

Jackie Diedrich Excellence in Leadership Award
2022 — Jim MacCartney

Jim MacCartney is the River Manager for the National Park Service (NPS) Region 1. He brings a wealth of experience to river management from his time working across agencies with the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (IWSRCC), at the national level with the NPS Wild and Scenic Steering Committee, and in the Northeast Region of the National Park Service as a key resource to the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) and Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program teams. He undoubtedly has improved dozens of Wild and Scenic Rivers across the country, advising techniques for river projects that protect their cultural, natural, and scenic “outstandingly remarkable values,” while mentoring staff, leading the York River Study (Maine), and being a direct resource to his rivers in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Among all his contributions, it is for his mentorship that we feel this award is most timely to present to Jim now; to honor the gift he has given us above his regular duties. Regulatory project reviews under the Act involve proactive conversations with DOT’s, private parties, permitting agencies undertaking water resource projects, a negotiation requiring expertise and emotional intelligence. Jim generously shares his experience and teaches junior staff how to navigate that complex landscape. He is a patient mentor to newer teammates, guiding us on projects ranging from dam removals to culvert repairs, to fish passage projects. He has met us in the field, taught us when and how to compromise, and supported us as lead voices on our own rivers while being ready to back us up, which is especially significant to those of us who are women in a male-dominated field.

We are unendingly grateful for the equal exchange atmosphere he creates, and his approach to being available to us and colleagues across the county. We can think of no one more deserving of the incredible Jackie Diedrich WSR Leadership Award.

