

**DATE: August 13, 2016**  
**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT: Rich Cogen**  
**Ohio River Foundation**  
**513-460-3365**

### **Ohio River Foundation Receives Funding to Owingsville Slate Creek Dam**

Ohio River Foundation has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to assist the City of Owingsville with the removal of a dam on Slate Creek. The dam is approximately 6 feet high and 100 feet long/wide. Its removal and associated river restoration work will improve water quality, fish passage, and reconnect the upstream and downstream sections of the creek.

As recreation deaths associated with low-head dams increase, concern from owners is driving interest in removing these structures. Removal of these structures, which in many cases are obsolete relics from decades ago, is not just a benefit to the waterways they impound, but also a potential driver for economic growth through bike and walking trail development and better access to the water for all.

There are also environmental and public health benefits accruing from these projects. The Ohio River watershed is increasingly being inundated with nutrient loads far in excess what it needs to promote good environmental health. The result is promotion of algal blooms, like what occurs in the slack pooled water upstream of dams. These algal blooms are detrimental to the survival of other aquatic species and can be hazardous under certain circumstances, as what was observed on the Ohio River this past summer. Removing these dams eliminates the conditions that enable algal blooms to occur. Thus, river health is protected.

Furthermore, dams also defeat the natural flow of life in a river. Whether it be fish species that need to spread populations throughout a river system to increase survivability or fresh water mussels that depend on migration of fish for completion of their life cycle, removal of these barriers restores the flow of life in a river.

“We have used a comprehensive approach to these projects and developed a workable model that enables us to help owners and communities raise the necessary funds to achieve the social, environmental, and economic benefits of river protection and restoration. We applaud various partners and dam owners for having the vision and ambition that these projects require,” said Rich Cogen, Executive Director of Ohio River Foundation.

Ohio River Foundation is a nonprofit organization serving the 200,000 square mile watershed with education and conservation programs. Its River Explorer and Youth Conservation Team programs reach thousands of students every year, encouraging environmental stewardship and consideration of conservation careers. ORF also assists communities throughout the watershed in protecting water quality and facilitating the restoration and protection of their natural resources.

More information about this project can be found at ORF’s website at [www.ohioriverfdn.org](http://www.ohioriverfdn.org) and its Facebook page.

###