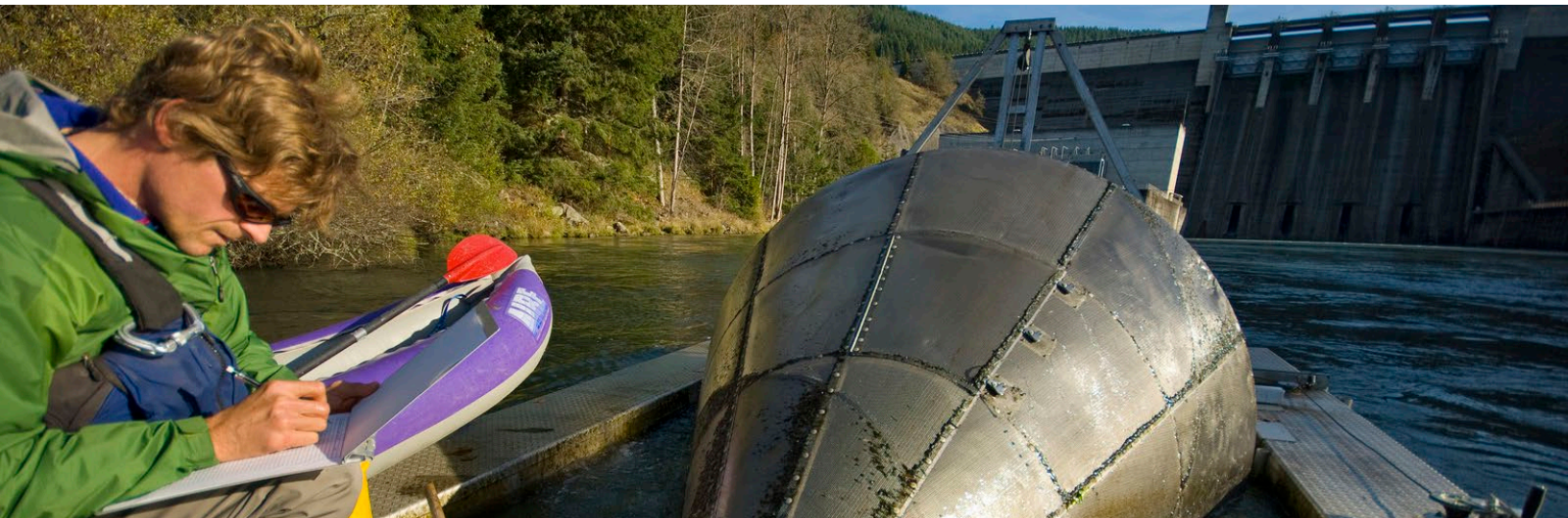


# Sustainable Rivers Program

BALANCING WHAT HUMANS AND RIVERS NEED TO THRIVE



The Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are demonstrating that science-guided adjustments to dam operations and integrated floodplain management can increase benefits for people and nature. Pictured here is Oregon's Willamette River. © Bridget Besaw

**Our Goal:** Revitalize America's water infrastructure to provide meaningful economic, social, and environmental returns

Over the last 80 years, the United States has built thousands of dams and other water infrastructure to provide us with clean drinking water, flood protection, hydropower and even recreational opportunities. But many of these projects are in dire need of updates if they will continue to support our growing water demands.

The Nature Conservancy is working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to better use man-made infrastructure and water projects along with natural features as part of a whole-river system can provide us with **better water supply, more hydropower and lower flood risk - all while improving the natural habitats for local wildlife.**

## WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

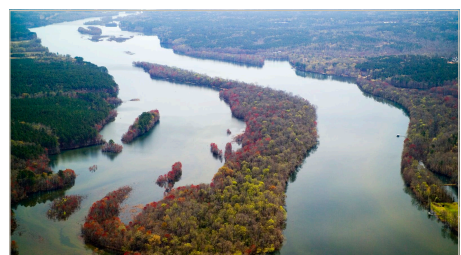
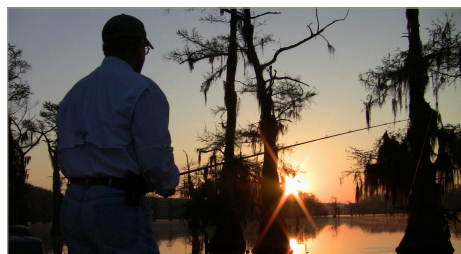
A national Sustainable Rivers Program working with local communities across the country enables us to:

- **Improve Water Quality:** Floodplains and wetlands efficiently and effectively filter sediment and pollutants from our rivers and lakes providing cleaner water drinking water and wildlife habitats.
- **Reduce Flood Damage:** Floods cause \$30-50B in damage in the U.S. every decade. Coordinating dam operations with use of the most flood-prone areas can lower the flood risk for communities.
- **Preserve Wildlife & Recreation:** Natural flow patterns trigger fish spawning and migration, and nourish scenic natural lands. These areas support commercial and recreational fishing and other outdoor-related recreation that generate billions of dollars each year.

Together, we can revitalize our water infrastructure to ensure the well-being of our families today and give us the peace of mind that our children can enjoy clean water, safe communities, and a thriving environment for years to come.

## Small Changes, Big Impact

There are 472 government-authorized reservoirs in the U.S. with enough storage to meet the annual water supply needs of 900 million people.



Adjusted flows can improve water quality, flood protection, hydropower, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Photos from top: © Jay Harrod/ The Nature Conservancy © Mark Godfrey/The Nature Conservancy

For more information visit:  
[nature.org/srp](http://nature.org/srp)