

## Raush River First Descent

In August of 1999, The Fraser Headwaters Alliance organized the First Descent of the Raush River. The purpose of the expedition was to draw attention to the watershed and highlight the high wilderness recreation potential. Located between Wells Gray Provincial Park and the Rocky Mountain Trench near McBride, the Raush River is one of the last remaining unlogged watersheds in Southern BC.



The trip began by flying a group of expert kayakers to the headwaters of the Raush River at the toe of the David Glacier. From this point the group descended down the river challenging numerous class 4 and 5 rapids. After traveling 50km the kayakers rendezvoused with the rest of the expedition team who accompanied the kayakers down the lower reaches of the river. The group of 16 included biologists, conservationists, photographers and filmmakers that traveled down the river in a flotilla of rafts and canoes. Fin Donnelly of the [Rivershed Society of BC](#) also accompanied the flotilla as he swam the lower reaches of the Raush.

The completion of the expedition was celebrated at the Dunster Community Hall and included dinner and live music. At this time the future of the Raush watershed still remains uncertain. The FHA urges the provincial government to consider the watershed for full protection as it provides a key wildlife corridor between the Cariboo and Rocky Mountains.