

Climate Change Effects on Restoration Projects: Lessons from Glen Canyon and Lake Champlain Basin

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Climate change effects on Earth are prevalent and increasing. As restoration practitioners, we need to both recognize this reality and be able to respond to it with effective planning, implementation and adaptation of projects: both anticipated and completed. I examine two cases of restoration projects: one anticipated in Glen Canyon in Utah and Arizona, and another implemented on the Winooski River for water quality improvement and increased flooding amelioration in the Lake Champlain Basin, Vermont. While all restoration projects are specific to place, human, and natural characteristics, these two cases offer a broad U.S. representation of both climate change effects as well as management strategies for effectually thinking about restoration in complex and rapidly changing conditions. Environmental change will be the hallmark of the 21st century. As a result, restoration scope, planning, and implementation will need to shift towards this new reality. Specifically, this presentation will examine changes in hydrology and resultant planning, needed training and education, changes in safety and user desires and needs for these systems, as well as effectively guiding restoration projects with a long-term perspective in the context of a rapidly changing planet to best support and sustain communities and their surrounding ecosystems. Interdisciplinarity, cooperation, and adaptability will be indispensable for implemented restoration projects to best meet the needs of today as well as future needs.

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