

Presenter	Serena S. McClain American Rivers
Type	oral presentation
Category	Benefits of Stream Restoration
Title	<i>Monitoring and Documenting the Socio-economic Benefits of Dam Removal: A Patapsco River Case Study</i>
Abstract	<p>Over the past decade, dam removal has become an accepted form of stream restoration that is said to re-establish natural stream function, including fish passage, sediment transport, etc. Many dam removal projects are considered multi-beneficial in that they also have the potential to result in socio-economic benefits like increased recreation and tourism and short- and long-term economic benefits. Development of physical and biological monitoring protocols, such as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Environment's Stream Barrier Removal Monitoring Guide, are providing Federal, state, and non-profit project managers with a framework for collecting pre- and post-implementation data to better demonstrate project successes. However, it is far less common that the socio-economic impacts of restoration projects are being studied and documented.</p> <p>This presentation will discuss reasonable methods for monitoring and documenting the socio-economic benefits anticipated from the removal of three dams on the Patapsco River in Maryland. As part of a multi-year monitoring effort that is being launched for the Patapsco River Restoration project, project partners are developing a methodology for verifying and documenting short- and long-term economic impacts, in the form of job creation and operation and maintenance costs, and quality of life benefits by examining changes in recreational use patterns, volunteer-based activities, and tourism. Because these projects are still in the pre-implementation phase, participants will also have the opportunity to both inform and strengthen the long-term monitoring protocols being established.</p>