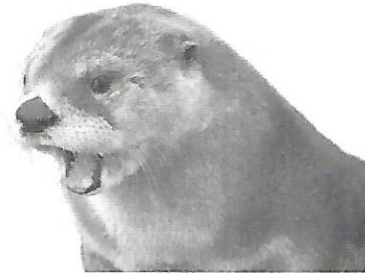




American Rivers

RIVERS CONNECT US®

Obsolete dams harm vulnerable wildlife like the river otter.



Dear Friend,

When you know the facts about obsolete dams, you'll be shaking your head. And your fist!

You'll be furious to learn how dams that don't make sense are diverting our rivers from their natural courses – making canoeing, kayaking and fishing more difficult. *And even deadly.*

You'll be upset to know that dams built 50, 100 or even 150 years ago and that no longer serve their intended purpose are still standing. These dams lay silent waste to our rivers, destroying the food supply and habitat that river otters and other river creatures depend on for survival.

And, you'll be angry to find that dams deprive rivers and communities of their natural flood protection. Dams often make flooding worse upstream. And many dams cut communities off from their rivers, denying residents much-needed recreational and economic opportunities.

You'll be so mad about these outdated dams, you might feel like taking a wrecking ball to one yourself! (But that would be illegal. And unnecessary.) You see, as fired up as we get about the problem of obsolete dams, American Rivers' conservationists, engineers and scientists know how to take them down safely. All we need is the support of friends like you today.

That's why I'm asking for your tax-deductible gift to American Rivers today. When you give \$22 (just 6 cents per day!), you can help tear down the dams that are tearing our rivers and communities apart. And you'll receive a FREE American Rivers t-shirt and a FREE river otter plush toy.

American rivers are literally drowning in dams.

On average, our country has constructed one dam every day since the signing of the Declaration of Independence! The US Army Corps of Engineers has catalogued approximately 75,000 dams greater than six feet tall along the waterways of the United States. And at least tens of thousands of smaller dams clog our rivers and streams.

And each day that obsolete dams remain in our rivers, they do our rivers, communities and wildlife significant harm. That's why American Rivers needs your help to remove obsolete dams and work to restore rivers to their natural state ...

(over, please)

How do dams hurt rivers, exactly? Let me count the ways:

1. Dams reduce river levels

By diverting water for power, dams remove water needed for healthy in-stream ecosystems. Sometimes stretches of rivers below dams are left completely dry.

2. Dams block rivers

Dams prevent the flow of plants and nutrients, impede the migration of fish and other wildlife, and block recreational use. Fish passage structures can enable a percentage of fish to pass around a dam, but multiple dams make safe travel difficult.

3. Dams slow rivers

Many fish species, such as salmon, depend on steady flows to flush them downriver early in their life and guide them upstream years later to spawn. Stagnant reservoir pools disorient migrating fish and increase the duration of their migration.

4. Dams alter water temperatures

By slowing water flow, most dams increase water temperatures. Other dams decrease temperatures by releasing cooled water from the reservoir bottom. Fish and other species are sensitive to these temperature irregularities, which often destroy native populations.

5. Dams alter timing of flows

By withholding and then releasing water to generate power for peak demand periods, hydropower dams cause downstream stretches to alternate between no water and powerful surges that erode soil and vegetation, and flood or strand wildlife. These irregular releases destroy natural seasonal flow variations that trigger natural growth and reproduction cycles in many species.

And that's not the half of it. In addition to creating havoc in rivers that harm otters, fish and other wildlife, dams threaten people and communities.

The vast majority of dams do not protect against flooding. Fewer than 15% of all dams in the United States provide any protection from floods. In fact, many dams actually cause flooding to be **worse** in upstream communities.

And old or poorly maintained dams can fail. In recent years, more than 100 dams in New England were overtopped, breached or otherwise damaged by severe storms. Two thousand people had to be evacuated in the Massachusetts community of Taunton, due to flooding concerns at the 173-year-old dam nearby.

If left in place, dams also threaten the lives of boaters and swimmers. At one dam in Minnesota, 18 people had drowned before the dam was removed from the river ...

America is facing an aging water infrastructure crisis that threatens our drinking water, wildlife habitat, our livelihood, and our lives.

And obsolete dams are a stark symbol of this silent emergency in America's rivers.

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That's why, if you care about our environment, you'll help lead our nation to work with our rivers, not against them, by sending a \$22 gift to American Rivers today.

We can't wait. As global warming increases flooding worldwide, the deterioration and failure of old dams is a serious, and growing, safety concern in communities across America. And because many old dams have been abandoned, if they're ready to fail, no one will know about it!

That's why taking down dams that don't make sense ... makes a lot of sense.

Dam removal is a low-cost way to restore fish migration routes, renew river recreation and protect communities downstream from floods. Since 2009, more than 835 outdated dams in 18 states were either removed or slated for removal including:

- **Yadkin River, North Carolina** The Steele's Mill Dam in Hitchcock Creek was a 15-foot tall by 100-foot long dam. Originally built in the late 1800s as a hydropower dam, it hadn't generated power since 1999. Removal of this stone dam restored 15 miles of habitat for American shad, hickory shad, striped bass, American eel, and Atlantic sturgeon. It's also expected to improve recreation and tourism in the surrounding area.
- **Blacksmith Run, Pennsylvania** Originally built in 1881, the 21-foot tall, 105-foot long, high-hazard Smethport Reservoir dam was removed in 2009. The removal restored 1.9 river miles, and restored brook trout habitats and populations.
- **Dutch Bill Creek, California** Built in the 1950s for recreation purposes, the Camp Meeker Dam removal is part of a larger restoration project. The dam's removal resulted in the reopening of 3.4 miles of spawning habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Additionally, the absence of the dam will result in better water quality and greater access to the creek.

And when you get the opportunity to bring a "dead" river back to life by removing an obsolete dam, the transformation can be swift, and dramatic.

In many cases, the river recovers more quickly than even we had hoped!

Spawning fish returned to the Souadabscook River in Maine only months after a dam was removed.

And once the Woolen Mills Dam was removed, the flushing of the sediment from the Milwaukee River in Wisconsin took just six months!

And the good news keeps flowing. Within the past 5 years we have seen the nation's largest river restoration efforts yet, with unprecedented dam removal projects on rivers including Maine's Penobscot River, Washington's Elwha and White Salmon Rivers, and Maryland's Patapsco River.

(over, please)

But Americans started building dams as soon as we got off the Mayflower. So at American Rivers, our work is just getting started. And we need your help!

American Rivers is a small, non-profit organization. We're struggling to keep up with the skyrocketing number of requests for our help.

That's why even just a \$22 gift from you means a lot to a group like American Rivers.

Your gift will support American Rivers and its work to give more communities across the country the opportunity to enjoy more abundant fish and wildlife, improved public safety and flood protection, and better water quality.

And when you send at least \$22, you'll get a free t-shirt and river otter plush toy, with our thanks for your support at this critical time.

Yes, what's been happening in our rivers could make you curse a blue streak. But there's something better you can do about it: You can join with American Rivers today to help take down dams that don't make sense-and restore natural, healthy flow to our rivers.

All you need to do is send a \$22 gift to American Rivers today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Wm. Robert Irvin
President, American Rivers

P.S. Even as American Rivers is working tirelessly to take down old dams, some are still trying to build new ones as a "quick fix" for their communities' water problems. When will they learn what American Rivers has been saying for years now: America can no longer afford to pay such a high human, environmental, and economic price for dams that no longer make sense.

P.P.S. And remember, send a gift of \$22 or more today, and American Rivers will send you a FREE t-shirt and FREE "Roger the River Otter" plush toy!

Get Roger the River Otter FREE

When you join American Rivers, we'll send you "Roger," our plush river otter — FREE!

River and wildlife lovers of all ages will delight in Roger the River Otter.

This adorable little otter plush toy can help you teach the children in your life why all living things, from river otters to people, depend on clean rivers for survival.

Measuring a full 14 inches from nose to tail, this soft, cuddly toy is crafted of the finest materials and is available exclusively to American Rivers members.

Quantities are limited on this special edition plush otter toy. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.



American Rivers
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FREE



River otters have few natural enemies in the water. It's the two-legged enemies on land that threaten river otters the most. Scientists say today most river otter deaths are related to humans who pave over river habitat and pollute river water. The river otter's struggle is the most visible sign of the catastrophic threats to wildlife that lurk beneath the surface of America's rivers.

Along with helping remove dams that don't make sense for rivers, people or wildlife, American Rivers continues to work for river conservation policies that DO make sense, including:

- ✓ Restoring the authority of the Clean Water Rule for all American Rivers.
- ✓ Working to protect 5,000 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers and one million acres of riverside lands.
- ✓ Raising public awareness through our annual ***America's Most Endangered Rivers™*** report.
- ✓ Protecting wetland habitat that is crucial to waterfowl and aquatic life.

Here are 5 other ways you can help protect and restore America's rivers:

- ✓ Save water by installing water-efficient fixtures and appliances in your home.
- ✓ Go to Americanrivers.org/cleanup to organize or participate in our National River Cleanup® program.
- ✓ Join our online community and receive and share e-action alerts to help protect America's rivers.
- ✓ Plant a rain garden for catching stormwater runoff from your roof, driveway, and other hard surfaces.
- ✓ Friend American Rivers on Facebook.

Thank you!



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