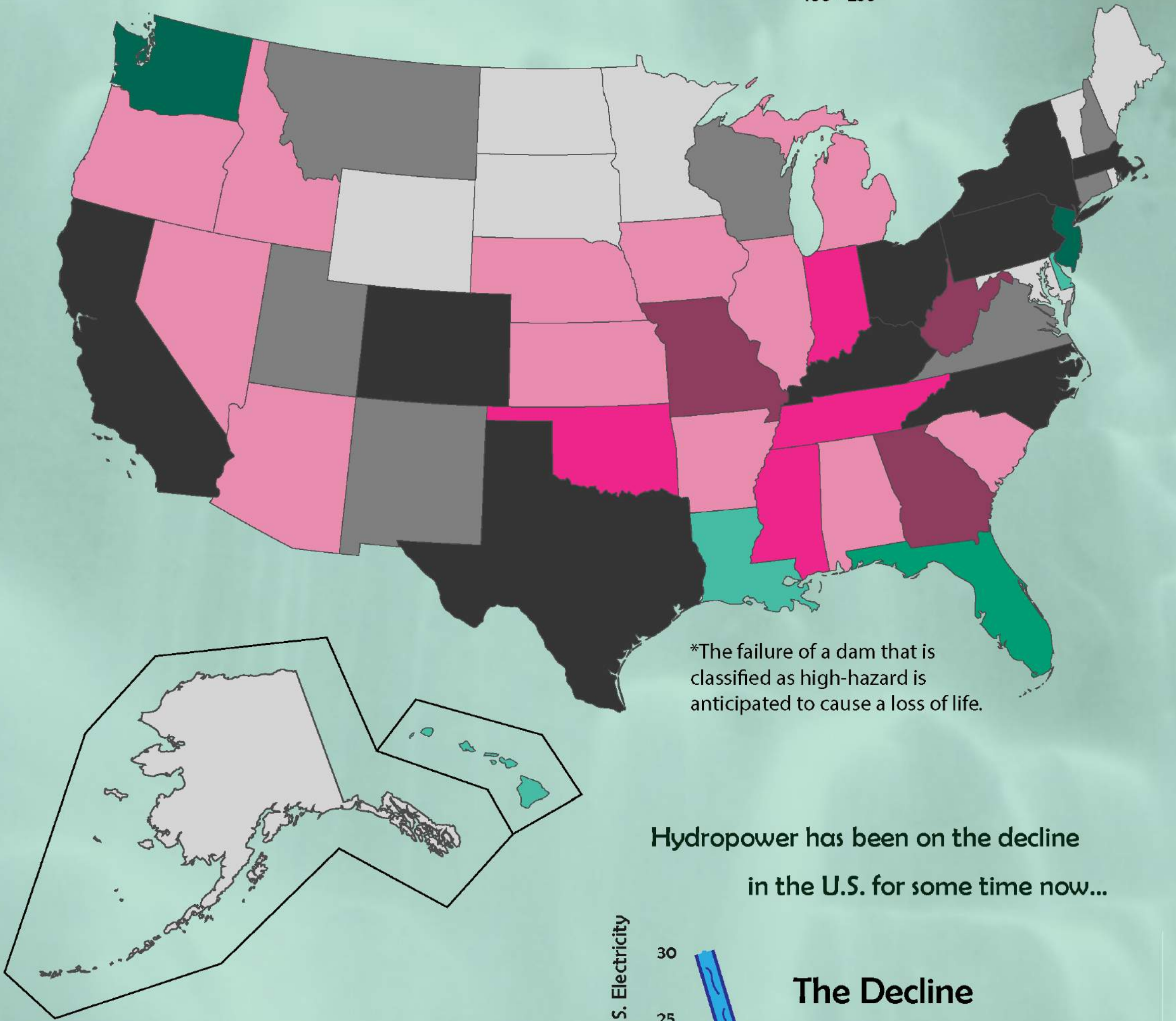
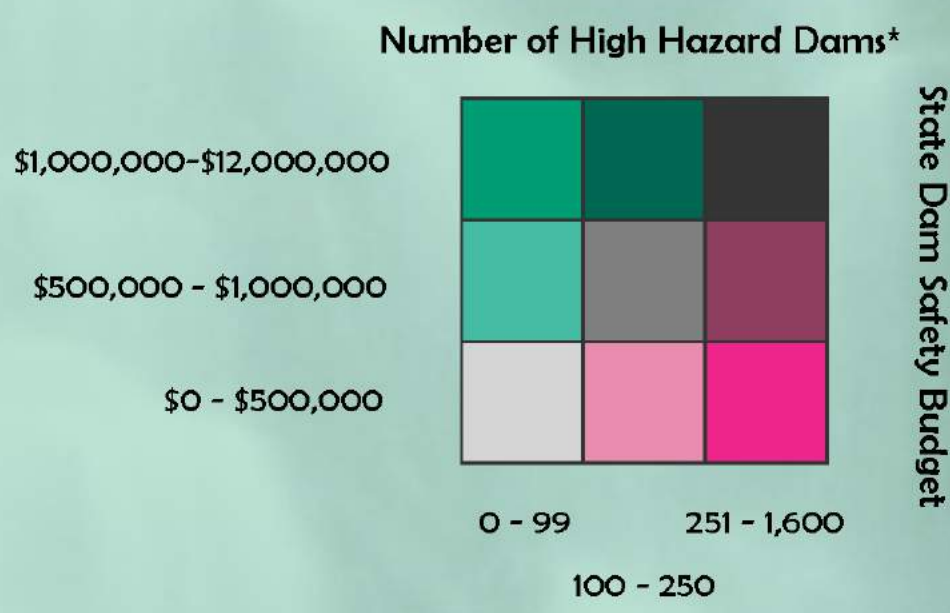


Worth a Dam?

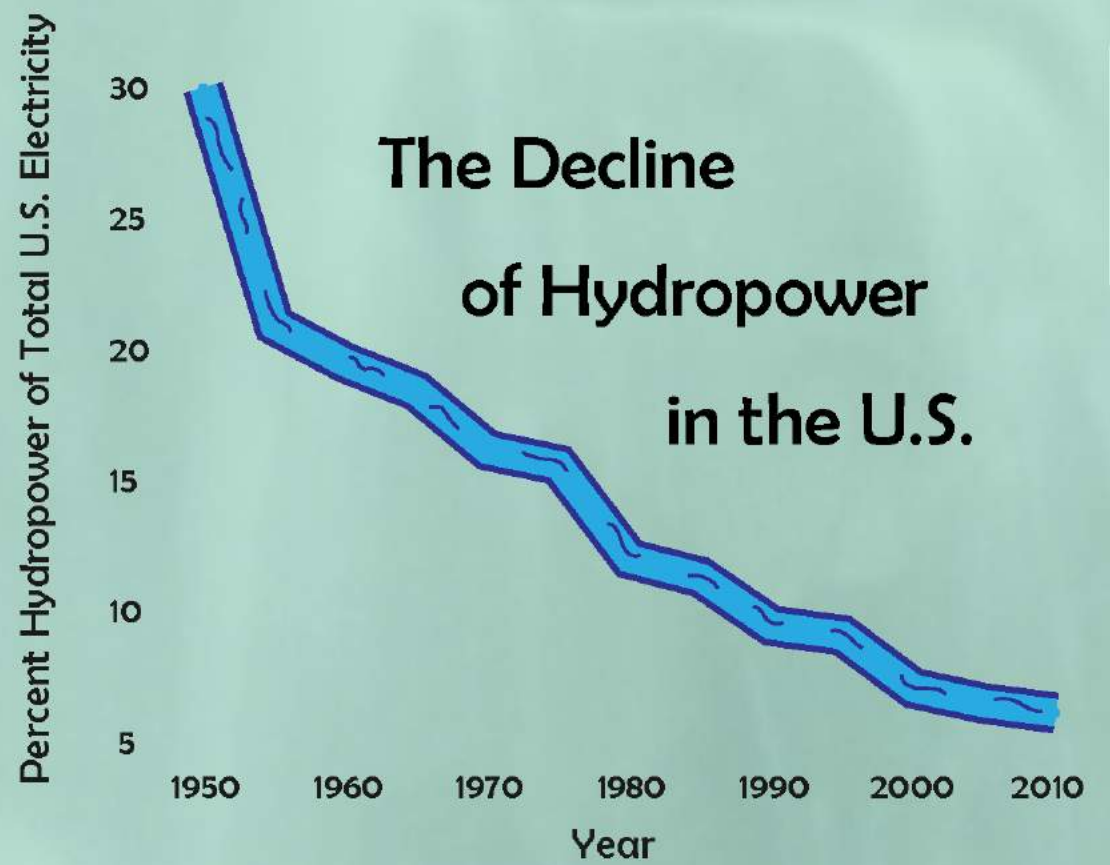
Dams sprouted up across the United States in the 1950s for several reasons - and they served their purpose at the time - but the question has since arisen as to whether aging, ineffective, and potentially dangerous dams are still worth the upkeep.

- Many dangerous dams, inadequate funding
- Many dangerous dams, suitable funding
- Few dangerous dams, adequate funding



*The failure of a dam that is classified as high-hazard is anticipated to cause a loss of life.

Hydropower has been on the decline in the U.S. for some time now...



Are they worth the cost of repair?

The price tag to fix high hazard dams alone has surged to an estimated

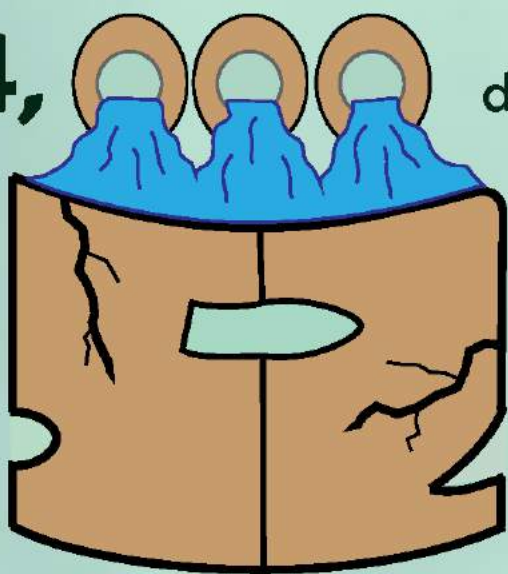


21 Billion

compared to the \$814 billion we are spending on the military just this year.

...Yet there

are still **84,** dams in the U.S., with an average age of **54** years.



Map Projection: North America Albers Equal Area Conic
 Central Meridian: 96°W
 Data Sources: Natural Earth, American Society of Civil Engineers, U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Government Spending: http://www.usgovernmentspending.com/us_military_spending_30.html, Waterfall background image: <http://www.public-domain-image.com/free-images/nature-landscapes/waterfalls/a-scenic-view-of-a-cascading-waterfall-photographed-in-central-oregon/attachment/a-scenic-view-of-a-cascading-waterfall-photographed-in-central-oregon>
 Cartographer: Christopher Morgan

In their current state America's dams really aren't worth a damn - thus we cannot afford to be wishywashy much longer. A concerted effort must be made to either reinvest in dams to continue harnessing hydropower and to ensure their safety, or remove them altogether and reap the benefits of tax savings, restored ecosystems, and the elimination of safety risks.