

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Yellow Breeches Dam Removal

Re: Yellow Breeches Dam Removal

Author: : troutbert

Date: : 2010/3/11 11:24:04

URL:

In my view they should notch the dams to an elevation that is low enough to get rid of large warming impoundments, but remains high enough to create normal-sized pools (for the size of the stream) so there is a good flow through the pool, i.e. the sort of riffle-pool arrangement that you would find on natural streams.

All these stream/floodplain systems are very highly altered. So the expectation that totally removing the dams will result in a return to normal stream structure is not realistic. What often results are straight, shallow stream reaches with little holding water for fish.

So, you should be conservative about total removal of artificial habitat-forming structures on highly altered streams. In many cases old dams can create pool habitat both above and below the dam. There's not a problem if the pools are reasonably sized, rather than large ponds. Natural trout streams have pools and pool habitat is very important in sustaining fish populations.