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DAM REMOVAL EUROPE, LISBON. MAY 2022

AMY SINGLER

Mainstreaming Dam Removal in the U.S.





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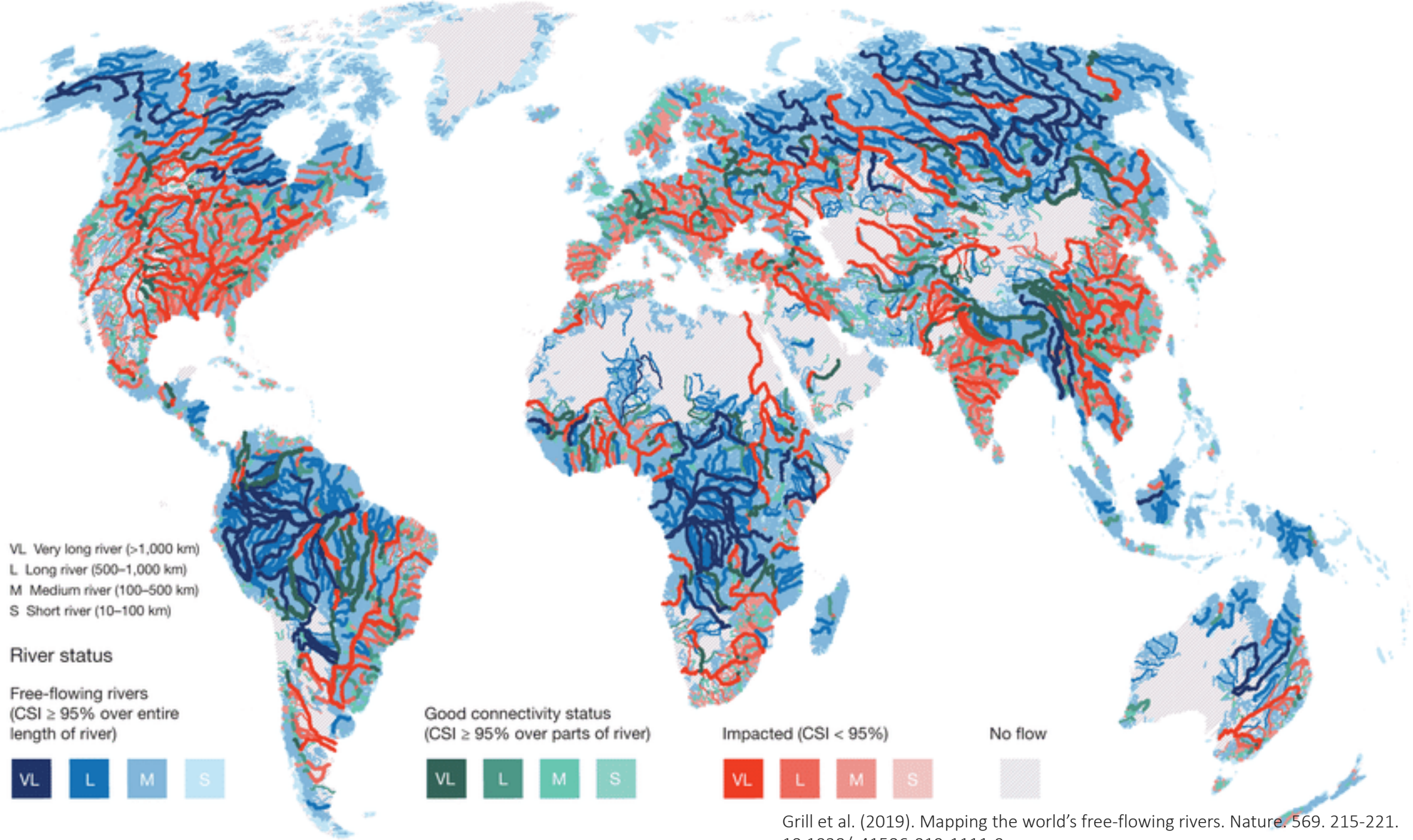
If there is magic on this planet,
it is contained in water.

– Loren Eiseley
American Anthropologist

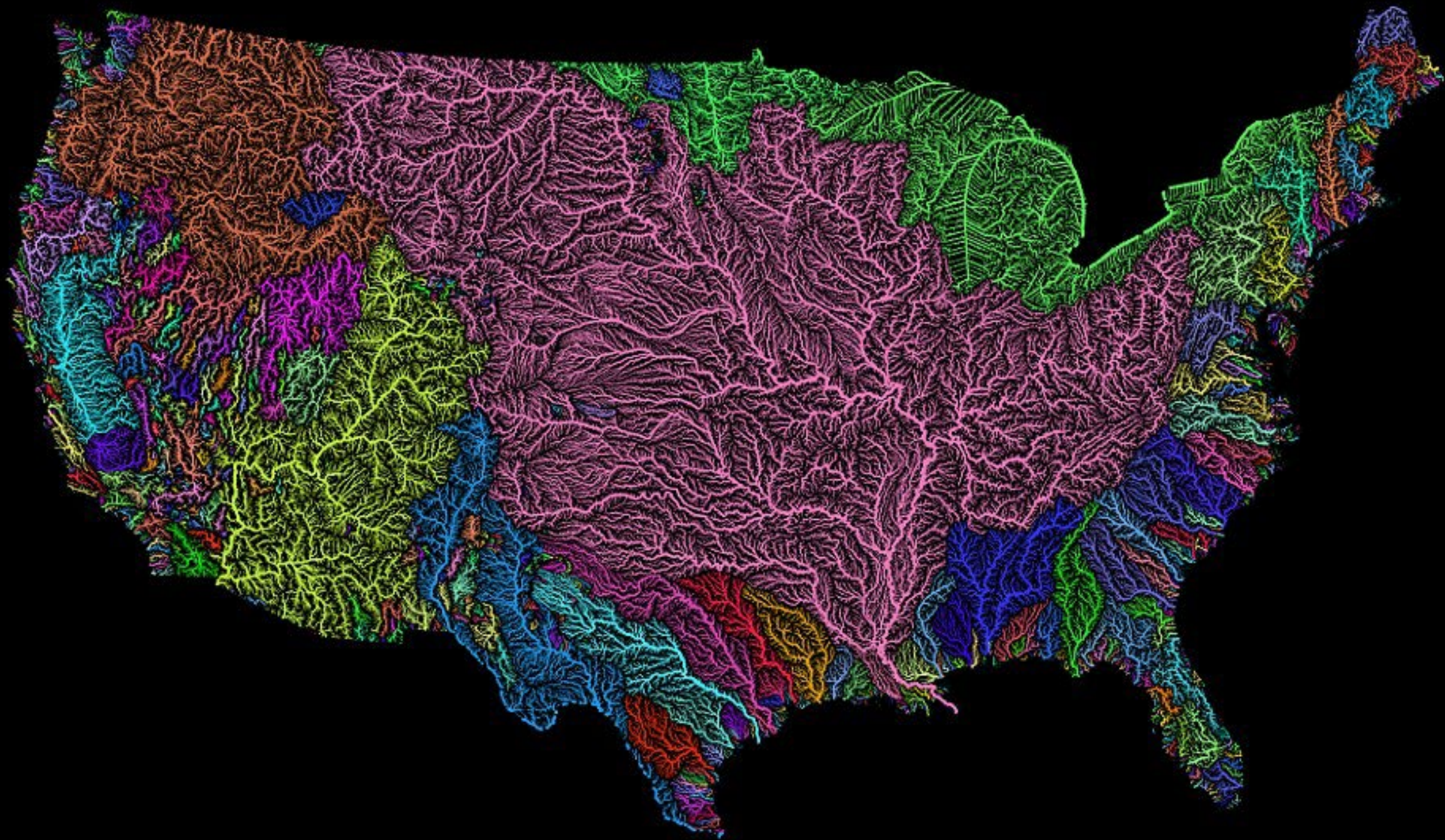
An aerial photograph showing a wide river with a prominent meander loop, surrounded by a dense, lush green forest. The river's path is clearly visible as it winds through the vast expanse of trees.

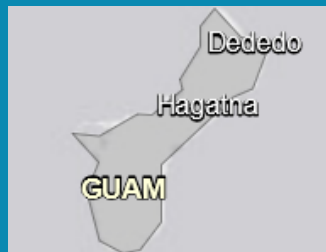
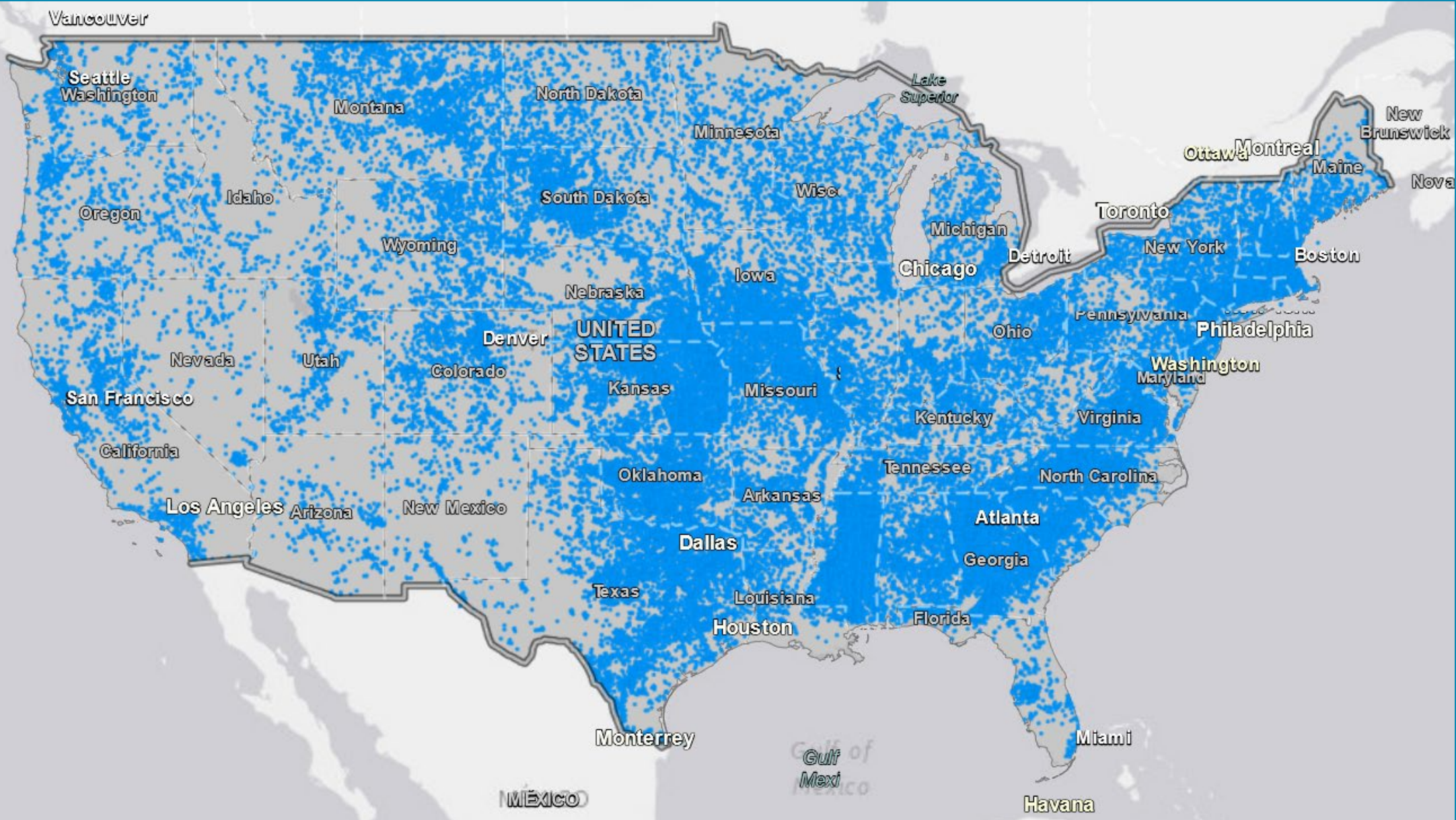
Freshwater ecosystems cover <1% of the planet but provide some of the most important ecosystem services. Freshwater populations are declining faster than terrestrial or marine^{1,2} and yet these systems receive these conservation investments than other ecosystems³.

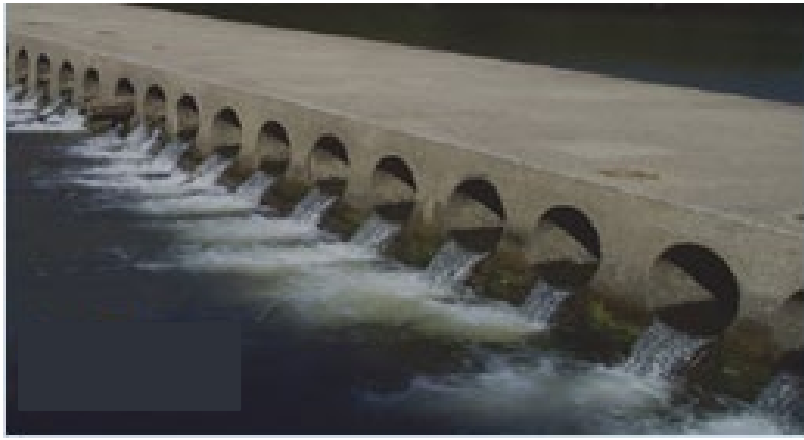
1: Dudgeon et al. 2006. 2: Collen et al. 2014. 3: Darwall et al. 2011.



Grill et al. (2019). Mapping the world's free-flowing rivers. *Nature*. 569. 215-221. [10.1038/s41586-019-1111-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1111-9).



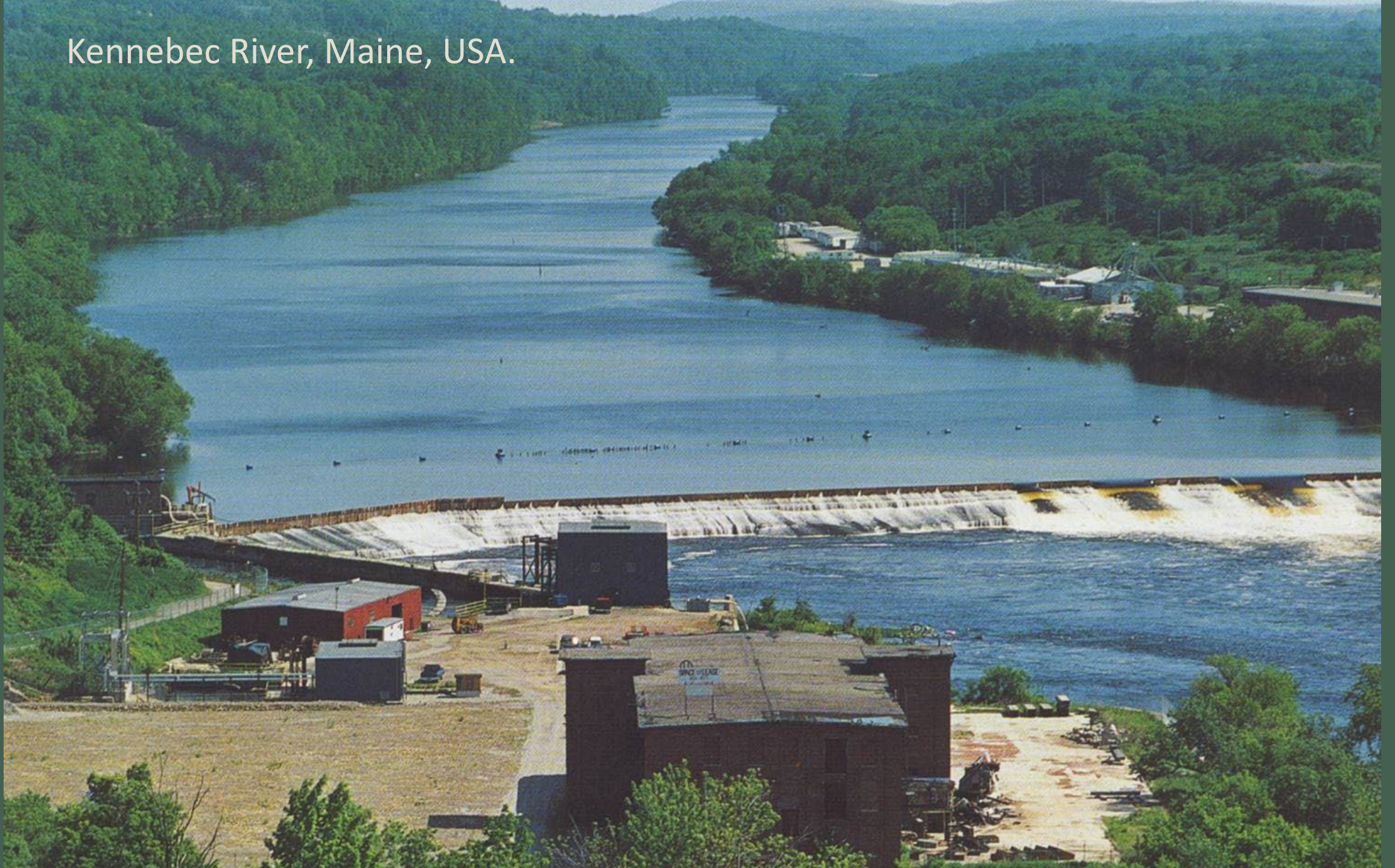




Restoring our rivers: The dam removal movement



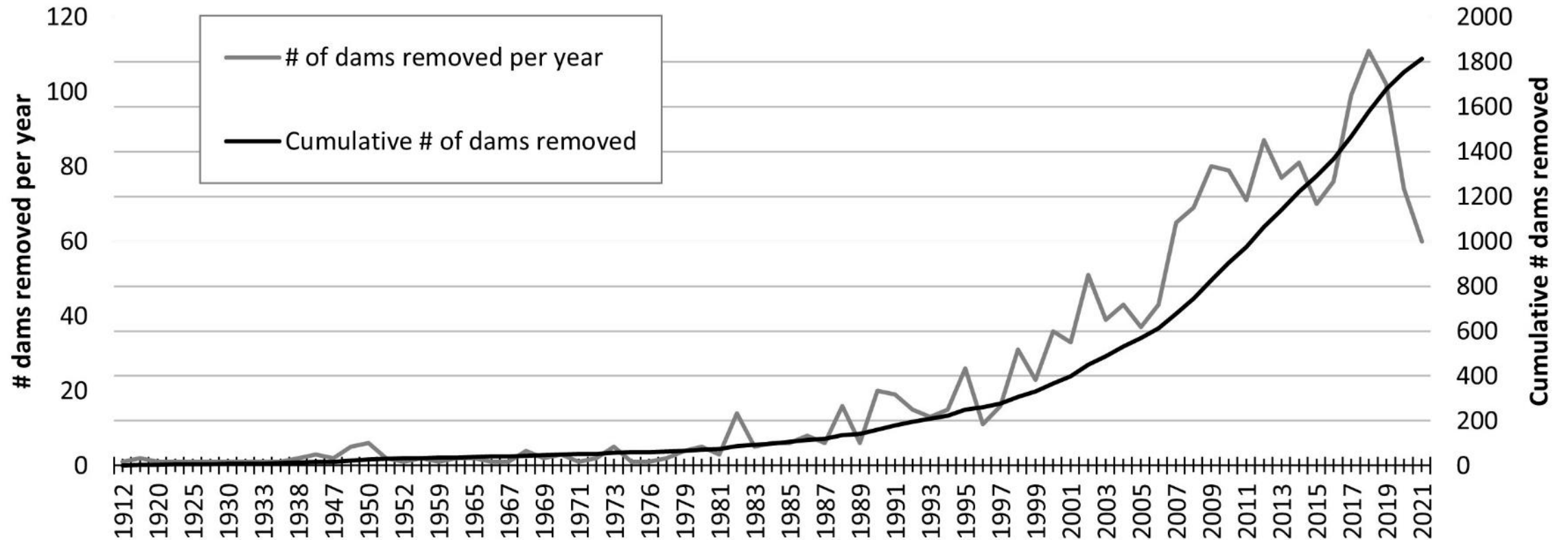
Kennebec River, Maine, USA.





Kennebec River, Augusta Maine, USA.

United States Dam Removal 1912 – 2021



Source: American Rivers

Building a movement



South Branch Gale River, NH, USA. Credit: American Rivers



Columbia Lake Dam, NJ, USA. © Jeff Burian/TNC

Key environmental laws

F&W Coordination Act: requires equal consideration and coordination of wildlife conservation with other water resources development programs

1934–1958

1972

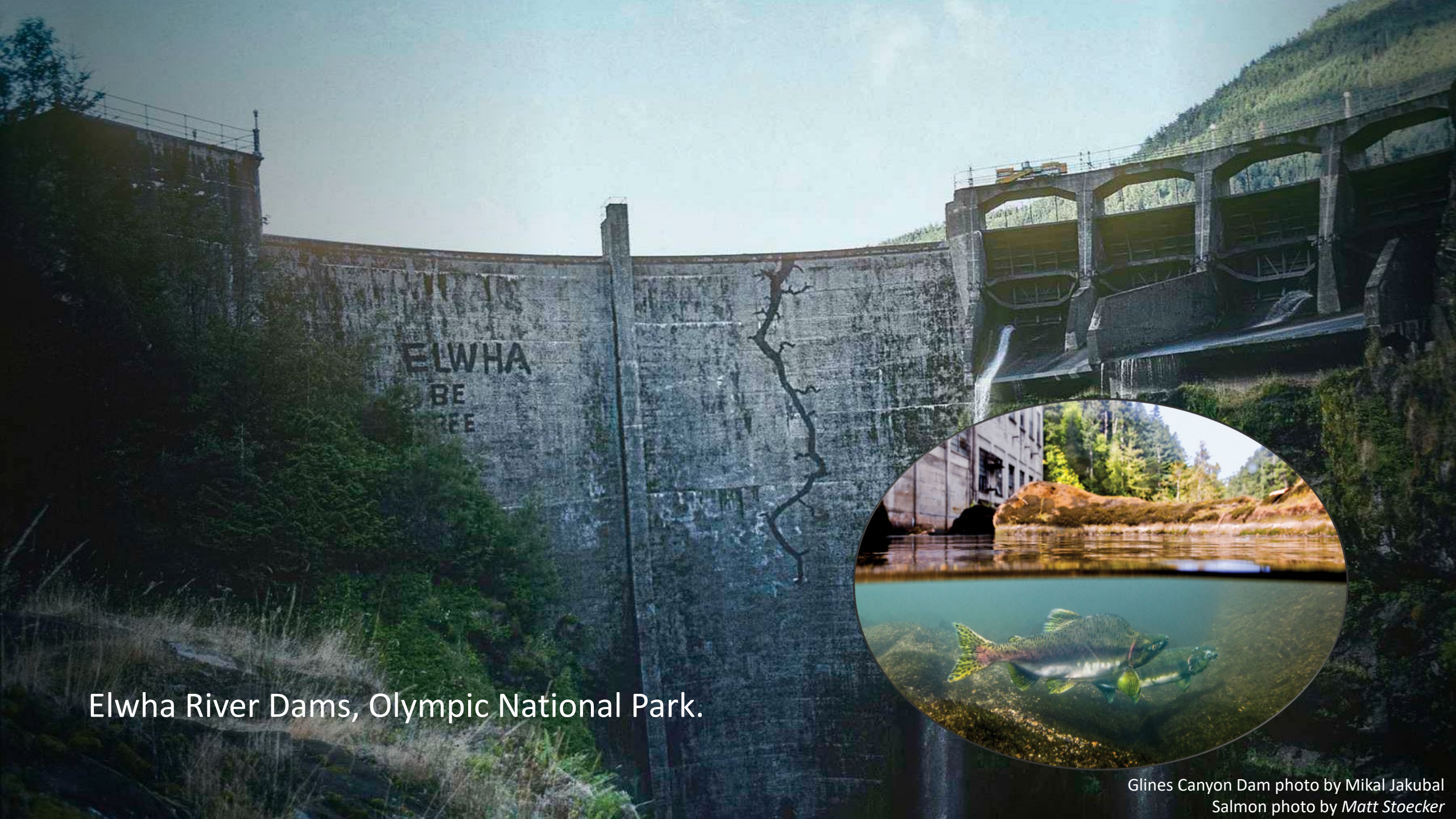
Clean Water Act: restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters

Endangered Species Act

1973

1988

Federal Power Act Section 10



Elwha River Dams, Olympic National Park.



Glines Canyon Dam photo by Mikal Jakubal
Salmon photo by *Matt Stoecker*

Oct 20 11 14:28:30



Elwha Dam. Credit National Park Service



Dam Safety



Promoting dam removal as a
beneficial practice



Eight Mile River, Connecticut, USA



Where are we
going?

U.S. New Funds Federal Infrastructure Bill 2021

\$800M to federal
programs for dam
removal and fisheries
restoration

Additional Opportunities
to incorporate dam
removal into public water
infrastructure and public
safety programs



Incorporate dam
removal into planning
to improve resiliency
and modernize our
infrastructure



WHY BARRIER REMOVAL

PEOPLE – FLOOD RESILIENCY, PUBLIC SAFETY

ENVIRONMENT – AQUATIC & TERRESTRIAL
WILDLIFE HEALTH, WATER
QUALITY

ECONOMY – MAINTAIN/RESTORE FISHERIES,
REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS,
IMPROVING RECREATION



Credit: Michael Hanson
PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Hanson

Dam removal is part of the solution as we build sustainable and resilient communities and healthy rivers.





Thank You



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us®

