

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Dam removal.

Re: Dam removal.

Author: : Mike

Date: : 2013/10/4 21:21:16

URL:

It is not realistic to think that there will always be funding to do habitat enhancement following dam removal. While that is preferable, more times than not it does not happen or it happens to a lesser extent than would be ideal. One must be opportunistic when it comes to dam removal; one can't wait around for all of the money, manpower, and materials to appear that would allow for habitat improvement beyond the removal of the dam and some shoreline stabilization. While the waiting occurs, the permits expire, the dam owner gets cold feet, the grant for dam removal dries up, etc, etc. Furthermore, dams on wild trout streams are not removed just for the purpose of improving trout habitat or trout populations. In this case, whether it is trout fingerlings or adults, trout will most likely benefit at the very least in the area that was once buried sediment. Additionally, there will be ecological benefits, as there is a substantial migration of white suckers, sea lampreys, and American eels that was probably being held up and/or blocked by this dam. Consider this dam removal to be restoring some ecosystem functionality, even if it only helps until the fish reach the next dam upstream. Who knows, the eels may even bring native mussels (natural pollution filters) along for the ride. PS Lampreys are part of the natural ecosystem in the Delaware Basin, adding to ecological diversity and stability. They are welcome.