EFFACER - RESTAURER - VALORISER COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL - FRANCE

>24 - 26 Septembre 2019 RENNES - AVRANCHES



Beth Lambert (Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration – USA)

The economic impacts of ecological restoration and dam removal in Massachusetts

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is a 20-person state agency, part of Massachusetts state government. DER's mission is to restore and protect rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment. The Division leads and coordinates aquatic habitat restoration projects such as dam removal, coastal wetland restoration, freshwater wetland restoration, and water quality restoration. In 2012, DER began exploring the economic benefits of dam removal to the state of Massachusetts, conducting several studies through 2017. DER found that, for every \$1 million spent on dam removal and other restoration projects, 12.5 jobs are created or maintained, and \$1.75 million in total economic output is delivered. In addition, the cost of dam removal is 60% less expensive than dam repair and maintenance over a 30 year period. DER uses this information to help decision-makers, funders, dam owners, and others make informed decisions about investing in dam removal and aquatic habitat restoration.

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