



SELECTIVE DAM REMOVAL BENEFITS

- The act of removing a dam may seem like a radical event to a river and the species that live in it but rivers have proven themselves to be very resilient and able to “heal” quickly based upon many dam removals that have taken place nationwide.
- Dams alter the natural physical, biological and chemical functions of rivers. And, since healthy rivers are considered the lifeblood of healthy habitats, dams can result in unsustainable and degraded conditions for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Dams can have many ecological impacts on rivers. They can block fish and other aquatic species from moving throughout a river system to access spawning sites and other critical habitats.
- Dams can hold back and cause the build-up of sediments, woody debris and other materials that would have naturally been distributed throughout the river, playing important roles in providing nutrients and habitat for plants and animals downstream.
- Previously submerged lands regenerate rapidly, typically within a few weeks during the growing season. Fish populations and species diversity commonly increase in the restored stretch of river within the first year after a dam is removed.