



Emerging Issues and Topics: Barrier Removal

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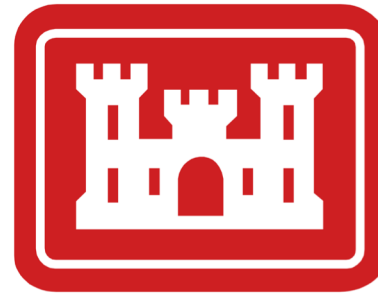
Objective of the Clean Water Act of 1972

- “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

- The discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands



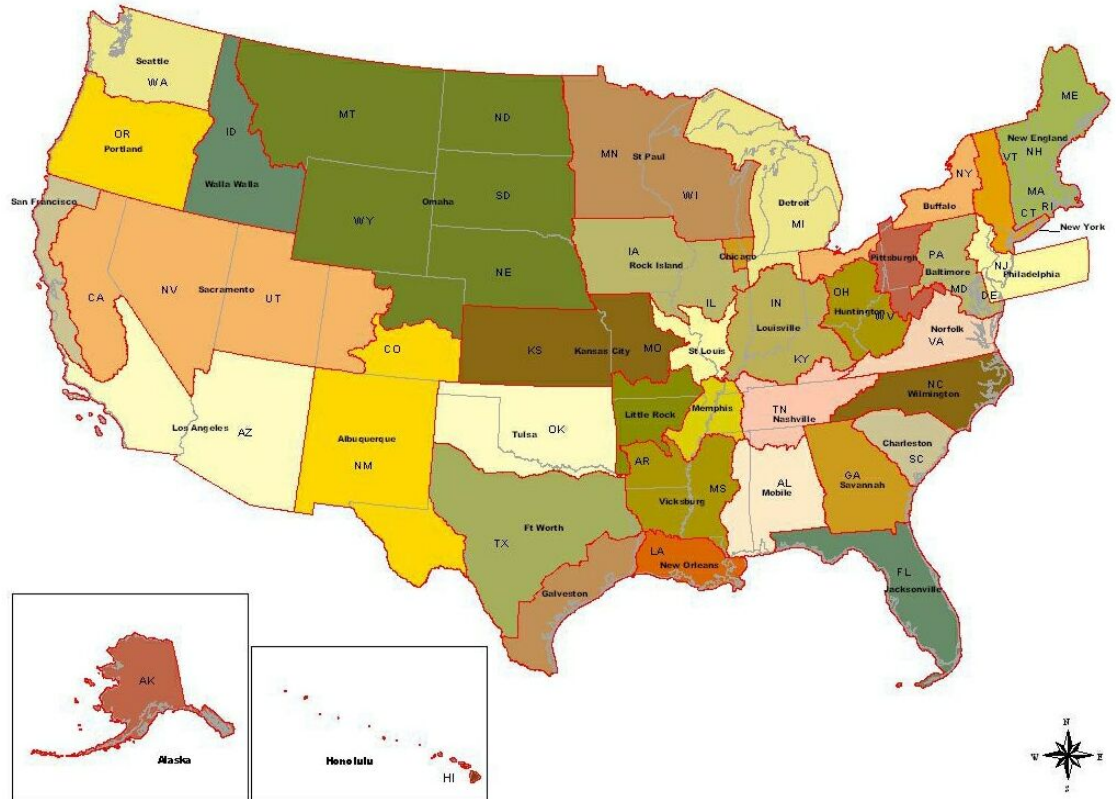


**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**



Day-to-Day Permitting

38 US. Army Corps of Engineers Districts



Avoid Impacts

Minimize Impacts

Compensate for
Impacts

Goal of 404 Program: No Net Loss

Impacts

- Activities that cause a loss of acres and/or functions

Offsets

- Activities that support an uplift in acres and/or functions



Goal of 404 Program: No Net Loss

Impacts

- Activities that cause a loss of acres and/or functions

Offsets

- Activities that support an uplift in acres and/or functions
 - Restoration
 - Enhancement
 - Protection



Traditional Stream Restoration Methods

- Channel reconfiguration and meandering
- Reach-scale bank restoration
- Construction of in-stream habitat structures



Dam Removal: A Non-Traditional Stream Restoration Method



- 2017. Wilkinson, Jessica, Justus Raepple, Ryan Rossner, Amy Singler, Tara Moberg, Katie Kennedy, Sally Harold.
- Reviewers: USACE HQ and Districts, EPA HQ and Regions, U.S. FWS, private mitigation providers, academics, etc.



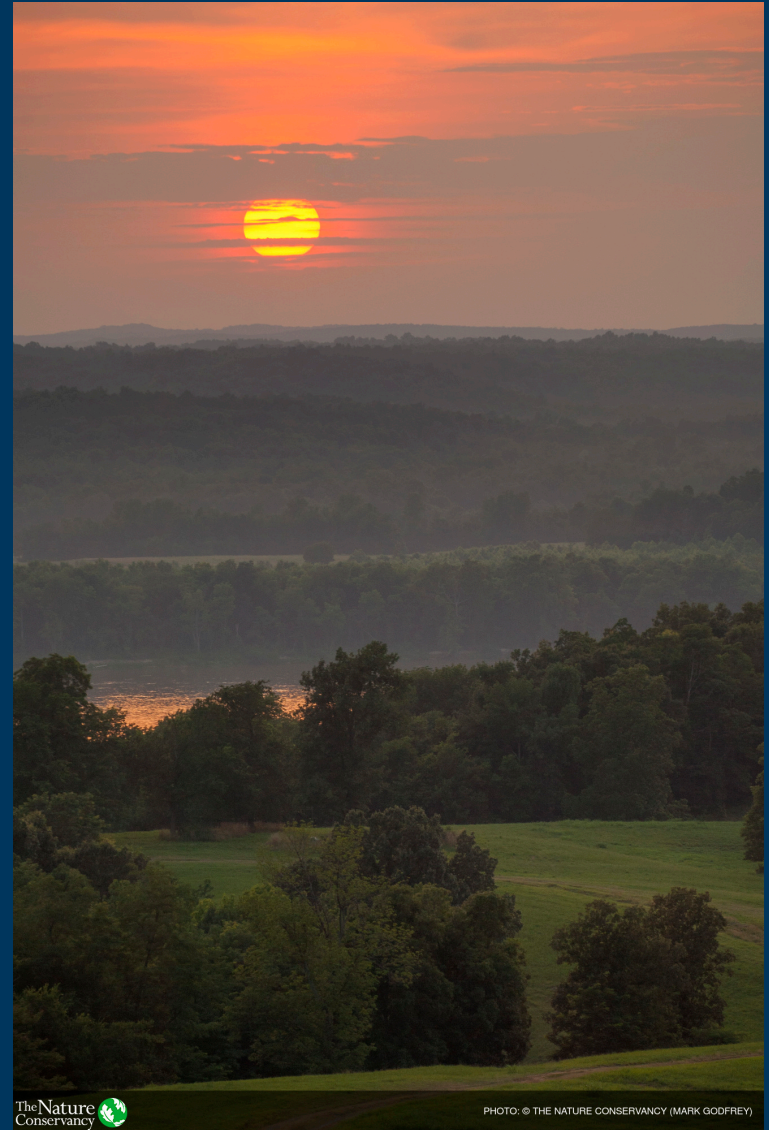
Environmental Markets and Stream Barrier Removal

*An Exploration of Opportunities to Restore
Freshwater Connectivity Through Existing Mitigation Programs*



National & Local Policy and Dam Removal

- National §404 policy neither explicitly supports nor limits the practice
- 2016 ELI study found that 15 Districts identify dam removal as an acceptable compensatory mitigation method
- 35 projects identified





Barriers to More Widespread Adoption

- Absence of appropriate crediting methodologies
- Defining appropriate long-term protection
- Economic viability and demand
- Generation of large quantities of credits
- Appropriately accounting for stream length affected
- Environmental impacts from dam removals
- Ensuring additionality
- Definition of barrier removal



Next...