

An Overview of Recent Regulatory Changes Affecting Dam Removal Projects

Association of State Wetland Managers Webinar, February 2017



Agenda

- Background
- Overview of NWP 53, Removal of Low-head Dams
- Areas of Concern and the Public Comment Period
- Approaches to Regional Review

Why the push for a “dam removal” NWP?



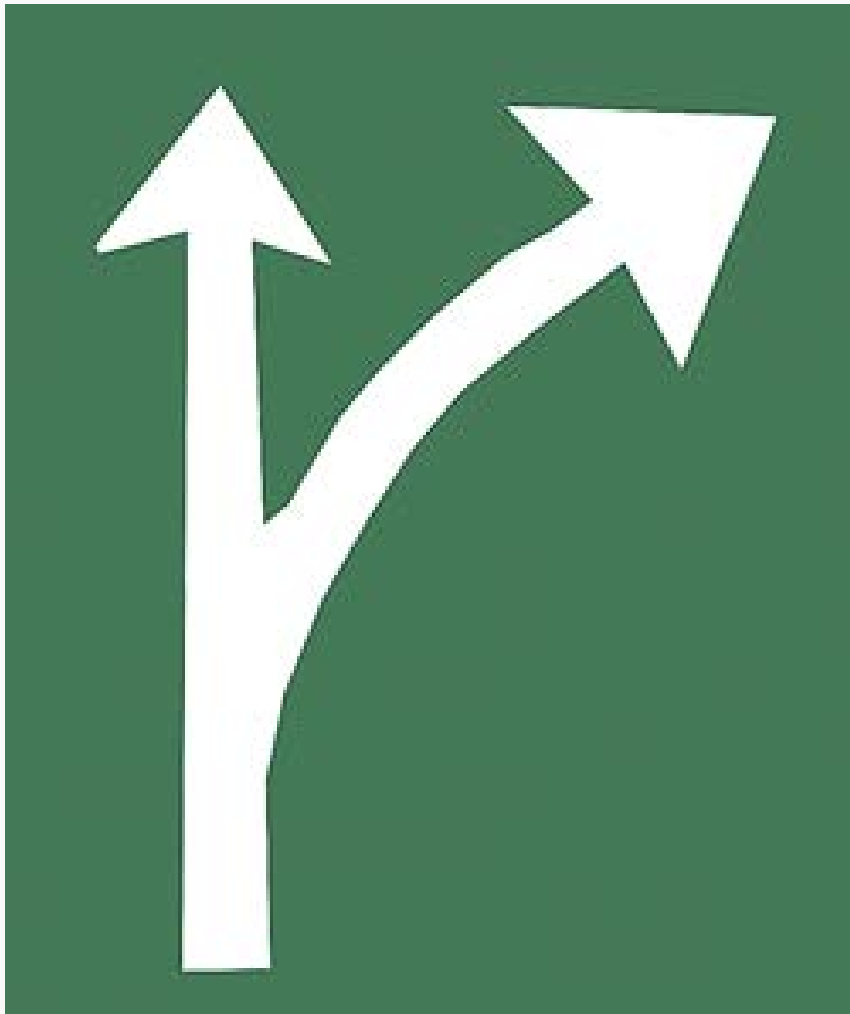
NWP 53, Removal of Low-head Dams

Removal of Low-Head Dams. Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the removal of low-head dams.

Areas of Concern

Public Comment Period

- Definition
- Pre-construction Notification
- Adverse Effects
 - species of concern
 - wetland mitigation
 - 401 WQ certifications and sediment, sediment, sediment



“District engineers have
the discretion..”



Pending Guidance and Other Tools

Draft Dam Removal Analysis Guidelines for Sediment
(prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Subcommittee on Sedimentation)

State-specific guidance

Water Quality Variances

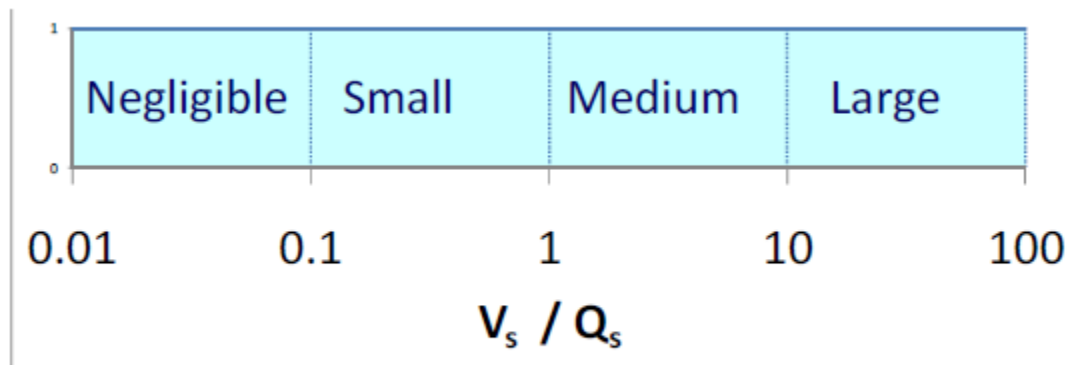


Figure 25. Probability of sediment impact based on ratio of reservoir sediment volume or mass (V_s) to mean annual sediment load (Q_s).

Table 6. The relationship of probability of sediment effects with time and distance downstream.

Probability Table	Probability of impact tends to decrease with time and distance downstream			
	Relative Reservoir Sedimentation Volume	Short-term in the reservoir and the near reach below the dam	After additional time or additional distance downstream	After additional time or additional distance downstream
Small →	Small →	Negligible		
Medium →	Medium →	Small →	Negligible	
Large →	Large →	Medium →	Small →	

Thank you!

Serena McClain
Director, River Restoration
American Rivers
smcclain@amrivers.org

