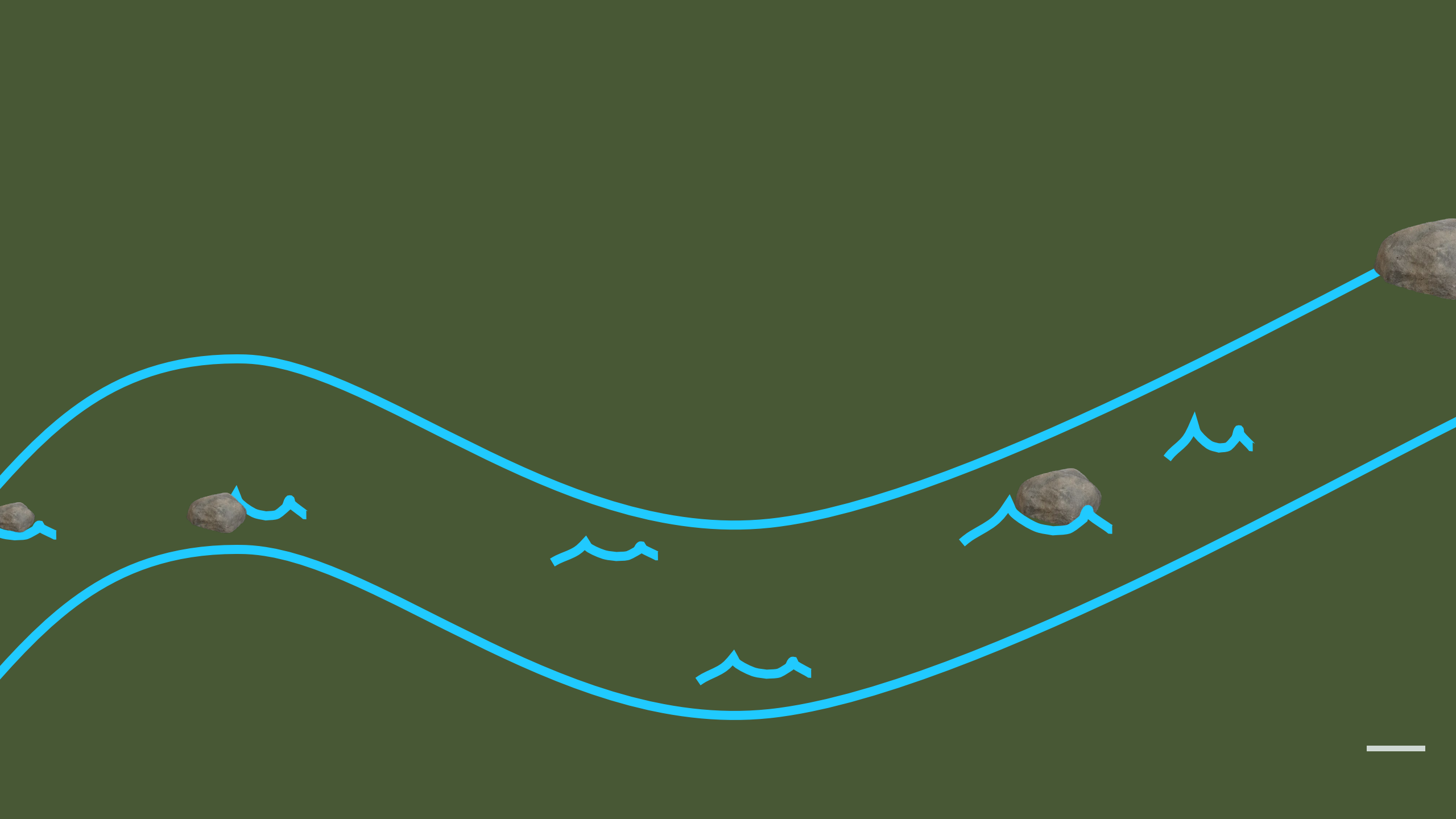


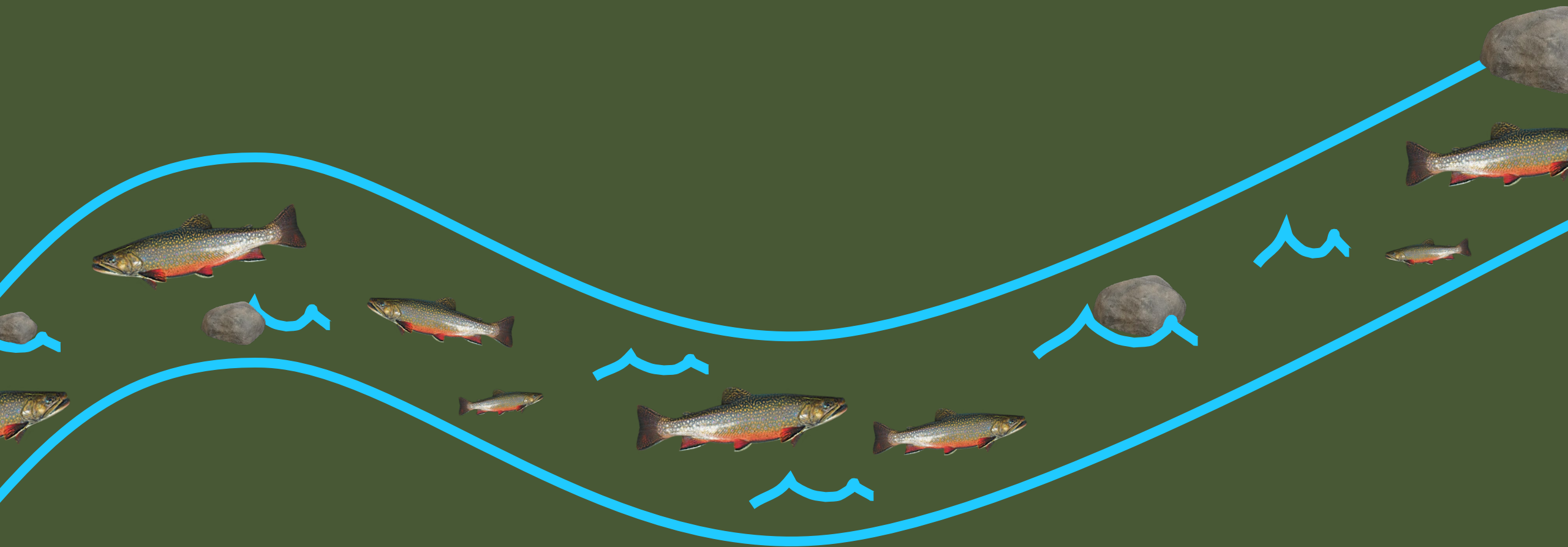


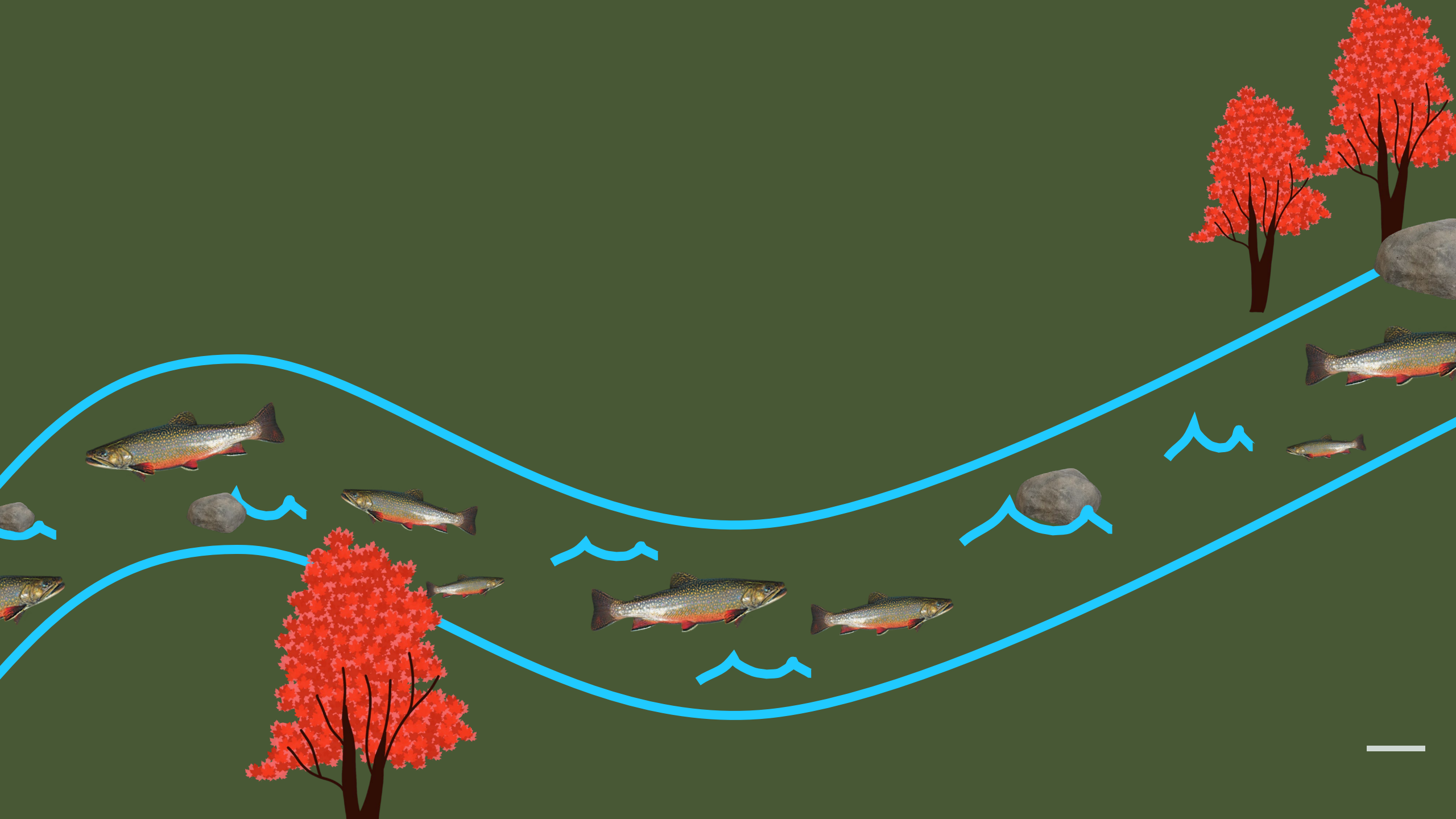
USFWS



Letting Streams Flow Freely: Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) in NY's Lake Champlain Basin

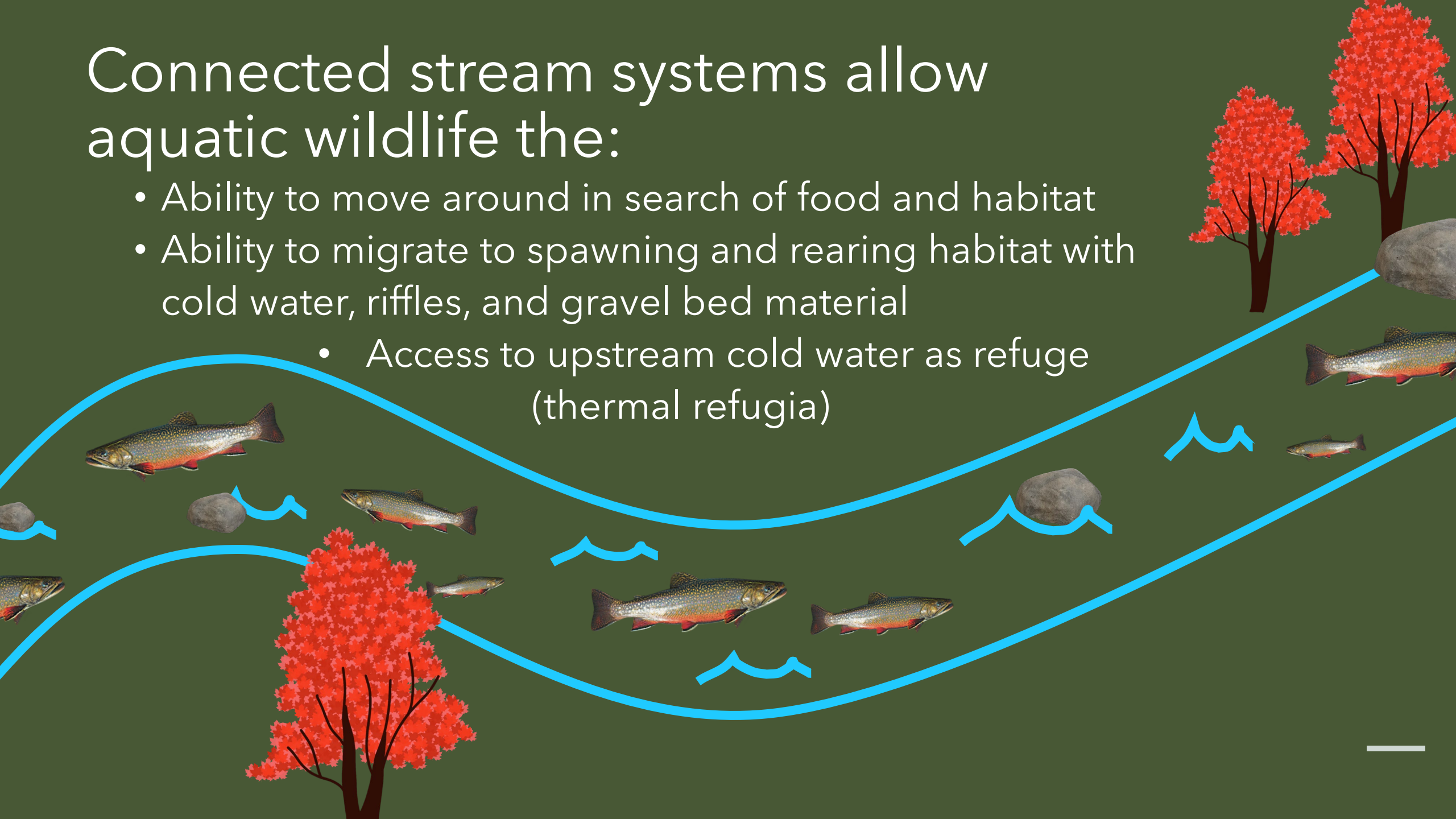


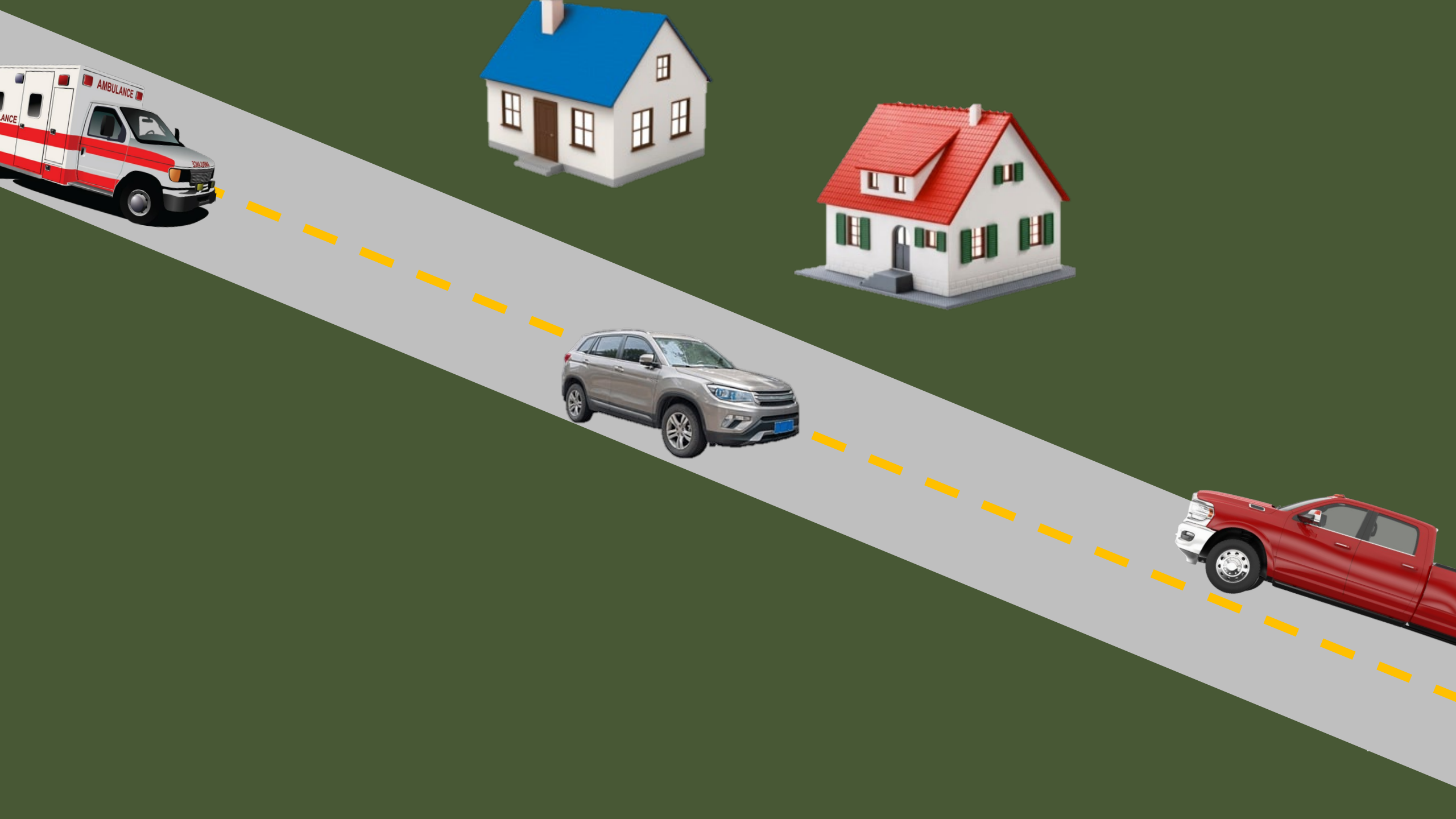




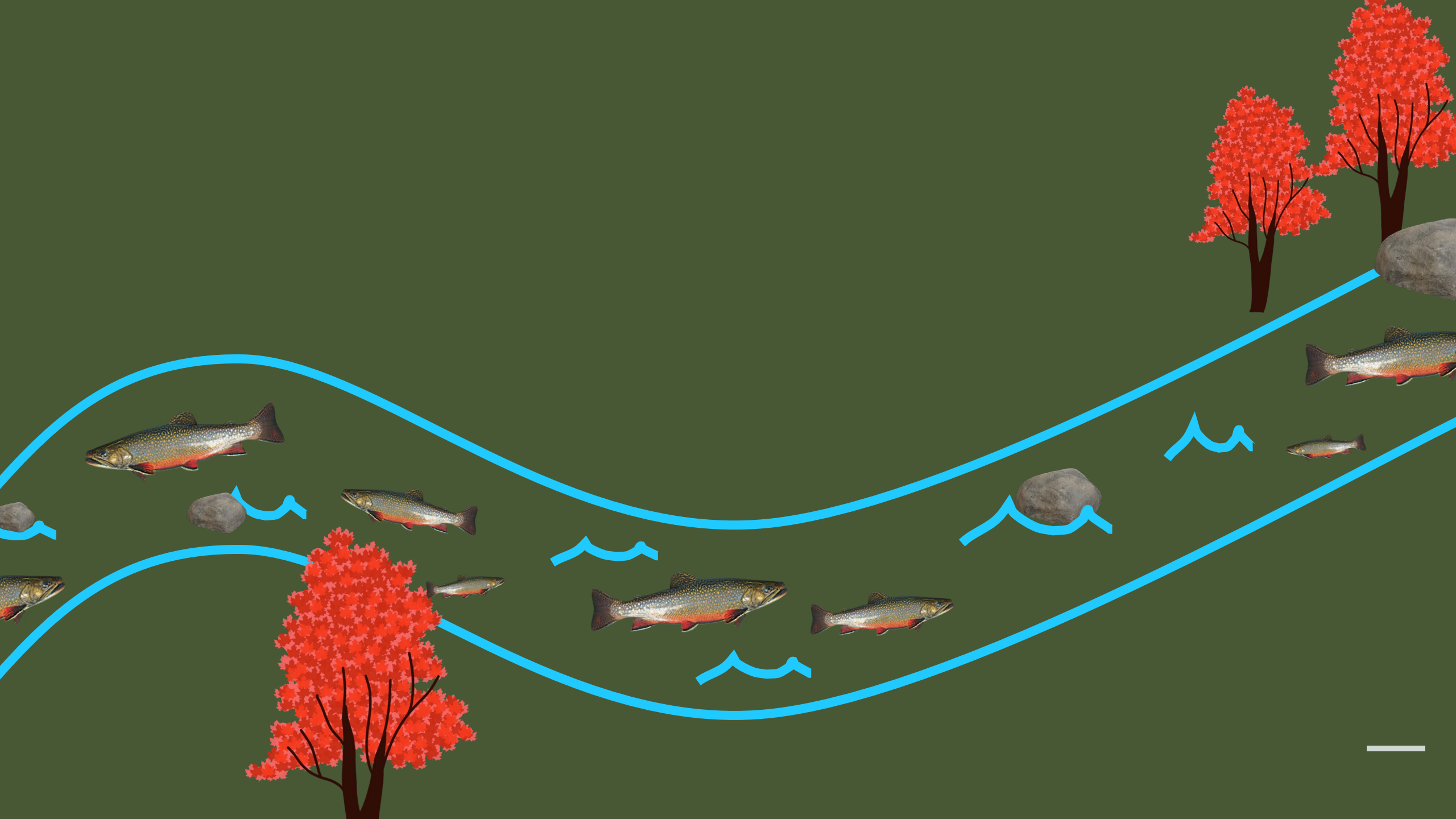
Connected stream systems allow aquatic wildlife the:

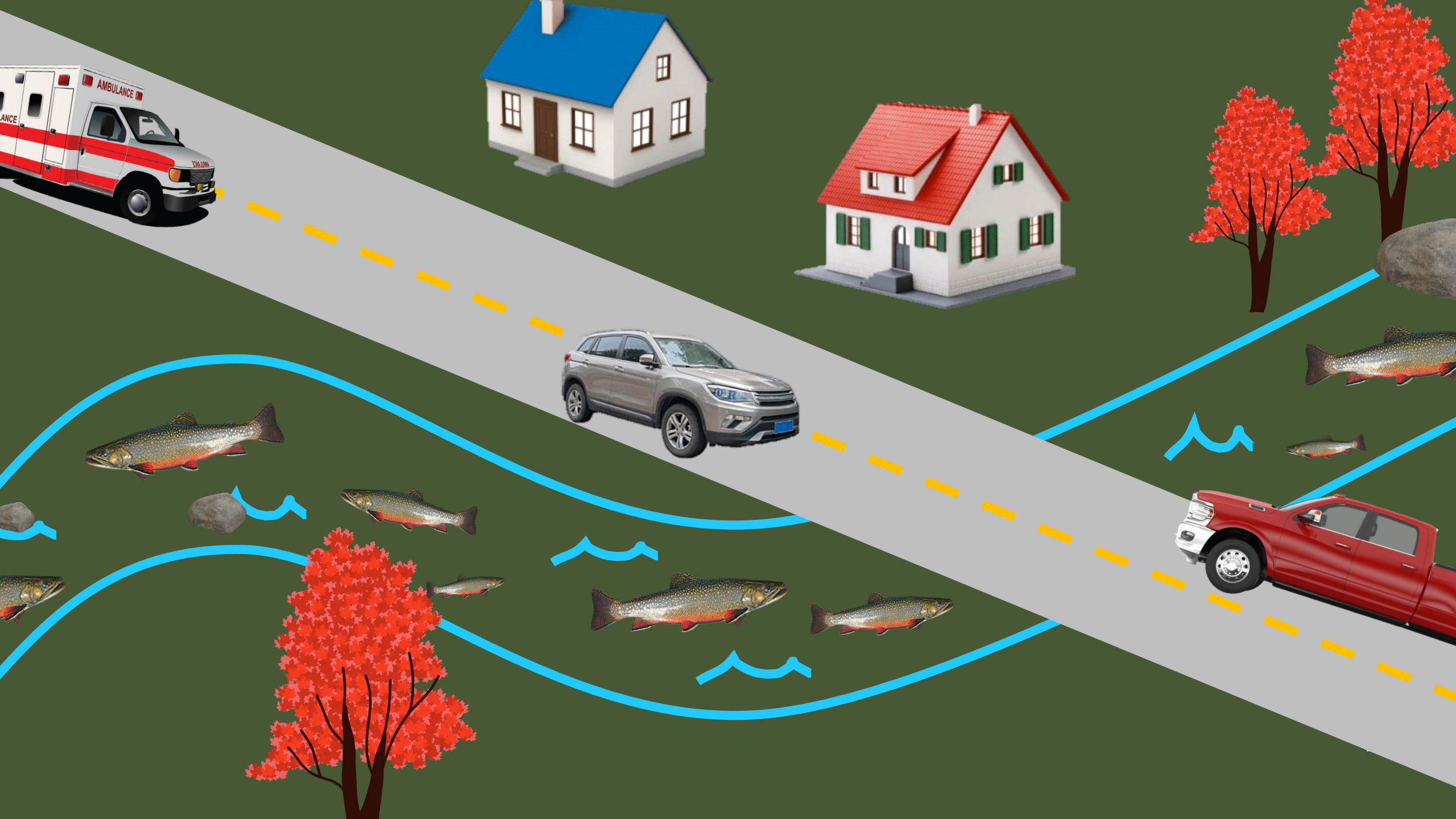
- Ability to move around in search of food and habitat
- Ability to migrate to spawning and rearing habitat with cold water, riffles, and gravel bed material
 - Access to upstream cold water as refuge (thermal refugia)













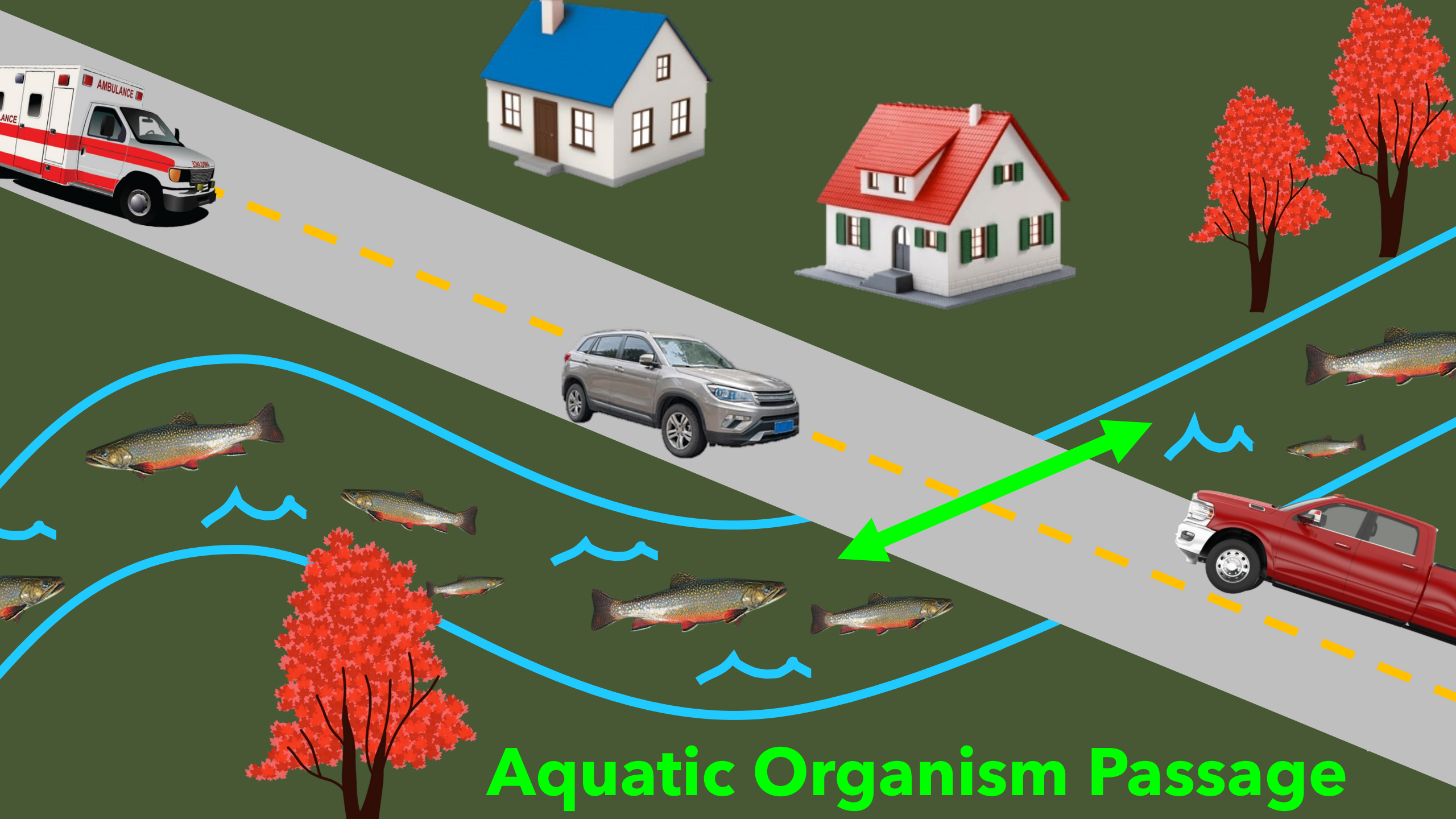










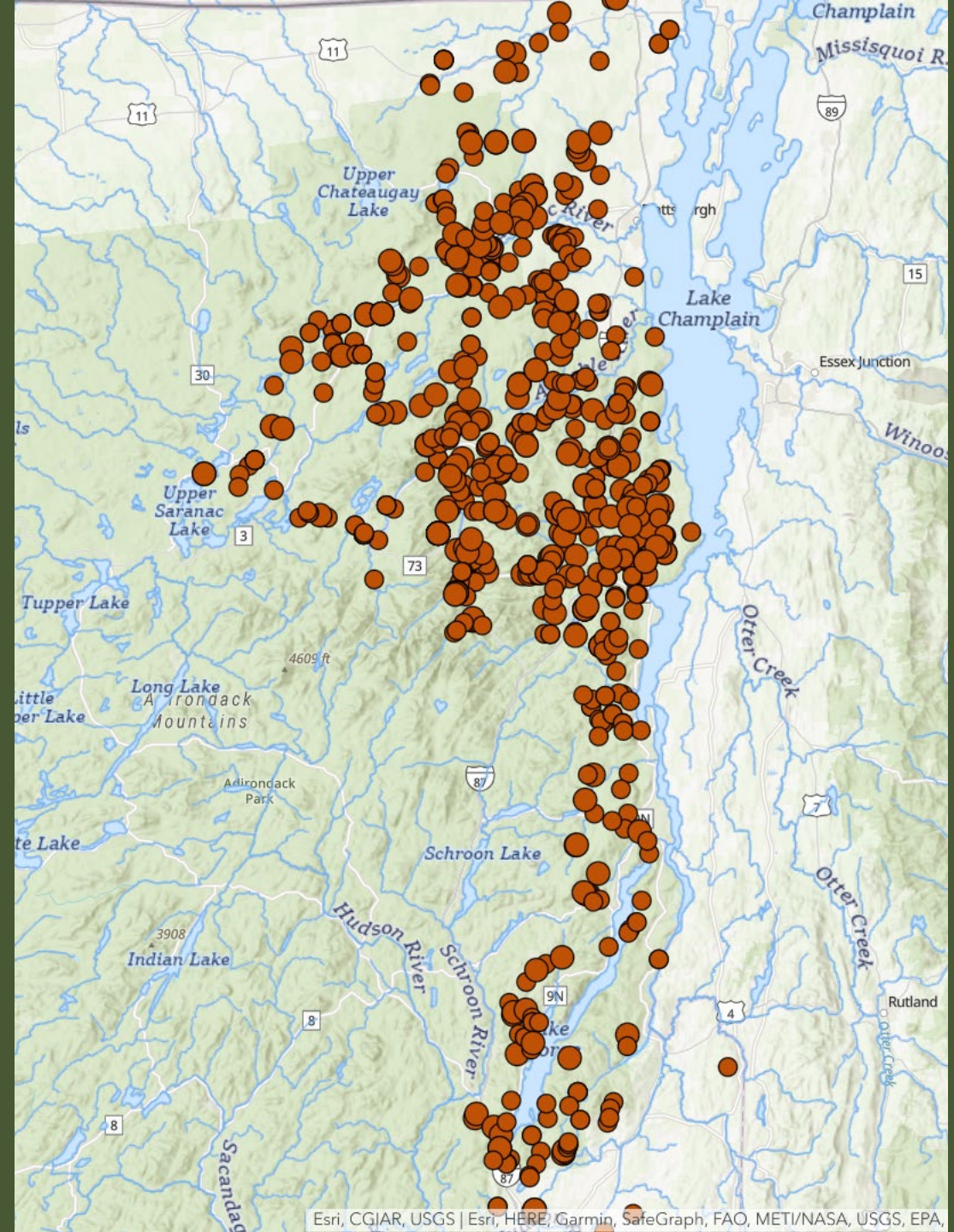


Aquatic Organism Passage

Many barriers to AOP at stream/road crossings in NY LCB

Trout Unlimited's Lake Champlain Basin, NY Barrier Prioritization Tool

* Map showing only barriers with 1st and 2nd highest "reconnection potential," out of 5





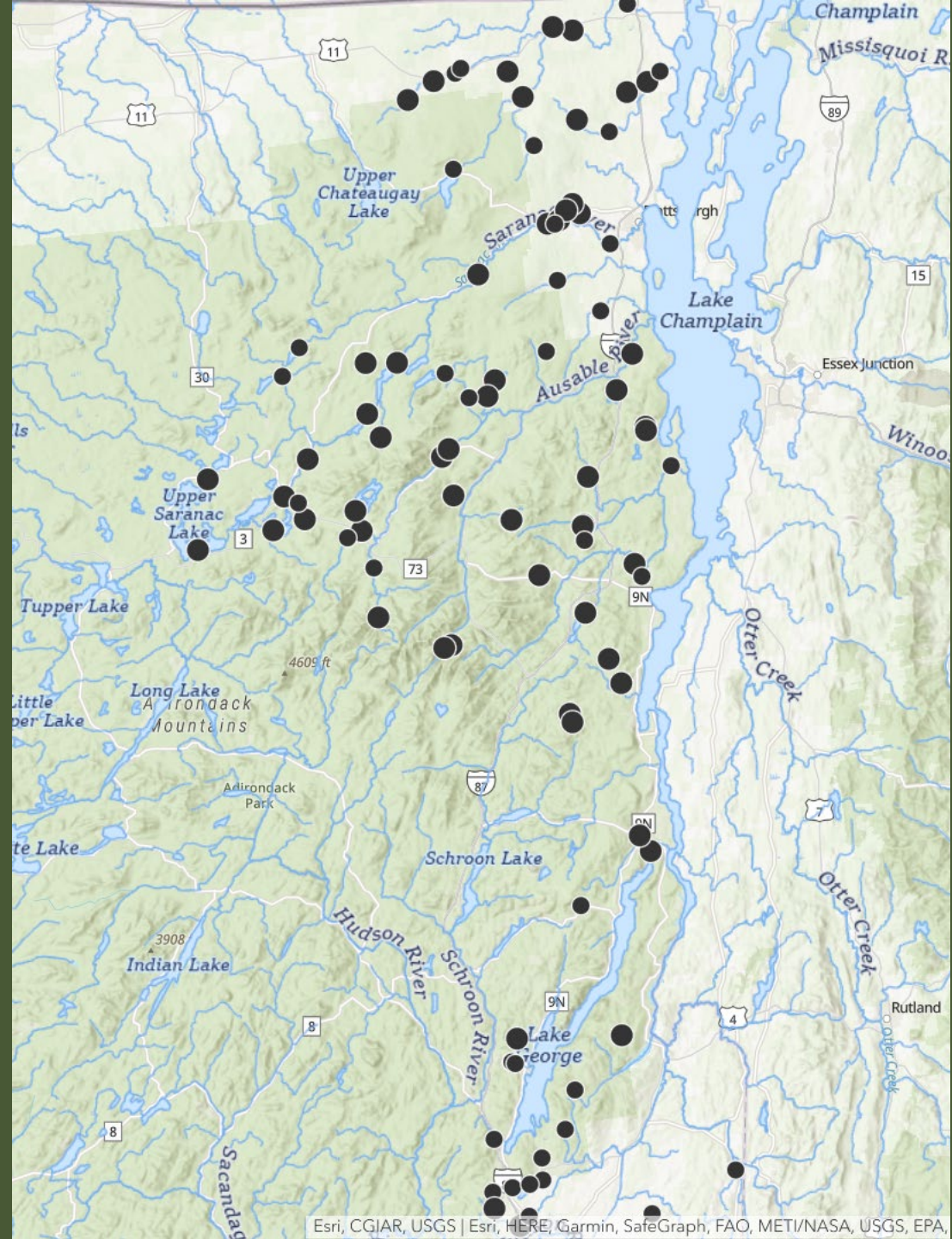
**Let's not forget
about dams!**



Many dams acting as barriers to AOP in NY-LCB

Trout Unlimited's Lake Champlain Basin, NY Barrier Prioritization Tool

*Map showing only dams with 1st and 2nd highest "reconnection potential," out of 5



AOP restoration offers many benefits

- **Healthy Ecosystems** – restoring native species habitat & reducing habitat fragmentation
- **Clean Water** – reducing erosion & nutrient loading
- **Thriving Communities** – enhancing flood resilience & climate change adaptation



Address Climate Change

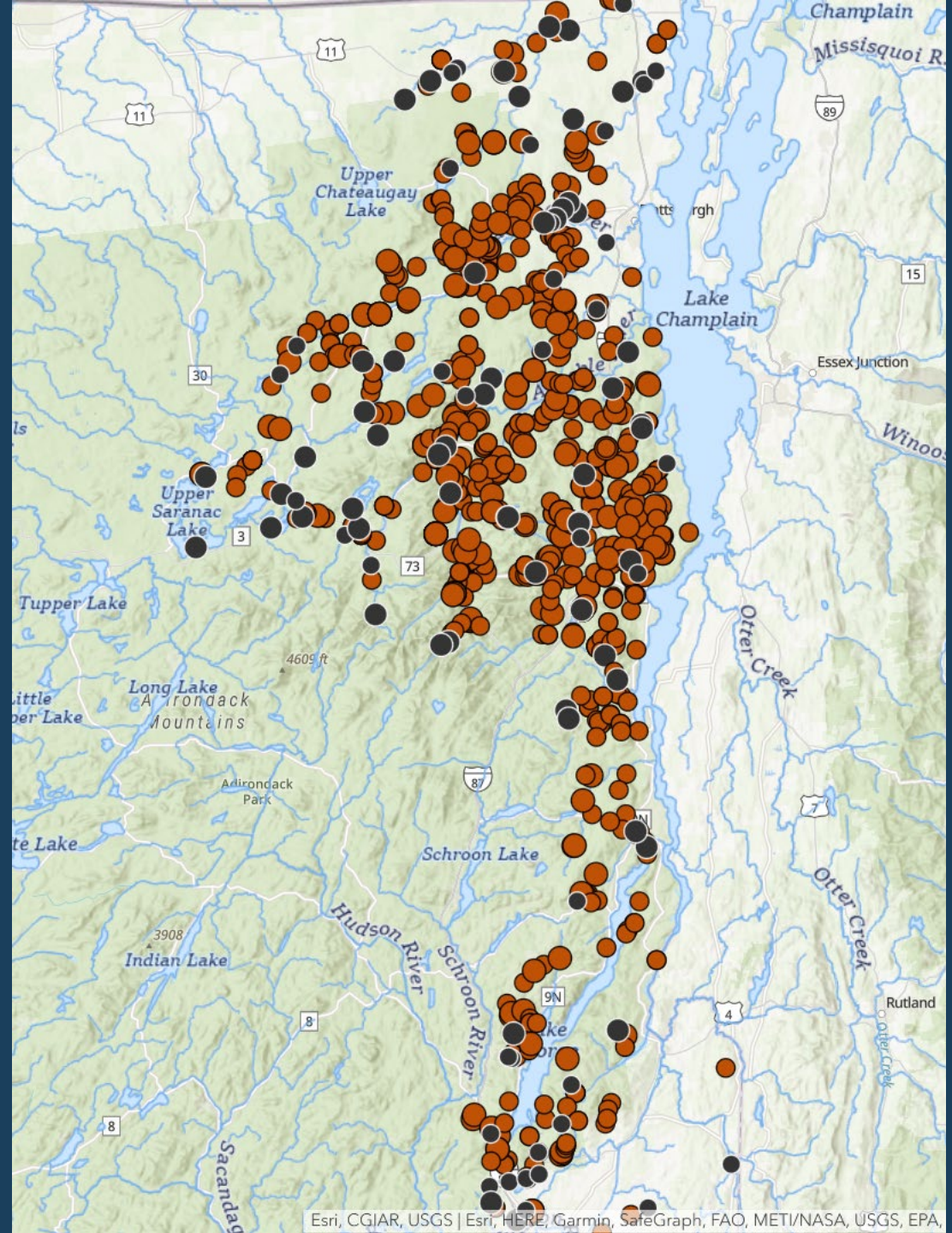
In 2021, the Lake Champlain Federal Partners Workgroup articulated **Restoring Aquatic Connectivity** as one of the **8 focal areas for addressing climate change** in the Lake Champlain Basin.

Lake Champlain Federal Partners Workgroup



Demonstrated Need

- Many barriers to AOP
- Not enough funding
- Too little capacity





Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding to LCBP for AOP

LCBP's BIL Funding Supports:

- **AOP Restoration Specialist** – lead LCBP AOP work & coordinate collaboration among partners
- **Competitive AOP Grant Program** – support partners' AOP restoration work
- **AOP Implementation Funds** – add resources for priority projects, and strategic needs



President Biden's
Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is a
once-in-a-generation

INVESTMENT IN OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE



Here's what's in it. →





Competitive Grants Allows LCBP to:

- **Advance OFA goals**
- **Support partner goals**, locally and regionally-identified needs
- Target funding to **disadvantaged communities**

Implementation Fund Allows LCBP to:

- **Directly advance OFA goals**, prioritizing AOP projects across the whole Lake Champlain Basin
- Be **timely and responsive to** efficiently fill gaps or respond to opportunities
- **Strategically work** in geographic or project area gaps
- Target funding to **disadvantaged communities**
- **Add 'implementer' capacity** to LCB



Putting the BIL funding to work...

Collaboration, Coordination & Capacity Building

- NY-LCB Dam Task Force
- Boquet Watershed AOP Working Group
- NY-LCB + ADK AOP Prioritization meetings



2022 - Indian Rapids dam

Saranac
River



2022 -





Saranac River at Indian Rapids
Pre-Construction
August 2023

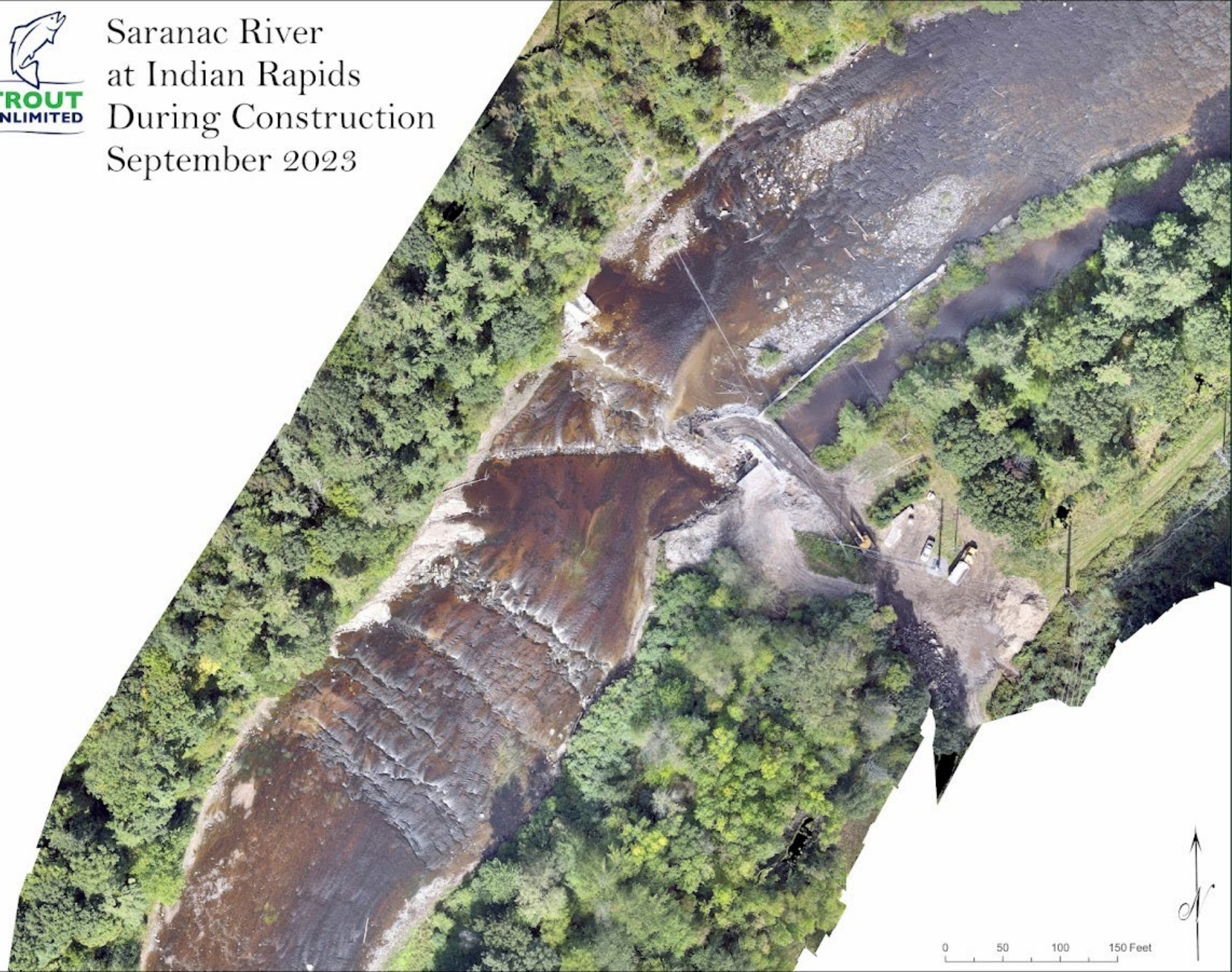


0 50 100 150 Feet





Saranac River
at Indian Rapids
During Construction
September 2023





Saranac River
at Indian Rapids
Post-Construction
October 2023



0 50 100 150 Feet



2023 Project - Mettowee River, Dorset, VT



2023 Project - Stannard Brook trib, Stannard VT



Opportunities to engage:

- Talk to your **local watershed group or SWCD** to better understand what they're doing to restore AOP. What do they need to do more?
- Talk to your **road crews** (town & county) to better understand what they're doing. What do they need? Tell them it is important to you.
- Talk to your **neighbors** – many bad culverts & derelict dams are on private property. There is funding that can help.



Resources

- The Nature Conservancy - Road-Stream Crossing Assessment
- Trout Unlimited - NY-LCB Barrier Prioritization Tool
- USGS - Stream Temperature and Brook Trout Occupancy in the Northeast U.S.



Questions? Comments?

A large school of fish, likely salmon, swimming underwater near a sandy bottom. The fish are silvery with some darker spots and are moving in a coordinated manner.

Contact info

Corrie Miller

cmiller@lcbp.org