



Roadmap to 30K: Scaling Dam Removal to Address the Needs of a Changing World

Dam Removal Funder Symposium
April 29 – May 1, 2024



**AMERICAN
RIVERS**

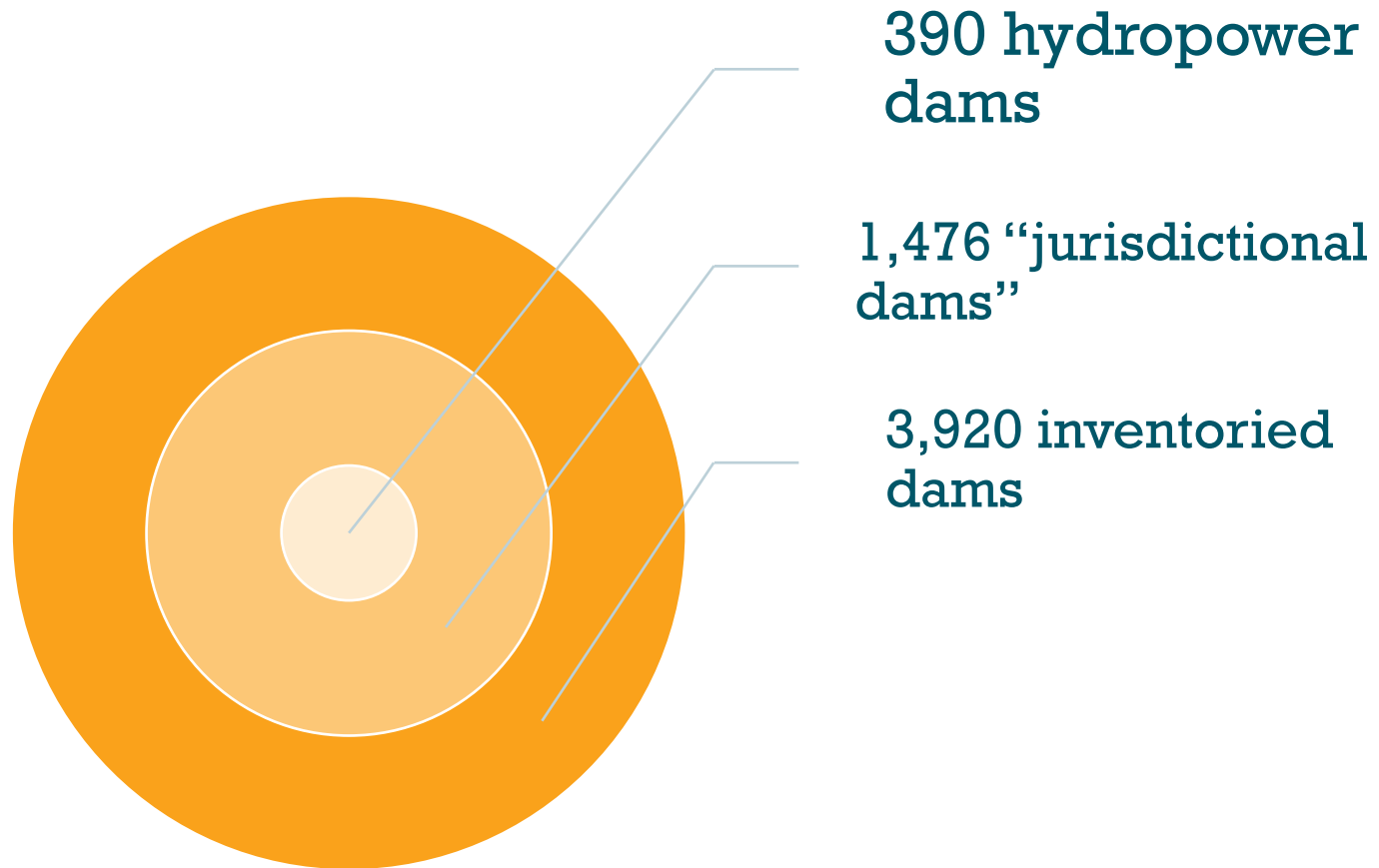


During Dam Removal, Congaree Creek, South Carolina

In 2023, American Rivers set the strategic goal of removing 30,000 dams by 2050.



How Many Dams Are in California?



ROADMAP TO REMOVING 30K DAMS

50 STATE
STRATEGY

FEDERAL
POLICY
AGENDA

What enabling conditions would allow us to reconnect and restore freshwater systems at a significantly faster pace?

Framework for addressing critical water issues at the state level where much of our water governance takes place

Federal, State, and community-based collaboration

Policy, programmatic, and funding recommendations needed to accelerate the pace of dam removal

National playbook that can be adapted by state-based teams to tackle the most-pressing needs of their state



50 State Strategy



Strengthen Dam Safety requirements and enforcement.



To increase the pace and scale of dam removal, identify feasible projects and establish a Community of Practice.



Leverage hydropower relicensing processes to secure removal of complex, large scale dams.



Cultivate non-traditional support for dam removal projects and campaigns.



Develop and enhance state funding opportunities.



Initiating a California Dam Removal Program

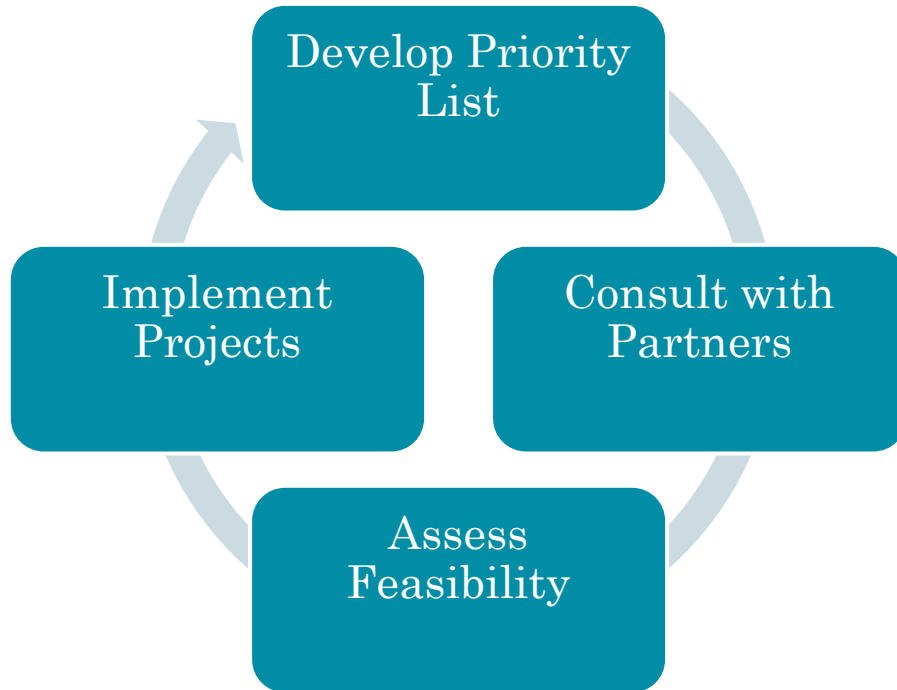
Program Scoping

- Increase the pace and scale of dam removal by creating a project pipeline.
- Facilitate movement building by providing resources and expertise to complex projects.
- Grow and sustain a dam removal movement through policy advocacy.



California Active 150

Identifying priority feasible dam removals for Community of Practice establishment



- **Concept:** maintain a list of 150 priority dam removal projects that are actively pursued
- **Prioritization:** gather information to inform project list, may focus on species, habitat quality, or environmental justice
- **Assess Feasibility:** examine development patterns and water rights to assess potential opposition



USFS and American Rivers Partnership Goals

Increase

Increase knowledge of the degree of aquatic fragmentation within the boundaries of USFS lands and lands adjacent thereto.

Pilot

Pilot efforts to restore habitat connectivity and fish passage by removing dams and other barriers where feasible.

Bolster

Bolster the capacity of the USFS to address barrier impacts on fish passage, biodiversity, and safety.





Our hydropower reform goal is to repair the harm hydropower dams cause to the environment and communities by restoring 10,000 miles of river by 2030.

Centerville Powerhouse, PG&E, DeSabra Centerville Hydro Project



Why Join Complex Dam Removal Projects?

Multi-year efforts for larger restoration projects, which are frequently highly visible to the public, and, therefore, help with movement building.

- Bringing key expertise, visibility, and cross-jurisdictional case studies to a region.
- Access to a national community of practice comprised of dam removal experts.
- Assists with accelerating the pace and scale of dam removal in a particular region.





Rush Creek Hydroelectric Project, California, Meghan Quinn



Potter Valley Project, California, Kyle Schwartz

- Complex dam removals include high profile projects, such as major hydropower projects or those that facilitate irrigation water diversions.
- These projects also provide opportunities to develop non-traditional partnerships.





Policy Initiatives

Enabling conditions for future projects, including through supportive policies and funding opportunities



**AMERICAN
RIVERS**

Life Depends on RiversSM



**AMERICAN
RIVERS**