



4th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

The Spirit of Cooperation



AUGUST 1-5, 2011 | BALTIMORE, MARYLAND • USA | BALTIMORE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT

Field Trip Opportunities – Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Patapsco River Dam Removal Projects: NOAA and American Rivers (Tour is limited to 20 people)

Itinerary:

11:30am	Bus departs Baltimore Marriott Hotel
11:30am-12:15pm	Travel to Patapsco Valley State Park
12:15pm-1:30pm	Picnic lunch at Patapsco Valley State Park (Bloede Dam site) presentations by Mary Andrews and Serena McClain
1:30pm-2:00pm	Tour of Bloede Dam site
2:00pm-2:15pm	Travel to Simkins Dam Site
2:15pm-3:15pm	Tour of Simkins Dam site with demonstration by Maryland Biological Stream Survey
3:15pm-3:30pm	Travel to Union Dam Site
3:30pm-5:00pm	Union Dam Site Visit
5:00pm-5:30pm	Bus returns to Hotel

Description:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and American Rivers, working in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and the Friends of the Patapsco Valley State Park, removed the Union and Simkins dams, located on the Patapsco River near Ellicott City under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Removal of these blockages is part of a larger suite of removals on the Patapsco River aimed at restoring more than 30 miles of free-flowing habitat. The project reconnects and restores eight miles of spawning habitat for American eel, alewife, blueback herring, yellow and white perch, and American shad. The project provides access to nearly 300 square miles of the Patapsco River watershed for American eels. Moreover, it has increased recreational opportunities and removed two significant public safety hazards.

Upon arrival at the Patapsco Valley State Park, we will enjoy a picnic lunch at the Bloede Dam site. Mary Andrews and Serena McClain will provide background information on the three dams (Simkins and Union dams will have been removed) that will be visited during this field trip. The design for Bloede Dam removal is underway and a discussion on the historical importance of the dam will commence. Bloede Dam is 220 feet long, 40 feet wide at the base and has a drop of 26 ½ feet. It is an Amburson Hydraulic Construction Company (Boston type) reinforced concrete slab and buttress dam. It was the first known instance of a submerged hydroelectric plant where the power plant



was housed under the spillway. It is also recognized as one of the earliest dams constructed of reinforced concrete.



The former site of the Simkins and Union Dams will also be visited. Union Dam was removed from Oct 2009 – Sept 2010 using a heavily engineered approach with multiple river diversions and realignment of the stream channel. In contrast, the Simkins Dam removal using a passive sediment management approach with release of approximately 80,000-

100,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel that was stored behind the dam. Intensive monitoring of the site has been conducted with its removal and data will be shared at the site visit.

What to wear and bring: Dress for walking—long pants and lightweight long sleeved shirt (ticks, scratchy plants, and poison oak). Hats, sunscreen and sturdy walking shoes are a must. Access to the Union Dam site is limited and hence, a 0.5 mile hike over steep terrain will be necessary.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 13 miles to the Patapsco Valley State Park.

www.patapsco-map.notlong.com

Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person
(Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact:

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Tour Leader:

Serena McClain, American Rivers, Director, River Restoration Program, Washington, DC
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For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact:

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