

OPINIONS/ARTICLES

[69 Dams Removed in 2020](#)

American Rivers

For example, on the Middle Fork Nooksack River near Bellingham, Washington, removing a water diversion dam and installing a new water intake ...

[Texas Blackouts Point to Coast-to-Coast Crises Waiting to Happen](#)

The New York Times

Even as Texas struggled to restore electricity and water over the past week, signs of the risks posed by increasingly extreme weather to America's aging infrastructure were cropping up across the country. *(BTF note: The problem of aging dams is addressed in this piece about inadequate infrastructure and the need for major investment.)*

[Beaver believers: Native Americans promote resurgence of 'nature's engineers'](#)

The Guardian

The rodents are often considered 'nuisance animals', but they can play a vital role in maintaining healthy landscapes

(BTF note: An interesting piece about Native efforts to relocate beavers to areas where they've been extirpated, legal impediments to that practice and use of beaver analogues.)

And more on beavers from a few years ago...

[The Bountiful Benefits Of Bringing Back The Beavers](#)

National Public Radio

Few species manipulate their surroundings enough to make big ecological changes. Humans are one. Beavers are another.

[Damming Rivers Is Terrible for Human Rights, Ecosystems and Food Security](#)

Truthout

The dam removal project is a sign of the decline of the hydropower industry, whose fortunes have fallen as the troubling cost-benefit ratio of dams has ...

[Will the climate crisis tap out the Colorado River?](#)

High Country News

Water availability is going from bad to worse in the seven states that rely on the drought-stricken river.

[Commentary: Debate on dam for Chehalis raises questions about where we develop](#)

The Daily World

Talk of a new dam on the Chehalis River has been around since the 1980s. Originally proposed as a way to control flooding and create a recreational ...

(BTF note: The commentary is specific to a proposal for a flood control dam on the Chehalis River in Washington, but it could apply to development in flood-prone areas anywhere.)

NORTHEAST NEWS

[Is Vermont's use of HydroQuebec power 'greenwashing'?](#)

vt-digger.org

Carillon Hydroelectric Dam, Pointe Fortune, Quebec. Photo by Mac Armstrong. Vermont has counted power from in-state hydro and dams in northern ...

(BTF note: The short answer is yes. Key quote: "For those who buy energy from HydroQuebec, they need to realize that it destroys cultures, the environment." - James Papatie, a member of the Kitcisakik Anicinape Community)

[You have a chance to weigh in on plans to tear down 2 Kennebec River dams](#)

Bangor Daily News

Currently, there are four upstream dams that prevent fish from swimming ... "Every place in Maine we have removed a dam near the mouth of a large ...

[Waterville council postpones voting on proposed change in Kennebec River management plan](#)

Kennebec Journal & Morning Sentinel

WATERVILLE — A Canadian company that owns dams on the Kennebec River in Waterville and Winslow was unsuccessful this week in convincing ...

KLAMATH RIVER

[Fight over Klamath River dam removal project goes to federal regulators](#)

KDRV

A proposal necessary for the Klamath River dam removal to proceed has gone to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but some local ...

[A dam good example of collaboration on California water issues](#)

Grist

The largest dam removal in United States history is set to take place along the Klamath River by 2023, but getting to this point was neither easy nor ...

[Skeptical About Klamath River Dam Removal, Harbor District, Del Norte County Seek Protection ...](#)

Lost Coast Outpost

The Klamath River past the J.C. Boyle Dam, one of four Klamath hydroelectric dams owned by PacifiCorp, along with Iron Gate, Copco I and Copco II.

SNAKE RIVER

[Simpson concept would trade off lower Snake dams to put Columbia system on firm footing](#)

Idaho County Free Press

Wild fish counts dipped precipitously during the early 1980s and mid-90s; litigation ensued; dams throughout the Columbia River system remained in ...

(BTF note: As one might expect, Congressman Simpson's proposal to remove the four lower Snake River dams and mitigate the economic impacts has generated a lot of regional media coverage and

commentary. This article does a pretty good job of laying out the issue. Most of the published commentary has been coming from interests opposed to dam removal, using the same arguments they have for the last few decades.)

[Simpson's salmon recovery, dam breaching plan a 'nonstarter,' ag reps say](#)

La Grande Observer

Ice Harbor dam near Burbank, Washington, is one of four dams on the lower Snake River that U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, is calling for removal.

[Congressman Hopes Politics Align on Divisive Dams](#)

Manufacturing.net

A Republican congressman has proposed removing four hydroelectric dams in the Northwest, including the Lower Granite Dam, as part of a sweeping ...

[Simpson's Snake River dams plan raises concerns, questions](#)

Lewiston Morning Tribune

Mike Simpson's recent announcement of his \$33 billion salmon-recovery plan that centers around removing the four dams on the lower Snake River ...

[Commentary: Snake River dam proposal recipe for disaster](#)

Capital Press

Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson floated a \$33 billion "concept" a few weeks ago to breach the four lower Snake River dams and compensate the ...

[Salmon, steelhead, and the Snake River dams](#)

Bonner County Daily Bee

The plan consists of multiple sections from their information gathering stages, pros and cons of the dams in question, wildlife impacts on salmon and ...

[Guest column: Removing Snake River dams is unwise](#)

Sequim Gazette

However, if he pushes it, he needs include the impact of breaching dams in his home state which completely shutoff salmon and steelhead migration.

[Gov. Little opposes dam removal proposal, warns of 'devastating impacts'](#)

KTVB.com

Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson announced earlier this month that he was proposing the breach of four hydroelectric dams to help save the salmon ...

[Warming seas could wipe out Snake River chinook by 2060, scientists predict](#)

Seattle Times

He also calls for breaching all four Lower Snake River dams to rescue Snake River salmon. The scientists did not model whether dam removal on the ...

[Guest opinion: Not enough answers in Simpson dam proposal](#)

Idaho Press-Tribune

Congressman Simpson's \$33 billion proposal to breach the four lower dams on the Snake River is quite a read. My review of this unique and costly ...

[Simpson Dam Idea Broadly Fails Idaho Interests](#)

Twin Falls Times-News

Idaho Second District Congressman Mike Simpson's proposal to breach Snake River dams does something very few Idaho proposals have ever ...

[Online Rally for Snake River Restoration, Dam Removal to Be Held Feb. 25](#)

Center for Biological Diversity

The four outdated dams on the lower Snake River have played a large part in wiping out once-thriving Chinook salmon populations as well as ...

[County leaders speak out against Simpson's proposal](#)

The Spokesman-Review

ASOTIN – Five southeastern Washington counties are “pushing back” against an Idaho congressman's proposal to breach the four dams on the lower ...

[The Washington Outdoors Report: The Snake River dams—to breach or not to breach?](#)

Goldendale Sentinel

The question has been repeatedly litigated in court, as have efforts to mitigate dam operations to help smolt survive their journey downstream and adult ...

[Stanley council backs Simpson's dam removal plan](#)

Post Register

Mike Simpson's proposal to breach four hydroelectric dams along the Lower Snake River, Stanley City Council members approved a resolution ...

[Scientists: Removing Snake River dams 'necessary' to restore Idaho salmon population](#)

Idaho Statesman

Dismantle Snake River dams to help salmon? Here's the \$33 billion plan for it.

[Scientists say removing Snake River dams 'is necessary' to restore salmon population](#)

The Spokesman-Review

The difference, they say, is caused by the number of dams and reservoirs each run encounters during juvenile outmigration. For the fish from the John ...

[Advocate for Snake River dams says removal would hurt farmers](#)

The Spokesman-Review

Two weeks after a U.S. representative from Idaho put forth a plan to remove four lower Snake River dams, a presenter for the Spokane Ag Expo and ...

[New website imagines the Snake River without dams](#)

The Spokesman-Review

An advocacy group angling for a free-flowing Snake River has released a detailed multimedia website envisioning what the removal of four dams ...

MICHIGAN

BTF note: There's a lot of dam-related activity in Michigan these days, and those stories are grouped here.

[US 'incompetency' led to Edenville Dam failure, couple claims in lawsuit](#)

Bridge Michigan

Victims of the Michigan's Edenville Dam catastrophe are suing the federal agency that oversees hydropower dams, alleging its regulators never ...

[Two dams bursting in Michigan put our toxic waste problem in the spotlight](#)

State PIRGs

Two dams burst near Midland At first, the breach was just a trickle of water. Then the earth embankment of the Edenville Dam sloughed off like the wall ...

[Michigan urges Morrow Dam owner to start Kalamazoo River sediment cleanup by March 1](#)

WWMT-TV

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, or EGLE, has been urging the owner of the Morrow Dam ...

[11400 dump trucks worth of dam sludge befouls Kalamazoo River stretch](#)

mlive.com

Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, which owns Morrow Dam in Comstock Township, estimates more than 114,000 cubic yards of sediment from its 1,000- ...

[Dredging on deck for Kalamazoo River oxbow filled with dam sludge](#)

mlive.com

The impoundment sediment began flowing through the dam in November 2019 after Eagle Creek unexpectedly drew the reservoir down for an ...

[Kalamazoo River sediment cleanup project will soon begin](#)

WOODTV.com

"We know that in the first 7 or 8 miles downstream of the dam, there's approximately 114, 115 thousand cubic yards of sediment deposits," Alexander ...

[Drawdown Begins at Edenville Dam Complex](#)

9&10 News

Back in may an overtopping of the Edenville Dam and failure of the Sanford Dam led to the devastating floods. Homes and businesses were wiped ...

[Crews To Lower Spillway Connected To Failed Michigan Dam](#)

CBS Detroit

The Edenville Dam Tobacco River spillway will be lowered by more than 20 feet starting Feb. 24 to help prevent future flooding, according to Michigan's ...

[Dam task force report: State is heading toward grave situation](#)

Midland Daily News

Deterioration of Michigan's dam infrastructure has historically outpaced investment, leading to a lack of funding for addressing problem structures, the ...

[Michigan's fragile dams need a \\$420M investment, more oversight, new laws, task force says](#)

FOX 2 Detroit

The Dam Safety Program, which regulates over 1,000 dams in Michigan, only has one supervisor and three engineers. Another 92 dams are regulated ...

[Michigan dam failures prompt re-assessment of safety](#)

International Water Power and Dam Construction

Dam safety in the US state of Michigan was thrown into the spotlight after the failure of Edenville and Sanford Dams during May 2020.

[MI Dam Safety Task Force Submits Report to Gov Whitmer; Cites Aging Infrastructure](#)

WSGW

Near the Edenville Dam, while crews were constructing a gravel access drive for access to the dam for work on the spillway. (source: EGLE). If aging ...

[A 'grave situation' awaits Michigan without dam safety fixes, report warns](#)

mlive.com

LANSING, MI — Lack of investment in a portfolio of aging dams has the state on a path toward another “grave situation,” says a task force report that's ...

[Task force makes 86 recommendations to improve safety of Michigan dams](#)

UpNorthLive.com

(WPBN/WGTU) — The Michigan Dam Safety Task Force released the findings of its final report on the infrastructure of dams across the state. In total, the ...

[Report: Aging Michigan dams suffer from lack of investment, face 'grave situation'](#)

The Detroit News

Many dams in Michigan are facing a “grave situation” if significant investments are not made soon, a dam safety task force said in a report released ...

OTHER US NEWS

[Guest Commentary: Dam Continues Status Quo That Created Salmon Crisis](#)

Centralia Chronicle

Selective presentation of data to justify building a dam is exactly the kind of thinking that led us to the current salmon crisis in Washington.

[Our Views: Labor, Fishing Advocates Voice Support for Basinwide Flooding, Fish Fix](#)

Centralia Chronicle

... in the basin, they voiced support for a flood protection dam near Pe Ell and the accompanying plan to protect salmon and other aquatic species.

[Seattle's Skagit River dams hurt salmon, orcas and Native American culture, agencies say](#)

KING5.com

Above that, Diablo Dam came next, followed by Ross Dam, completed in 1949. All three dams are located in what is now designated within the North ...

[Agencies plan for possible Cowlitz River dredging if flood risk increases](#)

Longview Daily News

The sediment retention dam was built in the years just after the 1980 eruption to slow the flow of volcanic silt into the river, but it is starting to fill up with ...

[Table Rock Dam supplements utility companies to reduce rolling blackouts](#)

KY3

Over the last seven days, the dam has run non-stop. "When there's a demand on the energy grid for additional energy, they will call us up and ask us to ...

[Water infrastructure more than dams and pipes, senator says](#)

Capital Press

Michael Bennet says it is about more than dams, pipes and canals. Water security begins in the forest, along streams and rivers that flow through farms ...

[Project at Lock and Dam 19 to test tools in fight against Asian carp](#)

Herald-Whig

A project at Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk, Iowa, will test a new system as a deterrent to the invasive species.

[SNC-Lavalin hired to turn old dams in Pennsylvania into hydropower stations](#)

GCR

SNC-Lavalin hired to turn old dams in Pennsylvania into hydropower stations.

[Elkhorn Dam to be removed in early March, pleasing safety advocates](#)

State-Journal.com

Beam Suntory operates the Jim Beam Old Grand-Dad plant located right next to the low-head dam. Beam Suntory's Sara Roston said that the dam was ...

[Brandywine Creek flows freely again after Lenape Dam removal](#)

Daily Local News

This dam was one of 11 dams on the Brandywine Creek identified by the nonprofit organization Brandywine Shad 2020 as obstructions to the migration ...

[Dammed, drugged, poisoned: River species struggle to survive](#)

witf.org

The dams, in addition to causing problems with sediment, impede the ... The first was the Holtwood dam, south of the area in the river now called Lake ...

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

[China's New Dam Project Could Dwarf the Three Gorges Dam](#)

Interesting Engineering

Plans for a series of huge dams on the Yarlung Tsangpo River (the upper part of the river which becomes the Brahmaputra in India) have recently ...

[Site C: Experts urge government to lift secrecy around \\$10-billion mega dam](#)

Vancouver Sun

Taxpayers still do not know whether the dam can be built safely and at what cost, Furstenau said. B.C. Hydro has not released a quarterly report since ...

[Site C dam budget nearly doubles to \\$16B, but BC NDP forging on with megaproject](#)

CBC.ca

British Columbia is forging ahead with the Site C dam — the largest public infrastructure project in the province's history — despite a price tag that's ...

[A timeline of events in British Columbia's Site C dam project](#)

Abbotsford News

Late 1950s: The location for a third dam on the Peace River is first looked at after the locations of WAC Bennett Dam and Peace Canyon Dam were ...

[Ducks Unlimited, nearby landowners disagree on future of Johnstons River dam](#)

Yahoo News Canada, Prince Edward Island

Tom Duffy, Ducks Unlimited's manager of Atlantic operations, said reconstructing the dam and water control structure would cost around \$750,000, ...

['World of hurt': Toxic blooms take over Lower Darling River as dam debate ramps up](#)

Brisbane Times

Mr McCrabb, who was prominent in making public the huge fish kills two years ago, said he supported government efforts to measure the dams that ...

North American Megadam Resistance Alliance

Protecting rivers and their communities by resisting megadams and their transmission corridors



Announcing NAMRA's 2021 Webinar Series:

What's new in the campaign to save rivers & their communities

We are excited to announce a three-part series featuring activists and experts who are leading the efforts to expose the myth that hydropower from megadams is "renewable and green."

Webinar 1

New developments in the campaign to stop the NECEC export corridor for Canadian hydropower through Maine to Massachusetts

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 6–7:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Massachusetts' recently released "[Decarbonization Roadmap](#)" claims Canadian hydropower will help the state reduce emissions and promote climate justice.

First Nations in Canada and the facts say otherwise: the proposal to import 1,200 megawatts of Canadian hydropower via [New England Clean Energy Connect](#) is environmental racism and a climate disaster. Indigenous resistance to Hydro-Quebec and export corridors like NECEC is [growing](#) and [lawsuits](#) are happening. New export corridors proposed in the U.S. will drive more dams on Indigenous lands and waters and environmental racism. Join us at 6 pm ET on [March 3rd](#) to find out the latest!

Our webinar will feature:

- **Kevin Cassidy, Senior Staff Attorney, Lewis and Clark Law School, Earthrise Law Center:** Updates on the recent federal lawsuit to stop NECEC and the grassroots organizing campaign. Explain the flaws in Massachusetts' plan to use NECEC hydropower to address the climate crisis.
- **Meg Sheehan, Coordinator, [North American Megadam Resistance Alliance](#):** Why Massachusetts' claim that Canadian hydropower will reduce the state's emissions and meet climate justice mandates is at odds with the facts.
- **Greg Goubko, Clean Energy Campaigner, [Sierra Club Canada Foundation](#):** Updates on the proposed Atlantic Loop corridor in Nova Scotia and Gull Island megadam in Newfoundland & Labrador.

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Webinar 2

[Voices of the Resistance: Indigenous First Nations impacted by Hydro-Quebec's dams and transmission corridors explain the environmental racism of Canadian hydropower exports to the U.S.](#)

[Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 7–8:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time](#)

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

In the words of Lucien Wabanonik of the Indigenous Anishnabeg tribe in modern-day Quebec, Hydro-Quebec "[is currently operating 33 hydroelectric plants, 130 dams and dykes, flooding 2.6 million acres, and maintaining tens of](#)

thousands of kilometers of transmission and distribution lines and roads on our ancestral territories. It doesn't rightfully own 36% of its total installed electrical capacity, yet we've never been compensated for this massive taking, forced to live as second-rate citizens on our own unceded land, and now HQ wants to export this power to Massachusetts."

Join our webinar to hear from First Nations who will explain first hand why Hydro-Quebec's electricity is not "clean energy" but environmental racism.

This webinar will show the stark reality behind the "green" claims about Canadian hydropower and the export corridor being promoted by Massachusetts as a climate solution.

Speakers to be announced!

Webinar 3

Updates on the climate impacts of Canadian hydropower

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 7–8:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Hydropower has always been a false solution to the climate crisis: large dams and their reservoirs emit potent greenhouse gas emissions, flood thousands of acres of carbon-sequestering forests and trap sediments that impair the ocean's ability to act as a carbon sink.

This webinar will review new science that confirms why hydropower should not be part of any climate action plan or the Green New Deal.

Speakers:

Roger D. Wheeler, President, Friends of Sebago Lake (FOSL): Roger will talk about the recent book "Blue Deserts" based on the work of Dr. Neu, a renowned oceanographer. The book explains how large dams in the subarctic undermine the ocean's ability to act as a carbon sink, cause water temperatures to increase, and contribute to the decline of fisheries in the Gulf of Maine and

beyond. Hear more about these often-ignored impacts of Canadian hydropower dams that are promoted as a climate solution.

Additional speakers on the climate impacts of Canadian hydropower to be announced!

<http://northeastmegadamresistance.org/>