

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

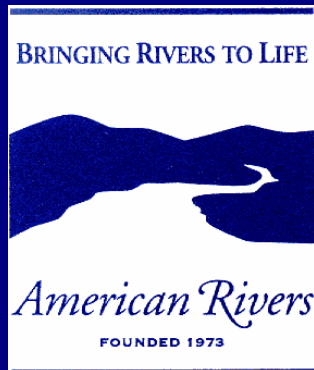
## Concluding Thoughts



Deciding whether or not to remove a dam can be difficult. The complexity of the decision is compounded when the dam still serves some purpose, such as facilitating water diversions. While dam removal may not be the right decision for every situation, hundreds of harmful dams have been removed across the country, and when necessary replaced with one or more of the numerous non-structural and low-impact options described in this report. In researching and writing this report, it became abundantly clear that the *real* alternative to many dams in the United State involves policy and behavioral changes that reduce the fundamental demand for the services that dams can provide. It is our hope that practitioners, decision-makers, and interested citizens will use this report not only as a resource to help replace a function of an existing harmful dam, but also as a stepping point to begin the larger dialogue about how better to manage our rivers and other limited resources.



A STREAM IN WISCONSIN RESTORED THROUGH DAM REMOVAL



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