 2009, Norm Labbe, New York

I would like to say that I've been going to the West River releases for years and I am very disappointed that the releases this spring have been scheduled at a time that does not provide recreation for boaters who have enjoyed paddling the West River releases for years.

# 859:

Apr 9, 2009, Constance Farley, New Jersey

I love paddling the West River. Please allow enough water for a 2 day release, otherwise it is not worth the drive from NJ.

# 858:

Apr 9, 2009, Thomas Bowater, Rhode Island

In ten years I think I have missed only one west river release. I can barely picture a paddling season starting without it. Its simply unimaginable to limit or stop the west release when it provides so much opportunity to the paddling community and the local economy.

# 857:

Apr 9, 2009, Richard Plummer, Georgia

To whom it may concern: Please consider leaving the realease schedule as it has been in the past. Thanks, Richard

# 856:

Apr 9, 2009, Kory Haag, Massachusetts

I have attended the West River Release many times in the past 10 years. Since the release numbers have dwindled, the motivation to drive to Jamaica, spend money and time in Vermont have also dwindled. This is a precious resource, being reallocated based on insufficient data and the whims of a few bureaucrats. Please reinstate the full releases on the West River in Jamaica, VT.

# 855:

Apr 9, 2009, Scott Vande Vusse, New Hampshire

The West release was marked on everyones calendar it was a high point of the year. It's a great paddling resource that shouldn't be taken way without justification. I would counter that the number of releases should be increased including some dates in the middle of the summer. The Army Corps is taking natural resources away from the State of Vermont and the American taxpayer.

# 854:

Apr 9, 2009, Kel Rossiter, Vermont

This action needs to be reconsidered, taking into account the goals and economics of the various stakeholders concerned. I urge the ACOE to do so.

# 853:

Apr 9, 2009, Jonathan Souter, Wyoming

I grew up in central VT and learned to paddle on rivers including the West. Each year it was a great chance to get on a different river and meet up with hundreds of boaters in New England. It is a real shame that this opportunity is being taken away from the recreational users who will not be able to take the weekdays off. With so many of the beautiful rivers in New England lacking releases, the West is one of the favorites and most well known for all levels of paddler. By taking away the weekend release the number of participants will drastically drop and hurt the local tourism economy. I now live and run a kayak school in Jackson WY, but whenever I am back in VT I go to the West releases or other New England releases to reunite with the New England paddling community. Please reconsider the decision to change the releases, the weekend releases are important to both the local economy and the New England Boating community.  
Jonathan Souter Jackson Hole Kayak School Vermont Paddler

# 852:

Apr 9, 2009, Blake McCurdy, Georgia

# 851:

Apr 9, 2009, Jay Appleton, Vermont

The 1/22/09 letter from the ACOE outlining the reasons against spring releases indicates that Ball Mtn Dam itself is the problem. "On the West River, available flows are not the controlling factor for providing more opportunity for whitewater recreation; but instead, pool elevations above 25 feet that would effectively block downstream

migration [of salmon molt] are." Surely something can be constructed at the dam to allow salmon molt to pass at higher pool levels.

# 850:

Apr 9, 2009, Philip Whisler, New Hampshire

I would think that the brain trust at the Army Corp could figure out how to manage 2 weekend releases and still manage flood control. They do it all the time in Calif. Someone pick up a phone and call the Calif. Dept and figure out how it's done.

# 849:

Apr 9, 2009, Joseph Castellano, North Carolina

# 848:

Apr 9, 2009, Rob Bonino, New York

# 847:

Apr 9, 2009, Jason Phelps, Maine

# 846:

Apr 9, 2009, Michael Lackman, Connecticut

For close to 10 years I would travel to Jamaica for two weekends and spend quality time with friends. In recent years that was reduced to one. Under the current plan it is no longer an option and I as well as my friends will have to spend our recreation dollars elsewhere.

# 845:

Apr 9, 2009, Tuomas Vaarala, Finland

# 844:

Apr 9, 2009, Martin Cutler, Massachusetts

At times like this to miss a water release that makes lifes stresses smoother is a crime. Help the public enjoy all water sports please.

# 843:

Apr 8, 2009, Robert Hoffman, Arkansas

# 842:

Apr 8, 2009, Carl Lafreniere, Massachusetts

Shutting down the West River whitewater releases to the paddling community is a beauracratc ACOE decision taking away benefits to people who pay for it with their federal taxes. Please keep whitewater scheduled releases available to the paddling public.

# 841:

Apr 8, 2009, Michael LaFlair, New York

Please reconsider your recent decision to change the releases to mid week. This makes it extremely difficult for people outside the state to come and enjoy the West. I had

every intention of coming for the West release until I heard it was changed from the weekend.

# 839:

Apr 8, 2009, Roger Singer, Colorado

For many years a weekend at the Spring West release was a big part of my family's schedule. It is one of the first places I kayaked, I know it is the first river my children kayaked and my wife and family canoed the lower section many times. It is a wonderful and beautiful river valley that would be lost to most people if weekend releases were cancelled. I don't get it. I think totally ignoring recreation is a serious error by a government agency.

# 838:

Apr 8, 2009, Christina Prestano, New Jersey

# 837:

Apr 8, 2009, Adam Bixby, North Carolina

As progressive a state as Vermont is this really issue really surprises me and disappoints me. I grew up in southern new england and the West river was not just one of the rivers that helped me to progress from beginner to more of an intermediate it is also a central meeting place for kayakers from all over new england and the surrounding states. Far too often i see small special interest groups get involved and dangle some money in front of the right faces and before long we've lost another great natural recreational area to everyone but one particular group. For a state that relies so heavily on tourism and green living, leave no trace ideals it is sad that they are slowly doing away with that theme and looking for the greener dollar instead. you take my recreation away and you take my tourism dollars away. adam bixby

# 836:

Apr 8, 2009, Robert Ellis, Vermont

Please do not adversely impact on the local economy. This is an essential weekend for the local businesses. Times are tough enough. Have a heart

# 835:

Apr 8, 2009, Charles Michener, New York

Mid week releases will dramatically reduce the number of paddlers coming to the West on release days. Wail weekend release will attract many more paddlers. The more paddlers at the release the greater economic benefit to the surrounding area as each car load of paddlers buy gas and food. As well as other supplies. I sincerely hope that the release continues to be scheduled for weekend days in the future. Charles Michener

# 834:

Apr 8, 2009, Justin Benton, North Carolina

Please don't change releases of this river... The weekend release will not only allow more access to recreation for the majority of boaters, it will also help bring in an influx of much needed money to the local economy. Thank you for your time

- # 833:  
Apr 8, 2009, Nancy Andrews, Vermont
- # 832:  
Apr 8, 2009, Emily Powell, Virginia
- # 831:  
Apr 8, 2009, Poppy Gall, Vermont
- # 830:  
Apr 8, 2009, Adam Moody, New Hampshire  
To whom it may concern, This river is where two great friends taught me courage, discipline, and love. One has sadly passed and every time I paddle this river I reinvision those days and memories. Lessons of life I have learned from those paddling adventures have enabled me to become the person I am today. The people of this world have more to lose than water or revenue with this thinking. Sincerely Adam Moody
- # 829:  
Apr 8, 2009, Warren Fuller, Delaware  
In times like these, the government should do all that it can to be more compassionate. People work hard all week and look forward to recreational activities with the water.
- # 828:  
Apr 8, 2009, Meghan Campbell, Oregon  
I am a native of Vt. Transplanted out here to Oregon. People out here love the outdoors, and Vt is one of the few states you'll here an Oregonian say that they travel to for things like water sports and other outdoor recreation. During an economic downturn, the last thing Vt needs is for outdoor enthusiast to lose access to a well known paddling event.
- # 827:  
Apr 8, 2009, Dean Holden, Delaware  
I travel to VT for vacation for the sole reason of the West River Release. This is very disheartening if not illegal due to the lack of EIS and misleading information on the part of the ACOE. Shame on them.
- # 826:  
Apr 8, 2009, Roger Loughney, Pennsylvania  
what a terrible decision. The West was (is) something that hundreds of paddlers looked forward to after the long, frozen winters. This decision is short sighted and ill advised. The ACOE is supposed to work on behalf of the public, not in spite of it. Roger Loughney
- # 825:  
Apr 8, 2009, Matteo Campbell, Vermont  
This is truly a disappointment to the local business community who were given a spring

and fall "financial boost". Please reconsider this and take immediate action so that this tradition will continue.

# 824:

Apr 8, 2009, Gail Holmes, Vermont  
Please reconsider preserving one of VT's treasures.

# 823:

Apr 8, 2009, Galen Holt, Massachusetts

# 822:

Apr 8, 2009, DRU ELLIS, Georgia

# 821:

Apr 8, 2009, Katie Farrar, North Carolina

# 820:

Apr 8, 2009, Mike Hackenberg, South Carolina

# 819:

Apr 8, 2009, Brooks Holmes, Wyoming  
I was born and raised in Rutland Vermont, kayaking the West river had a big influence on the direction of my life and career. I first kayaked the West River (after being a spectator of the releases for many years) about 25 years ago. Subsequently, I taught kayaking in Vt for 4 years and opened my own kayak school in Jackson WY. I hope that others have the opportunity of kayaking on the West River. It could change their lives forever.

# 818:

Apr 8, 2009, Jim Greenberg, New York  
Vermont has always been known as one of the few states in the United States to cherish the outdoors and outdoor life. Please do all you can to keep it this way... keep the release at a time and day that makes it available to those using the river for recreation.

# 817:

Apr 8, 2009, Mark Cecchini, Massachusetts  
I have regularly attended the West River releases as a whitewater kayaker for more than a decade. I estimate that I spend at least \$100 at local businesses in and around Jamaica, VT every time I attend a release. More importantly, the West releases have traditionally served as a way to bring together what is usually a scattered New England paddling community. The West boasts accessible and fun whitewater that is suitable for a wide range of recreationists. I strongly urge the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider recent proposed changes in the timing of the releases from the Ball Mountain Reservoir. Please recognize that economic benefits to the local community and opportunities for low-impact non-motorized recreation will be lost if the Corps moves forward with changes to the release schedule. I also urge the Corps to engage with local

business and paddling groups such as American Whitewater and the Vermont Paddling Club before making changes to the release schedule.

# 816:

Apr 8, 2009, Barry Grimes, Kentucky

No releases on the West River means there will be no visits from out of state boaters and a complete loss of revenue for communities from whitewater tourists. This makes absolutely no sense! Please save and restore weekend releases on the West River.

# 815:

Apr 8, 2009, David Hathaway, Vermont

The AOCE is managing a public trust, and should have a duty to consult with and consider the interests all stakeholders, including the recreational community. The decision to change the release dates appears to have been completely arbitrary (if there was some rationale it has not been adequately explained). I could hypothesize that someone thinks moving the release date from a weekend might save some overtime costs, but actions like this that reduce accessibility to recreational opportunities in Vermont will have an economic impact to the local community and to Vermont tourism in general that far exceeds any potential savings. I urge the AOCE to move the release dates back to a weekend after the park is opened, and to consult with the paddling community (e.g., through American WhiteWater and/or the Vermont Paddling Club) before making any such changes in the future. Lets be partners and not adversaries.

# 814:

Apr 8, 2009, Kemper Begley, Tennessee

I am a whitewater kayaker who has relatives in New York. I would appreciate the opportunity to paddle the West River when I visit my relatives. Please keep whitewater releases convenient (on weekends) for boaters.

# 813:

Apr 8, 2009, Steve Kroser, Pennsylvania

# 812:

Apr 8, 2009, Michael Hamrick, Tennessee

# 811:

Apr 8, 2009, Mark Stover, North Carolina

Please reschedule releases on the West River to 4/11 and 4/12 this year as well as keeping future releases on weekends in late April or May. This can simultaneously have 1) a positive impact environmentally for salmon populations and 2) provide a much needed positive economic impact to the area due to whitewater recreation.

# 810:

Apr 8, 2009, Zack Kellman, Virginia

# 809:

Apr 8, 2009, Eric Wilson, South Carolina

# 808:

Apr 8, 2009, Arlyn Agababian, North Carolina

# 807:

Apr 8, 2009, Nate Sparks, Idaho

# 805:

Apr 8, 2009, Jefferson Slagle, New York

# 804:

Apr 7, 2009, Eric Adsit, New York

I have never kayaked the West, but by signing this I hope that I may keep it flowing so that one day I may.

# 803:

Apr 7, 2009, Robert Connelly, Armed Forces Europe

# 802:

Apr 7, 2009, Ryan Mulley, New Hampshire

# 801:

Apr 7, 2009, Andrew Kuhlberg, Connecticut

The West River releases are a consistent reason to visit VT twice a year. Without those releases I'd more often go elsewhere.

# 800:

Apr 7, 2009, Danielle Hilstro, New Hampshire

# 799:

Apr 7, 2009, Elaine Campbell, Vermont

# 798:

Apr 7, 2009, Chris Ericson, Vermont

while i think it is a good thing to more closely follow natural flows, i haven't heard rational why if there is water held back and released later, that there can't be an accommodation for paddling.

# 797:

Apr 7, 2009, Thomas Davidson, Vermont

# 796:

Apr 7, 2009, Michelle Boyle, Vermont

# 795:

Apr 7, 2009, Rachel Segal, New Hampshire

# 794:

Apr 7, 2009, Adam Eckenroth, Connecticut

i have enjoyed the west release a number of times and is the main reason i go to vermont at all

# 793:

Apr 7, 2009, Eric Shaw, Massachusetts

Something as simple as paddling can have a huge impact on a person's quality of life. It is hugely meaningful for me and provides me with a sense of satisfaction and peace that I get from almost nothing else. The West River is one of the only whitewater rivers in the area of Massachusetts, southern Vermont, and New Hampshire that provides a safe and fun challenge for intermediate and strong beginning level paddlers. With out the West River release, there aren't many other options that are so fun and enjoyable. More than that, the community of people that gather together to attend these releases is always fun and diverse. Regardless of skill level or experience, it's a supportive community that values time spent on the river exceptionally highly. Changing the release schedule has a direct and negative affect on the whitewater community while maintaining it has not been shown to negatively affect anyone.

# 792:

Apr 7, 2009, Ben Bramlage, New York

I paddled in Jamaica just this past weekend and had the chance to discuss this issue with several local residents and business owners. They are just as upset about the negative changes in the releases as the paddlers are. This is clearly a lose/lose situation for many people. If anything, we should be discussing how to add releases and bring more of the paddling community and the Jamaica area community together. This just seems to me to be a series of poorly thought out decisions that negatively impact a large number of people.

# 791:

Apr 7, 2009, Kerri Klinger, New Jersey

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 790:

Apr 7, 2009, Eric Klein, New York

West River releases are good for boaters and good for the economies of Londonderry and neighboring towns.

# 789:

Apr 7, 2009, Parker Tekin, Georgia

# 788:

Apr 7, 2009, Ted Piper, United Kingdom

# 787:

Apr 7, 2009, Rob Banks, Massachusetts  
i def. enjoy the West River releases and do not want ot see them go away!!!!!!

# 786:

Apr 7, 2009, Randy LaQuay, New York

# 785:

Apr 6, 2009, Joshua Dobbelaar, Massachusetts

# 784:

Apr 6, 2009, Ben Connelly, Ohio

# 783:

Apr 6, 2009, Erin Lylis, Massachusetts

# 782:

Apr 6, 2009, Richard Park, Massachusetts

# 781:

Apr 6, 2009, Daniel Clark, New Hampshire

I grew up paddling the West River with my boyscout troop, T-110 out of Manchester, NH. This is one of the rivers that prepared me for larger water and taught me how to read the river. I now live in North Woodstock and have continued to paddle. I would hate to see this wonderful run become just a memory.

# 780:

Apr 6, 2009, Paul Dawson, Vermont

I look forward to this event every year. It's one of the best! Please keep the releases!

# 779:

Apr 6, 2009, Channing Coker, Alabama

# 778:

Apr 6, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

# 777:

Apr 6, 2009, Patrick Marshall, Massachusetts

It's a shame to see these releases be changed and/or cancelled so as to prevent the recreational paddling that has taken place for so many years. The West River Release provides the surrounding community with a large economic bump at times when there would normally be none. I myself not only paddle the river but stay at the local park, shop at the local stores and businesses and give to the many fundraisers that take place on release weekends. The release also allows for many to watch whitewater kayaking that may normally not get a chance. I hope that all involved will see that the releases are a benefit to the area and should be reinstated immediately.

- # 776:  
Apr 6, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts
- # 775:  
Apr 6, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts  
Paddling the West River is one of the highlights of my spring!
- # 774:  
Apr 6, 2009, Oliver Cote Jr., Connecticut  
Will miss the release weekends on this wonderful river. I have spent many years and plenty of cash in the area so I could enjoy this event. It will be sad to see it go.
- # 773:  
Apr 6, 2009, Scott Mintell, Connecticut
- # 772:  
Apr 6, 2009, Ruth Scipione, New York  
River releases are a great way to bring tourism to the area and to increase awareness of how important it is to take care of our water. Events like the West River release day are important in educating the public on these issues. Vermont is at the forefront in many of these issues. You should take advantage to this opportunity rather than downplay it.
- # 771:  
Apr 6, 2009, David Jacob, Massachusetts
- # 770:  
Apr 6, 2009, Faith B Knapp, New Hampshire  
I am most distressed to learn of your closing the West River to recreation. I have paddled this river for more than 20 yrs. I have brought friends here who have consequently paddled, and they have spent money at the park and in the adjoining town businesses. I cannot believe ACOE would take this beautiful river away from the public. I implore you to rethink your decision.
- # 769:  
Apr 6, 2009, Lincoln Robertson, New Hampshire  
The West River release was my first exposure to kayaking and white water in 1983, and now I own a rafting company. The West is an important part of both New England paddling history AND the New England paddling future. Thanks, lsr
- # 768:  
Apr 6, 2009, Craig Carline, Vermont
- # 767:  
Apr 6, 2009, Thomas Flynn, New York  
I have been paddling the West River Spring and Fall releases for 20 years, never missing a release.

# 766:

Apr 6, 2009, Scott Gilbert, Vermont

What a great resource going to waste! I always stay the night at Jamaica state park too, so I know the area is missing my money! (Even if it wasn't much!)

# 765:

Apr 6, 2009, Tracy Burgis, Massachusetts

Every year for the West River releases the Jamaica State Park is full and lively for these releases. The local school makes money on parking and local businesses make money from the paddlers. It is ridiculous that the ACOE would make these unnecessary changes.

# 764:

Apr 6, 2009, Robert Silvernale, New Hampshire

# 763:

Apr 6, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

Since the ACOE turned the whitewater down to one day most paddlers turned this once long weekend event into a day trip. During those long weekends we would support the local community including any charitable events that coincided with the long weekend. That has all gone by the wayside, along with a fun weekend paddling in the great outdoors. We all seemed to benefit then. Who's benefitting now? I don't think the salmon were complaining then either. I don't think the salmon will benefit any more or less now.

# 762:

Apr 6, 2009, Andrew Calcutt, New York

I have paddled here in the past and greatly enjoyed it. I would like to be able to come back and show others as well.

# 761:

Apr 6, 2009, David N Moore, Connecticut

# 760:

Apr 6, 2009, Daniel Bartels, New York

# 759:

Apr 6, 2009, Constant Wanham, Massachusetts

# 758:

Apr 6, 2009, Kenny Gaines, Massachusetts

# 757:

Apr 6, 2009, William Hildreth, Vermont

I have been going to the releases since the late 1970's. It is a beautiful river and area. A

excellent river for people to hone their whitewater skills safely. The studies that the ACOE uses are not realistic, especially when you review fish studies on other whitewater rivers. With the river running between two dams the likelihood of a native spawning Atlantic salmon is impossible. Trucking the fish back upstream is not a natural occurrence. The economic impact to the community is tremendous. Clearly a working whitewater release schedule can be achieved.

# 756:

Apr 6, 2009, Jennifer Gardner, Florida

# 755:

Apr 6, 2009, Jonathan Archie, Belgium

# 754:

Apr 5, 2009, Carin Tinney, New York

# 753:

Apr 5, 2009, Joy Burkner, New York

# 752:

Apr 5, 2009, Rebekah Mayou, Massachusetts

# 751:

Apr 5, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

# 750:

Apr 5, 2009, Jayson Seaman, New Hampshire

Hello, I hope you support the return of the West River release to weekend dates, as has been the practice for decades. Their recent decision unduly curtails important recreational activity on this beautiful river, and sets a dangerous precedent for democratic processes and negotiation of multiple user interests in the future. Thank you for your consideration.

# 749:

Apr 5, 2009, Sarah Baker, Illinois

# 748:

Apr 5, 2009, Bob Marshall, Vermont

# 747:

Apr 5, 2009, Andre Correia, Portugal

# 746:

Apr 4, 2009, Gene Shapiro, Connecticut

I have been enjoying the West river releases for about 20 years

# 745:

Apr 4, 2009, Adam Herzog, Tennessee

# 744:

Apr 4, 2009, Brenda Small, Vermont  
The surrounding communities need the economic support.

# 743:

Apr 4, 2009, Clayton Cole, Maine  
We need more releases on the West Please CC

# 742:

Apr 4, 2009, Maryann Patterson, Massachusetts

# 741:

Apr 4, 2009, Kevin Patterson, Massachusetts  
Have always enjoyed the West River releases in April and September. The location of the West River running through Jamaica State Park is one of the nicest sceneries in New England. I really hope that these releases continue bi-annually on the weekend to mutually benefit the community that we support while we are there and for the enjoyment of the paddling community.

# 740:

Apr 4, 2009, Paul Kenny, New Hampshire  
Let's use COMMON SENSE..there is NO evidence of any damage the West River by the kayaking community and the Town of Jamaica and surrounding receives enormous financial benefit from the weekend release of the water. Is the ACOE that insensitive to these tough economic times. Call your US Senators. MOST are worried deeply about their next re- election. Power to the Vote! Power to the People!

# 739:

Apr 4, 2009, Tom Toner, Vermont

# 738:

Apr 4, 2009, Mark Oursler, New York

# 737:

Apr 4, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts  
The West River is a great recreational area, bringing paddlers from many parts of New England. I have seen the participation drop over the past few years as the releases have dropped. When paddlers are in town for the releases, we contribute to the local economy, eating at restaurants, staying at campgrounds or other lodging areas, and buying necessities such as gas. I would like to see the releases saved the way they used to be: one full weekend in the spring and one full weekend in September. I would also like to see additional pre-determined releases on weekend days when water levels support it during the summer.

# 736:

Apr 4, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 735:

Apr 4, 2009, Anonymous, California

# 734:

Apr 4, 2009, Crawford Elder, Connecticut

Having the spring release be on the weekend, not during the week, is a pure plus with no downsides. Influx of boaters is good for the local economy. The river is good for boaters! A marvelous resource--and boating there increases interest in visiting Vermont for other recreational and vacation opportunities.

# 733:

Apr 4, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

# 732:

Apr 4, 2009, Russell Banks, Connecticut

Additionally, the town of Jamaica, VT and the State of Vt lose if the releases are not done as previously scheduled. More paddlers are able to go on the weekends and if the state park is not open, the state of Vt obviously does not get any money!

# 731:

Apr 4, 2009, Kendall Crosswell, New York

# 730:

Apr 4, 2009, Edward Willis, Florida

# 729:

Apr 4, 2009, Lawrence Rogovin, Massachusetts

I'm a dedicated whitewater kayaker and have paddled many New England rivers, and I'm concerned that limiting releases on the West River to mid-week will severely hamper the public's ability to enjoy this wonderful resource. This will further result in decreased tourism and dollars spent in neighboring communities. (Maybe ask them how they feel about losing revenue because of your plan?) For decades, from Maine to California, public and private land managers have scheduled river releases on weekends precisely to maximize the public's enjoyment of this resource. I see no reason why the release schedule for the West can't accommodate boaters and fishermen as well as other needs. Release water on the weekends when people can enjoy it.

# 728:

Apr 4, 2009, Dave Huckabone, Connecticut

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 727:

Apr 3, 2009, Mikaela danielle Martin, Pennsylvania

- # 726:  
Apr 3, 2009, Thomas Cocker, Connecticut
- # 725:  
Apr 3, 2009, Bob Malinowski, New York
- # 724:  
Apr 3, 2009, Thomas Kenney, Massachusetts
- # 723:  
Apr 3, 2009, Paul Albin, Pennsylvania
- # 722:  
Apr 3, 2009, Alexis Drzewucki, Florida
- # 721:  
Apr 3, 2009, Anonymous, New York  
Recreational whitewater releases on the West River are a great way of bringing people to Vermont twice a year (or more often if releases were more frequent). I look forward to the opportunity to paddle on the West and support the local economy in VT.
- # 720:  
Apr 3, 2009, Raymond Bragar, New York  
The West releases provide a wide variety of kayaking experience and should be preserved.
- # 719:  
Apr 3, 2009, Jane Majeski, New York  
The West releases have been an important part of the greater Northeastern paddling community. They also provide significant benefits to the local communities as a result of kayakers spending money on food, lodging, gas etc that otherwise would not be spent. Kayakers, as a group, are extremely careful of the environment and look to preserve it. These releases provide benefits and no harm and should be maintained.
- # 718:  
Apr 3, 2009, Andrew Stuart, Massachusetts
- # 717:  
Apr 3, 2009, Tom Thumb, Vermont  
The west river valley could really use the business, as well as the style of good folks!
- # 716:  
Apr 3, 2009, Mike Porter, Massachusetts  
The river does not belong to anyone.

- # 715:  
Apr 3, 2009, Adam DuComb, Massachusetts
- # 714:  
Apr 3, 2009, Audra Spath, Massachusetts  
It would be great if the dates went back to 4/11 and 4/12, but if you guys dont change it, thanks for the consideration anyways. :)
- # 713:  
Apr 3, 2009, Tina Kosmin, Sweden
- # 712:  
Apr 3, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts
- # 711:  
Apr 3, 2009, Douglas Turnbull, Rhode Island  
Thank you very much for reconsidering the relase dates. Weekend releases are little things that make big difference in the lives of whitewater paddlers. Long live the west!
- # 710:  
Apr 3, 2009, Mike Manning, Vermont
- # 709:  
Apr 2, 2009, Kristine Stepenuck, Wisconsin  
Please reconsider the change in release schedule for the West River to have it the weekend of April 11-12, 2009. This event, for the paddling community, is one that brings so many people together to enjoy a gorgeous river, and it surely brings a tremendous amount economically to the local community. In these tough economic times, it's a shame to lose both tourism funds as well as recreational opportunities for paddlers. The West is where I learned to whitewater kayak back in the early 1990s and it's sad to hear that the tradition of having two great weekends of paddling each year might be over. Please reconsider your plan for the releases.
- # 708:  
Apr 2, 2009, Norman Bell, Massachusetts
- # 707:  
Apr 2, 2009, Anonymous, New York
- # 706:  
Apr 2, 2009, Konstantin Tolskiy, Massachusetts
- # 705:  
Apr 2, 2009, Mary Muir, United Kingdom
- # 704:

Apr 2, 2009, Harrison Sangster, New York

Before taking action, a better study of the impact the releases have on the wildlife should be conducted as well as a study to determine the impact to the local economy this action would have. It is disappointing that actions of this scope occur without proper due diligence.

# 703:

Apr 2, 2009, Anonymous, New York

Please reconsider and allow releases on 4/11 and 4/12/2009, as well as a full review of the issues and facts influencing this decision as it certainly does appear that The Army Corps has communicated poorly and in a misleading manner with the paddling public.

# 702:

Apr 2, 2009, Ryan Lipinski, Massachusetts

# 701:

Apr 2, 2009, Azita Ghodssi, Massachusetts

# 700:

Apr 2, 2009, Daniel Waslo, Massachusetts

This release is very important to my family and friends. They are avid kayakers and love the West River releases. I have been coming to these events for almost 25-years!

# 699:

Apr 2, 2009, Jeff Carroll, New Jersey

Be smart, the West release is good for the local community and economy. It's part of Vermont. don't wreck a good thing for everybody.

# 698:

Apr 2, 2009, Dennis Cleary, Massachusetts

Why is it necessary to move recreational flow events from weekends (when most paddlers can participate) to a weekday when it is impossible for most paddlers to participate ? Why is it necessary to reduce the number of recreational releases, or eliminate them ? ANSWER: It seems as though there is an agenda to discriminate against a particular group (whitewater paddlers) by removing long standing recreational events, or making it impractical for the paddling community to participate. Just as importantly, the manipulation of flows to provide these recreational events is relatively minor when compared to the frequent natural flow events, many of which dwarf recreational releases in terms of volume, and are not subject to ramping. Why is it such a big deal to give paddlers 1300 to 1500 cfs a few weekend days a year, when the dam releases that amount or more many times over the course of a year as part of normal operations ? And why, in the normal course of operation, is it necessary to dump excess storm water during the week ? What would be the harm in holding that excess water for a few days, and dump it on the weekend when boaters could take advantage of it ? I know paddlers would welcome the opportunity to co-operate on these issues. The question is are the ACOE and the VT. Dept. of Natural Resources willing to co-

operate, or even interested ? Hello...Anybody at the ACOE, or the VT. D.N.R. listening ?

# 697:

Apr 2, 2009, Eric Amato, Massachusetts

# 696:

Apr 2, 2009, Sheila Matz, Connecticut

# 695:

Apr 2, 2009, John Stevens, Vermont

# 694:

Apr 2, 2009, Stephen Ferder, New York

# 693:

Apr 2, 2009, David Lockman, Maine

I am a Maine resident and a VT property owner. I supplement my living by offering professional guide services in the States of Maine and NH. I understand the recreational advantages of keeping rivers available for adventure bound people and shutting one of the few rivers of this type down would be a poor decision in today's economic environment. Please keep this river available to white water enthusiasts.

# 692:

Apr 2, 2009, Colleen ODonnell, Utah

I am a former VT resident and an avid kayaker. I would like to see this issue re-evaluated as it has always provided an economic stimulus to the area as well as great recreational opportunities for hundreds of kayakers. What is the school going to do for a fund raiser now that they will lose out on hundreds of dollars they make during the release weekend. It is a shame to see such a precious resource lost to political gains.

# 691:

Apr 2, 2009, Anonymous, New York

Please have weekend release times to allow people to paddle this nice whitewater. This is a great recreation and should be continued.

# 690:

Apr 2, 2009, Robert Stiles, California

I'm a great fan of whitewater paddling in VT and particularly on the West River. Please, please do not discontinue recreational releases on the West!

# 689:

Apr 2, 2009, Allan Stebinger, Connecticut

# 688:

Apr 2, 2009, Paul Rieur, Connecticut  
The proposed action seems to have no positive redeeming value. Please reconsider.  
This hurts a group that reveres the resource. And provides no gain. Thank you

# 687:

Apr 2, 2009, Andrew Krammen, Connecticut  
Please keep the releases the same! There are many many people who enjoy the releases, coming to the town of Jamaica, paying for food, gas and lodging that the town will no longer see if the releases are changed. This is an awesome resource that I am all too sad to see disappear.

# 686:

Apr 2, 2009, Kalon Riehle, New York

# 685:

Apr 2, 2009, Cynthia Cain Fitzgerald, Vermont  
My family and I have wonderful memories of rafting after the high water release.  
Please reconsider scheduling the release during the week.

# 684:

Apr 2, 2009, Angela Boss, Canada

# 683:

Apr 2, 2009, Danielle Preston, New Hampshire

# 682:

Apr 2, 2009, John Crossen, Pennsylvania

# 681:

Apr 2, 2009, Jason Seibel, Hawaii  
Please, Please, Please keep this river open on usable weekends! This river is one of my favorite rivers to paddle. I know I as well as many others would feel seriously deprived if this was taken away from us.

# 680:

Apr 2, 2009, Pat Townsend, Vermont  
Have enjoyed going to see this fun and rewarding activity for years!

# 679:

Apr 2, 2009, Elizabeth Fuller, Massachusetts

# 678:

Apr 2, 2009, David Baker, New York

# 677:

Apr 2, 2009, Neval Ozturk, New Jersey

# 676:

Apr 2, 2009, Richard Ochmanowicz, New Hampshire

Kayaking 2 days in the spring and 2 days in the fall brings together a nice group of people to have a nice friendly time. A community get together is what the spirit of America is all about.

# 675:

Apr 2, 2009, Mark Rasmus, Idaho

Have paddled the West R for years... please don't end a special experience for future generations!

# 674:

Apr 2, 2009, Cheryl Shiber, New Jersey

The West River releases bring me to Jamaica, VT every year where I buy gas, stay in a local hotel or campground, go out for meals, etc. I love the area but without the weekend releases I probably won't come back.

# 673:

Apr 2, 2009, Vanessa Murray, Massachusetts

# 672:

Apr 2, 2009, Phill Lancaster, New Hampshire

# 671:

Apr 2, 2009, Caitlin Gould, Massachusetts

In addition to contributing to a vibrant tourist industry in this area in Vermont, the West inspires a congenial community atmosphere and an appreciation for the environment. As someone who has paddled the West many times over the years, my friends and I who go up for the releases look forward not just to the river but to seeing friends whom we don't always see, and to the atmosphere that having these specific weekends set up creates. People are respectful and passionate about our sports. What's more, having the paddlers there is significant for the environment. We sometimes take for granted the Earth, and having a resource like this makes us appreciate what we have. Additionally, paddlers are good to the environment: We clean up what we see around us, following the mentality of "leaving no trace." This includes excess litter that may have been around the area. In short, maintain the releases specifically scheduled on weekends. It benefits commerce, tourism, and the environment.

# 670:

Apr 2, 2009, Kris Owens, Massachusetts

What happened to the home of the free??? Soon we will need permits to just walk around the block.. Stop taking freedom away from us!!!

# 669:

Apr 2, 2009, Anonymous, New York

- # 668:  
Apr 2, 2009, Edward Ashley, New York  
Please hear our request, and help us come to a conclusion that satisfies all parties involved.
- # 667:  
Apr 2, 2009, Garrett Morand, Massachusetts
- # 666:  
Apr 2, 2009, Brigid O'Riordan, Massachusetts
- # 665:  
Apr 2, 2009, Alford Cooley, Virginia  
The West River whitewater run is one of the best in New England, and the Army Corps of Engineers should not misuse its power to make the release(s) at times (weekdays) when only limited numbers of boaters can take advantage of it (them).
- # 664:  
Apr 2, 2009, Derek Mixon, New Hampshire  
Don't mess with the river
- # 663:  
Apr 2, 2009, Ralph Pascale, New York  
I do believe that there are many, many streams which are left entirely to fishing sports and are not used by boating/kayaking public. Certainly this one small stretch can be made available for this group. There is certainly economic benefit to the community, it is good healthy fun for the public, and since there is private money being garnered from this public waterway it is more than appropriate for this small token of benefit to the general public. I also do not believe that the impact on the wildlife is not beyond natural occurrences or reasonable tolerance. Certainly much of what we as humans do adversely affects the native species. This is certainly within reason. Thank you
- # 662:  
Apr 2, 2009, Victoria Butler, New York  
The whitewater boating community has watched as the scheduled whitewater releases have dwindled in both the number of days water is released and the amount of water released. The new changes of moving release days to week days would be disastrous to the whitewater boating community and needlessly restrictive. We are asking that these decisions be reviewed and rescinded. Thank you.
- # 661:  
Apr 2, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut
- # 660:  
Apr 2, 2009, Gary Gargan, New Hampshire

- # 659:  
Apr 2, 2009, Garry Waltman, Connecticut  
I do not understand the true motivation behind the decision to limit the release.? It can not be as stated.
- # 658:  
Apr 2, 2009, Nicole Owens, Massachusetts
- # 657:  
Apr 1, 2009, Ronald Phillips, New Jersey
- # 656:  
Apr 1, 2009, Chris Snowdon, Massachusetts
- # 655:  
Apr 1, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut
- # 654:  
Apr 1, 2009, Mike Garnsey, New York  
This seems to be a capricious decision. Let's have some common sense prevail.
- # 653:  
Apr 1, 2009, Anonymous, New Jersey
- # 652:  
Apr 1, 2009, Shelby Quinn, Pennsylvania
- # 651:  
Apr 1, 2009, Evelyn Locke, Massachusetts  
This resource belongs to all of us and the Army Corps has a mandate to manage it in a responsible way that respects the environment but also takes into consideration its value as a recreational resource. Shifting the releases to weekdays almost completely removes any recreational value and does nothing to alleviate any environmental impacts. Please look into the matter and also consider the economic impact for the local communities due to the loss of tourism for that weekend.
- # 650:  
Apr 1, 2009, Lee Owen, Connecticut
- # 649:  
Apr 1, 2009, Daniela Dragisic, Massachusetts
- # 648:  
Apr 1, 2009, Mark Mershon, Georgia  
The releases on the West River are a great recreational resource. The should be

scheduled to coincide with times when boaters can actually take advantage of them. While I no longer live in the area, I have fond memories of paddling the West.

# 647:

Apr 1, 2009, Sean Foley, Vermont

# 646:

Apr 1, 2009, Jenna Kuklinski, Oregon

Hi, I am both a paddler and a conscious environmental user of this area and i feel that the need arose to reschedule the release of the west river and that it was changed once and everyone was able to agree to it. however, it was changed once again after an agreement was reached that seemed to work for most people and this change in scheduling is now very inconvenient for the paddling community at large. This is a scheduled release, so people assume that they can in turn create their schedule around it to take advantage of the water. by mixing up the schedule not once but twice (with the second being changed without thought to the paddlers planning on using the river) you have made it very hard for river users to make their plans and enjoy this natural resource. This is why i ask you to change the release back to it's previous time. thank you.

# 645:

Apr 1, 2009, Maxwell Thaxton, Rhode Island

Even the reschedule to Easter weekend was weak. People have families, and not all the members of those peoples families are CAPABLE of enjoying a nice exciting day of big whitewater....

# 644:

Apr 1, 2009, West Howland, Arizona

# 643:

Apr 1, 2009, Dennis Moore, Rhode Island

# 642:

Apr 1, 2009, Amber Tulloch, Massachusetts

# 641:

Apr 1, 2009, Owen Iselin, New Hampshire

# 640:

Apr 1, 2009, Joan Garuti, New Hampshire

You have to release the water behind the dam at some point. Why not do it on a weekend when so many more people can enjoy it?

# 639:

Apr 1, 2009, Nadia Almuti, Colorado

# 638:

Apr 1, 2009, Laura Green, Massachusetts

# 637:

Apr 1, 2009, Sonya Martino, New Hampshire

# 636:

Apr 1, 2009, Morgan Thelesa Broadfoot, Vermont

# 635:

Apr 1, 2009, Galina Smith, Connecticut

The West River is an important natural resource, and everyone understands this. Those who use the river for recreation are human ambassadors to nature and try to protect this beautiful river, and it's inhabitants. Please, keep the West open to all for recreation and enjoyment.

# 634:

Apr 1, 2009, Christopher Weinburg, Vermont

This is a fun family friendly event not to be missed when it was happening. By taking it away from us it is taking away a tradition that's been going on for a long time and would be greatly missed by the entire whitewater community.

# 633:

Apr 1, 2009, Luke Arbib, Massachusetts

Please

# 632:

Apr 1, 2009, Rick LaBerge, New Hampshire

# 631:

Apr 1, 2009, Mark Lacourse, Massachusetts

# 630:

Apr 1, 2009, Shahid Jalil, Massachusetts

# 629:

Apr 1, 2009, Stephene Kelley, New York

Having been lucky enough to kayak all over the world and see firsthand how recreation and the management of natural resources can be complementary it is hard for me to understand the rationale that led to the decision to move the release. Of more importance during this economic downturn is the fact that recreation brings dollars to the community. By continuing to embrace what has always been an historical release you allow valuable recreational use of the West river which brings a better understanding of the issues affecting the river and area. And then you allow the communities around the river to enjoy an economic uptick from the users traveling from many states to take advantage of the recreational opportunity. I respectfully ask

that the planned release be stopped and that it be rescheduled for weekend of April 11 & 12. Sincerely Stephene Kelley

# 628:

Apr 1, 2009, Christopher Lee, Maine

# 627:

Apr 1, 2009, Jeffrey Douchkoff, Massachusetts

# 626:

Apr 1, 2009, Matthew Harper, Florida  
Whom does this benefit and why? Follow the money.

# 625:

Apr 1, 2009, Horst DeLorenzi, New York

# 624:

Apr 1, 2009, Mindy Blank, Vermont

# 623:

Apr 1, 2009, Robert Goss, Vermont  
It would seem that after decades of scheduled water releases which provide recreational benefits for people to enjoy, suddenly the ACOE has decided that those people should no longer reap the benefits of the water releases. I would remind the ACOE that we taxpayers provide the funds for the ACOE to function. I personally cannot understand the reasoning behind the ACOE decision.

# 622:

Apr 1, 2009, Jennifer Wood, Massachusetts  
It's ridiculous to change the dates for the spring release, it's bad enough that the scheduled release dates keep dwindling without constantly changing them too.

# 621:

Apr 1, 2009, Paul Makowski, Massachusetts  
If these changes occur then Vermont will suffer economically due to the fact that recreation and tourism will be negatively impacted. I know many people that travel to Vermont just to paddle the river.

# 620:

Apr 1, 2009, Anonymous, New York

# 619:

Apr 1, 2009, Dean Goss, Vermont  
As the webmaster of [www.northeastwaterfalls.com](http://www.northeastwaterfalls.com) and cofounder of the World Waterfall Database ([www.worldwaterfalldatabase.com](http://www.worldwaterfalldatabase.com)), I'm deeply concerned that the ACOE's actions serve to undermine public awareness, enjoyment, and commitment to

our valuable water resources. Water is an increasingly valuable commodity and hence is subject to increased exploitation. In order to reverse this trend, it is imperative that people be made more aware of water resources and the benefits derived from them. These were important motivations in the creation of my websites and I try to the best of my ability to uphold these considerations. I implore you to reschedule the water release to allow maximum usage and enjoyment, which will ultimately serve to foster a greater concern for our precious water resources. Dean Goss [www.northeastwaterfalls.com](http://www.northeastwaterfalls.com), [www.worldwaterfalldatabase.com](http://www.worldwaterfalldatabase.com)

# 618:

Apr 1, 2009, Molly Gore, Massachusetts

# 617:

Apr 1, 2009, Verne Perkins, Vermont

# 616:

Apr 1, 2009, Andrew Weinstock, New Jersey  
Save the West River Release!

# 615:

Apr 1, 2009, Kevin Rafkin, Vermont  
Im sure their is a way we can all get what we want. Lets stop pointless arguing and get it done together.

# 614:

Apr 1, 2009, Frank Auletta, Connecticut  
It would be a shame if the West River releases were changed to mid-week rather than weekend releases. The weekend releases enable those who live out of state to visit and spend time in the area by frequenting local businesses.

# 613:

Apr 1, 2009, Dave Morgan, New York

# 612:

Apr 1, 2009, Kris Kniss, Connecticut  
SAVE THE WEST!

# 611:

Apr 1, 2009, Michael Bosworth, Vermont  
The decision by the Army Corps of Engineers seems arbitrary and capricious, and will hurt the local economy in the Jamaica area that's traditionally received a shot in the arm during the spring release weekend.

# 610:

Apr 1, 2009, Christi Capron, Vermont

# 609:

Apr 1, 2009, Jonathan Route, Massachusetts

# 608:

Apr 1, 2009, Mo Bergmann, Oregon

The West River releases have provided many amazing weekends of whitewater, camping, and fun. We held true a tradition of attending the events and enriching local markets, restaurants, and rentals. It is very sad to think that the releases would be scheduled for a mid-week time slot as that would decrease the number of individuals that would be able to participate. I hope that you take these things into account and maybe even add a weekend or two release. Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter. I look forward to paddling there again soon.

# 607:

Apr 1, 2009, Peter H. Stevens, Massachusetts

I have been kayaking the West River during the spring and fall releases since I first started paddling as a boy scout in the early 1970's. These releases have become a tradition in my family that now includes my son. As he has gotten older (he graduates from college this year) and increasingly become involved in his own life, these have become weekends that we plan on and cherish. It is profoundly disappointing to learn that the Corps has decided to eliminate them without any definable gain. Beyond the personal loss is the financial loss that will be experienced by Ball Mountain Park and the town of Jamaica. I suspect very few paddlers will come to the park to camp during a weekday release. Instead of being full as it often is during these weekends, I suspect the camp ground will be empty. The town will lose the revenue that comes from food and fuel purchases. The church suppers that were often attended by paddlers will lose a significant number of attendees. Multiple negative impacts without any real benefits to the Salmon population. I hope the Army Corps will reconsider.

# 606:

Apr 1, 2009, Gary Green, Massachusetts

The release history of Ball Mountain Dam shows boatable releases are a regular occurrence. The boating community is very willing to be flexible in scheduling releases to insure the safety of all river users including the local wildlife. Since boatable release levels are a regular occurrence, there should be no reason that an acceptable release schedule could not be agreed to. Please work with the boating community to make sure that this beautiful and amazing section of river can be seen and enjoyed!

# 605:

Apr 1, 2009, Jennifer Langley, Massachusetts

The West is such a beautiful river for so many reasons. When it is running and the paddlers come out, it brings a lot of business to the area. The great thing about paddlers is that they highly respect the rivers in their local areas and would do almost anything to help protect and preserve the areas around them and the rivers themselves.

# 604:

Apr 1, 2009, Jeff Pacuska, Massachusetts

# 603:

Apr 1, 2009, Dave Cannell, Connecticut

Why cut the throats of local economy as well as take away a major low impact recreation without cause?

# 602:

Apr 1, 2009, Brian Pytko, Massachusetts

I planned my April schedule around rafting 4/11 on the West. Far to late to change the date.

# 601:

Apr 1, 2009, Seth Turner, Montana

The Recreational uses of the West River should be offered at a time when they are able to be utilized by the most people for recreation purposes, not at some random time. If the water is being released anyway atleast let it be used for enjoyment not just to get rid of it, because you need too. There should be further study into the timing of the release as a "natural" flow and when it best suits the habitat along the river corridor and when the optimal usage can be by recreationalists. Please take ALL the matters at hand into consideration before you WASTE a useful recreational resource that is enjoyed by many!!

# 600:

Apr 1, 2009, Anonymous, Nebraska

# 599:

Apr 1, 2009, Hannah Belsky, Massachusetts

# 598:

Apr 1, 2009, Anonymous, New Jersey

# 597:

Apr 1, 2009, Scott Sailor, New York

Please preserve and continue recreational whitewater releases on the West River in Vermont. It's good for the local economy (folks like me travel for it specifically and spend a lot of money locally) and it's good for water quality issues in general (people using waterways contributes to overall care of and concern for their health). Thank you very much, Sincerely, Scott Kenneth Sailor

# 596:

Apr 1, 2009, Nicholas W Kopan, New Jersey

I am a kayaker from New Jersey. Paddlers from KCCNY and the AMC clubs regularly attend the West Release and enjoy the opportunity to paddle a scheduled release on a Vermont river, being one of the few releases in Vermont. We also spend money in the Jamaica area on hotels, dining, gas, and groceries. In this economy, why would towns reject tourist revenue???

- # 595:  
Apr 1, 2009, Sam Lowenthal, Vermont  
I LOVE THAT RIVER
- # 594:  
Apr 1, 2009, Steve Nason, Maine  
This would be important to the local economy especially considering current economic events.
- # 593:  
Apr 1, 2009, Janet Cowie, Massachusetts
- # 592:  
Apr 1, 2009, Duncan Martin, Vermont  
Observing the races back when, getting into the sport and exploring this wonderful natural resource has now effectively been cut off. Why wasn't there a fair process to include all parties at hand to make this decision? Please reinstate scheduled whitewater releases as they were and have been for some time! Peace ;^)
- # 591:  
Apr 1, 2009, Daniel Martin, Pennsylvania
- # 590:  
Apr 1, 2009, David Nesmith, New Hampshire
- # 589:  
Apr 1, 2009, Doug Reilley, Pennsylvania
- # 588:  
Apr 1, 2009, Sean Osullivan, New York  
hi i vacation in vt for 2 reasons ski and boat if you want ny money to go to vt you should continue this release
- # 587:  
Apr 1, 2009, Wanda Meck, Massachusetts  
I have enjoyed paddling the West River during the releases in the past, but would be unable to do so if releases happen during the week. I don't know why the release date is being rescheduled, but if there is no important reason why it should happen mid-week, the release should be returned to a weekend. The river provides hours of joy and recreation for many and an appreciation of the beauty of Vermont. I know that it brings revenue to the area because I always eat after paddling and I'm sure people who travel to paddle stay in local establishments. Please return the release to a weekend in April and a weekend in Sept.
- # 586:

Apr 1, 2009, Richard Chaney, New Hampshire

For the last fifteen years, the two weekend West River releases have been a family tradition. My two sons grew up with this river, gaining a lifelong appreciation of nature and experiencing firsthand the bountiful rewards a single river can bestow on a community and every person it touches. It would be heartbreaking to see this opportunity closed to future generations. I will do everything I can do to reinstate the two weekend releases and keep a wonderful tradition alive!

# 585:

Apr 1, 2009, Ron Johnson, Rhode Island

# 584:

Apr 1, 2009, Nicole Gottschall, Massachusetts

# 583:

Apr 1, 2009, Bruce Cowie, Massachusetts

Please help the whitewater community in this West River release issue. As a community we have been supporters of conservation and green thinking and action before it became "in". As a group we have always been reasonable and open to release changes that have purpose and meet the needs of both parties. As a recreational sport, I can't think of anything else that has such a low impact on the environment it utilizes. Please keep all these things in mind and help support the whitewater community. Thank you.

# 582:

Apr 1, 2009, Christopher Craun, Connecticut

# 581:

Apr 1, 2009, Amy Hunt, Rhode Island

# 580:

Apr 1, 2009, Norma Roche, Massachusetts

The environment comes first, of course, but it doesn't appear that these releases would cause any harm. So why not do something that brings so many happy tourists? The lower reach, below Jamaica State Park, is a great learning spot for beginner-intermediate paddlers, and there aren't many such places, especially in fall. I paddle it every year with the Appalachian Mountain Club. And we usually stop for dinner afterwards!

# 579:

Apr 1, 2009, Tina Webb Sweet, New Hampshire

# 578:

Apr 1, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

Whitewater is a precious, infrequent and spiritual resource for paddlers. I mostly paddle in the ocean now, but have great memories of paddling the West with my young wife.

# 577:

Apr 1, 2009, Elizabeth Farley, Vermont

# 576:

Apr 1, 2009, Gary Bamberger, New Hampshire

Please reinstate the WEST RIVER Recreational releases. It is a great resource for whitewater enthusiast, and surly provides some much needed cash flow to the local Vermont economy during "mud season". Thank you! Gary Bamberger, DVM 394 Dolloff Hill Rd. North Conway, N.H. 03818 coach@mindspring.com

# 575:

Apr 1, 2009, Gregg Gregory, New York

Please Save the West River!!!

# 574:

Apr 1, 2009, Jessica Straub, Canada

# 573:

Apr 1, 2009, Brian Sikora, New York

It's hard to believe that such a hard-line and exclusive decision would be made regarding the West River. The paddling community has been completely shut out of the recreational use of this beautiful river. I can't believe the community of Jamaica is very happy about this development either considering the negative economic impact it will have. I urge the people involved in making this decision to reconsider their very poor judgement and schedule the Spring release so recreational use of the West River can be restored.

# 572:

Apr 1, 2009, Erik Eckilson, Rhode Island

# 571:

Apr 1, 2009, Colleen Archambeault, Massachusetts

Please change the release dates back, this is atrip our family went on every year. We love visiting Jamacia and the locals greet us with open arms

# 570:

Apr 1, 2009, Jarkko Mikkola, Finland

Greetings from Finland, One of the main reasons my travels have been to NE Usa and New England area is the whitewater oppurtunities that it offers. Not bringing great bundles of \$ myself of course, but I have the feeling i´m not the only one. Best Regards Jarkko

# 569:

Apr 1, 2009, Sohan P, India

I paddled West river a bunch of times when I lived in US. The West river releases that

are twice a year, create a unique boating sub-culture around the town of Jamaica & provide for a source of income to the place. The experience of watching a couple of hundred or more boaters converging on those few miles of the river is an experience that is sublime. Colorful boats, unique boating comraderie, forging of new friendships, relationships, the commercial stalls, everything there adds to the magic of 'The West Release'. To the authorities considering a change in release dates, denying boating experience to many: please consider the cost-benefit of doing this to the society at large, boaters, and local businesses.

# 568:

Apr 1, 2009, Steven Prepost, Vermont

# 567:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Niemczura, Pennsylvania

# 566:

Mar 31, 2009, Susan Harris, Connecticut

# 565:

Mar 31, 2009, Dwight Campbell, New York

Great introduction to whitewater kayak slalom on the West River in 1964, lead to 1972 Olympics for me and several other racers. Thanks for all those years of releases.

# 564:

Mar 31, 2009, Heather Young, Vermont

Please reconsider your decision to move the West release to mid-week in April. Many people have made coming to the West release weekend in the spring a tradition, and you are depriving Jamaica and the state park of much needed revenue. Why have you done this?

# 563:

Mar 31, 2009, Marc Levitt, Massachusetts

# 562:

Mar 31, 2009, Rex Cobb, Pennsylvania

Drive up to Vermont every year from Pa 7-8 hours just for the West releases. Our group usually totals between 10 and 20 boaters up for the weekend in Jamaica just for this event. I've met people @ the releases from as far away as Va that have made the trip just for the West release.

# 561:

Mar 31, 2009, TJ Adams, Massachusetts

# 560:

Mar 31, 2009, Kevin Yount, North Carolina

Please reconsider doing the release at a time on a weekend in May when it is most

beneficial to the fish population and when more recreational whitewater users will be able to enjoy it.

# 559:

Mar 31, 2009, Stuart Summer, New York

# 558:

Mar 31, 2009, Sarah Wodin-Schwartz, California

# 557:

Mar 31, 2009, Paul Boutin, Connecticut

# 556:

Mar 31, 2009, Bill Paggio, New York

The West River, like many others, has a special place in the hearts of those who partake in its water, local area, and culture. Enjoying the river means enjoying time with friends, family, and nature. It builds a sense of respect for nature and the environment and offers youth, especially, the opportunity to learn the concepts of teamwork, togetherness and the power of nature. Eliminating any river, is bringing our culture one step closer to isolating the youth to there video games and televisions, reducing the movement to respect the environment, and lesson the oportunities for family bonding. It is not only one river. That is how the spiral affect works. Please do not play a role in eliminating this opportunity!

# 555:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Taylor, Connecticut

I have been paddling the West river for 20 years. I started my son paddling when he was 5 years old on the West river. This river has been a tradition with paddlers for many years and hopefully for many years to come.

# 554:

Mar 31, 2009, Andrew Shirshac, Massachusetts

# 553:

Mar 31, 2009, Naomi Sandoval, Florida

Please keep the weekend releases on this river! I have such fond memories of hanging with friends. The river memories are just as wonderful as the evenings in the local restaurant. It would be such a shame to lose this!

# 552:

Mar 31, 2009, James Bellias, New Jersey

We come up every year and stay & shop locally. Could not come midweek.

# 551:

Mar 31, 2009, Ellen Meyer, Massachusetts

It would be too terrible to stop or cut back on the West Releases. As others have said,

this is huge for local businesses not just in town, but also in the whole surrounding area. We always made a whole trip out of it and stopped to see the flower bridge and have lunch, plus a side trip to Brattleborough. It is a wonderful weekend long time of running into friends perhaps only seen that one time a year! People came up from Pennsylvania and even farther. The shuttle fees must pay for the park service for the whole year! And it's not only paddlers; also all the crowd that hikes in to watch all day at The Dumplings.

# 550:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Donahue, Vermont

I live in Brattleboro VT and work and play in the West River valley. The individuals and communities that own and operate businesses up and down the valley and depend on this annual event to draw hundreds of good boater folk to the valley each spring are gonna be bummed.

# 549:

Mar 31, 2009, Kevin Foley, Delaware

we enjoy coming to Vermont for the release weekend to paddle with family and friends. Please reconsider this action.

# 548:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael LaBerge, Massachusetts

I most likely wouldn't have traveled up to Jamaica if the West releases didn't draw me (at the current time lines).

# 547:

Mar 31, 2009, Erick Gallager, Connecticut

# 546:

Mar 31, 2009, Peter Gordon, New York

# 545:

Mar 31, 2009, Todd Bender, New York

Please do not change the scheduled release to a time period tha would greatly reduce the amount of tourist dollars that are pumped into the Vermont economy.

# 544:

Mar 31, 2009, Edgar McGee, New Jersey

Paddling is one of the few activities that I can still afford in this tough economy. Now Army Corps of Engineers is going to take that away from me too! Enough! Give us back our water!

# 543:

Mar 31, 2009, Dale Bennett, Massachusetts

# 542:

Mar 31, 2009, Dante DiOrio, Massachusetts  
My friends and I look forward to the whitewater releases in Vermont every year. We always stay locally in Jamaica and support the local economy.

# 541:

Mar 31, 2009, Matthew Rugens, Connecticut  
The proposed changes in the schedule of water releases will harm the local economy, deny a legitimate and strongly supporting group of users for minimal gain.

# 540:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Schiavone, Pennsylvania

# 539:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

# 538:

Mar 31, 2009, Jon Wescott, Maine  
I feel when recreation has little impact on a natural resource and how it is used, it should be accommodated. Such is the case for dam releases on the West: paddlers should be allowed convenient opportunities to enjoy this special river. The Army Corp of Engineers is, once again, making a decision using poor judgment. Please change it and continue to allow for weekend releases.

# 537:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Cornish, Connecticut

# 536:

Mar 31, 2009, Ernie Kabert, New Jersey  
Lets see the data that supports the Army Corps of Engineers decision!!

# 535:

Mar 31, 2009, Dawn Gertson, Massachusetts  
The river is ours, the water is ours, and the ACOE works for us, the taxpayers. We are concerned about any possible negative environmental impact of our paddling sport, and certainly wish to prevent it. But for the ACOE to unilaterally cancel flow dates, alter the schedule so few can participate, and generally attempt to crowd us out of enjoyment of our rivers is undemocratic and smacks of unresponsive big brother. Our voice is important; to ignore it is contrary to the U. S. Constitution.

# 534:

Mar 31, 2009, Kevin Cyr, Connecticut  
My son and I enjoy family time together paddling the West River. I Believe the release also brings in \$\$ to the community in Jamaica. It's not clear why the ACOE would do this to us. Please give us the water back on a weekend, where it can be enjoyed by everyone.

# 533:

Mar 31, 2009, Constance Kincaid-Brown, CPA, New Hampshire

While I don't paddle myself, I have friends that do and invest some significant money resources to do so. As a CPA serving both Vermont and New Hampshire, I know that now is NOT the time to disrupt any traditions that bring revenue into either state. When there seems to be no environmental damage being done -- taking away an opportunity for humans and the rest of nature to co-exist appears to be pretty short-sighted. Please reconsider.

# 532:

Mar 31, 2009, Ted Johnson, New Hampshire

Please ask the Corps of Engineers to reconsider their plans for a weekday release. Weekend releases have been a tradition that many enjoy, that are good for local businesses, and more convenient for us all. Thank you Ted Johnson

# 531:

Mar 31, 2009, John Jenkins, New Hampshire

I have read most of the messages that have been sent , and I have been reading the background of this issue. In 2004, I attended a meeting with the townspeople of Jamaica, VT where an economic impact study was presented . I have to admit that I am not sure if they realized how much money was at stake. I have boated the West River for many years and am very familiar with townspeople, the local school, and a few businesses in the area. I have personally contributed money to the campgrounds and the Jamaica school for my weekends at this event. One of the things that stands out in my mind is the attitude of the people who use the river during the releases in question. They certainly are very interested in restoring and keeping the usual releases of the West River. What bothers me is the complacency that I am seeing in their responses to this situation. As citizens of the United States of America, I think that we should be very upset about the West River release cutbacks. Since when do we as a people, sit back and allow a public agency to dictate terms to us with no proper review or comment allowed as we would normally have. "We The People" is an expression that we endear as Americans....in our political process, we all know that we have the right to have discussion and argument ....to have any less is tantamount to taxation without representation. The West River debacle is a clear example of the process gone wrong. I am in full support of the Salmon restoration project as long as it is viable and economically feasible. The most important questions that need to be asked are....Why are we doing this in the first place? Is it because we want to re establish the fishing grounds that existed before the flood control dams were added? And why? Do we want to bring back the Salmon because we just think it would be a nice idea? And why? Is this being done to try to attract fisherman to the area....therefore hoping to bring tourism dollars to the area? And why? I am very concerned about the expense to the taxpayers when there are two dams in the way that do not currently have fish ladders. I am also very concerned that the current ideas do not support Our elected and hired officials are supposed to have signed on to serve our needs. It is important for them to realize that as situations change that they need to secure from the populace a clear message of what it is that is desired. It is apparent to me that the Army Corps of

Engineers is operating under the belief that they are a powerful independent entity that does not have to answer to the public. They obviously believe that they can make decisions that hurt local economies and eliminate recreational groups from the decision making process without any impunity. Well folks, I am here to tell you that no such thing should be allowed to happen. We cannot allow the public sector to dictate policy. We cannot allow a single organization to define who we are and what we do. We cannot allow a single person to control our destiny. ACoE will soon learn that “We the people “ are much more powerful. When something is so wrong as this situation, then we must protest....much like our predecessors throughout history. It is important for all concerned to present a united front in this struggle. If the current managers of the dam cannot or will not work with us, then, they must be removed and replaced with responsible public servants who will listen to our desires and fulfill the needs of .....”We The People”.

# 530:

Mar 31, 2009, Mary Theresa Zazzera, New Jersey

# 529:

Mar 31, 2009, Jeremy Kassel, New York

Was looking forward to a weekend release so I didn't have to take time from work. Because I run my own business, I can't afford to take days during the week due to the economy. Please reconsider!

# 528:

Mar 31, 2009, Brett Ciccotelli, New Jersey

# 527:

Mar 31, 2009, Teresa Thomas, New York

My husband and I spend many hours, hiking, biking, skiing, kayaking and enjoying the natural wonders of Vermont. The West river release is such a great way to experience the great outdoors and get much needed outdoor activity that is lacking in our society today. Please don't sabotage an opportunity for people to educate themselves about nature and get exercise in a time when the majority of Americans are overweight or obese and sitting inside playing video games...

# 526:

Mar 31, 2009, Paul Wortman, New York

# 525:

Mar 31, 2009, Jeff Troutman, Connecticut

Please don't stop a good thing! If it's not breaking/harming anything, why "fix" it?  
Allow the public to enjoy Vermont's nature while bringing tourism revenue

# 524:

Mar 31, 2009, Nicholas Griffin, New Hampshire

A twice a year tradition for me as a paddler. It was my first class three river and I look

forward to getting together with the paddling community and sharing the excitement for fun on the river

# 523:

Mar 31, 2009, Linda Day, Connecticut  
Please there is so little clean fun.

# 522:

Mar 31, 2009, Boyce Greer, New Hampshire

# 521:

Mar 31, 2009, Erich Reinbolz, Massachusetts  
To use our rivers responsibly should not be taken away. It doesn't make economic, cultural or green, sense and helps no one. A river that is used by the people is much more likely to be taken care of than one that isn't. Thank-you Erich Erich Reinbolz

# 520:

Mar 31, 2009, Kenneth Donahue, New Hampshire

# 519:

Mar 31, 2009, Katrina O'Brien, Massachusetts  
I have been frequenting the West River releases for over a decade. To essentially eliminate an event that brings so much revenue to the Jamaica State Park and to the town of Jamaica is ridiculous. To mismanage a resource so thoroughly is irresponsible and completely unnecessary.

# 518:

Mar 31, 2009, Ahmed Kalafala, New York

# 517:

Mar 31, 2009, Lauren Kellogg, Connecticut

# 516:

Mar 31, 2009, Jackie Maciel, Massachusetts  
I have paddled on the West River releases since the mid 1980's. It has been such a fun filled weekend of paddling with friends. I cannot understand the logic of releasing the water during midweek. Most people will be working and will not be able to enjoy the water released, so fewer paddlers will come to Vermont. Thus, this will have a negative impact on the local businesses, which is not a very wise move in these tough economic times !

# 515:

Mar 31, 2009, Ernie Bouley, Connecticut

# 514:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

Dear Sir or Madam, When I lived on the east coast, I looked forward to the semi-annual weekend releases of the West River. It was a time to gather with friends, enjoy Vermont's scenery and local campgrounds, and paddle the West River. I hope you will re-consider (if it is feasible) releasing on the weekends so that people may enjoy the river and area. I thank you for your consideration.

# 513:

Mar 31, 2009, Dan Bertko, Massachusetts

If Richard Carlson of the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for shifting the West River dam release away from two weekends, he should be fired. Why would any bureaucrat wish to deny VT the large amount of revenue from the historically well-attended paddling weekends?

# 512:

Mar 31, 2009, Cameron Klinger, New Jersey

# 511:

Mar 31, 2009, Tara Bernstein, New York

Given how far away we live, scheduling the releases for a weekday would make it impossible for my friends and I to come up to the area to attend.

# 510:

Mar 31, 2009, Benjamin Buck, New Hampshire

After all of the research supporting this initiative, please consider this petition.

# 509:

Mar 31, 2009, Molly Superchi, Vermont

# 508:

Mar 31, 2009, Bruce Laroche, Connecticut

I have been planning on using this resource and now it looks like it will be unavailable. Please reconsider!!!!

# 507:

Mar 31, 2009, Cynthia Krumenacker, New York

# 506:

Mar 31, 2009, Raymond Krumenacker, New York

# 505:

Mar 31, 2009, David Wimmer, New Hampshire

# 504:

Mar 31, 2009, Peter Herndon, New Hampshire

# 503:

Mar 31, 2009, Chris Duhamel, Connecticut

# 502:

Mar 31, 2009, Douglas Haley, Connecticut

Dear Sirs, Please help bring back recreational whitewater boating on scheduled releases on the West River. For the past 25 years, I have routinely participated in these along with many friends and family members. We have contributed thousands of dollars personally to the local community over this time period, and formed lasting friendships with the townspeople of Jamaica Vermont, at Pancake Breakfasts, campgrounds and restaurants in the area. All of this activity and economic support will go away if the Army Corps of Engineers withdraws the weekend releases. Please help us restore this historical contribution to the local New England economy. Sincerely, Doug Haley

# 501:

Mar 31, 2009, Stephen Brown, New Hampshire

I see no reason why the release cannot be scheduled for May, long after the angling/spawning issue is over...the townspeople seem to love the energy, revenue and excitement the festival brings every year.

# 500:

Mar 31, 2009, David Williams, New York

# 499:

Mar 31, 2009, Dan Warner, Massachusetts

been paddling at the westfest for three years now and its a very important river to me and my friends. please reconsider this decision

# 498:

Mar 31, 2009, John Stauble, Connecticut

Have participate in both the Spring & Fall Releases for the past 4 years with a group of 8 paddlers. Have supported Jamacia State Park & local Businesses.

# 497:

Mar 31, 2009, Derek Snyder, New York

The West River releases provide a valuable service to both new and experienced whitewater users. It provides a relatively safe setting for new people to learn about whitewater and for experienced users to further hone their skills. Please don't eliminating this safe environment, where many people are available to supply help if necessary.

# 496:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Yager, New York

Placing the releases to a weekday would crush any recreational use of the river. Please keep it to weekends. Robert K. Yager

# 495:

Mar 31, 2009, Peter Robson, New Hampshire

# 494:

Mar 31, 2009, Mary DeRiemer, California

# 493:

Mar 31, 2009, Chip Gianfagna, New York

As an Environmental Science/Ecology student, a professional whitewater raft guide, and an avid private boater I realize the importance of river releases. They are essential to the ecology of the system, simulating the seasonal fluctuation of flow events and providing the necessary seasonal disturbances required to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Static, minimum flows are not adequate for proper ecosystem health. Furthermore, they provide an excellent recreation opportunity for both whitewater enthusiasts and fisherman alike. This undoubtedly brings people (and their money) to the area, and I'm having trouble seeing how it could be viewed in a negative light. Moving these releases to earlier in the spring fails to achieve either benefit of regulated river releases and shows a lack of understanding on the part of the ACOE as to what is desired and what is beneficial to local rivers. Please reconsider the release dates, keeping in mind all parties.

# 492:

Mar 31, 2009, Tom Palmer, New Jersey

# 491:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Blatchley, Massachusetts

I have paddled Spring and Fall releases on the West River for over 25 years. This will be the first time I have not gone to Vermont in the Spring. It will severely impact my impression of the Corps, the State of Vermont as a recreation destination and my activities.

# 490:

Mar 31, 2009, John Haight, Kentucky

I am a whitewater paddler and I have a Gold card. When I travel to an area to paddle, I use it.

# 489:

Mar 31, 2009, Bill Prandy, Vermont

recreational releases from ball mt. dam on the west river bring paddlers from all over the northeast by the hundreds to the jamaica vermont area. these paddlers have a great time w/out adverse environmental impact and enrich the local economy significantly. we paddlers shouldn't be robbed of an opportunity for recreation on a public resource arbitrarily and w/out justification

# 488:

Mar 31, 2009, David Moon, New Hampshire

Please don't ruin the valuable tradition of recreation on the West River. USACE can be

a positive member of the community. This action appears arbitrary and obtuse. The citizen advocates for river and environment voluntarily work in good faith for the benefit of the river and their constituents. Don't allow that effort to be wasted. Thanks

# 487:

Mar 31, 2009, Shelby Landeck, Massachusetts

# 485:

Mar 31, 2009, Ryan Roach, New Hampshire

# 484:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New Jersey

I have paddled the West River and always enjoyed it .I hate to see this fine river removed from the selection that I paddle .I always enjoy this area as I support the economy by staying here and spending my money to support this area. I will know longer do this if you go ahead with your plan.

# 483:

Mar 31, 2009, David Cavalier, New York

# 482:

Mar 31, 2009, Jeff Dynia, Connecticut

Power in numbers is what I say. Spread the word to other Watersheds of New England. Have this website linked to others. May we "Fight for Our Rights" in numbers I shall continue to paddle VT either way.....

# 481:

Mar 31, 2009, Alistair Holmes, Massachusetts

# 480:

Mar 31, 2009, Terrence Shea, Connecticut

Simply ask the towns people that don't even paddle as they benefit so much from the revenue generating annually for this event. This really makes no sense whatsoever.

# 479:

Mar 31, 2009, Molly Rogan, Pennsylvania

# 478:

Mar 31, 2009, Bonnie Lee MacDonald, Connecticut

# 477:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Colorado

I fondly remember West releases from past years. They reliably draw so many who spend money in VT. What a loss the releases will be to the paddling community and the local economy. Shame on the COE.

# 476:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Brummitt, New York  
recreational releases from ball mt. dam on the west river bring paddlers from all over the northeast by the hundreds to the jamaica vermont area. these paddlers have a great time w/out adverse environmental impact and enrich the local economy significantly. we paddlers shouldn't be robbed of an opportunity for recreation on a public resource arbitrarily and w/out justification.

# 475:

Mar 31, 2009, Larry Kuttner, Massachusetts  
Besides being a much-loved recreational event for hundreds of paddlers, the releases are also of important economic benefit to the area from visitors eating and staying over.

# 474:

Mar 31, 2009, Lisa Crocker, Vermont

# 473:

Mar 31, 2009, Martin Plante, New York

# 472:

Mar 31, 2009, Susan Teelon, New York

# 471:

Mar 31, 2009, Douglas Emo, Massachusetts

# 470:

Mar 31, 2009, Barry ROSOLEN, New York

# 469:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

# 468:

Mar 31, 2009, John Zienowicz, Massachusetts

# 467:

Mar 31, 2009, Richard I Dabal, New Jersey  
The West is a fun stream. Paddlers come from long distnaces to run it and to enjoy the area it flows through. Please maintain the Spring and Fall releases on Weekends.

# 466:

Mar 31, 2009, Eric Hartman, Connecticut

# 465:

Mar 31, 2009, Jerry Smith, New Hampshire  
I have not been able to devote a lot of time to ww paddling of the past few years but have always done the West River release because it is such a fun run. My trips to

Vermont are very beneficial to the state since I typically hit all of the usual country stores etc in addition to my overnight stay contributing hundreds of dollars to the state of Vermont annually.

# 464:

Mar 31, 2009, David Aho, Massachusetts

# 463:

Mar 31, 2009, Edward Skorupski, Massachusetts

# 462:

Mar 31, 2009, Eugene Carroll, New York

I have been kayaking the West for the better part of 15years. I have 2 newborn boys and was looking forward to the opportunity to teach them kayaking on the West along with my wife. It has always been an event that we have looked forward to as it enables us to get together with different friends from around the north east. Please keep it flowing!

# 461:

Mar 31, 2009, Joseph Fava, Massachusetts

# 460:

Mar 31, 2009, Peter Muller, Connecticut

I've enjoyed paddling the West River a number of times. I hope there is a way to do the right thing for the environment and continue to provide this great recreational opportunity. Thanks!

# 459:

Mar 31, 2009, Michelle Lapin, Connecticut

# 458:

Mar 31, 2009, Amie Byrnes, Connecticut

# 457:

Mar 31, 2009, Susan Sevigny, Connecticut

# 456:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

# 455:

Mar 31, 2009, Peter Craig, Connecticut

# 454:

Mar 31, 2009, Paul Danielewicz, Connecticut

I've been attending the West River releases for almost 20 years for which I am very grateful. It is one of the best rivers around, and look forward to returning each year. It

would be a shame to end such a wonderful event that is so appreciated by so many paddlers. And I know it is very beneficial to the local economy. Please reconsider any decision to eliminate the both spring and fall recreational releases. Thank you.

# 453:

Mar 31, 2009, Eric Stones, Connecticut

Please do not allow the release of water from The Ball Mountain dam into the West River to be either cancelled or done mid week. I have visited Vermont for many years staying in motels, having dinner, etc all of which I'm sure has helped the local economy.

# 452:

Mar 31, 2009, Merrie Buchsbaum, Connecticut

Paddling The West is one of the great experiences of VT. We all look forward to it.. its a tradition that is a must for all New England paddlers. Without it there will be a large void... more so for the locals, because thousands of us come to VT- spend the weekend.. and spend money. So for the local businesses this hurts them too. The outfitters which are in VT will also loose revenue without the release on the weekend.

# 451:

Mar 31, 2009, Francesca Pardo, Maryland

# 450:

Mar 31, 2009, MaryAnn Jasinski, Vermont

# 449:

Mar 31, 2009, Patti Vaughn, Connecticut

# 448:

Mar 31, 2009, Tucker Goodrich, Connecticut

I've been paddling the West River for 24 years. I'm shocked to hear the ACOE has unilaterally cancelled the release for people, like myself, who are only able to make it to VT on the weekends. I had planned, as I have for the past 5 years, to be in Jamaica this spring for the release, and I'll really miss not being able to do it. Doesn't the ACOE care about the people who rely on the river?

# 447:

Mar 31, 2009, Eric Porter, Oregon

Spring releases on the West are a great thing! I spent my birthday weekend paddling the West in April 2007. No better way to spend a northeast spring day! This paddling event definitely draws attention to this beautiful area.

# 446:

Mar 31, 2009, Denise Dieli, Connecticut

The Scheduled West River Release is such a large event to the white water kayak and canoe community. I am new to kayaking and would enjoy spending the weekend in

Vermont for this event. It would be nice if this event took place when the State Park was open and on a Non-Holiday weekend. Thankyou, Denise Dieli, Enfield CT

# 445:

Mar 31, 2009, Phyllis Troia, Massachusetts

# 444:

Mar 31, 2009, Joseph Wild, New Hampshire

I have only had to paddle the West a couple of times, but have been looking forward to doing it again. It's a beautiful river. I hope a compromise can be reached.

# 443:

Mar 31, 2009, Perry Caruso, Connecticut

Please restore the river release to weekends in the the spring that would benefit both fishermen and kayakers.

# 442:

Mar 31, 2009, Dennis Wigg, Connecticut

I really hope VT takes the time to consider what is so special about the West not only to those of us who to to VT but those who live in VT where we buy gas, food, lodging, etc. thanks Dennis Wigg

# 441:

Mar 31, 2009, Joshua Gilbert, Connecticut

# 440:

Mar 31, 2009, John Coraor, New York

My wife and I enjoyed participating in whitewater slalom races on the West River in the 1980s, and were looking forward to bringing our children there to paddle at a future release weekend. Not only will the Army Corps of Enigneers' planned change in the release schedule eliminate this recreational opportunity, but it will undoubtedly have a negative economic impact on Jamaica, VT, and surrounding communities due to the related loss of visitor spending in the area.

# 439:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 438:

Mar 31, 2009, Joel Chastek, New York

my family and I travel to vermont just for the releases on the river and contribute to the local economy, gas,food, camping,and tourism

# 437:

Mar 31, 2009, LeeLee Groth, Massachusetts

# 436:

Mar 31, 2009, David Wilcox, Connecticut

# 435:

Mar 31, 2009, Benjamin Levin, Massachusetts

# 434:

Mar 31, 2009, Matthew Dana, New York

# 433:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

This plan will have a negative consequences on local businesses. Here in southeast PA, there was a year that dam releases had to be postponed due to construction of an aqueduct on the Tohickon Creek. Our local businesses felt a noticeable and immediate negative impact.

# 432:

Mar 31, 2009, Terry Talburtt, Connecticut

# 431:

Mar 31, 2009, Joe Green, Massachusetts

# 430:

Mar 31, 2009, Jeff Sandefur, Virginia

Wonderful river that I travel from Alexandria Virginia to paddle for the last four years. Please continue the release!

# 429:

Mar 31, 2009, John Cummings, Massachusetts

# The Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Natural Resources, has eliminated both natural and planned recreational opportunities below Ball Mountain Dam without justification. # Whitewater releases have an important economic value to local economies and had occurred historically # There is no conflict between salmon or other environmental issues and whitewater releases if the releases are scheduled to avoid impacts created by the reservoir during the outmigration period. # Whitewater releases resemble natural flows in their timing and magnitude. # The West River system is highly manipulated for reservoir recreation and flood control. In this context the whitewater releases represent a miniscule departure from natural conditions. # The Army Corps has communicated poorly and in a misleading manner with the paddling public. # The Army Corps was supposed to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on their project operations several years ago, which has yet to happen, so these arbitrary decisions to curtail public recreation have no official record to justify them. # There are easy solutions for providing whitewater recreation, flood control, and environmental protection. It CAN be done, and it SHOULD be done. # Ask that releases be immediately rescheduled to occur on the weekend of April 11 and 12.

# 428:

Mar 31, 2009, Paula Townsend-Larabee, Vermont

Paddling the West River during its historically 2 annual weekend releases has been a part of my paddling routine for 19 years. These weekends provided an opportunity to meet other paddlers and spend time getting to know people off the river as many of us would camp at local campgrounds. This social and recreational event positively impacts both the local community, economy and recreational kayaking community alike. No one likes change, but our community was willing to entertain changes that could benefit the fishing community and ACOE without rendering the releases essentially useless to our participants. Monday through Friday releases prior to the opening of Jamaica State Park will reduce the number of participants to a small handful of local paddlers. Talks need to resume between the ACOE, American Whitewater and fishing organizations to find a resolution that does not eliminate any one use of the river. This action by the ACOE shows a complete lack of respect for the paddling community. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. Sincerely, Paula Townsend-Larabee

# 427:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

# 426:

Mar 31, 2009, Pinar Ayata, New York

# 425:

Mar 31, 2009, Tim Duval, Massachusetts

# 424:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

The weekend spring releases have, for years, allowed paddlers and the surrounding community to enjoy a pleasant time. In these economic times, it seems fruitless and irresponsible to move the release to weekdays. The surrounding community benefits from the influx of business and many in the community have told us, that they wish it were still two days. Please consider not just the release but the community who benefits financially from it. Thank you.

# 423:

Mar 31, 2009, Pamela Scerba, New York

I love the west river releases. We usually go up and camp at the state park. The restaurants are wonderful as well. But nothing beats the beauty of the West River. I Love kayaking and it is a natural resource which would be a shame to lose. Sincerely, Dr. Pamela Scerba

# 422:

Mar 31, 2009, Niall Burkley, Massachusetts

The recreational releases attract hundreds of kayakers, canoeists and rafters to the area.

Discontinuing these releases would be huge economic loss to the region, as well as preventing people from enjoying this great river.

# 421:

Mar 31, 2009, Christina Thurston, Vermont

# 420:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

To who it may concern, The issue around the west river is of critical importance to me, and should be of critical importance to the state of Vermont and all residents in the west River corridor. By making the proposed changes without the input of the boating community will detrimentally effect the revenue stream of many local businesses. These changes will eliminate the West River appeal and keep boaters and their families from visiting and spending money with local businesses.

# 419:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Briere, North Carolina

Please keep the West River releases on the weekend so that more people can enjoy it!

# 418:

Mar 31, 2009, Shawn Short, Massachusetts

thats this first river ive ever whitewatered we need to keep the tradition alive forever

# 417:

Mar 31, 2009, Lucas Schulz, Vermont

# 416:

Mar 31, 2009, Scott Barnes, New Jersey

I have enjoyed the whitewater releases on the West River and will miss them. I'm confused why government would be influenced by false data and the political lobbying efforts of single-use groups such as Trout Unlimited. I thought we had grown beyond the government for sale era. Too bad, I no longer have a reason to visit Jamaica, VT. But, I suppose the state doesn't care, because all the fishermen are tourists too. Has anyone thought of the locals in this thing or is it just corruption and tourism the whole way?

# 415:

Mar 31, 2009, Thomas Stevens, Massachusetts

This release is an important event--it generates money for the region and it is of great benefit to paddlers.

# 414:

Mar 31, 2009, Louise Gosnell, New York

# 413:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Rhode Island

- # 412:  
Mar 31, 2009, Michael Cornacchia, Massachusetts  
Please encourage the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider continuing the practice of weekend dam release on the West River, for recreational purposes. Thank you!
- # 411:  
Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New York
- # 410:  
Mar 31, 2009, Julie Giordano, California  
This is a beautiful river enjoyed by many including myself. I hope this river can be saved.
- # 409:  
Mar 31, 2009, Angela Purcell, Pennsylvania
- # 408:  
Mar 31, 2009, William Bucossi, Montana  
What a great way to experience one of VT's premier rivers as well as support the surrounding towns. Why change it, if it ain't broke...
- # 407:  
Mar 31, 2009, Stacey Edwards, Massachusetts
- # 406:  
Mar 31, 2009, Anthony Spiridigloizzi, New York
- # 405:  
Mar 31, 2009, Phil LaMarche, New York  
I have long enjoyed the releases on the West River. It was a river that was crucial to the development of my white water skills and knowledge of river safety. At a time when people's incomes are being slashed by the changes in the economy, we need more of these local weekend recreation possibilities rather than less.
- # 404:  
Mar 31, 2009, Michael Mullen, New Jersey
- # 403:  
Mar 31, 2009, Michael Schofield, New Jersey
- # 402:  
Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New York
- # 401:  
Mar 31, 2009, Colleen Shaddox, Connecticut

- # 400:  
Mar 31, 2009, Luke Pincince, Massachusetts  
Clearly the The Army Corps of Engineers does not care about the economic impact this will have on the local community.
- # 399:  
Mar 31, 2009, Tomas Bacon, New Hampshire  
The West River releases are a rite of spring in the NorthEast. They are highly attended and should not be discontinued!
- # 398:  
Mar 31, 2009, Frank Miata, New York  
Recreation is a stimulus to economy and I would strongly recommend that you think about the economic impact of this decision.
- # 397:  
Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New York
- # 396:  
Mar 31, 2009, Ted Kwasnik, Vermont
- # 395:  
Mar 31, 2009, Jeff Sharpe, New Hampshire  
The Army Corps of Engineers complete disregard for an entire user group in their management decisions regarding the West River goes against well-established principles of river basin management. This is especially appalling when there is already a historical precedent for recreational releases. I strongly encourage the ACOE to reconsider their decision and create a more equitable usage plan that balances the ecological, economic, and recreational needs of the basin based on stakeholder participation in the decision-making process.
- # 394:  
Mar 31, 2009, Kate Daniel, Connecticut
- # 393:  
Mar 31, 2009, Ben Pisani, New York  
It is unfortunate that the recreational releases on the West River have been jeopardized. I can speak personally of having attended many spring and fall releases. I would think that the economic impact would be nothing but positive for such a small community. It would be great to see some cooperation with the release schedule to create a win - win, rather than the seeming lack of regard for the value of strategically scheduling releases for recreational purposes. Respectfully, Ben Pisani
- # 392:  
Mar 31, 2009, Stephanier Rossier, Vermont  
The west river releases should continue. They create an economic boost for the Jamaica

area. These releases are depended on by several state rafting and kayaking establishments for income, and they get people out on the river, which will increase the likelihood of long term river stewardship. Finally, since the ecology of the river is already maximally affected by the existence of the damns on the river, the river releases are a minimal impact, so the releases should continue.

# 391:

Mar 31, 2009, James Desmarais, Connecticut

# 390:

Mar 31, 2009, Bucknell Webb, New York

The releases always bring a slew of campers and hotel visitors to the area. The restaurants fill up and it is clearly a nice boost to the economy at a slow time of year. The Vermont paddle shops all decend on Jamaica for the big gear sales of the year and to sell raft trips. It is a complete mystery to me why the Corps has become so hostile to the releases. They pretend it's about hurting fishes but the gauge record shows they regularly release far more abruptly during neighboring weekends.

# 389:

Mar 31, 2009, Jerry Conner, New Hampshire

I have never paddled the West river and don't plan to anytime soon...but, limiting access to ANY river for recreational use or making it inconvenient for responsible paddlers to utilize it is wrong. Please reconsider this decision.

# 388:

Mar 31, 2009, Bill Williams, Connecticut

The elimination of the Spring and Fall releases not only affect a large number of people making the trip to Vermont to paddle the river but impact the local businesses that support the weekend.

# 387:

Mar 31, 2009, Tom DuBois, Maryland

# 386:

Mar 31, 2009, John Tomkins, New York

Rivers are a resource for everyone and it is a small concession to release water for paddlers on a schedule convenient for paddlers. Rivers should not be owned or controlled solely by a single management group even if it is a branch of the government.

# 385:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New York

# 384:

Mar 31, 2009, Jim Richard Wilson, New York

Weekend releases of the West when the park is open are an important aspect of the economy and culture of the region.

# 383:

Mar 31, 2009, Scott Johnson, Massachusetts

We hope you expand the recreational opportunities on the west river by including more boating releases. Please consider this petition

# 382:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Florida

My wife and I were planning on attending the April 2009 release of the West River and we are very disappointed to find out about the change in dates since we work and can not attend a weekday release.

# 381:

Mar 31, 2009, Andrew Wood, Connecticut

# 380:

Mar 31, 2009, Tricia Walter, Connecticut

# 379:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

I have boated the West River during releases, and have had a great time on the river and at the state park. Since I live a distance away, scheduling a trip during a release is the only feasible way for me to boat the river.

# 378:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New York

# 377:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Rollins, Connecticut

# 376:

Mar 31, 2009, Paul Farrington, Massachusetts

cancellation of a spring whitewater release available to the general paddling community has robbed my granddaughter of an early intro to paddling to prepare for the rest of the season. Lower West is a great warm up for all of us and a local economic boost that we have enjoyed as a family since moving back to the northeast.

# 375:

Mar 31, 2009, Brian Slechta, Massachusetts

By allowing people to enjoy the river they will have more opportunity to learn about and appreciate our precious river ecosystems. Those who make this connection will become better stewards of this Earth and its environment.

# 374:

Mar 31, 2009, Alan Pasnik, Massachusetts

I've been visiting Jamaica VT, and subsequently supporting local businesses twice a

year for the past three years as I have attended scheduled releases of the West River. The ACOE decision seems arbitrary and capricious. No logical explanation has been offered.

# 373:

Mar 31, 2009, Tom Halladay, Delaware

# 372:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Fennelly, Vermont

# 371:

Mar 31, 2009, Alan Perrie, Connecticut

A 33 year tradition of spring & fall weekends in Jamaica, VT seems to be ending. It was a great introduction to the Vermont State Park system. It is too bad others might not benefit in the same experience.

# 370:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 369:

Mar 31, 2009, Philip Allen, Massachusetts

# 368:

Mar 31, 2009, Scott Keenan, Massachusetts

I've been visiting Jamaica VT, and subsequently supporting local businesses twice a year for the past three years as I have attended scheduled releases of the West River. Please continue the weekend release tradition.

# 367:

Mar 31, 2009, Raymond Wirth, Maine

More and more areas are discovering that a river can be a life-blood of a community, in a lot of ways, both visible and invisible. Keep the blood pumping!

# 366:

Mar 31, 2009, Steve Kroser, Pennsylvania

# 365:

Mar 31, 2009, Kenneth Donoghue, Massachusetts

When it comes to environmental stewardship, few recreational groups are more committed than whitewater paddlers. For them, the local citizenry, and businesses, West River releases ought to continue.

# 364:

Mar 31, 2009, Troy Dube, Connecticut

The west river is a wonderful recreation river, and to not do the release on the weekends when it can be utilized by people is a shame

# 363:

Mar 31, 2009, Roger Gocking, New York

I have spent many, many wonderful hours paddling the West. The releases were some of the highlights of the new paddling season and the end of the summer season. They were a wonderful opportunity to meet up with paddling buddies who I had not seen during the hibernating months. The West's releases played the extremely valuable role of bringing paddlers from southern area of the Northeast together with those from northern new England. Save the releases!!

# 362:

Mar 31, 2009, Flora Piterak, New Hampshire

Affordable recreation is so important at this time. Keep the releases on the weekend when people can enjoy the river.

# 361:

Mar 31, 2009, Bill Toran, New York

# 360:

Mar 31, 2009, Adrian Piets, Washington D.C.

White water paddling brings people and money to your state and local communities. I would think that supporting those outdoor recreational activities, which are important to the culture and identity of Vermont, would be of high importance.

# 359:

Mar 31, 2009, Dane Stevens, Maine

# 358:

Mar 31, 2009, Miles Chapin, Maine

# 357:

Mar 31, 2009, James Devine, New Jersey

The West River was my first 'Big River experience' as a kayaker. My experience was so great that I have brought my wife and kids in the summers, just to enjoy the Jamaica area & swim in the 'calm' West River. This sort of event, promotes all season tourism and would be lost if the releases were to stop or switch to weekdays.

# 356:

Mar 31, 2009, Thomas Carey, Massachusetts

# 355:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

Please consider the thousands of paddlers that would like to enjoy this river. We paddlers also support the local economy by purchasing goods and services in the town of Jamaica, VT. The towns people appreciate this bi-annual economic perk. Thank you.

# 354:

Mar 31, 2009, Peter Brown, Canada

The annual west river releases attract paddlers from all over the north-east for a great paddling experience. It would be great to have them continue.

# 353:

Mar 31, 2009, Timothy Marugg, Connecticut

I am shocked and angered to learn that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Vermont Department of Natural Resources, have eliminated both natural and planned recreational whitewater opportunities below Ball Mountain Dam. I have been bringing my kayaks and disposable income to Jamaica Vermont for over twenty-five years, and competed there in World Class whitewater races. I see this river being regressively monopolized by fishing interests, who do not wish to share a public resource: first eliminating the slalom racing infrastructure and now moving the releases to mid-week, in April when the campground is closed, to make it impossible for anyone but local residents to paddle there. The whitewater releases are no more damaging to fish populations than ordinary rainfall pulses. This is about selfish fishing interests who are unwilling to work around a 100 yard slalom course, or share a two mile stretch of river for one weekend during fishing season. This decision is WRONG and needs to be fixed.

# 352:

Mar 31, 2009, Jonathan Schlefer, Massachusetts

I just called some friends who live in West Townsend, the next town to Jamaica, and they say that everyone in Jamaica and nearby always welcomes the paddlers, who are seen as well behaved and good for the local economy. I had thought maybe they might be seen as a sort of massive invasion, but that's not at all the case, according to my friends. So I don't see what earthly reason there might be for suddenly moving the releases to mid-week. The fish certainly aren't going to notice whether it's Wednesday or Sunday. Jonathan Schlefer

# 351:

Mar 31, 2009, Mike Skroski, Vermont

I have heard a rumor that the man in charge of the Corps has a personal vendetta against boats as they impact his personal use of public water ways for fishing. I have never seen a boater interfere, or be uncourteous to any fisherman.

# 350:

Mar 31, 2009, April Hobart, New Hampshire

# 349:

Mar 31, 2009, Daniel Mushrush, Massachusetts

I didn't even know Jamaica Vermont existed before I began paddling the West 2 years ago. I will miss the weekend there.

# 348:

Mar 31, 2009, Earl Flanders, New Hampshire

# 347:

Mar 31, 2009, Eric Eisnor, Connecticut

# 346:

Mar 31, 2009, Edward Farrington, Massachusetts

# 345:

Mar 31, 2009, Elizabeth Fitzsosa, Connecticut

# 344:

Mar 31, 2009, W Lepage, Connecticut

# 343:

Mar 31, 2009, JEFF FLUET, New Hampshire  
please reconsider the impact this will have not only on the paddling community but  
business as well

# 342:

Mar 31, 2009, Rey Ordiales, New Jersey  
The West River releases have been a tradition in the NE whitewater paddling  
community. Having it on weekends as opposed to weekdays brings so much more  
benefits/resources to the surrounding communities. Given the economic recent trends, it  
does not seem to make sense to move the river releases to a weekday event.

# 341:

Mar 31, 2009, Thomas Orsini, Massachusetts  
Save The West River Release!

# 340:

Mar 31, 2009, Lauren Goulding, Massachusetts

# 339:

Mar 31, 2009, Gareth Barham, New York  
It is inconceivable why anyone would choose to move the release at the detriment of  
the public, as well as to the local economy. Bringing paddlers into the area who go out  
of their way to visit local small businesses and spend money are an aid in times when  
business owners need it. Moving the release is nothing short of malicious to all parties  
involved besides the one person who has to open the gates.

# 338:

Mar 31, 2009, BRIAN PEPIN, Massachusetts

# 337:

Mar 31, 2009, William Kranz, New Hampshire

I've been kayaking and attending the West river releases for almost 40 years. The spring release has always been a great chance to see old friends from the kayak community. I'm actually retired so I will still be able to attend even if the release is during the week. However most of my friends (the people who lend support to a frail 62 year old boater) will not be able to be there for me in the middle of the week. Please think about this...  
Will

# 336:

Mar 31, 2009, Graham Fitter, Massachusetts

Please consider releasing Ball Mountain Dam during a weekend when the State Park is open. This will provide recreation opportunities for boaters who have a long history of driving long distances to attend, engage the local community, with benefit to all parties.

# 335:

Mar 31, 2009, Janet Bisson, New Hampshire

# 334:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New Jersey

Recreational releases on many other rivers provide both recreational and economic benefits to the regions. Why not here?

# 333:

Mar 31, 2009, Dan Drost, Canada

As someone who travels a great distance to enjoy Vermont's fantastic whitewater resources, I am greatly saddened to hear about the ACOE decision, and the lack of public consultation surrounding the decision. Had an Environmental Impact Study been conducted, the ACOE would have a better appreciation and understanding of the value to the local and state economy by out-of-state visitors like myself. Under the current release arrangement, I will not be visiting Vermont this spring, and my food, liquor, gear, car repair, and accommodation dollars will be staying at home.

# 332:

Mar 31, 2009, Christopher Clinansmith, New Hampshire

# 331:

Mar 31, 2009, Casey Bentz, New York

# 330:

Mar 31, 2009, Caroline Fitzsousa, Connecticut

# 329:

Mar 31, 2009, Jenifer Jakub, New Hampshire

# 328:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Nasdor, Massachusetts

The Army Corps of Engineers has acted arbitrarily in its decision to eliminate the Spring recreational release. By releasing water on the weekdays rather than the weekend, the Corps is merely seeking to prevent recreational use. This decision is an abuse of its discretion.

# 327:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Schappert, Connecticut

Please reconsider the decision to change the West river releases! The West river releases have been a jewel of the paddling year for so long it would be a SHAME to disrupt them!

# 326:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Crane, Vermont

The unilateral decision to reverse an agreement that the ACOE made with the paddling community is unethical. The ACOE and the VT ANR have an obligation to balance this resource. Moving the release date to mid-week as opposed to a weekend does nothing to improve the habitat of the fishery and can eliminate up to \$440,000 and 7 jobs from the local economy. This is not fair and balanced. It only demonstrates a bias against recreational boating. Michael Crane

# 325:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Vermont

Rivers with controlled releases are an integral part of whitewater boating. They complement rivers that run naturally and ebb / flow with precipitation. Please uphold the West River's release schedule, as well as boaters' access to it.

# 324:

Mar 31, 2009, Todd Morin, Massachusetts

\* The Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Natural Resources, has eliminated both natural and planned recreational opportunities below Ball Mountain Dam without justification. \* Whitewater releases have an important economic value to local economies and had occurred historically \* There is no conflict between salmon or other environmental issues and whitewater releases if the releases are scheduled to avoid impacts created by the reservoir during the outmigration period. \* Whitewater releases resemble natural flows in their timing and magnitude. \* The West River system is highly manipulated for reservoir recreation and flood control. In this context the whitewater releases represent a miniscule departure from natural conditions. \* The Army Corps has communicated poorly and in a misleading manner with the paddling public. \* The Army Corps was supposed to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on their project operations several years ago, which has yet to happen, so these arbitrary decisions to curtail public recreation have no official record to justify them. \* There are easy solutions for providing whitewater recreation, flood control, and environmental protection. It CAN be done, and it SHOULD be done. \* Ask that releases be immediately rescheduled to occur on the weekend of April 11 and 12.

# 323:

Mar 31, 2009, Kelley Farr, Massachusetts

# 322:

Mar 31, 2009, Andrew Ludke, Pennsylvania

My family has owned a vacation house in southern Vermont for 30 years and as a paddler I always look forward to the Spring and Fall releases on the West River. I usually bring along a group of friends as our house can sleep 10. I tell you this to let you know we come to your state, eat in your restaurants and generally contribute to your tourist economy. Coming from out of state, a midweek release would ensure that we don't participate and that would be a loss for us and for the business that we would patronize. Over the last several months I have noticed that tourism in southern Vermont is way down. Manchester which is often a mob scene has been empty... a mid-week release would contribute to the eroding of the already floundering tourist economy in VT.

# 321:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Rebillard, New Hampshire

# 320:

Mar 31, 2009, Gwen Whitbeck, New Hampshire

# 319:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Clarke, Connecticut

I started paddling the West in 1980 and it has been an annual part of our Spring paddling trips. This river is an important whitewater resource and has a venerable history to uphold. Please keep these releases on weekends when the boating community can take advantage of them while putting money into the local economy.

# 318:

Mar 31, 2009, Jordan Yaruss, New Jersey

Please keep the West river release available to recreational paddlers (and on the weekend)! I was just telling a friend what a great river it is. Last year, I stayed in the area and spent money on lodging, food and other items in the area. I plan on going again this year. If the West released more often, I would go several times a year. Please keep the water flowing!

# 317:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Newman, New Hampshire

# 316:

Mar 31, 2009, Deborah Annis, Colorado

When I lived in Vermont, I enjoyed the West River releases. Now that I have moved away, I miss them a lot. The West is such a special river that I would like to return for a weekend release. Having the release midweek means I would need to take additional

time off work, rendering travel for the release unfeasible. I suspect I am not alone in this, and the combined effect would be of notable economic impact to the surrounding area (lodging, dining, etc).

# 315:

Mar 31, 2009, ROBERT BAKER, Connecticut

# 314:

Mar 31, 2009, Sozanne Solmaz, New York

I have attended the West River releases twice. It is a great and unique river, in fact there should be more releases, if possible. Usually the attendance is high, and it will help the local holiday business.

# 313:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Beale, Canada

# 312:

Mar 31, 2009, Thomas McIntire, Massachusetts

# 311:

Mar 31, 2009, Amberlee Sibley, Massachusetts

# 310:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Pincince, Massachusetts

# 309:

Mar 31, 2009, Martin Wittmann, Connecticut

It seems quite contrary to the community's interests not to schedule dam releases for weekends so that boaters will be drawn into the towns near the river and contribute to the local economy. There is no significant environmental reason against this option; the flood control operations of the dam itself have a much greater impact than simply scheduling whitewater flows during weekends. It is also sad the the Army Corps of Engineers leadership is being uncooperative and uncommunicative. They should realize that part of their job is to serve the economic interests of the community and the general welfare, including recreational uses of the river. Regards, Martin Wittmann West Hartford, CT

# 308:

Mar 31, 2009, James McEwan, Connecticut

I first raced on the West River in 1970, and the West has been a part of my paddling experience ever since. Perhaps paddling experiences are more important to me than most--I'm a two-time Olympian and Bronze medalist in whitewater slalom--but I think it would be a tremendous shame to deprive other paddlers of the West River experience.

# 307:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Sents, New York

I make an effort to attend the West River release on annual bases. The West is a great place to teach river running skills in a beautiful VT setting. I have also always used this as a meeting ground to meet my with other familiar faces from the New England boating community. If releases are moved to during the week and earlier I will be unable to make the releases, and I am sure this will be the case with many out of state boater and for that matter boater within the state. I assume this will have an economic impact on the quaint town of Jamaica. I hope you consider all of the implication to these changes and reconsider, so I can bring my children to enjoy this VT river as they get a bit old can start enjoy all the beautiful rivers of New England with their dad..

# 306:

Mar 31, 2009, John Ozard, New York

# 305:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

The West River is one of the best runs around. Please save this river for boaters.

# 304:

Mar 31, 2009, Edward Farrington, Massachusetts

I have been paddling the West River during the Spring and Fall releases for 25 years. The town of Jamaica, VT and surrounding areas benefit financially from the influx of paddlers every spring and fall. The paddling community is typically a "green" community that cares about it's surroundings and keeping their recreational areas clean and reusable. Please keep the river releases during the weekends when the majority of paddlers will actually be able to come to VT and enjoy them. My stepson goes to college in VT and we were looking at this as a great way to spend the weekend while visiting him at school. Please reschedule the West River Spring release to April 11 and 12 or weekend later in April/May to continue this tradition.

# 303:

Mar 31, 2009, William Smith, New Hampshire

# 302:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Blake, Connecticut

I've attended every release for the past 5 years and have spent thousands of dollars over that time in the State of Vermont. I can't fathom why Vermont would want to lose this precious resource.

# 301:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Rowe, New York

Every year I drive several hundred miles to paddle the West River. Please do not allow these relaease to be rescheduled to a time that has limited recreational utility.

# 300:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Brindamour, New Hampshire

The West River is a twice-yearly festival for boaters which brings a positive economic

impact to Jamaica VT, and a pristine, beautiful river for the enjoyment of watersports enthusiasts in New England. The loss of the West River releases are a major loss to both the region and the enthusiasts who attend. It is a shame that this river will no longer be enjoyable by new englanders in this manner. I will remember the river fondly, but the ACoE has failed us all.

# 299:

Mar 31, 2009, Clare Tattersall, New York

# 298:

Mar 31, 2009, Marshall Moore, Massachusetts

Please help to enable access to this fine river for boaters. This is a great whitewater paddling river and hopefully future generations of paddlers will be able to enjoy it.

# 297:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

Save the River!!

# 296:

Mar 31, 2009, Carol Steiger, Connecticut

# 295:

Mar 31, 2009, Harold J Akey, Massachusetts

The economic and recreational benefit to residents and visitor's needs to be continued for Vermont residents and its tourism industry.

# 294:

Mar 31, 2009, Sam Hollander, Vermont

# 293:

Mar 31, 2009, Dean Tipple, Massachusetts

Please don't cancel the releases on the West River in Jamaica VT. This is a valued paddling resource in the northeast. In addition, the influx of paddlers for these releases provides much needed tourist income in the town of Jamaica and the surrounding area. It is a well known fact that the popular fall release has been scaled back from 2 days to 1 day. This has significantly reduced the number of paddlers. Restoring the fall release to 2 days will increase interest and the number of participants. In addition if all releases from the ball mountain dam were held on the weekends and the paddling public had even a couple of days advanced notice the turnout would be significant. An easy way to notify the boating public is to post on a paddler's web site for example ([www.npmb.com](http://www.npmb.com), or [www.boatertalk.com](http://www.boatertalk.com)). Another alternative is to have the information available on line or through an automated dial up service. In light of the current economic disaster every tourist dollar matters especially in small isolated communities.

# 292:

Mar 31, 2009, Leonard Griffeth, Massachusetts

# 291:

Mar 31, 2009, Todd Bailey, Connecticut

Rafted the river last fall with a group of over 45 men and had the time of our life. It would be ashame if these oportunities for recreation disappeared.

# 290:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut

# 289:

Mar 31, 2009, Mark Leenhouts, New Jersey

# 288:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Vermont

# 287:

Mar 31, 2009, Jim Adams, New York

The West is one of the nicest rivers to paddle in the NE. It is an absolute shame that there is a strong chance that recreational releases would happen mid-week and in early April. This idea hardly promotes recreation and should absolutely be reconsidered.

# 286:

Mar 31, 2009, Jenna Hobocan, New York

# 285:

Mar 31, 2009, Karen Becker, New York

# 284:

Mar 31, 2009, David Windoloski, Massachusetts

My wife Gina and I have been traveling to the West River for the last 10 years for the Spring and Fall Releases. We think of the West River as a precious gem and would not want to do anything to hurt it. But..., there must be some way to balance public recreation with flood control and protection of the fishery. It has been done else where, why isn't it being done here!! Upset and Confused, David Windoloski

# 283:

Mar 31, 2009, Steven Becker, New York

# 282:

Mar 31, 2009, Butch Mixon, Massachusetts

I have attended the spring and fall recreational releases from the Ball Mountain Dam each year since 1985, along with many other rafters, kayakers, and canoeists. It is outdoor recreational opportunities such as this that provide a healthy balance to our lives. Do not allow the negative attitudes from the previous presidential administration to continue. Restore the balance PLEASE...\_Butch Mixon

# 281:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 280:

Mar 31, 2009, Bruce Kay, Massachusetts

Fewer people will be willing to take a vacation day from work venture into VT on a weekday. This is especially true in the spring when a number of other rivers are also running. I look forward and set aside time to paddle the West River; it's one of the regions gems. The West release also allows us to spend our money in VT (specifically, Jamaica and Brattleboro).

# 278:

Mar 31, 2009, Daniel Mullins, Connecticut

The West River is a great run and releases should be preserved. They attract boaters from all over New England, boosting the local economy.

# 277:

Mar 31, 2009, Henry Kravchenko, New York

By moving the release to a week day you're effectively depriving the state of VT & local businesses of revenue as well as the white water boating community of a decades old recreational event. It makes absolutely no sense to do so. Please reconsider.

# 275:

Mar 31, 2009, David Reese, Connecticut

In these tough economic times it only makes sense to maximize use on any and all resources. The release of this river on weekends to benefit the use of boaters from all over the New England area is the only reasonable thing to do. It brings much needed dollars into the local economy for each release. Provided, of course, IF it is done on the weekend so those boaters can be there.

# 274:

Mar 31, 2009, Brad Michael, Pennsylvania

# 273:

Mar 31, 2009, Jenny Ives, New York

# 272:

Mar 31, 2009, Dan Williams, Massachusetts

This appears to be a breakdown in communication. Jamaica, VT and surrounding communities get great benefit from the river release on a weekend. All we're asking for in the near term is a small change in timing; in the long term, sincerity in communication and sensitivity to their community by the ACOE.

# 271:

Mar 31, 2009, James Veltrop, Vermont  
The West River release is a core Vermont tradition. Unthinkable to change it.

# 270:

Mar 31, 2009, Clyde Beury, Pennsylvania

# 269:

Mar 31, 2009, Anne Fitzgerald, Connecticut

# 268:

Mar 31, 2009, Edward Grecsek, Pennsylvania  
River recreation is for everyone and brings additional revenue to more remote areas.

# 267:

Mar 31, 2009, Thomas Giminiani, New York

# 266:

Mar 31, 2009, Kathleen Powers, Connecticut

# 265:

Mar 31, 2009, Deb Laun, New York

# 264:

Mar 31, 2009, Paul Hummel, Massachusetts

# 263:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Nixon, Tennessee  
I grew up on the West River releases. Thats where I learned my love for the outdoors and the environment. PLEASE!!!!

# 262:

Mar 31, 2009, Don Guillow, Vermont  
I saw H dean make fool of himself at the west release. Are you going to to now?

# 261:

Mar 31, 2009, Travis Robie, New York

# 260:

Mar 31, 2009, Michelle Farrington, Massachusetts  
I learned to kayak on the West River in Vermont and have been enjoying the recreational releases for the past 15 year. It is a wonderful opportunity for kayaking (both beginners and advanced paddlers, as a result of the 2 different river sections). My husband and I have taught many new paddlers on this river. It's a great introduction to the sport. Taking away the releases from the paddling community seems to be an unreasonable solution to protecting the salmon smolt. I'd be thrilled if the release was to be held later in the year, but earlier (ON A WEEKEND) would be fine as well.

- # 259:  
Mar 31, 2009, Beverly Fitzsosa, Connecticut  
Please continue the wonderful releases to ensure continued enjoyment of the West River.
- # 258:  
Mar 31, 2009, Daniele Gerard, New York
- # 257:  
Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania  
Some of the east coasts best class 3 and 4 is the West River. One of my favorite fall and spring drive and paddle events.
- # 256:  
Mar 31, 2009, Ryan Caisse, Massachusetts
- # 255:  
Mar 31, 2009, Steven Bailey, New York  
This recreational release is a wonderful opportunity for boaters, and is a boost to the economy of the local area every spring. Please encourage the ACOE not to ruin this for the boating community and for the people of Jamaica and the surrounding area.
- # 254:  
Mar 31, 2009, Wayne Krevetski, Vermont  
We need the tourist Dollars in this state more than ever.
- # 253:  
Mar 31, 2009, Ed Ditto, Tennessee  
In a time when it's crucial to build community, don't destroy this one...
- # 252:  
Mar 31, 2009, Frank Shaw, New York
- # 251:  
Mar 31, 2009, Debra Schrank, Connecticut
- # 250:  
Mar 31, 2009, Tom McIntyre, New York  
A beautiful river that gets enjoyed by many on the release days, and brings visitor dollars to the surrounding community.
- # 249:  
Mar 31, 2009, J. Kevin Hannon, Connecticut  
My friends and I have been attending the whitewater releases in both the spring and fall at the West River for over 25 years. We stay at Jamaica State Park, at Winhall Brook campground or have stayed at local B&B's. We patronize local businesses and attend

the church spaghetti supper every year. Paddlers in general do not make trouble or leave trash in their wake. We are GOOD CITIZENS that pump money into the local economy. The arbitrary decision made by the U.S. ACOE seems to have been made specifically to prevent paddlers from enjoying this great resource. To schedule releases both before the parks are open for camping and only on weekdays is the equivalent of giving the middle finger to the paddling community. We are a group of people that love the outdoors and find joy in paddling whitewater. Why the ACOE seems to think we are the enemy I don't know, but I do know that this approach is wrong and I for one intend to object. The ACOE should sit down NOW with members of the paddling community and representatives of the state of Vermont and come to a mutual decision that will benefit all parties.

# 248:

Mar 31, 2009, Richard McCarthy, New York

# 247:

Mar 31, 2009, Frank Zajac, Massachusetts

# 246:

Mar 31, 2009, Michael Fitzsousa, Connecticut

The rescheduling of this release will end a nearly 20-year tradition in my family and an annual event that has brought me to Vermont every spring since the early 1990s. Please schedule releases at a time when the park is open and on a weekend when I and my fellow paddlers can enjoy the thrill and beauty of the West River and support the local economy.

# 245:

Mar 31, 2009, Phil Juhas, Connecticut

This important resource provides recreation for multitudes of people. The ACOE plan effectively blocks people from enjoying activities paid for by their taxes. Please change this policy back to weekend releases when the access park is open.

# 244:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

Please save the West river whitewater releases!

# 243:

Mar 31, 2009, Lance Lippencott, Maryland

As a former Corps of Engineers officer and whitewater boater, I am disappointed by this action. Whitewater releases have been an integral part of this river's history, and should continue as part of the overall management strategy for this watershed.

# 242:

Mar 31, 2009, Keech T. LeClair, New York

Releases on the West River are a valuable recreational events and an economic benefit to the Jamacia, VT area.

# 241:

Mar 31, 2009, Robert Mcconaghy, Connecticut

Please help us to preserve the recreational releases that are so important economically to the community. Last fall when I paddled the West River, I stayed Friday night at Motel 6 in Brattleboro and took my niece who lives there out to dinner. I had breakfast, bought snacks and a full tank gas of before I headed out to paddle. Then after paddling, I went with friends out to dinner before heading home that night. I would have to say that I spent about \$275 dollars during my stay in VT. that weekend. Thanks, Rob Mc

# 240:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, New York

I am a professional (woman) who enjoys whitewater kayaking. I am also a rock climber. I cannot impress upon you enough how respectful and responsible for the environment I have found kayakers and climbers to be. There are very few places locally to enjoy these activities. Also, most people work during the week. I strongly oppose the earlier spring release of the water as well as the weekday - versus the weekend - releases. Both of these decisions would render the releases essentially recreationally useless to those who would otherwise enjoy and benefit from them. Please reconsider your decision!!!! Thank you.

# 239:

Mar 31, 2009, Joe Bryant, Mississippi

Please save The West River Whitewaters. Thanks!

# 238:

Mar 31, 2009, John Ivanisin, Connecticut

In this economy, I find it hard to believe that the US Army Corp would rather not release than to help out a community that depends on the business that the scheduled recreational releases bring in.

# 237:

Mar 31, 2009, Scott Snyder, New Hampshire

# 236:

Mar 31, 2009, Maryann J. Fusco-Rollins, Connecticut

The West River whitewater releases are something I look forward to every year. The West River is a perfect experience. Nestled in picturesque Jamaica State Park, the opportunity to enjoy hiking, camping, boating and fishing is unparalleled. These activities are all important and none mutually exclusive. The West River whitewater weekends are a time for comradery and personal challenges. It is a local rite of passage for many boaters. The photo highlighting the "Jamaica semiannual whitewater weekend" that appears on the Vermont State Park web page, can not communicate what these weekends mean to our sport. Jamaica Vermont, with the park, the shops, and the church dinners, has become a tradition for many boaters. I will not only be saddened to lose this for myself and my fellow boaters. I will also mourn the loss of the opportunity

to share this wonderful resource and charming town with my daughter. Please do everything within your power to protect the West River whitewater release weekends. Thank you.

# 235:

Mar 31, 2009, David Horgan, New Hampshire

# 234:

Mar 31, 2009, Beth Harmon, Massachusetts

I am a whitewater kayaker who has been privileged to kayak the West River and eagerly look forward to kayaking it each year. I strongly protest the change in release schedule, and for what purpose?

# 233:

Mar 31, 2009, Edward McLain, Virginia

Please don't change a thing, many businesses will be affected by the change which will have far reaching and unexpected consequences.

# 232:

Mar 31, 2009, Tony Rector, Connecticut

This event is good for the community of Jamaica.

# 231:

Mar 31, 2009, Geoff Klouman, Connecticut

I am a Kayaker and have lived in Jamaica Vt. for two years. If you have not been to a West River release weekend you are missing a great community event. Both the towns people and the kayaking community shine at these events. As unusual as they may seem to non paddlers, they are a part of the charm of and a great source of pride and income to this wonderful small town. Having somewhere between 100-300 brightly colored kayaks in town in early spring is a sure sign that better days are here, and all come out to enjoy it. In late September it is the last manageable event before the skiers take over. These are valued events and there in my opinion is no good reason to stop them. Rivers will rise and fall and fish can swim. Neither of these will change because of a schedule. Thank you

# 230:

Mar 31, 2009, Stephen Pietrucha, New Jersey

I have been going to West releases for 18 years. Please do not stop the releases.

# 229:

Mar 31, 2009, Erica Lynne, Florida

I learned to paddle whitewater on this river. The spring release brings in hundreds (if not more by this time) of boaters to the water. This is a POSITIVE activity. Canoeists and kayakers are not doing drugs, they are not out committing crimes. They are being active in the outdoors. They are a positive benefit to society. Please return the

scheduled dam releases to the traditional weekend in April, April 11 and 12. Please support positive activities for our citizens. Thank you.

# 228:

Mar 31, 2009, Nancy Gero, New Hampshire

During these difficult economic times, the worst thing the ACOE could do, was to move the release to mid week. Jamaica and its surrounding areas will certainly feel the impact, as the ACOE has turned off the faucet to the flow of revenue coming into their towns from paddlers and their families. Over the last several years, the ACOE has been extremely difficult to work with and have pretty much turned their backs on boaters in favor of fishermen and bringing back the Salmon. If they truly want to bring back the salmon, they should install fish ladders in the dams.....otherwise, their efforts will forever be in vain. A balance in both recreational activities can be obtained and has been proven successful on the Deerfield river in MA. There are Salmon in the Deerfield river. I want to know why the ACOE did this without a public hearing.

# 227:

Mar 31, 2009, Matthew McCay, Connecticut

I don't understand why Vermont wouldn't take advantage of this release in terms of maximizing revenue, and release when maximum revenue could be generated.

# 226:

Mar 31, 2009, John Allen, New York

The West River release is very important to the local economy for the people there. It is also very important to the paddling community.

# 225:

Mar 31, 2009, Tom Goddu, Connecticut

# 224:

Mar 31, 2009, Steve Klein, Canada

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 223:

Mar 31, 2009, Jean Miller, Connecticut

The West River release has been an important part of my life for the past 30 years. It's beautiful, a trip I'd take twice a year. I loved it. I'd reunite with old friends, visit Vermont icons and look forward to it for months. What the heck, why can't it continue???

# 222:

Mar 31, 2009, Tom C Taylor, Massachusetts

Because of the whitewater release, my family discovered this lovely part of Vermont many years ago. We have returned many times both for paddling and other activities. If Vermont is seeking to reduce the number of tourists coming into the state then cutting

whitewater releases is a good way to start. I will find it difficult to return to a state with so little regard for it's visitors.

# 221:

Mar 31, 2009, Justin Allen, New York

As a working individual whose recreation is always based on the weekends I see this move completely eliminating any possibility of myself or my family ever being able to enjoy future West River releases. I feel this is a poor decision that must be reconsidered. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

# 220:

Mar 31, 2009, Steve McLuckie, New York

I can't imagine any sensible reason to schedule a planned release during the week, when a weekend release allows far more people to take advantage of it. Such a change would mean a significant impact on the paddling community, as well as the finances of Jamaica and other nearby towns. I also believe this violates the Corps' mandate to provide recreational opportunities.

# 219:

Mar 31, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

As a kayak enthusiast, I have enjoyed many spring and fall trips down down the West River. Each year I start the paddling season with a trip down the West River. It is a homecoming of sorts and there is a comraderie that really is unique to this event. I feel a sense of loss.

# 218:

Mar 30, 2009, Gideon Saroufiem, New York

# 217:

Mar 30, 2009, Jennifer Koermer, New Jersey

# 216:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

I have enjoyed paddling the West River several times since 1997 with both the Boston and NH AMC Paddling groups. I even introduced a friend from Japan on one of my trips several years ago. He loved visiting such a beautiful place and paddling with my friends. All of my paddling friends and I look forward to paddling such a wonderful river and visiting Vermont. I am shocked that the Army Corp of Engineers has made such a drastic decision with all the effort the AMC and other WW groups and fishing groups have worked with them over the years to make this a premier place to visit. It also hurts the local community with whom most folks who paddle there support via donations or by purchasing items from the local businesses. Please help change this situation and make it a win win for all. There is no reason for the change from an environmentally reason.

# 215:

Mar 30, 2009, Andrew Douglas, New Jersey

A weekend trip to paddle this wonderful class 2 river is a tradition with the NJ-NY Appalachian Mountain Club. Each participant would be spending money to camp, eat and fuel their car. This release has been limited for several years and now is essentially lost. The big losers will be the small businesses we will not be visiting.

# 214:

Mar 30, 2009, Zachary Swan, Massachusetts

# 213:

Mar 30, 2009, David Packie, Vermont

The West River Releases are a part of the modern heritage of Vermont Outdoor life. Please respect our right to recreate on our rivers and streams. Dave Packie Northfield VT

# 212:

Mar 30, 2009, Nate Pelton, New York

I always look forward to paddling the West River and Jamaica businesses are wonderful hosts. Please continue the releases.

# 211:

Mar 30, 2009, Curt Crittenden, New Hampshire

I have enjoyed the West River release with my family for years and this is one of the premier destinations that make Vermont a special place. We contribute generously to the community of Jamaica Vt while visiting and are deeply dismayed at this arbitrary decision that will affect both our enjoyment and the economic benefit the community receives from the influx of visitors. The kayaking community is keenly aware of environmental responsibility and having given the matter considerable thought and research, the decision to move the spring release to an inaccessible date has no basis in environmentally sound operation of the dam. It is an irresponsible custodial action that must be reversed.

# 210:

Mar 30, 2009, Jake Gosnell, New York

# 209:

Mar 30, 2009, Hope Nilsson, Massachusetts

The West River is a crucial river for New England paddling. Our area is woefully lacking in class III rivers, making it very difficult to transition from class II to class IV. The West is one of the most valuable resources for our paddling community because it a fantastic, consistent, challenging class III. Please help us ensure that we continue to have access to my favorite river in New England.

# 208:

Mar 30, 2009, Brian Vosburgh, New York

As a working individual whose recreation is always based on the weekends I see this

move completely eliminating any possibility of myself or my family ever being able enjoy future West River releases. I feel this is a poor decision that must be reconsidered. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

# 207:

Mar 30, 2009, Lee Krohn, Vermont

Greetings: With all due respect, the West River whitewater releases have a long and storied history in sport, recreation, and economic impact. Surely, there must be a way to manage this to minimize perceived or real ecological harm, while allowing this traditional event to continue. It brings much joy to both paddlers and observers, and adds a bright spot for active and passive participants, as well as the local economy at a crucial time between seasons. As a society, we often go through significant public process for matters of much less import. For this newly implemented change to be made with little or no public discussion or opportunity to comment is also quite unusual, especially for a federally managed facility. I urge reversal of this new change immediately, so that this spring's whitewater events may take place in a reasonable manner. I also offer to help facilitate dialogue between regulatory, recreational, and ecological partners to help forge a better solution for us all. Thank you for listening.

# 206:

Mar 30, 2009, Lawrence Silba, New York

Please do not impinge on our right to access the West River!

# 205:

Mar 30, 2009, Teo Drake, Connecticut

I was dismayed and disappointed to learn of the Army Corp of Engineer's decision to schedule the West River release at a time when it's recreational use would be drastically impacted. Given the extensive scientific data offered to the ACOE demonstrating the lack of an environmental impact of recreational releases, it is hard to comprehend ACOE's decision. When one factors in the economic effects of their decision upon the town of Jamaica, it is unfathomable. At a time when small businesses are hurting, denying any tourist income without reason is unjustified. Towns, such as Charlemont, MA are examples of how recreational boating can serve as one economic pillar for revitalizing small town economies.

# 204:

Mar 30, 2009, Simon Ginsberg, New York

# 203:

Mar 30, 2009, Jerry Brisson, Connecticut

I enjoy the services of the coffee shop, the general store and often supper at the church. I am glad to help the elementary school by paying a small fee for parking in their field. Unless there is a two day release schedule it is not worth the travel distance from Connecticut. I hope to make many more trips through Brattleboro, to the Jamaica area. Help the local economy, provide scheduled two day releases in the spring and fall. Jerry brisson

# 202:

Mar 30, 2009, Charles Sweet, Massachusetts

Dear Senators Kerry and Kennedy, I do not understand the lack of responsiveness of the Army Corps of Engineers to the inputs of the outdoor recreation community. One or two times a year this beautiful river river has had consistent flow for recreational purposes and attracts boaters from all over the Northeast. By arbitrarily changing the release from the traditional weekend to a weekday schedule, this recreational gem will be eliminated and cause a significant loss in tourism to the area. Please help to return the West River dam release to its weekend schedule. Thanks for your consideration, Charlie Sweet 146 Albemarle Rd. Newton, MA 02460

# 201:

Mar 30, 2009, Harry Berking, New York

The West River Festival, like many other dam release dependent festivals around the nation, are not only fun for those who enjoy our rivers but provides a boost to local economies, encourages stewardship of our natural resources, and helps forge a sense of community among people from towns, cities, rural countryside, and all walks of life into a lasting social fabric that binds us all together for better.

# 200:

Mar 30, 2009, Jon Gellman, New Jersey

This release was already a fixture of the NE paddling community when I started kayaking 20 years ago and paddlers make a point of spending money locally and supporting the community. It is simply clueless to make the releases unusable because of obliviousness to the needs of other stakeholders.

# 199:

Mar 30, 2009, John Peterson, Colorado

These whitewater releases bring people from all over the US to Vermont to enjoy a recreational opportunity that is in harmony with its environment.

# 198:

Mar 30, 2009, Erik Farrington, Massachusetts

# 197:

Mar 30, 2009, Mark Renson, Massachusetts

# 196:

Mar 30, 2009, Regis McDuffee, Massachusetts

Please save the West River releases for kayakers. Every kayaker I have met has become more responsible to the environment from their experiences on the rivers that they paddle. Respectfully, Regis McDuffee

# 195:

Mar 30, 2009, Theodore Crockett, New York

- # 194:  
Mar 30, 2009, Rob Griffiths, New York  
Here we go again, another great opportunity lost because of bad decision making.  
Thanks ACOE!
- # 193:  
Mar 30, 2009, Michelle Sholtis, New York
- # 192:  
Mar 30, 2009, Mike Kelley, New York
- # 191:  
Mar 30, 2009, Patricia Kaplan, Connecticut  
The West River is one of my favorites in New England
- # 190:  
Mar 30, 2009, Jack Moskowitz, New Jersey
- # 189:  
Mar 30, 2009, Joseph Ciolino, Massachusetts  
The West River is one of my favorites in New England. I always look forward to making the trip to VT with some friend. It is a real shame that this may not happen this year. -Joe
- # 188:  
Mar 30, 2009, Michael Thomas, Connecticut
- # 187:  
Mar 30, 2009, Jim Smith, New York  
I am a long-time visitor to Jamaica State Park, a paddler on the West River and a vacationer who supports local businesses. I encourage the continuation of whitewater recreational activities on the West River an activity that supports tourism and healthy recreation.
- # 186:  
Mar 30, 2009, Steve Rossi, Massachusetts  
Tourists=\$\$\$, everyone wins
- # 185:  
Mar 30, 2009, Tim Fisher, California
- # 184:  
Mar 30, 2009, Arleen Raymond, New Jersey  
Please work it out so EVERYONE wins!!!!
- # 183:

Mar 30, 2009, Dana Warner, Connecticut

My family has paddled this river for the past 7 years each release spring and fall. Thank you Dana Warner

# 182:

Mar 30, 2009, Cindy McKown, New York

# 181:

Mar 30, 2009, Carroll Robertson, Massachusetts

How unfortunate that the Army Corps of Engineers has decided to change the date of the spring release. The ACOE has deprived the businesses and citizens of Vermont of much-needed revenue and tax dollars, and paddlers have lost an important recreational opportunity. We urge the ACOE to reconsider this decision, and to reverse the recent trend toward decisions that do not take into consideration the needs of all user groups.

# 180:

Mar 30, 2009, Vincent Bilotta, New York

one of my favorite tourist events please continue on with weekends so the whole family can come

# 179:

Mar 30, 2009, Matt Bolinder, Massachusetts

by eliminating our access to this amazing release, you will lose millions of dollars in revenue in the surrounding towns in dozens of work landscapes

# 178:

Mar 30, 2009, Larry Seidl, Maine

# 177:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, New York

# 176:

Mar 30, 2009, John Marold, California

# 175:

Mar 30, 2009, Charles Wilkison, New York

I have enjoyed my twice a year drive to Vermont and the West River WW paddle. It would be a shame to lose these few times I can count on the river having enough water to paddle.

# 174:

Mar 30, 2009, Michael Rowland, New Hampshire

The West river release is vital to the economy of that area. The ecological impacts stated for the cancelled release is absurd.

# 173:

Mar 30, 2009, David Cudmore, Massachusetts

I own a outdoor adventure school and outfitter with a location in Brownsville Vermont. Our primary business is teaching paddlesports. The West River releases have important economic value to Central and Southern Vermont.

# 172:

Mar 30, 2009, PATRICK SHARRON, Connecticut

Share the West River with paddlers, and we will stimulate your local economies.

# 171:

Mar 30, 2009, Robert Larkham, Massachusetts

# 170:

Mar 30, 2009, Tripp Freeman, Colorado

# 169:

Mar 30, 2009, David Harmon, Massachusetts

This is one of my favorite rivers! I love coming up from Cape Cod and kayaking from the Jamaica ball dam, spending the weekend checking out the local food... I would terribly miss that.

# 168:

Mar 30, 2009, Logan Kidwell, Maine

Please never underestimate the synergy of multiple use resources.

# 167:

Mar 30, 2009, Bruce Best, Pennsylvania

what a shame, with the economic downturn already hurting businesses now Jamaica's businesses will lose a weekend of tourist dollars. Oh well, West Virginia will be happy to have me spend my money there for an extra weekend!

# 166:

Mar 30, 2009, John Graham, Vermont

# 165:

Mar 30, 2009, Jack Gill, Massachusetts

I have been canoeing the spring and fall releases on the West River for 31 years. It has been a wonderful and wholesome recreational resource for me and my family. The Army Corp have no valid reasons that are publicly defensible for changing the date of the release to a period when few individuals will be able to make use of them.

# 164:

Mar 30, 2009, Scott Waleski, Connecticut

# 163:

Mar 30, 2009, Fantum Boater, New York

.....just plain ugly without the water. I refuse to drive 5 1/2 hours for a stream the town can't or won't persuade God Himself, to let loose the flow.

# 162:

Mar 30, 2009, Jesse Harris, Massachusetts

It was unnecessary to move the release to a time when it is not useful to paddlers, especially if nothing is actually changing-- it wouldn't be difficult or costly to move it back onto a weekend, and it would mean a lot to a great many people, and the businesses dependent on them.

# 161:

Mar 30, 2009, Alex Mandeville, Massachusetts

I always look forward to taking a break from school to kayak the west on the weekend release. Why would they do this!

# 160:

Mar 30, 2009, Tony Broadwater, Pennsylvania

As a White water boater all of my (and my families) vacation destinations include the opportunity to paddle without a reliable flow we cant paddle and so wount be vacationing in that area. I've found many paddlers that have families book their vacations the same way.

# 159:

Mar 30, 2009, Mike Nickel, New Jersey

I feel sad for the businesses of Jamaica and the other towns along the way where I was more than happy to spend my \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

# 158:

Mar 30, 2009, Robert Connor, Massachusetts

Please continue the release on the West River. This is a great economic driver for Jamaica, Vt. People eat, buy gas, go to Church suppers, and camp when they attend this. It is a wonderful way to experience Vermont, save the release!!!!!!

# 157:

Mar 30, 2009, Hank Bruse, Wisconsin

# 156:

Mar 30, 2009, William Dugan, Vermont

My disappointment may be personal, but the discouragement and confusion I'm experiencing about the Army Corp of Engineers' decision and process is universal.

# 155:

Mar 30, 2009, William Finkeldey, New York

I have been coming to Vermont for 40 years for the whitewater releases from Ball Mountain Dam. It is very unfortunate that they have been so diminished that I no longer

come as the trip is not worth it for only a one day release. I had always spent money locally when I came and miss the wonderful town folks and the excellent rangers from Jamaica State Park. Seems the best thing to do at this point is remove the dam and let the river return to being free flowing. At least that way whitewater boaters would be able to run the river more often on natural flow during the spring and the fall.

# 154:

Mar 30, 2009, Chris Weed, Vermont

- Whitewater releases have an important economic value to local economies and had occurred historically. - There is no conflict between salmon or other environmental issues and whitewater releases if the releases are scheduled to avoid impacts created by the reservoir during the outmigration period. - Whitewater releases resemble natural flows in their timing and magnitude. - The West River system is highly manipulated for reservoir recreation and flood control. In this context the whitewater releases represent a miniscule departure from natural conditions. - The Army Corps was supposed to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on their project operations several years ago, which has yet to happen, so these arbitrary decisions to curtail public recreation have no official record to justify them. - There are easy solutions for providing whitewater recreation, flood control, and environmental protection. It CAN be done, and it SHOULD be done. \*\*\* I request that releases be immediately rescheduled to occur on the weekend of April 11 and 12, 2009. \*\*\*

# 153:

Mar 30, 2009, Connor Bodell, Massachusetts

# 152:

Mar 30, 2009, Austin Pritchard, Vermont

# 151:

Mar 30, 2009, Mike Strojny, Vermont

It baffles me when a government agency sets policies counter to the public interest. The ACOE has been systematically, over the past few years, decreasing public access to the West River Dam releases to a point where the release is no longer viable as a recreational activity. Lack of access to a once very popular (and one of a kind in Vermont) water release has led to decreased participation - which ultimately justifies the ACOE to eliminate the recreational activity altogether because there is no public participation. This would be the same as the US Forest Service only allowing ski resorts to operate mid-week in November and May and then closing them down because there are no alpine skiers using the resorts.

# 150:

Mar 30, 2009, Bruce Saxman, Vermont

# 149:

Mar 30, 2009, Sean Buckley, Massachusetts

As a kayaker and outdoor enthusiast the West River releases are very important to me. respectfully submitted, Sean Buckley

# 148:

Mar 30, 2009, Robert May, New York

I don't ski, so the West River whitewater releases are your opportunity to get my tourist dollars. You do want my money, right?

# 147:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

The West River Ball Mountain Dam water releases are a tradition in the boating community, they help the local economy & in no way damage the fish. Pls go back the Spring (late April or early May) & Fall (late September) 2-day weekend releases. Thx

# 146:

Mar 30, 2009, Jim Woods, New York

I went to West Fest with a group of friends from western NY, we could not believe how well this event was run

# 145:

Mar 30, 2009, Matt Yablonowski, Vermont

# 144:

Mar 30, 2009, John Bauer, Vermont

Releasing the water in May is an economic benefit to the State Park and to local business. A May release is good for salmon, which is a benefit to the fishing industry in the area. A May release is good for Vermont. An April release is not.

# 143:

Mar 30, 2009, Terry Rudd, Massachusetts

I've ben paddling the West River for 5 years now. It's very enjoyable and also provides an opportunity for paddlers to enjoy nature's resources during these difficult economic times. I also know several people who give back to the local church and stores through the pasta dinners as a fund raiser and so on. Sure we can go back an forth on the pro's and cons of the release but during these tough times give the people something to enjoy and allow them to forget about the stresses of trying to find a job to save they're homes. Give them a couple hours of what they enjoy during on a spring weekend to laugh and have fun.

# 142:

Mar 30, 2009, Deborah Riel, Massachusetts

This is one activity I really look forward to enjoying with my family and friends. Canoeing and rafting on the West River is a great draw for us to visit Vermont, and support the rafting companies, campgrounds, restaurants, gas stations and convenience stores while we're there. We aren't hard on the environment, we have fun and we go back home to tell others what a nice time we had in Vermont and encourage them to try it out too. What more could the tourism industry of Jamaica, Vermont and surrounding

towns want than a nice bunch of people having non-polluting family fun on a beautiful river?

# 141:

Mar 30, 2009, Donald Nelson, New York

# 140:

Mar 30, 2009, Hartley Horwitz, Canada

If these releases are held on a weekend, out of state paddlers, like myself, are likely to make the 6.5 hr journey. This, of course, will stimulate the local economy by our spending in hotels and restaurants. I'm sure the local community requires this small influx of cash especially in these economic times. A simple shift of schedule may cost a few \$100 in overtime costs, but will generate \$1000's in economic impact to the local community. Please consider this.

# 139:

Mar 30, 2009, Mark Zakutansky, New Jersey

Please provide the paddling community with a weekend release as the Army Corps does on many on popular whitewater runs in North American such as the Lehigh River.

# 138:

Mar 30, 2009, Rachel DeMaine, Massachusetts

For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 137:

Mar 30, 2009, Joe Henry, Vermont

Paddlers are good people and we vote. We come to town, behave ourselves, spend money, clean-up, and then leave. What else can a town or the park service ask for?

# 136:

Mar 30, 2009, David Mandeville, Massachusetts

I do enjoy going to the West for the dam releases on the weekends. Hope all parties can get together and resolve the issues.

# 135:

Mar 30, 2009, Frank Mooney, Massachusetts

I have been paddling and fishing the West River since 1990. It is a jewel!! There is definitely a balance to be struck between the fishery and whitewater recreation. The river runs at whitewater boating levels in most months of the year and 1500cfs is not a very high flow. Paddlers need access and time shifting for these high water events. I also love to fish for trout, never having caught or seen a salmon in Jamaica State Park. I question the value of trying to reclaim the salmon population at the expense of other recreational opportunities. Further, I question its expense in real dollars. The trap at Townsend Dam has proved expensive and not effective. Maybe the artificial situation on the Connecticut and its tributaries make salmon migration an expensive proposition that should be carefully evaluated and possibly dropped altogether.

# 134:

Mar 30, 2009, Marlene Schroeder, Massachusetts

As president of the Parker River Clean Water Association, I know well that you can lobby for greater protection of our valuable river resources when the public has an opportunity to utilize them for reasonable recreational purposes, experience the river first hand. Scheduling releases so more of the public can participate will serve a much greater good in terms of garnering support for future river causes as well as better public relations.

# 133:

Mar 30, 2009, Norman Rehn, Massachusetts

Please reschedule Ball Mtn Dam spring releases to weekends. Holding them during the week means a loss of tourism money to the local towns.

# 132:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

No release weekend...no access (via SP) what is the CORPs thinking? This is just like the silly scheduling they did for the North Branch of the Potomac in MD (scheduling on mothers day, memorial day and other dates that folks have family obligations) - its about them and the fact that they can save a few dollars by changing their schedule and to heck with the users of the resource that spend money in the local area's economy. Shame on them - don't they work for us? Paul C.

# 131:

Mar 30, 2009, Charlotte (Tad) Jackson, Massachusetts

I am a whitewater boater and have been coming to weekend West River releases for 20 years. My friends and I have paid park entrance fees, stayed in local accommodations, frequented local restaurants and donated money to the school in Jamaica, VT. Our club (Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club) has given money to Jamaica State Park for improvements. Today we are in an economic recession. Tourism is a significant business for Vermont and whitewater releases provide a boost to local economies. Does it really make sense to turn away opportunities to increase local tourism? In addition, the reasons for this change in policy are not well justified or communicated. The West River system is already highly manipulated for reservoir recreation and flood control. In this context, the whitewater releases represent a miniscule departure from natural conditions. The Army Corps was supposed to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on their project operations several years ago, which has yet to happen, so these decisions currently appear quite arbitrary. Please reinstate the two-day weekend releases in April and September at a time when the maximum number of people can enjoy the river and use park facilities.

# 130:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, Canada

# 129:

Mar 30, 2009, Martin Milbury, New Hampshire

# 128:

Mar 30, 2009, Dennis Steiger, Connecticut

The West is an event I attend every spring and fall. Moving the release to weekdays will not allow me to enjoy this valuable resource.

# 127:

Mar 30, 2009, Nicole Vassar, Massachusetts

# 126:

Mar 30, 2009, James Riley, Pennsylvania

Please keep the West releases available to paddlers on weekends as has been the tradition for decades.

# 125:

Mar 30, 2009, Heidi Sardinha, Massachusetts

# 124:

Mar 30, 2009, Jay Dube', Massachusetts

I have kayaked on this river during the Fall and Spring releases since 1985 and have yet to see salmon death caused by releases or paddlers.

# 123:

Mar 30, 2009, Paxton Berardy, Massachusetts

This is a spectacular river and a great draw tourism wise for your state. If you had as many releases for this as the Deerfield does you would see quite the tourist influx. Actually the two are so close there would be great synergy, they would work well together and they could be a southern version of the Maine rivers tourist wise.

# 122:

Mar 30, 2009, Joseph O'Neil, Massachusetts

# 121:

Mar 30, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

Me and my friends always look forward to kayaking the West River every spring and fall and you should reconsider the release on weekends in the spring and fall.

# 120:

Mar 30, 2009, Peter Brooks, Massachusetts

# 119:

Mar 30, 2009, Seth Parker, Massachusetts

# 118:

Mar 30, 2009, Paul Reilly, Massachusetts

- # 117:  
Mar 30, 2009, Dang Huynh, Massachusetts
- # 116:  
Mar 30, 2009, Laura Griskevich, New Hampshire
- # 115:  
Mar 30, 2009, Steward Rich, Canada  
I have been making the annual fall trip to the West with my family for the past 4 years, camping at the Army Corps camp ground. This is a wonderful site, beautiful town and great opportunity for families with children to paddle in a festival type atmosphere. As well it is good for the town economy. We all Love the Dam Diner. Please keep these releases going. Steward
- # 114:  
Mar 30, 2009, Ron Dann, Massachusetts
- # 113:  
Mar 30, 2009, Martin Breu, Canada
- # 112:  
Mar 30, 2009, Douglas Shields, South Carolina  
I am in favor of recreational releases that promote whitewater paddling. It is good for the local economies.
- # 111:  
Mar 30, 2009, Sherm Grant, Vermont
- # 110:  
Mar 30, 2009, Alden Bird, Maryland  
I used to drive a long way to paddle the West, but not anymore. Two release days I might come up for, but one measly day of whitewater? And during the week? Please. I'll spend my money closer to home! This is a tough time for the economy, and so what the Corps is doing doesn't make sense. The town of Jamaica loses \$148,000 per day when there's no weekend release on the West. People like me would come from all over for a two-day weekend release.
- # 109:  
Mar 30, 2009, Dan Beideck, Vermont  
The West was(?) Vermont's ONLY scheduled whitewater release. Fish don't know the difference between week days and weekends. Release when both can benefit from the water.
- # 108:

Mar 30, 2009, Jeff Roberts, Connecticut  
Seems like a blatant slap in the face to us whitewater enthusiasts who travel a distance to enjoy the West on the weekend?? Do the salmon care if the release is Saturday or Wednesday? Let's get real here.

# 107:

Mar 30, 2009, Graham Goldin, New Hampshire

# 106:

Mar 30, 2009, Melanie Rausch, Massachusetts

# 105:

Mar 30, 2009, John Kazimierczyk, New Hampshire

Hi. It would be sad to lose the whitewater releases that we have enjoyed on the West River since at least 1980. With today's interest in a healthy outdoor lifestyle, the West provided recreation to literally thousands of people over the years. Thanks for reading this.

# 104:

Mar 30, 2009, Stephen Cournoyer, Rhode Island

I've been a regular attendee for the past 26 years. It's a great time. SAVE THE RELEASES!

# 103:

Mar 30, 2009, Hugh Hallawell, Massachusetts

Scheduling releases Monday-Friday hurts the local economy, and hurts opportunities for a clean, green healthy physical activity. This at a time when our economy is hurting and our country needs to promote, rather than restrict healthy physical activities. The ACOE has failed to provide proper management. Please ... please can someone in government oversee their mishandling of this.

# 102:

Mar 29, 2009, William Jamison, New York

I have been bringing a group of 10 nys licensed guides for great times in vermont for many years. We are all saddened that politics will ruin vermonts rivers as it has in our great state of new york...

# 101:

Mar 29, 2009, Bob Lesko, Massachusetts

# 100:

Mar 29, 2009, Robert Brody, Vermont

# 99:

Mar 29, 2009, Mark Zimpfer, Vermont

The West River spring release has been a wonderful benefit to the boating community

in the past years. This is a community that values the outdoors, health, sport and the environment. These values are constructive to our state and should be encouraged. There is no negative impact on the West River. In fact, the boating community espouses nurturing and preservation of beautiful whitewater rivers like the West. Moving this release to weekdays when the majority of boaters would not be able attend is simply senseless. A release on the weekend of April 11/12 benefits both the boating community and the economic base of the Jamaica, Vermont region. This is a win win situation. Please reconsider.

# 98:

Mar 29, 2009, George May, New Hampshire

This release is vitally important to the entire Northeast kayaking and canoeing community. It has been for as long as I've been paddling - over 30 years. There is an upper more difficult section for those wanting this -- and a lower easier section for those wanting an easier run. Entire families can join and paddle the same river at the same time. This is unusual for most rivers. It is also an important place for dealers selling and swapping equipment and instructors leading school trips.

# 97:

Mar 29, 2009, Alexandra Littlejohn, Massachusetts

# 96:

Mar 29, 2009, Samuel Holster, Massachusetts

# 95:

Mar 29, 2009, Chris Dodge, New Hampshire

I have been attending releases at the West since 1985 (24 years). It is a valued event throughout the paddling community and brings a great deal of revenue to the Jamaica community. Chris Dodge

# 94:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Vermont

# 93:

Mar 29, 2009, Laura Megeath, Ohio

# 92:

Mar 29, 2009, Tony Shaw, Vermont

Folks. FOLKS!!!! The demise of scheduled whitewater releases on the West River in Jamaica (below Ball Mountain dam) is a travesty! If you are an elected official and you are at all on the fence about this issue, I encourage you to send me an email or give me a call (802-879-1655). I have paddled the West with everyone from former governor Howard Dean to my (then) 10 year old daughter Emily. The fall releases have been an institution in this part of Vermont going back several decades...good for the local economy and not doing much harm at all to the environment. Please PLEASE stick up

for the "green" boaters who just want the opportunity to congregate each fall for some fine paddling within the borders of Vermont.

# 91:

Mar 29, 2009, Ryan Shackleton, Massachusetts

Please save the West River releases. The releases benefit the community of Jamaica and the greater New England area. We as a paddling community ask only for two weekends of river flow a year on the West and continually get jerked around by the Army Corps of Engineers. Why?

# 90:

Mar 29, 2009, Barbara Fern Greenberg, Massachusetts

This decision will have a negative economic impact on Jamaica and nearby communities. Frankly, the decision does not make any sense. Period.

# 89:

Mar 29, 2009, Shawn Lupa, New Hampshire

The West River biannual event has become a staple in my families and friends camping and paddling traditions. This year would have been the first camping trip for my new little girl. I want to say how much I think local VT benefits finically from this event, however what about good old family values? I am not sure why it is that this wonderful recreation opportunity is being taken away. I am sure kayakers, open boaters, and all other paddlers have treated this place with respect and brought a great buzz of the new season as well as lots of money to the Jamaica area, Please consider bringing back the West Fest!

# 88:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

This is a travesty.

# 87:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 86:

Mar 29, 2009, Alan Darling, Vermont

# 85:

Mar 29, 2009, Danielle Leonard, Massachusetts

# 84:

Mar 29, 2009, Cait Kinney, Massachusetts

# 83:

Mar 29, 2009, Tom Franks, Vermont

This will have an adverse impact on the communities surrounding Jamaica, reducing a much needed source of income at a critical time. It serves neither the economic needs

of the community, the recreational needs of the public, nor even the reproductive needs of the fishery.

# 82:

Mar 29, 2009, Charles Brown, Massachusetts

The ACOE's management of Ball Mountain dam has been bizarre the last few years. They've shortened the Fall release and threatened to eliminate it, for supposed benefit of non-native, stocked salmon. They've been unable to produce any data supporting their position that scheduled releases harm the fish, especially since they release water unscheduled frequently, like today's 1600 cfs. Now they're threatening the Spring release, when water is plentiful, which borders on ridiculous. The plan is now to dump water on weekdays instead of weekends? This hurts recreation and the local economy and benefits nothing and noone. The ACOE needs restore the recreational releases and return to a sane river management strategy.

# 81:

Mar 29, 2009, Matthew Jarrett, Massachusetts

# 80:

Mar 29, 2009, Harold Martin, Rhode Island

# 79:

Mar 29, 2009, Jamie Laubach, New York

# 78:

Mar 29, 2009, Steve Twelves, Massachusetts

# 77:

Mar 29, 2009, Gregory Sokol, New Hampshire

# 76:

Mar 29, 2009, Matthew Selby, Massachusetts

# 75:

Mar 29, 2009, John Neff, California

# 74:

Mar 29, 2009, Sarah Miano, Ohio

# 73:

Mar 29, 2009, Edward Vassar, Massachusetts

The information that I have found regarding the survival of salmon suggests that the elimination of the West release for whitewater paddlers is unlikely to provide any benefit to the fish. On the other hand it is contrary to the recreational use of the river, and the economic impact on the surrounding community. It seems to me that the ACOE

has shown that it cannot itself provide a rational evaluation of the situation, and will need some oversight by the state of Vermont in this matter.

# 72:

Mar 29, 2009, Erik Mixon, Vermont

# 71:

Mar 29, 2009, Faith Whitcomb, Pennsylvania

# 70:

Mar 29, 2009, Jean Towns, Massachusetts

I'm very disappointed that the ACOE so blatantly disregarded the interest of kayakers and cancelled the West River release. Especially since the kayaking community is willing to work ACOE and other groups to help ensure river access for all the various groups who enjoy it.

# 69:

Mar 29, 2009, Tabitha Hobbs, Massachusetts

# 68:

Mar 29, 2009, Lisa Newman, Massachusetts

The West Release is about supporting recreational activities for the public which in turn helps the local economy. Taking away the planned weekend releases puts a huge dent in government support for public recreation.

# 67:

Mar 29, 2009, Mark Vincent Grudberg, New York

# 66:

Mar 29, 2009, Donna Kaiser, Massachusetts

The AMC has had regular whitewater trips in the spring & fall for several decades on this wonderful river. Folks love the area and make an effort to support the local community by spending: eating, lodging, fuel, etc. I have paddled this river for over 2 decades, and have led trips there. I am sorry about any fish conflict, and what I have read on the subject does not seem to be based on science. I wonder why both the whitewater and fishing communities can't be both served by designing a release schedule accordingly.

# 65:

Mar 29, 2009, John Jackson, Massachusetts

What a mess. Without being sure specifically which person(s) have been determining the changes in West River water release policy in recent years, recreational use of the river is clearly not being adequately provided for. The goal of recreational river users needs to be identifying this person and possible ways to either persuade or compel them to correct that problem. The pattern of hearing about changes to water release activity detrimental to recreation has become well established and consistent. Whether intended

or not, recreational users interpret this behavior as openly hostile to their interests. This is an example of bad government in action. Someone with enough authority needs to intercede and change that for the better. This appears to be an issue that can not be resolved without someone with sufficient political power making it their responsibility to do so. Please help us. Sincerely, John Jackson Amherst, MA

# 64:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 63:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Pennsylvania

# 62:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

A release is a release. x#cfs is x#cfs. The fish don't know or care what day of the week the water is being released. I don't suppose today's unannounced 2300cfs fits in with the fish plan????!! What has already been said many times: The river is multi-use. The releases bring a significant amount of extra commerce to a rural area in all related business; outfitters, lodging, food service, gas, convenience stores, school parking and church supper to name a few. Were any of those things considered?

# 61:

Mar 29, 2009, Tom Barry, New York

# 60:

Mar 29, 2009, Hosanna Lillydahl, Massachusetts

# 59:

Mar 29, 2009, Chris DeGraaf, Connecticut

# 58:

Mar 29, 2009, Hannah Nesbeda, Massachusetts

# 57:

Mar 29, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

In the years I have been paddling, I have regularly planned to travel to this event. I enjoy the area and make considerable effort to help support the local economy by via purchases of food, gas, lodging, and other miscellaneous items. I am deeply disappointed in the current decision to move the release to a work week, and even more so in the decision to move the dates of the recreational release to a time when camping is not an option in the area due to mud season and questionable weather. Please consider the impacts, both to local business and the recreational community at large, when reading our petition and hearing the voice of the people. Thank you.

# 56:

Mar 29, 2009, Matt Hopkinson, Massachusetts

# 55:

Mar 29, 2009, Thomas J. Christopher, Massachusetts

The ACOE has persistently ignored the NEPA process in consideration of the effects of any management plan for the West River in southern Vermont. In addition, they have neglected to review available economic data, nor have they completed an up-dated "management plan" as required by federal law. The ACOE has not held public hearings, has obfuscated important recreational and environmental issues, and has worked in a collusive manner with Vermont state resource agencies and the U.S.F.W.S. This has had the practical effect of disrupting and diminishing the regional economy at a time when our country is suffering through a grave financial crisis. The concept of spending many millions of dollars to restore a salmon fishery just to have two or three salmon bump their noses against a series of dams that run from Long Island Sound to southern Vermont only to fail in spawning anyway, is an outrageous waste of taxpayer dollars

# 54:

Mar 29, 2009, Gregg Puchar, Vermont

# 53:

Mar 29, 2009, Curt Schnare, New Hampshire

I have attended the recreational releases each spring and fall and slalom races (which have already been eliminated) for over 25 years. It is an absolute SIN that these releases have been taken away. I was really looking forward to paddling the river with my young son for the first time this year.

# 52:

Mar 29, 2009, Tom Bishop, Massachusetts

# 51:

Mar 29, 2009, Danielle Mixon, Vermont

# 50:

Mar 29, 2009, Anthony Seibel, Vermont

Though the economy is poor, I continued to plan my vacations around this event. Saving money for travel, camping, local purchases and looking forward to a great time both on and off the river. I am deeply disappointed in the current decision to move the release to a work week, and even more so in the decision to move the dates of the recreational release to a time when camping is not an option in the area due to mud season and questionable weather. Please consider the impacts, both to local business and the recreational community at large, when reading our petition and hearing the voice of the people. Thank you.

# 49:

Mar 29, 2009, Gregory Wallace, Massachusetts

I have been visiting Jamaica, VT for the annual spring and fall whitewater releases since 2001. The river is a great resource for the northeast whitewater community, and

the impact on the local economy is obvious from the hundreds of kayakers, canoeists, and rafters who visit during the weekend water releases. Moving the spring drawdown from weekends to weekdays will prevent many visitors, myself included, from coming to the area. I am sure a reasonable compromise between the paddling and fishing communities and the Army Corps of Engineers can be reached. Please do not let this wonderful resource be wasted.

# 48:

Mar 29, 2009, William Shaughnessy, New York

# 47:

Mar 29, 2009, Damien Johnson, Massachusetts

I urge you to consider the cultural impact of outdoor recreation as a valuable resource for further environmental protection. Paddlers are great stewards for clean and healthy rivers.

# 46:

Mar 29, 2009, Karl Dziura, Massachusetts

# 45:

Mar 29, 2009, Ben Thibault, New Hampshire

# 44:

Mar 29, 2009, Peter Banks, New Hampshire

I have been enjoying kayaking the spring and fall recreational releases on the West River for at least 6 years in Vermont. I have enjoyed many evenings out at the various business and supported several not for profit fund raising efforts in the area during my visits. Without the continued whitewater releases I will not make the long trip to the area again. Please reconsider to continue these releases on the weekend as it has been in the past. Thank you very much!

# 43:

Mar 28, 2009, Catherine Kraft, New Jersey

# 42:

Mar 28, 2009, Sean Carapella, Massachusetts

# 41:

Mar 28, 2009, Kevin Keane, Massachusetts

I question the wisdom of releasing water from 4/6-10 to aid descending Atlantic salmon smolt migration. A later release date (such as 4/25-26) would be more advantageous for the descending smolts. Studies have demonstrated that the intensity and timing of smolt migration is tied to solar radiation and water temperature. These two critical factors certainly be more in force at the end of April rather than at the beginning. Please reconsider. Both boaters and smolts would benefit from a later release date.

# 40:

Mar 28, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

# 39:

Mar 28, 2009, Anthony Karis, Massachusetts  
Its why I go to vt.

# 37:

Mar 28, 2009, Jeff Swett, New Hampshire  
The West River spring release has been a mainstay of New England canoe and kayak paddling for well over 30 years. I have friends who have travelled from central Maine for this release. It can be structured to accomodate both paddlers and Salmon, but given the localtion of the actual release, Atlantic Salmon do not exisit in this piece of river in a manner that will ever permit a viable population to exist, baring removal of the Townsend and Ball Mountain dam, something I doubt is about to happen.

# 36:

Mar 28, 2009, Allison Sager, Texas  
The West has provided me with some of my best memories. Here's hoping there will be more to come.

# 35:

Mar 28, 2009, Maureen Hartsmith, New Hampshire  
White water boaters have continously supported the community surrounding Jamacia Park area of VT . It's a shame in these economic times that a good cash flow is being set aside as unimportant.

# 34:

Mar 28, 2009, Wade Raymond, Connecticut

# 33:

Mar 28, 2009, James McLoud, Massachusetts  
For more impact, add a personal comment here

# 32:

Mar 28, 2009, Kyle Fawcett, Massachusetts

# 30:

Mar 28, 2009, Joshua Lutz, Massachusetts  
The West is one of the classic New England whitewater runs and the decision by the ACoE has impacts beyond the whitewater community. The surrounding towns' businesses suffer; without a scheduled weekend release, many paddlers will simply not risk a long drive to run the river. Economic impact studies have been conducted and seemingly ignored. Policies regarding water release ramp rates are arbitrarily applied. From the USACoE Web Site - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mission: "Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security,

energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters." U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vision: "A GREAT engineering force of highly disciplined people working with our partners through disciplined thought and action to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation's engineering challenges." It seems the ACoE has abandoned any reasonable semblance of goodwill and cooperation with the public it is supposed to serve. It has negatively impacted the local economies surrounding the West River. And the flood control services it provides in the form of releases should normally be predictable at least a few days ahead of time. This puts the ACoE in a position where it could manage the water release schedule in a way that is an "innovative and sustainable solution," one that serves all members of the river-using public. But they have chosen not to do so, and in making that choice they are both failing in their mission and their vision is called into question.

# 29:

Mar 28, 2009, Mark Myracle, Connecticut

# 28:

Mar 28, 2009, Pauline Boyce, New Hampshire

I have enjoyed the West River releases over the past several years and would love to continue to be able to paddle this river

# 27:

Mar 28, 2009, Chris Rolt, Massachusetts

# 26:

Mar 28, 2009, Anonymous, New Hampshire

# 25:

Mar 28, 2009, Paul Cooper, New Hampshire

In a time when so many areas are getting creative trying to bring in new business, I find it appalling that the ACOE can act with such impunity and arbitrarily make such a decision with no substantiated valid reason other than to dissuade visitors.

# 24:

Mar 28, 2009, Mark Christian, Connecticut

I am a frequent visitor to Vermont, for whitewater paddling, skiing, camping and general recreation, My parents used to live in Vermont, first in Mount Holly and then Irasberg. My sister and brother in law used to live in Newport Center. it is a beautiful state and one which should be proud to encourage people from all over the country to visit (and then leave! ;). However, I am more than disappointed in the recent actions of Richard Carlson and the Army Corp of Engineers. It is clear they do not want paddlers on the West River, for whatever reason. During my visits to the Jamaica and Londonderry areas during Ball Mountain Dam releases on the West, I have personally spoken to several business owners who are as perplexed by the actions of the ACOE as we are. they clearly will have an economic impact by the decisions of the ACOE. I urge

anyone with influence to urge the ACOE to change their plans and negotiate in good faith with the paddling community so that all may enjoy your beautiful state.

# 23:

Mar 28, 2009, Barry Kesselman, Massachusetts

# 22:

Mar 28, 2009, Bruce Taylor, New Hampshire

As a mature adult new to whitewater kayaking, the first release and festival I learned about was the West Fest in Vermont. Persevere this legend of Northeast kayaking by continuing to allow the spring and fall releases on the West River.

# 21:

Mar 28, 2009, Conrad Nuthmann, Massachusetts

Apparently the Army Corps of Engineers has announced that it is arbitrarily moving the Spring Dam release from the Ball Mountain Dam on the West River in Jamaica Vermont to a time during the week which will eliminate the recreational opportunity for the Whitewater boating and rafting community. This release has traditionally been attended by numerous whitewater enthusiasts from all over New England, and helps the local economy. Apparently the Corps has put forth no good reason for eliminating this resource and opportunity for hundreds of people. Please instruct the Army Corps of Engineers to hold this release on a weekend so the good citizens of this country can exercise the pursuit of happiness. What is the matter with these Army people ?

# 20:

Mar 28, 2009, David Shoup, Connecticut

# 19:

Mar 28, 2009, Lewis Seiden, North Carolina

For more than ten years I have attended the spring/fall releases on the West river in Jamaica. I currently reside in North Carolina but would still travel to Vermont to attend releases if they were scheduled on a regular and reliable basis. During those 10+ years I purchased lodging, food, fuel, entertainment and more helping to contribute to the local economy. Some local church groups and schools raise a large portion of their annual revenue from the paddling community. Please help restore and increase the number of recreational releases from the Ball Mt. Dam so that I and many, many others can enjoy one of Vermont's fine natural resources. Thanki you.

# 18:

Mar 28, 2009, Michael Hazeltine, Massachusetts

# 17:

Mar 28, 2009, Jeffrey DeMaine, Massachusetts

Once again the government for the people and of the people sticks it to the people. All we ask is to be treated with respect like adults and discuss options that create a happier

public. I guess ACE just knows so much that it can't explain why the options presented are not viable.

# 16:

Mar 28, 2009, David Nickerson, Massachusetts

Please bring back our scheduled releases! Is there really any downside? I really miss planning for and enjoying my 2 weekends of fun in Vermont each year.

# 15:

Mar 28, 2009, Amy Wong, Massachusetts

I hope that you will be able to help us ensure that water use is not just for the creation of power, why not make it available to recreational users as well, during the weekends? This struggle has gone on for years; it is of no extra work for the army corp of engineers to release the water on the weekends, however, they have made it a struggle almost every year for boaters to take advantage of these water releases. Water is a precious resource and should be enjoyed by everybody; when releasing it on the weekend would have no impact on the creation of energy, it should be made such that all can enjoy it. I hope that you can help this cause.

# 14:

Mar 28, 2009, Rachel Kurtz, New York

Paddlers bring money and environmental stewardship into many areas, including the West River. Taking away usable releases for paddlers creates a situation where no one wins--not the fish, not the environment, not the local economy.

# 13:

Mar 28, 2009, Tom Megeath, Ohio

The west river release is my favorite reason to go to vermont. It's a beautiful run, and a deal should (and can) be negotiated which takes into account all interests.

# 12:

Mar 28, 2009, Anonymous, Massachusetts

It is very disappointing to me that one intransigent government employee is able to deprive hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts of access to this wonderful and beautiful river. The West River was the first Class III river I ever had the pleasure to Kayak and has had an enormous impact on my enjoyment of the outdoors. I have come to Jamaica Vt. twice a year for the past 5 years, spending hundreds of dollars in local stores and at the state park in that time. with this years unreasonable unilateral actions on the part of the Dam Supervisor, I will probably not be paddling at all in the great state of Vermont. This makes me sad.

# 11:

Mar 28, 2009, Marc Bleicher, Massachusetts

Please release water on the West River on the weekend so I can paddle with my daughter. It's become a spring tradition for our family! Thank you!

# 10:

Mar 28, 2009, Julia Khorana, Massachusetts

# 9:

Mar 28, 2009, Brent Osborne, Vermont

Please help us find a solution to this whitewater release issue that is agreeable to all parties involved.

# 8:

Mar 28, 2009, Bruce Lessels, Massachusetts

# 7:

Mar 28, 2009, Adam Pearsall, New York

The West River holds a special place in many whitewater paddlers hearts, not just for the rich history of whitewater paddling and past races, but of the area itself. Moving the release to week days, or further eliminating the number of releases, and releasing water when the park is closed (no access) also decreases the economic impact from folks like myself traveling to the area from out of state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

# 6:

Mar 28, 2009, Jim Schreiner, New York

# 5:

Mar 28, 2009, Rebecca Purdy, Connecticut

# 4:

Mar 28, 2009, William Archambeault, Massachusetts

Love going to Jamaica Vt. The locals are great and we love give them our bussiness

# 3:

Mar 28, 2009, Russ Kelley, Vermont

# 2:

Mar 28, 2009, Wayne Mercier, New York

This most recent action by the ACOE is unconscionable - slap in the face to all the paddlers and organizations who have been working diligently on this issue for years. I support all of the points and actions in this petition. And, I urge all paddlers to ACT NOW! Founder and Administrator: Northeast Paddlers Message Board Supporter: Friends of the West River Paddler