Reconnecting VT Rivers through Dam Removal

Karina Dailey, Restoration Ecologist, Vermont Natural Resource Council

kdailey@vnrc.org

The Vermont Dam Removal Initiative

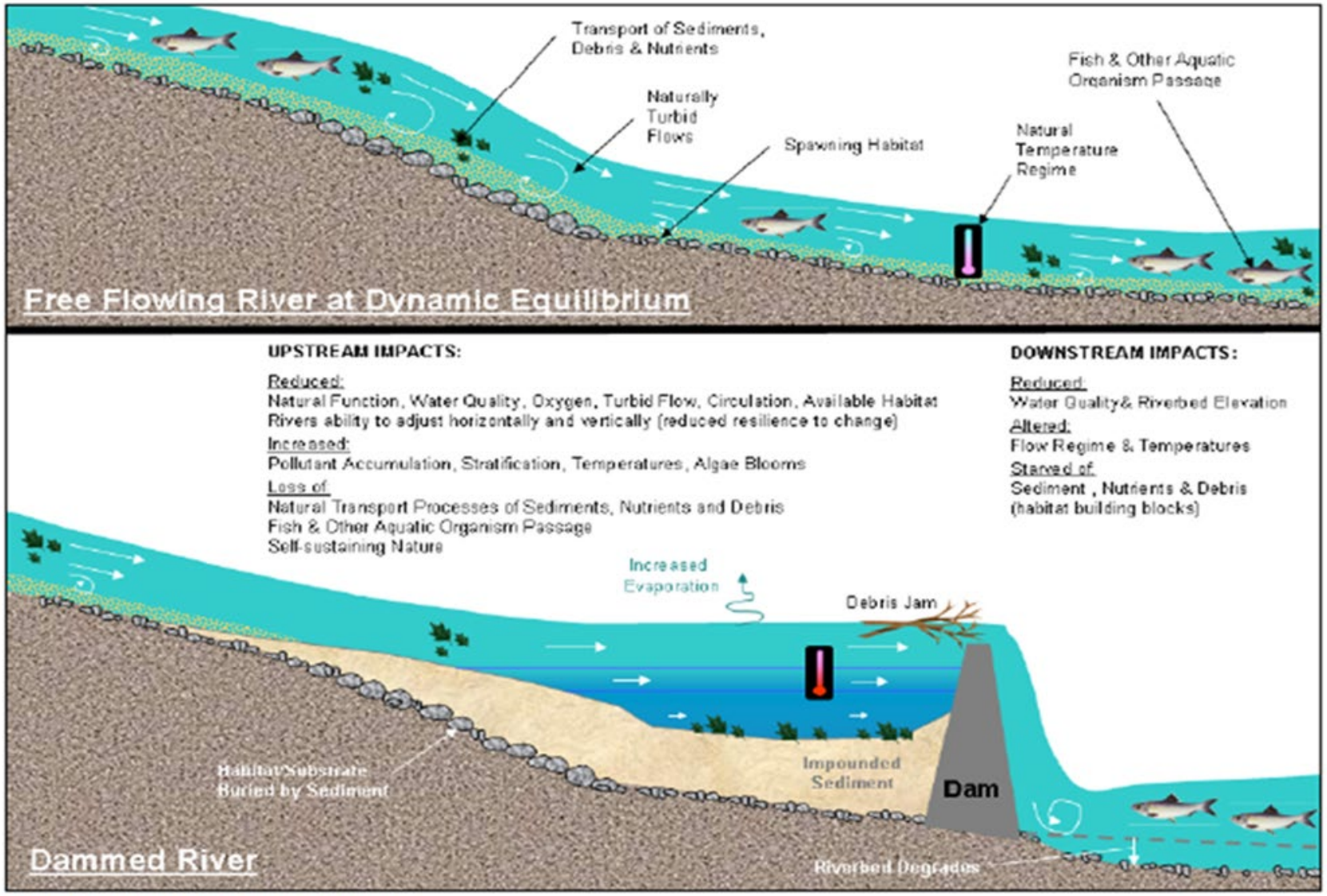
- Raise awareness
- Identify dams
- Prioritize dams
- Collaborate

VERMONT
DAM TASK FORCE

Reconnecting River Systems

Dams:

- Disrupt the river continuum - Biota - flow-habitat
- Degrade water quality and aquatic habitat.
- Restrict the movement of AOP including fish and other wildlife.
- Dams cost $ to maintain.
- They are a liability to landowners and neighbors.
- They are a public safety risk.



Graphic courtesy of American Rivers

Project Selection

- Ecological impact
- Hazard Potential Classification
- Owner interest
- Partner support

Dunklee Dam, Rutland

Pelletier Dam, Castleton

North Breton Brook - Pelletier Dam, March 2022

Post Dam Removal - North Breton Brook, October 2022

Connolly Pond Dam, Shrewsbury

Cross Brothers Dam, Northfield

Cross Brothers Dam, Northfield

Before

After

Rouleau Pond Dam, Williamstown

Rouleau Pond Dam, Williamstown

STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

10 V.S.A §1095 DAM ORDER

Owner:	David Traczyk and Linda Archambault
Dam Name:	Rouleau Dam
Dam ID Number:	244.02
Hazard Classification:	SIGNIFICANT Hazard Potential
Waterbody:	Rouleau Pond, Stevens Branch Tributary
	Winooski River Basin
Town:	Williamstown

Dam Removal Outcomes

- Reconnected rivers allows for increased species diversity and habitat
- Improves community and climate resilience
- Provides public safety and removes liability
- Improves water quality
- Improves recreational opportunities
- Provides community outreach and education
- Provide support for watershed organizations

VNRC Vermont Natural Resources Council

FREE VT RIVERS


Newcomb '22
FREE VERMONT RIVERS!