

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Breeches Dam Removal

Re: Breeches Dam Removal

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Dams are going to come down because of economic reasons regardless of the environmental effects. Most dams have outlived their economic purpose and the current owners probably can't pay for dam upgrades when they require it. Dams have finite lives too. Most dams around me seem to be 1920's upgrades of earlier dams - very few are the colonial originals. In the 80 years since these dams were built the mills they once powered are shuttered and the dams are getting a little creaky. Since it is cheaper to tear them down than restore them, most owners will take the path of least cost and tear them down.

Since it is inevitable, the environmental effects of these early teardowns must be carefully studied. More dam removals are on the way and we must learn to do it right.