

Conservation Planning Assistance

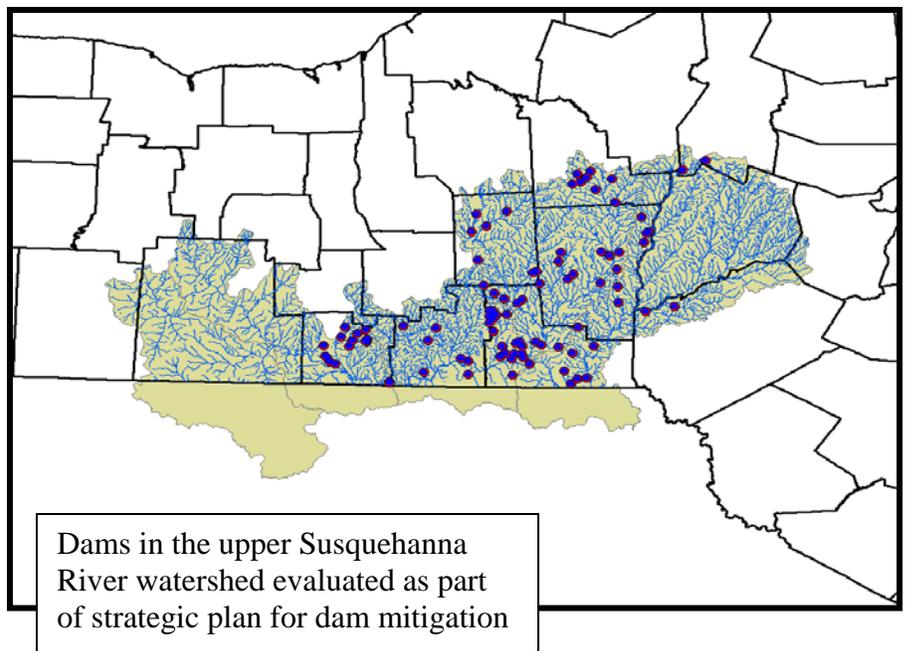
Upper Susquehanna Dam Removal and Mitigation, New York State

The Issue - Dams have been and continue to be built for a variety of reasons, including power generation, water supply, recreation, navigation, irrigation, and flood control. Unfortunately, dams can adversely impact fish and wildlife resources by blocking the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms, altering sediment, nutrient, and temperature regimes, and converting riverine habitat to littoral habitat. The adverse impacts dams impose on anadromous and catadromous fish species that require access to freshwater habitats for spawning and juvenile survival have been well documented. Dams negatively impact riverine fish such as walleye, perch, northern pike, and sunfish by limiting access to historical spawning areas, isolating populations, or inundating spawning habitats upstream of dams.

Strategic Planning for Dam Removal and Mitigation in New York - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has written a “Strategic Plan for Dam Removal and Mitigation in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed.” This plan provides guidance on how to evaluate dams for mitigation opportunities and provides recommendations on how to negotiate the complex process of dam removal and modification. The strategic plan also piloted the guidance within the upper Susquehanna River watershed which included evaluation of 95 dams. Nine dams were determined to have high potential for removal.

Highlights

- Developed strategic plan for dam removal or mitigation
- Evaluated 95 dams in 8 counties
- Nine dams determined to have high potential for removal or mitigation



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