



# Conestoga-Rovers & Associates Project Summary

## KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Site Assessment and Surveys**
- **Literature Review**
- **Modeling**
- **Valuation and Cost Analysis**
- **Expert Testimony**

## NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WESTERN NEW YORK

Valuation of natural resources and the ecological and human use services provided by those resources is a key component of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). Valuation of natural resources often includes identification of a monetary value of a resource and/or a compensatory restoration project that will provide a level of ecological services equal to those impacted by chemical stressors.

As part of the NRDA's for two Superfund sites in western New York, CRA scientists conducted a comprehensive evaluation of alleged injuries to natural resources of the Upper Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Resources evaluated included wetlands, aquatic beds of the Niagara River, mink, fisheries, and human use of the fisheries.

CRA scientists utilized a variety of methods to evaluate the resources associated with the two sites. This included: Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) for wetlands and aquatic beds, Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife populations, and evaluation of losses to human use services provided by fisheries due to the imposition of fishing advisories.

On the basis of the NRDA valuation conducted by CRA, the initial damage claims (in excess of \$20 million) were settled for less than \$1 million.

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