Boñar dam
Porma River, Spain
Why Dam Removal?

- Improve the ecological status of rivers
- Many dams are old and obsolete
- Renew licence or major maintenance coming up
- Hazard (loss of life and significant economic loss downstream if they fail; recent flooding)
- Create new economic opportunities
- To enjoy rivers because they are great
Upcoming Science
Dam Removal in the news

- ... No other action can bring ecological integrity back to rivers as effectively as dam removals.... (Yale, 2015)
- ...Rivers recover faster than expected after dam removal ... (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017)
- ... If you are looking at the most economical way to gain watershed restoration, dam removal on its own jumps ahead of many things on the list... (Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, 2017)
France: 83,795 man-made obstacles

UK: 22,000 man-made obstacles

SWEDEN: 9,298 barriers
Dams removed in USA

Elwha Dam Removal on the Elwha River in WA, USA
Photo Source: US National Park Service
# of Dams Removed

1,100 U.S. Dams Removed through 2013
And what about Europe?

- FRANCE: 2,300
- SWEDEN: 1,600
- SPAIN: 200
- UK: tbd
- FINLAND: 450
- NETHERLANDS: 50
- BELGIUM: tbd
- GERMANY: tbd
- SWITZERLAND: tbd

Aravalle Dam, Avila Spain
Photo before: Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero. Photo after: C.H. Duero

Inspiring examples (Spain)
Inspiring examples (Spain)

Removing Retuerta Dam in Aravalle River (Ávila, Spain)
Inspiring examples (Wales)

Kentchurch Weir, Wales
Photo before: P. Gough
Photo after: P. Gough
Planned removal (France)

© http://www.selunelibre.org/en/
Planned removals (Spain)

Dam River Agadon, Spain. 2 * 30 metres
Become involved
Dam removals to learn from

• We know of more and more DR planned
• Will catalogue and present on website story board
• Very important experiences we can learn from (including USA)
• Monitor before and after
• Communicate about success and challenges
• We might support them by providing knowledge and experience
Dam Removal Europe
A joint initiative

Share, engage and inspire ~ European movement

1. Share knowledge and experiences
2. Create an active DRE network
3. Awareness and engagement
4. Actual dam removals
5. Fundraising and financial innovation

• While understand dam removal is a first step in river restoration
Many dams in European Rivers are old, abandoned and out of use. Together we can locate and remove them. Let's open the rivers for wildlife and people.

Read more

www.damremoval.eu