



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

CONFEDERACIÓN
HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL TAJO, O.A.

Removing barriers in Spain

Tajo River Basin Authority

Dam Removal Europe goes Alps, May 7th 2021

Removing barriers in Spain



Source: Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo



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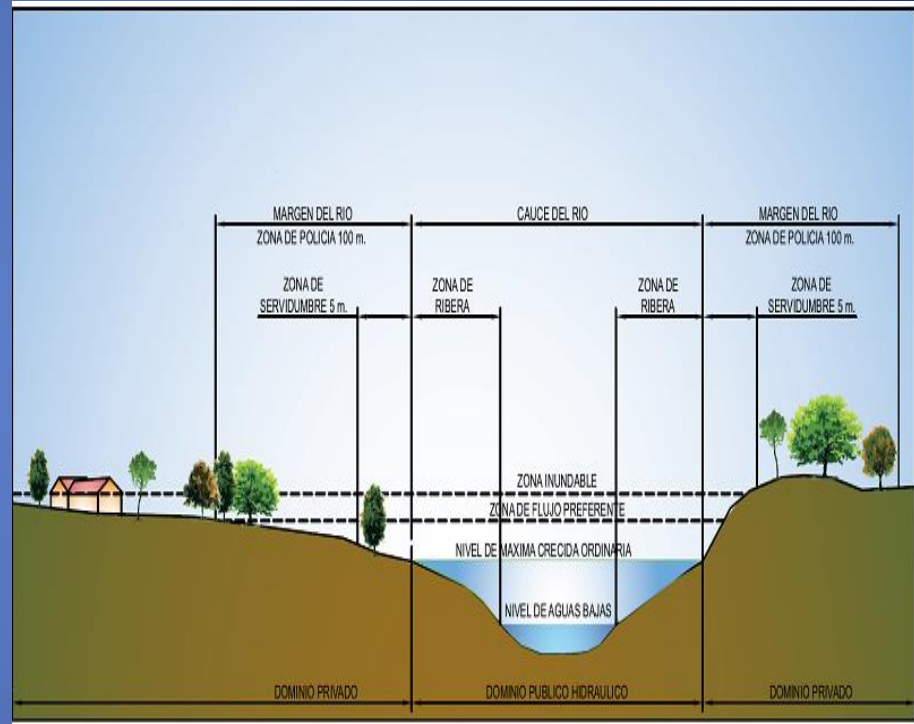
Lidia Arenillas Girola

Tajo River Basin Authority, Spain

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Public Water Domain definition in Spanish legislation:

- **Inland waters**, both surface and groundwater.
- **Natural channels**, both continuous and non continuous streams: land covered by water during **the ordinary highest floods**.
- **Lakes, lagoons and reservoir beds** (built in public channels)
- **Aquifers** (groundwater natural reservoirs)



- Therefore, we can state that **public water domain** is both **the water** and **the surface or space** on which it flows or by which is contained.



- The State would never lose its ownership in any case (they can't be sold or impounded)



RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

- In basins whose surface crosses more than one region:
 - The National Government as a supra regional authority.
- In basins whose surface develops inside the same region from source to mouth:
 - The Regional Authority.



Dams and weirs

Dams and weirs built on a river must be authorized by the river basin authority.

The owner (who builds and uses the hydraulic infrastructure) is responsible for its maintenance



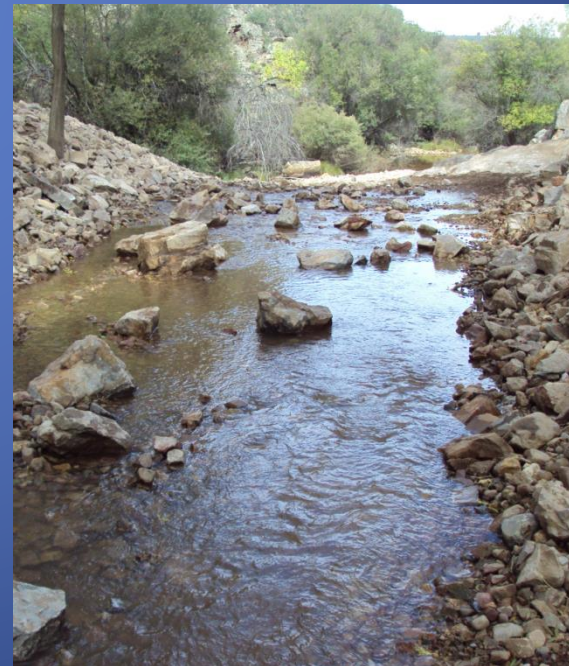
DAMS AND WEIRS OUT OF USE

- Non-compliance with authorization conditions. River Basin Authority can revoke the authorization
- Lack of use for more than three years. RBA can revoke authorization (if exists)
- Owner resignation



WHEN A DAM IS OUT OF USE:

- The owner must restore the river, and recover its original features (barrier demolition).
- If the owner is unknown (in very old barriers or illegal ones) the State assumes ownership and can remove it.





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Thank you!
¡Muchas gracias!



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