

The Pros and Cons of Dams

Participant Roles

Groups Supporting Dam Removal

Association of Concerned Fisherman

These individuals are concerned with effects that the dam is having on the migration and breeding of native populations of fish.

Outdoor Recreation Society

The members of this group would like to see the river returned to its original state, before the construction of the dam. They would like to see the return of the rafting and fishing opportunities that were present before the dam.

Engineers Against Catastrophic Dam Failure

These people are worried about the possibility that the dam may weaken and break in the future, releasing a torrent of water and sediment downstream.

Cultural Conservation Center

This group is composed mainly of tribal members who are concerned that their cultural connection with the river has been damaged by the construction of the dam. The health of the river habitat is very important to this group.

River Health United

This is a national organization whose goal is the selective removal of unnecessary dams to restore rivers, bring back fish and wildlife, improve recreation opportunities, and revitalize local communities.

The organization American Rivers has a website that provides a great deal of information concerning the removal of dams in the United States. Their web address is <http://www.amrivers.org/damremoval/>.

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Groups Opposing Dam Removal

Lakefront Property Owners Association

This group of homeowners lives and plays on the shores of the lake. They feel that this should not be a privilege that is taken from them

Valley Bottom Irrigators Association

The members of this group represent the farmers and ranchers living below the dam that rely on the dam to provide a reliable source of water for irrigation during the summer months.

Power Company Employee Association

The removal of the dam would be the end of the jobs for the employees of the company that manages the dam. They want their voice heard before any action is taken

Scientists Supporting Clean Energy Sources

The mission of this organization is to develop and encourage the use of “clean” energy sources. They worry that as electricity-producing dams are removed, the United States will become more and more dependent on fossil fuels for energy production.

Members of the Tribe that own the dam

This dam is a significant source of revenue for the local tribe, providing millions of dollars each year. The members of this group feel that removing the dam would be disastrous for the tribe and the local economy.

Here are two links to pages that oppose the removal of dam.

<http://www.hydro.org/ga022.htm>

http://www.meadhunt.com/News/h20_i3-v4.htm