

Healing waters: Investigating the resiliency and restoration potential of stream ecosystems in the U.S.

Talk synopsis: The global climate crisis and local human development continue to impair and further threaten the resilience and biodiversity of streams and rivers. Through a combination of protecting high-quality river corridors and restoring habitat in others, it is possible to sustain freshwater species diversity in the face of major environmental changes. However, restored streams and rivers rarely provide the same ecosystem services or function as those with high-quality habitat. Our work highlights potential sites to improve, though data from highly urbanized and agricultural areas provides a cautionary tale of when costs may outweigh benefits.