

100% Employee Owned

From the Mountains to the Sea

EUROPE 2024



LOOKING FORWARD

Founded in 1972, NRS has evolved side-by-side with paddle sports—from selling gear out of a garage to designing cutting-edge equipment and apparel for a new generation redefining the sport. Rooted in our passion for outdoor exploration, NRS continues to push the boundaries of possibility, leading the way with innovative solutions designed to meet the evolving needs of today's adventurers. Our 2024 suite of products showcases our unwavering commitment to excellence and our dedication to providing you the tools you need to enjoy the water with confidence—now and into the future.

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Need a bit of help from your friends? Safety Accessories on PAGE 40.



DUCT TAPE DIARY

Iceland: The Land of Freefall

Generations of kayakers have made their pilgrimage to Iceland. So did Pretam Gurung – to experience the rivers and drops of the films he grew up watching. PAGE 50



DRY SUITS FOR THE RIVER PAGE 14

Which one is yours?



ORBIT FIT SYSTEM

New PFDs for 2024

We're excited to introduce a new way PFDs fit.

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NEW

ORBIT FIT SYSTEM



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WRSI

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Like a good paddling partner, you can count on WRSI to be there when you need assistance. PAGE 38



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WE LOVE THE FLEECE LIFE!
High-stretch materials for athletic performance.
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PACK YOUR STUFF
Everyone needs a place for their favourite things.
PAGE 46

New GORE-TEX Pro Products

NEW **PHENOM & RECOIL**

GORE-TEX PRO

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SNAPSHOT

The Bitches Tidal Race

The jagged rocks that create this unique feature were originally named by sailors. The Bitches tidal race in South West Wales were home to the first World Stunt Boat Championships in 1991. Whilst not the style of feature associated with modern day freestyle, it continues to be a place of homage during high tides for paddlers across the UK. Checking the tides months in advance and the conditions on the day are essential for those who paddle out to sea at dawn, sharing breakfast on a rock in the ocean, and waiting for the wave to build as the sun rises, all whilst knowing that you will be having the time of your life on the wave when the sun rises. Isn't that special?

Photo: Gabrielle Bain



SNAPSHOT

Canolfan Tryweryn, North Wales

Most whitewater rivers in Wales rely on recent rain to have enough water for paddling, but the regular releases from Llyn Celyn Dam in summer make the Afon Tryweryn a reliable meeting point for kayakers and rafters. Originally opened in 1981 for Slalom World Championships, the Tryweryn is the site of the National Whitewater Centre. Come for a paddle, enjoy a snack at the cafe which serves yummy burgers and ice cream right next to the water. Take a seat and enjoy the view while watching the paddlers carve out a few turns on the wave.

Photo: Jens Klatt



SNAPSHOT

Kenya, a true white water destination

As the temperatures drop and autumn colours arrive in Europe, the rainy season in Kenya begins. Paddlers have slowly been exploring more and more unrun rivers in the country, but there are amazing classic runs to challenge all kayaker abilities. Team NRS paddler Adrian Mattern travelled out to Africa and is featured in this picture. “This is the first waterfall we found right after we arrived. There is still a huge number of potential of first descents around Mount Kenya!” says Adrian Mattern. November and December have ideal conditions, with a great balance between rain, sunshine and summer temperatures.

COMPARE THE OUTFITS

Dress for the water

... and not for the air! We'll help you choose your outfit to match river tempertures – and not just the color of your boat.





(1) WRSI CURRENT PRO: Added safety features to enhance protection in riskier paddling conditions. More info page 38.
43006.03 | S/M, M/L, L/XL



(2) NINJA PRO: Compact rescue vest that delivers superior mobility and comfort. Full review on page 29.
40143.01 | XS/M, M/L, XL/XXL

(3) PHENOM DRY SUIT*: The flagship made from finest GORE-TEX® Pro. More info and women's model on page 17.
22543.01 | S–XXL

(4) LIGHTWEIGHT UNION SUIT*: High-stretch fabric provides an unrestricted range of motion. Full Lightweight range on page 22.
40129.03 | XS/M, M/L, XL/XXL



(5) PADDLE WETSHOE*: Thick neoprene and soft interior lining for maximum insulation, hardy rubber sole protects from rocks. More shoes page 36.
30034.04 | 6–14

**Also available as a women's model*



(5) SILKWEIGHT LONG SLEEVE*: Ultralight, breathable base layer or/and quick-drying sun protection.
10114.05 | S-XXL

(6) STRATOS JACKET*: Advanced waterproof, breathable fabric construction with functional neoprene gaskets. (Compare jackets on page 20)
20038.02 | S–XXL



(7) VECTOR PFD: The rescue PFD for whitewater paddlers and rescue professionals. (Page 30)
40144.01 | XS/M, M/L, XL/XXL

(8) BENNY BOARD SHORT*: Rock the Benny's from the put-in to the pub and all the campsites in between.
10141.05 | 30–40, 33

(9) WRSI TRIDENT: Rugged carbon-composite outer shell combines with an EVA foam liner and a polyurethane sub-shell to dissipate impacts.
43002.03 | S/M, M/L, L/XL

(10) HYDROSKIN 0.5 SHORT*: Combines lightweight insulation with optimal stretch and coverage to create the perfect solution. (More HydroSkin page 32)
15015.05.c | S–XXL

(11) KICKER WETSHOE*: Superior warmth, protection and traction in a low-profile design.
30022.04 | 6–13



WARM & DRY IN COLD WATER

Dry Suits for the River

GORE-TEX Pro or 4-Layer Eclipse material? Front or rear entry? Don't worry, we have them all.



Men's | 22550.01 | S–XXL Women's | 22551.01 | XS–XL

Looking for a GORE-TEX suit with a back entry? Turn the page!

GORE-TEX PRO

AXIOM DRY SUIT

A timeless dry suit design re-imagined to raise the standard of what a surface immersion suit can be! The Axiom uses GORE-TEX® Pro fabric to offer kayakers superior waterproof, breathable protection. Tough latex neck and wrist gaskets protected with GlideSkin™ neoprene volcano-style overcuffs.

eclipse 4-LAYER

PIVOT DRY SUIT

Paddlers who crave the cold, be it glacial-fed rivers or backyard spring run-off, need gear that keeps them warm and dry from the put-in to the take-out and all the beat downs in between. The Pivot Dry Suit features a back-entry design to eliminate bulk in the chest and our advanced waterproof-breathable technical fabric.



Men's | 22536.03 | S–XXL Women's | 22537.03 | XS–XL

eclipse 4-LAYER



Men's | 22533.05 | S–XXL Women's | 22532.05 | XS–XL

CRUX DRY SUIT

The baby brother to the Axiom uses our industry leading proprietary 4-layer fabric, Eclipse. Featuring an overskirt, relief zipper and stash pocket, the Crux checks all the boxes for dry protection and convenience. Rely on Eclipse fabric for dependable dryness, breathability and toughness.



GORE-TEX PRO

PERFORMANCE // REIMAGINED

We launched our GORE-TEX® Pro dry wear line in 2022, but we are not stopping. Athlete-inspired designs, the best material on the water and a world-class repair facility make our dry wear line one to watch. Let's see what's new for 2024.

PHENOM DRY SUIT

Paddlers looking for maximun protection who prefer less bulk in the chest will love the premium performance and maximum range of motion that the Phenom Dry Suit delivers. Featuring the same industry-leading qualities as the Axiom, the Phenom boasts a back-entry zipper, relief zipper and GORE-TEX® Pro construction.

Men's 22546.01 | S–XXL Women's 22547.01 | XS–XL

The Jakl Dry Suit is the Cordura reinforced version of the Phenom. More info on nrs.com.

RECOIL



MEN'S RECOIL DRY BIB

The Recoil Dry Bibs are designed with versatility in mind. Mix and match tops for a variety of air and water temperature combos. A full-height, premium dry bib, the Recoil features a reimagined overskirt construction that provides unparalleled dry protection when mated with the top of your choice.

22545.01 | S–XXL

REV DRY TOP

Park and play on the coldest of days in the Rev Dry Top. Featuring GORE-TEX® Pro fabric construction for superior waterproof, breathable protection and a generous cut for layering underneath.



Women's Rev 22542.01 | XS–XL

REV



Men's Rev 22541.01 | S–XXL



Whatever you paddle, there is a jacket for you.





HYPROTEX 2.5

STRATOS JACKET

Park, play and slay in the Stratos Jacket, a three-season paddling jacket. The waterproof, breathable technical fabric lets you paddle earlier in the season while the comfortable neoprene gaskets provide all-day comfort.

Women's 20041.01 | XS–XL
Men's 20038.02 | S–XXL



HYPROTEX 2.5

HELIUM JACKET

Level-up to harsher conditions with the Helium Jacket, a premium splash top featuring technical fabric that wicks moisture away from your layers while repelling water on the exterior. Plus, the kayak overskirt and tunnel keep your cockpit dry.

Men's 20035.02 | S–XXL
Women's 20036.02 | XS–XL







eclipse KAYAK

FLUX DRY TOP

From the splashy wave trains to the final eddy, the Flux Dry Top delivers the optimal amount of core insulation and waterproof-breathable protection for those warm days on chilly waters. Whether you prefer roadside features or manmade parks, count on the Flux to keep you warm and dry.

Men's 22515.06 | S–XXL
Women's 20031.03 | XS–XL



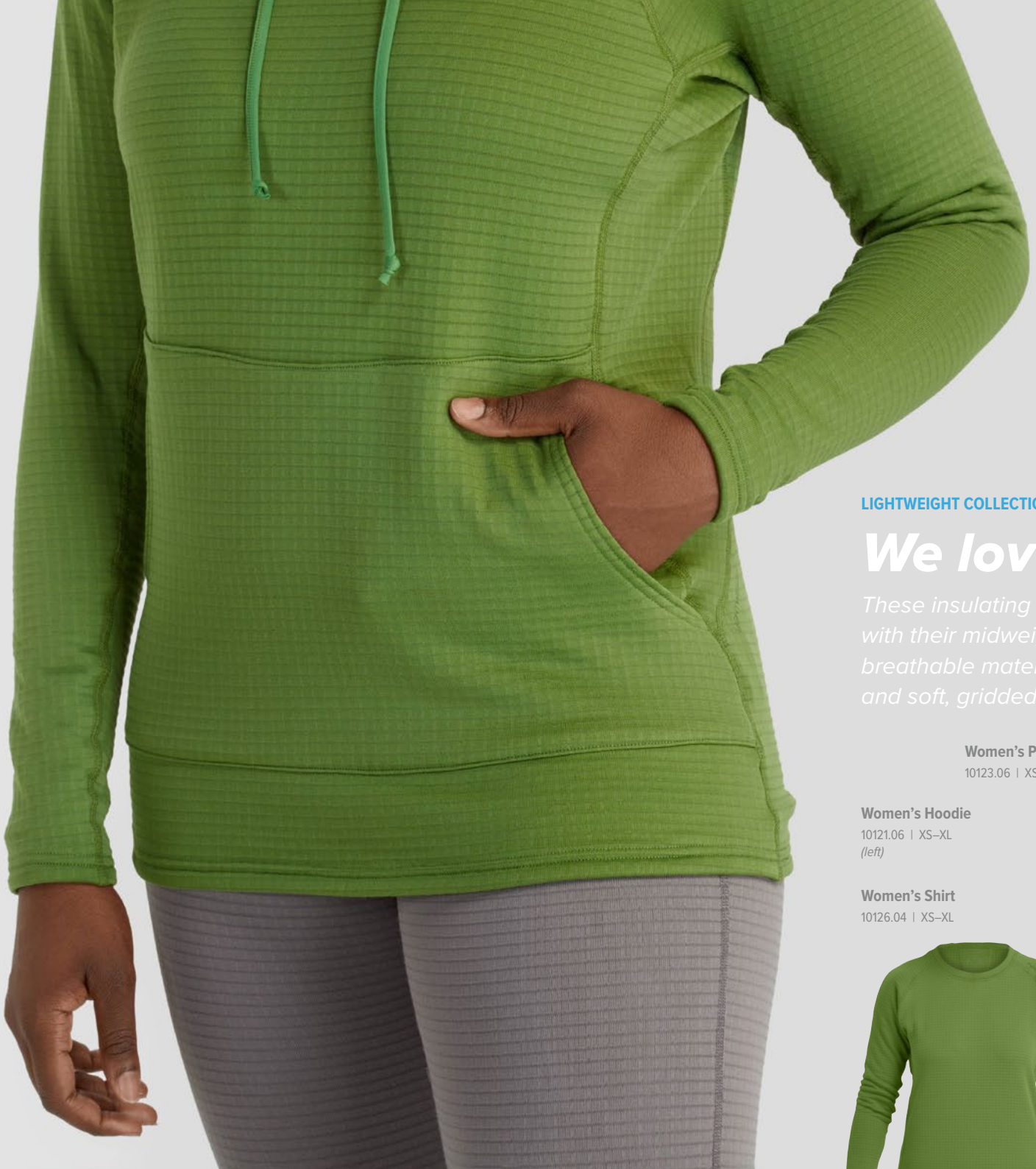
GORE-TEX PRO

REV DRY TOP

Rev up the shoulder season in the Rev Dry Top. We combined our Paddler's Cut™ with GORE-TEX® Pro fabric construction to deliver superior waterproof, breathable protection.

Women's 22542.01 | XS–XL
Men's 22541.01 | S–XXL





Men's Pant
10122.06 | S–XXL

Men's Hoodie
10120.06 | S–XXL

Men's Shirt
10124.04 | S–XXL
(not shown)



Men's Union Suit
10160.02
S–XXL

LIGHTWEIGHT COLLECTION

We love the fleece life

These insulating layers are a fan favorite with their midweight combo of high-stretch, breathable material for athletic performance and soft, gridded interior for enhanced coziness.

Women's Pant
10123.06 | XS–XL

Women's Hoodie
10121.06 | XS–XL
(left)

Women's Shirt
10126.04 | XS–XL

Women's Union Suit
10162.02 | XS–XL
(not shown)

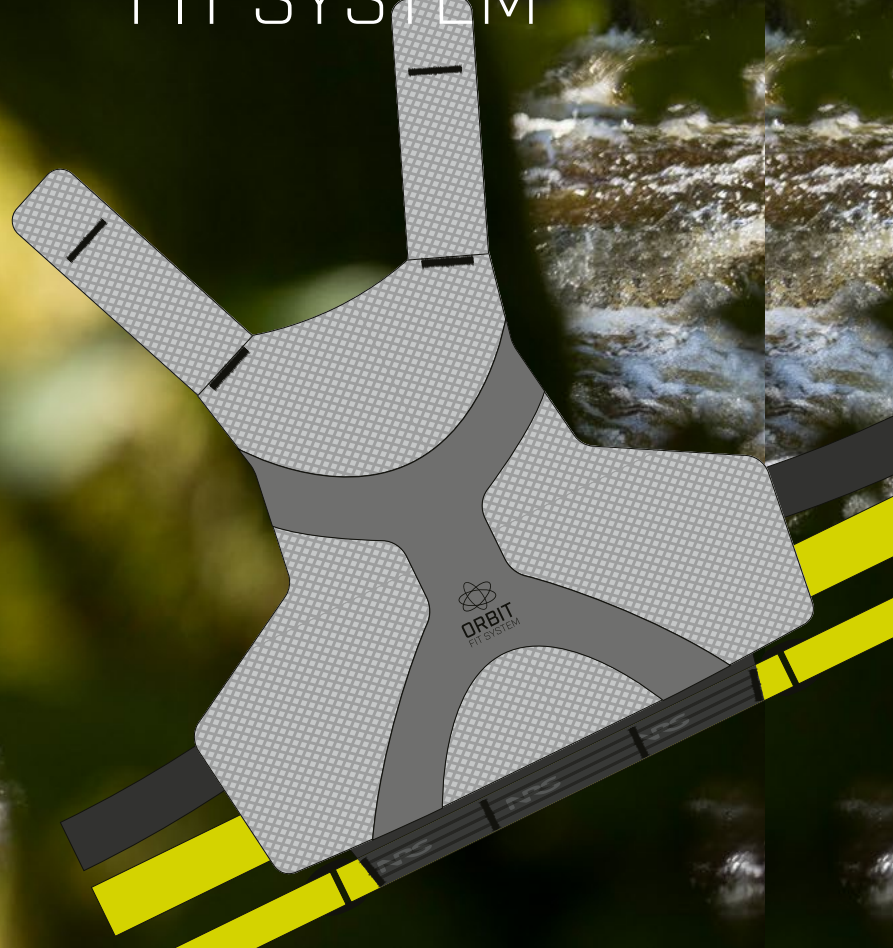


Lightweight vs Expedition Weight
NRS Lightweight Base Layers are designed for cool to moderately cold temperatures, providing moderate insulation and prioritizing moisture-wicking properties. In contrast, NRS Expedition Weight Base Layers are thicker and intended for extreme cold conditions, offering significantly higher insulation. Find our Expedition Weight range online at nrs.com or on page 32.

ORBIT
FIT SYSTEM

NEW PFDS

In 2024, we're excited to change the way PFDs fit paddlers and introduce a new sizing system for life jackets.



The innovative **Orbit Fit System** *uses thin layers of preformed foam to create a circular wrap design that truly conforms to individual bodies. The resulting low-profile designs fit snug without overtightening to enhance comfort and range of motion. Additionally, each PFD platform was designed using a graded sizing system that accounts for differences in paddler stature and weight to deliver the optimal amount of flotation for each size range in the most compact, easy-to-wear PFD.*

ORBIT FIT SYSTEM · PVC-FREE · 100% RECYCLED SHELL MATERIAL · GRADED SIZING

ORBIT FIT SYSTEM

Developed through years of experimentation and testing by our in-house design team, the Orbit Fit System revolutionizes how life jackets are made, and how they fit. Rather than forcing a block of flat foam to bend around your body, the Orbit system uses multiple pieces of lightweight closed-cell foam individually cut to precise specifications. These pieces are then layered within the vest to create a flexible, pre-curved shape that effortlessly conforms to your body.

"I've worked in this industry since I was 16 years old, and I can honestly say that the Orbit Fit System is the most exciting advancement in life jacket design I've ever seen. I guarantee these will be the most comfortable PFDs you've ever put on."

DANNY MONGNO, PRODUCT MANAGER

GRADED SIZING

Most life jackets are built with the same patterns, whether you wear an XS or XXL. Traditionally, the range of adjustability in the straps has been the only differentiator between sizes. Our new and revised models for 2024 feature graded sizing, a system in which each individual size is specifically designed to fit the intended user. The result is a line of PFDs that will fit comfortably and adjust perfectly to your body type.

"Graded sizing takes more development effort, but the advantages of a custom-tailored fit are worth it. We've spent countless hours prototyping, testing, and fine-tuning each size. The customer will feel the difference every time they wear their PFD."

KIRK TURNER, SENIOR INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER



NINJA – THE ONE FOR IT ALL

Master of the paddling arts or a novice, the Ninja PFD concentrates flotation into a smaller area for maximum comfort and unbeatable athletic performance. Completely redesigned with our Orbit Fit System for a superior low-profile fit that moves with you and stays put when you find yourself in (hot) water.

40046.04 | XS/M, M/L, XL/XXL

NINJA PRO – THE RESCUE EDITION

We took the feedback of our top athletes and whitewater professionals around the world and used it to create the NRS Ninja Pro PFD: A compact rescue vest that delivers superior mobility and comfort and dialed-in rescue essentials to better serve whitewater paddlers, guides and SAR professionals.

40143.01 | XS/M, M/L, XL/XXL

NEW





TRUSTED BY THE PROS

As today's paddlers reinvent our sport, NRS has reinvented how safety feels and performs with the Vector PFD. Using detailed athlete input and state-of-the-art tools, we created the most technologically advanced, user-focused rescue life jacket ever made. We engineered each component for safety and utility, from milled aluminum hardware, to calibrated breakaway D-rings, to the interconnected continuous shoulder webbing. The quick-release belt allows full adjustability, and the knife dock keeps your fixed or folding blade protected and accessible.

ORBIT
FIT SYSTEM

40144.01 | XS/M, M/L, XL/XXL



ADVANCED INSULATION

Thick breathable fleece prevents post-paddle dampness so you stay cozy even when you leave your change of clothes at the put-in. Purpose-built for boating, but we won't tell if you wear it skiing or to bed.





EXPEDTION WEIGHT

Men's Shirt	10130.07 | S–XXL
Men's Pant	10131.07 | S–XXL
Men's Union Suit	10132.06 | S–XXL
Women's Shirt	10135.07 | XS–XL
Women's Pant	10137.07 | XS–XL
Women's Union Suit	10161.02 | XS–XL



NEW HYDROSKIN 1.5

Men's HydroSkin 1.5 Jacket	15023.01 | S–XXL
Men's HydroSkin 1.5 Pant	15040.03 | S–XXL
Women's HydroSkin 1.5 Jacket	15039.03 | XS–XXL
Women's HydroSkin 1.5 Pant	15041.03 | XS–XXL



HydroSkin 0.5 Helmet Liner
15045.02 \| S–L



HydroSkin 0.5 Men's Gloves
25014.04 \| XS–XXL

HYDROSKIN 0.5 + 1.5

NRS has spent years working toward durable, eco-friendly neoprene that performs as well as it feels. HydroSkin gives the freedom to adapt to constantly changing temperatures and conditions. Hydrophobic exterior coating combines with a titanium adhesive inner that reflects body heat to keep you drier and warmer. Limestone-based neoprene is soft and stretchy. In addition to Hydroskin 0.5, we now also offer the 1.5 mm thick version for 2024.

All NRS neoprene products are built with petroleum-free Terraprene. Check out page 34 for more information.



HYDROSKIN 0.5 WETSOCKS
When your tootsies need just a little more, the HydroSkin 0.5 Wetsocks provide extra insulation under neoprene booties and wetshoes.
30011.03 \| XS–XXL



NEOPRENE WETSOCKS
The 2 mm Neoprene Wetsocks offer added cushioning and the right amount of warmth. Perfect for wearing with sandals or wetshoes.
30012.02 \| XS–XXL



More Lightweight page 22

NEW

COVERT CHANGING PONCHO
Gone are the days of being a magician behind a towel or a contortionist in your front seat. The Covert Changing Poncho lets you discreetly slip off your wet layers and into something dry and cozy.
10172.01 \| Universal

NO EXCUSES

It's never too cold to paddle!



POM BEANIE
12553.01 \| Universal



CLUTCH POGIES
Thickest neoprene construction and classic bare-hand design to enhance paddle control.
25031.03 \| Universal



VENO MITTS
Combining the design of a traditional mitt with the bare-hand grip of a pogie.
25041.02 \| XS–XXL



TOASTER MITTS
Pre-curved design with thick neoprene construction. Hydrophobic Graphene lining feels soft against the skin.
25027.06 \| XS–XXL

IGNITOR RANGE

Fancy some warmth?

While the low cost and high performance of our Ignitor neoprene haven't changed, updates to fit and sizing allow more paddlers to enjoy immersive protection and earth-consciousness construction. The fully recycled material is built to handle the abuse of learning and is warm enough to keep paddlers wanting more. With carbon black sourced from scrap tires, water-based adhesives, dope-dyed yarns and a fully recycled lining material, we're doing our part to keep waterways clean for all to enjoy.



MEN'S IGNITOR

Jacket	15023.01 | S–XXL
Pant	15025.01 | S–XXL
Short	15024.01 | S–XXL
3.0 Wetsuit	17288.01 | S–XXL



WOMEN'S IGNITOR

Jacket	15048.01 | XS–XL
Pant	15055.01 | XS–XL
Short	15049.01 | XS–XL
3.0 Wetsuit	17289.01 | XS–XL



NRS TERRAPRENE™

Greener neoprene for a cleaner planet.

Neoprene has historically been one of the least eco-friendly paddlesports product categories. NRS has been working for years to change this. All NRS neoprene products are now built with greener petroleum-free Terraprene.



72%

less CO_2 emissions per wetsuit

RECYCLED RUBBER

Using recycled rubber significantly reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.



45

plastic bottles recycled per wetsuit

RECYCLED FACE FABRICS

Face fabrics are knitted with polyester yarn made from recycled water bottles, reducing plastic waste and lowering material consumption.



60%

reduced water and energy consumption

DOPE-DYED YARNS

Dope dying yarns used in face fabrics infuses dye pigments into the material, saving large amounts of water while greatly lowering water pollution and energy consumption.



PETROLEUM-FREE

Natural limestone replaces petrochemicals used in the production of conventional neoprene.

600g

of VOCs eliminated per wetsuit

WATER-BASED ADHESIVES

Water-solvent laminating adhesives eliminate the harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted by conventional glues.

7,003,014

kg less CO2 emissions per year

SOLAR-POWERED MANUFACTURING

NRS neoprene products are manufactured in a state-of-the-art solar-equipped facility.

TOASTY TOES

There's nothing better than a cold booty beer from a warm shoe.



Men's Arroyo 30053.02 | 7–13



Women's Arroyo 30054.02 | 5–10

ARROYO WETSHOE
From the rig to the dock, from shore to SUP the Arroyo Wetshoe is the perfect option for recreational boaters who need a comfortable but basic water shoe for added protection from rocks and grime.



Women's Kicker 30023.04 | 5–10

KICKER WETSHOE

From added protection on dry suit days to barely-there comfort in July, the Kicker Wetshoe offers maximum insulation, protection and traction in a low-profile design.





Men's Kicker 30022.04 | 6–13





Men's Paddle Shoe
30034.04 | 6–14

PADDLE WETSHOE

The Paddle Wetshoe protects against cool water and rugged put-ins. Featuring a thick neoprene construction, plush interior lining and a high-top, low-profile design, it's a versatile bootie perfect for bare or dry-socked feet.



Women's Paddle Shoe
30040.03 | 6–11



FREESTYLE WETSHOE
A playboater's go-to bootie, the lightweight Freestyle Wetshoe is crazy flexible, perfect for fitting into tight boats. Plus, a naturally shaped toe box and high-rise design provide additional comfort and protection for all-day boating.

30017.05 | 5–13





WRSI



WRSI
S-TURN ELBOW PADS
50037.01 | S/M, M/L



WRSI TRIDENT COMPOSITE

A high-impact carbon composite shell creates an exceptionally lightweight and safe helmet, giving advanced paddlers extra protection and style points to match.

43002.02 | S/M, M/L, L/XL



WRSI CURRENT

WRSI's exclusive safety technology, including 3-layer impact absorption and the Interconnect Retention System, gives you a safe and solid helmet at a price any paddler can afford.

43000.02 | S/M, M/L, L/XL



WRSI CURRENT PRO

The Current Pro adds an adjustable visor and removable ear pads to the time-tested Current for extra comfort and protection.

43006.02 | S/M, M/L, L/XL



WRSI MOMENT

With full-face protection and WRSI's proven, proprietary technology, the Moment gives you ultimate protection for big drops and shallow rivers.

43005.02 | S/M, M/L, L/XL

PRO GUARDIAN

Worn on the waist, the Guardian is always there when you need it. The throw rope is secured in a Wedge Throw Bag, made with Cordura®, that pulls completely free from the waist belt.

45108.02 | Rope: 55' of 1/4" polypropylene with Spectra® | max. strength 2,495 lbs.





NUQ SCREW LOCK CARABINER
45195.01



SLIQ SCREW LOCK CARABINER
45196.01



SLIQ BENT GATE CARABINER
45193.01



TOW TETHER
This strong tether with a built-in bungee is used with the quick-release harnesses on rescue PFDs.
50005.03 | 48 cm, 84 cm



COMPACT RESCUE

The Compact Rescue Throw Bag is an excellent choice for swiftwater emergency work. With flared top for smooth throws and easier reloading. Mesh panel for drainage and quicker drying.

45100.01 | Rope: 70' of 1/4" polypropylene max. strength 950 lbs.



Careful, sharp!

NRS is far and away the leader in paddlesports knives. Which makes it that much more exciting that we completey tore down the line and started from scratch. With experts in knife design on our Product Development Team, we bring you the most advanced line up in our 50+ year history.

PILOT KNIFE

Professional and recreational boaters love the extra length and practical features of the Pilot Knife. Purpose-built for performance on freshwater and to pair with a PFD but so versatile that you'll keep one in the car, the camp bin and the garage.

47300.03 | 125 g | 18 cm





TITANIUM KNIVES

Titanium is super lightweight, stronger than steel and holds a keen edge. The corrosion-resistant titanium blade makes it an ideal knife for use in any type of water.



The low-profile, quick-release Thumbs Up Sheath™ stashes fixed blades away securely and releases with a one-handed flick of the thumb.



CO-PILOT KNIFE

The NRS Co-Pilot Knife lives up to its name. The compact design and lie-flat sheath pair seamlessly with your PFD, while features such as smooth and scalloped cutting edges and blunt safety tip are trusted by professional and recreational boaters worldwide.

47303.03 | 99 g | 15 cm



Partnerships & Community



Whether breaking down barriers to outdoor participation, introducing the next generation to paddlesports, or protecting free-flowing rivers and the health of our common waters, we're proud to support a growing network of activists and organizations to make change and promote progress. Our approach is not to just write a check and check a box, but to roll up our sleeves and work meaningfully with our partners to succeed together.

2023 NONPROFIT PARTNER IMPACT

1,074
new participants welcomed

74,330
volunteers recruited

3,087 +
comments sent to lawmakers

4,000 +
river miles protected

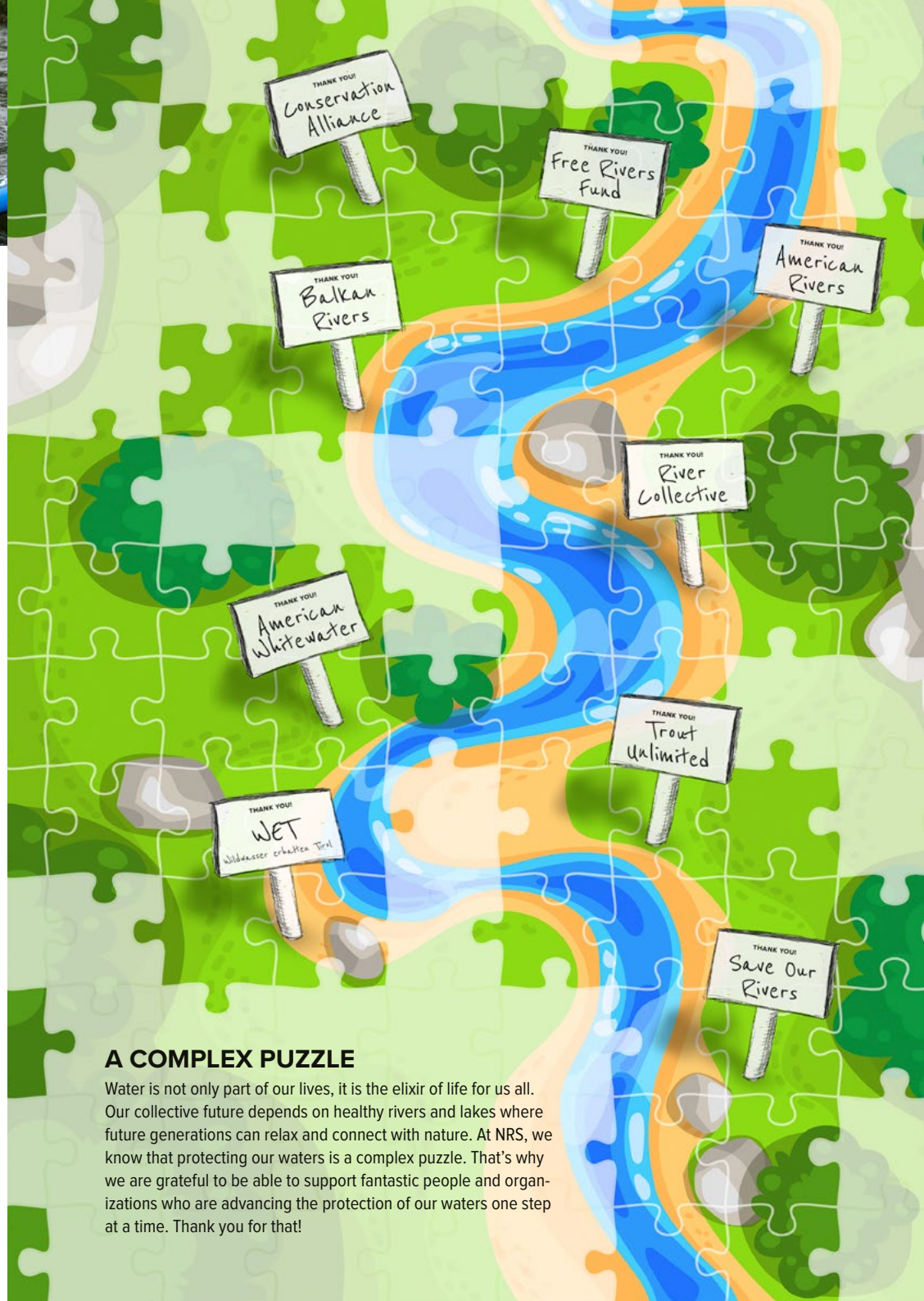
12 MILLION +
acres of protected land

402,978
Pounds of trash removed

98
grants and scholarships awarded

$ 41,000
raised for conservation

12,912
people engaged at events



A COMPLEX PUZZLE

Water is not only part of our lives, it is the elixir of life for us all. Our collective future depends on healthy rivers and lakes where future generations can relax and connect with nature. At NRS, we know that protecting our waters is a complex puzzle. That's why we are grateful to be able to support fantastic people and organizations who are advancing the protection of our waters one step at a time. Thank you for that!

PACK YOUR STUFF

Whether a spacious or small and waterproof – everyone needs a place for their favourite things.

NEW

PUREST MESH DUFFEL BAG

The Purest Mesh Duffel's ripstop nylon lower and mesh upper are built to air out river funk yet withstand the stress of life on the go or in the wild. The end pocket separates wet from dry, giving the impression of being well-organized.

55003.03 | 40 L, 60 L, 90 L

NEW

QUICK CHANGE DUFFEL

Pre-paddle, lay out the included circular mat to protect dry suit feet and prevent the one-shoe-shuffle. Post paddle, pile wet gear into the mesh-edged changing mat, and cinch tight.

55004.02 | 90 L



EXPEDITION DRIDUFFEL

Adventurers trust the Expedition DriDuffel to store and easily access the items that can't get wet. There's a fully submersible 12 L lap bag, or opt for the larger duffels to take the stress out of getting swamped or stuck in the rain.

55038.02 | 12 L, 35 L, 70 L, 105 L

NEW





After years of research and development, we have successfully removed traditional PVC materials from all new production of NRS dry bags. Using advanced manufacturing processes and our newly formulated TobaTex™ fabric, we have eliminated harmful plasticizers found in ordinary PVC while continuing to deliver the rugged waterproof performance you expect from NRS.



ETHER HYDROLOCK DRY BAG

A lightweight dry bag that doesn't take waterproof protection lightly.

55034.02 | 3 L, 6 L, 10 L, 15 L, 22 L



BILL'S BAG

At NRS, we build equipment with the idea that what works on the river will work anywhere you take it. Since 1977, the Bill's Bag has been trusted by professionals from the Grand Canyon to the North Pole for its toughness and utility. Whether you're packing for a weekend, a week or a trip around the world, the Bill's Bag keeps your gear dry and protected from water and the weather.

65 L Bill's Bag | 55012.02

110 L Bill's Bag | 55010.02



TUFF SACKS

Drop your gear in the bag, fold down that watertight closure and forget about it. Professional outfitters around the globe rely on Tuff Sacks to keep gear dry all season long, season after season.

55023.02 | 5 L, 10 L, 15 L, 25 L, 35 L



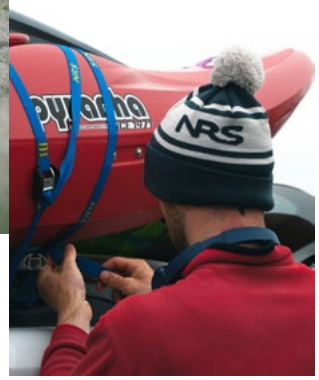
ICELAND FREEFALL

No words, pictures or film can do it justice

Generations of kayakers have made their pilgrimage to Iceland to test the limits of freefall. So did Pretam Gurung – to experience the rivers and drops of the films he grew up watching.

TEXT: Pretam Gurung | PHOTOS: Aaron White & Jonah Morgan





Quite often you can hike beside the river as far as you want and then paddle back to the car.

Right: Aaron White in waterfall paradise.



The land of fire and ice is a true wonder to behold. We drove from valley to valley, river to river, witnessing some of the most alien geography right here on Earth. Every valley was different, each equally jaw-dropping as the last. Every waterfall was beautiful, but no surprises there.

While we had come to Iceland for its waterfalls, we really didn't know what to expect. None of us had been there in the summer before, and we had certainly never paddled there. Instead of the harsh winds, snow, rain, and freezing water we expected, the sun came out the evening we arrived and stayed out pretty much until we left two weeks later, only dipping below the horizon for a couple of hours each night.

Sitting proud and high in the sky, the sun provided just enough heat to fill the rivers and set the stage for the huckfest we sought.

When Aaron asked me if I wanted to go to Iceland, I couldn't say yes fast enough. It's been at the top of my list since watching Steve Fisher's "Halo Effect" when I was 12. Barra was also frothing at the idea of Icelandic waterfalls, and Jonah had always wanted to shoot in this volcanic paradise with its dramatic landscapes. Rather than explore or find something new, the way we had in Borneo, this trip was about maximizing freefall and having a good time with the boys.

»When you picture waterfall paradise, this is it.«

We arrived in Reykjavik in the morning after a very short, cheap, and easy flight from Edinburgh and were on the river by the afternoon. This set the tone for the rest of the trip, and we paddled nearly every day for two weeks.

Iceland is a tourist—and kayaker—favourite for how easy it is to access the spectacular countryside. All you have to do is get in the car and drive. Route 1, known affectionately as the Ring Road for the way it circles the island, brings you almost directly to most points of interest—including many of the country's most famous waterfalls. ▶

Duct Tape Diaries

Godafoss translates to »Waterfall of the Gods«



Godafoss is basically a waterfall stadium over 30 metres wide. Paddler: Barra Liddy.



We travelled around the island anticlockwise, initially moving south from Reykjavik. The incredible big volume and alpine-style kayaking in the south pleasantly surprised us as we had expected to paddle nothing but bedrock waterfalls. As it turns out, Iceland has it all.

The waterfall fun started on the Fossa River in the eastern region. Where the name of most waterfalls in Iceland end with 'foss,' Icelandic for 'waterfall,' the Fossa has so many, it's literally the waterfall river. Photos don't do it justice.

The valley has an otherworldly stepped rock formation, almost as if somebody had carved contour lines straight into the landscape. Flow some melted snow down these basalt steps, and voilà. A world-class section in what feels like true wilderness, but is still easily accessible. The classic section is a lapable sequence of five or six drops, ranging from 20 to 40 feet.

The next step up from the Fossa was the Keldua. Many of the world's best waterfall specialists consider this river the best run in Iceland and, therefore, one of the best in the world. You hike beside the river as far as you want and then paddle back to the car. We hiked seven kilometres, as far as the world-renowned quad-drop sequence.

When you picture waterfall paradise, this is it: A steep slide followed by a 20-foot drop, followed by a 30-foot drop, followed by a 45-foot drop. The horizon line at the top of this sequence is a spectacle to behold. Making our way downstream, I quickly understood why this river is regarded so highly. It has clean drop after clean drop after clean drop, with only one or two portages. A veritable crescendo of pristine whitewater tumbling off the face of the Earth as we know it.

The water was some of the clearest I've ever seen, the deep turquoise colour made brighter by the black volcanic rock of the box canyon. Though we only did one lap, it was enough to cement the Keldua high on my list of all-time favourite rivers. I will definitely be returning. ▶





There were plenty of other gems in the east, some of which we got to enjoy and others we had to leave for another time. After the Keldua, we took a day to rest and started to think about moving north. Our main objective was the Skjálfandafljót River. While I had heard of Aldeyjarfoss, Godafoss, and Ullafoss, I hadn't realized they were all on this one powerful stream connecting the Vantnajökull Glacier with the sea.

Godafoss, which translates to "waterfall of the Gods," is basically a waterfall stadium over 30 metres wide and 12 meters tall. It's easy to believe the Gods of Iceland were kayakers when you take in its otherworldly perfection. There are hundreds of different lines to try, with a huge pool to land in. Because it's such a huge tourist attraction, it has a well-worn path to the top and steps up from the bottom. It's the perfect environment to work on freefall technique, a playground that's almost too good to be true.

After two days at Godafoss, we headed downstream to Ullafoss, a crazy-looking 50-footer with a barreling wave on the lip. I couldn't resist the opportunity to throw a kickflip in homage to Rush Sturges and, more recently, the Torryd crew. Luckily, it came around, and I landed nice and vertical.



»Luckily, it came around, and I landed nice and vertical.«

Unfortunately, landing vertically didn't translate into my line off Aldeyjarfoss. I really didn't fancy being swallowed by the folding lip and sent to China, only to return to the surface with ruptured eardrums and a dent in my boat—or worse. So I opted to run far right, which, in hindsight, the river was too low for. I was perfectly on line, right where I wanted to be, when I was bucked off the lip by a rock, and my feet were suddenly above my head.

I had enough time to throw my paddle, contemplate my mistake, and wait for the impact. As expected, it wasn't soft, but I had managed to avoid an unsolicited trip to China. I breathed a sigh of relief when I hand-rolled up and found my paddle right next to me.

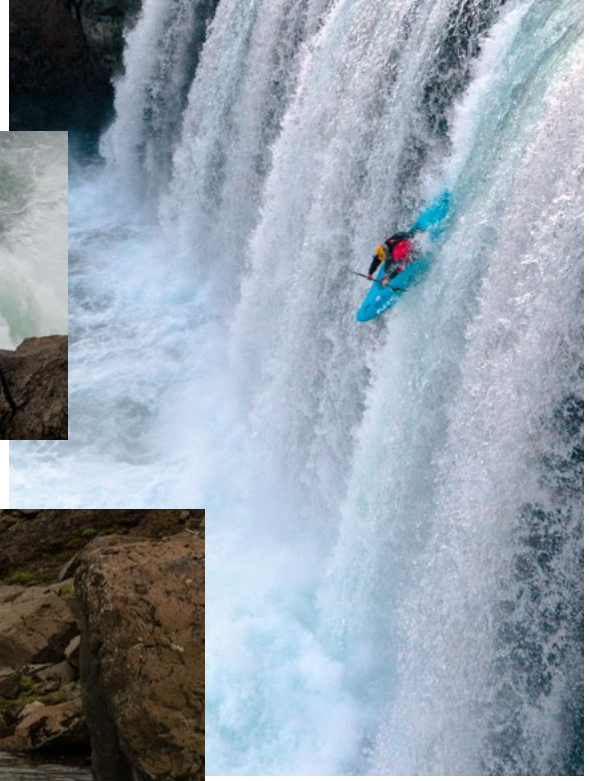
Still, I had mixed feelings as we drove away. Two descents without any injuries was a successful run, but it certainly wasn't the line I had envisioned. Aldeyjarfoss, I promise I'll be back to clean it up someday.

The waterfalls of Iceland are truly something magical. The basalt-lined gorges already hold so many classics, yet there are still so many out there to be discovered. It's no wonder generations of kayakers have made their pilgrimage here to refine and test the limits of freefall.

Iceland is a piece of whitewater history, and we felt privileged to carve our part in it. To experience the rivers and drops of the films I grew up watching, to be at the mercy of this raw place of extreme conditions, and the sheer power of nature was awe-inspiring at times and positively terrifying at others. No words, pictures, or film can do it justice.

See the story online on community.nrs.com











Paddle, eat, sleep, repeat. This raw place of extreme conditions makes waterfall lovers happy.

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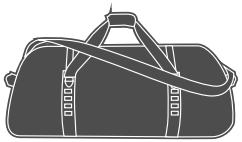
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NRS Headquarters
1638 South Blaine Street,
Moscow, ID 83843, USA

NRS at Pyranha
Premier Point, Aston Ln S,
Runcorn WA7 3GG,
United Kingdom

Photos: Jens Klatt, Gabrielle Bain, David Sodomka, Aaron White, Jonah Morgan

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