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Concerns Over River Clean Up

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PLATTSBURGH, NY (WAMC) - Across New York and Vermont workers are cleaning up debris filled rivers and streams. But some groups say the way it is being done could be hurting the waterways, destroying fish habit, and creating greater future flood threats. Vermont Natural Resources Council Water Program Director Kim Greenwood.

The Adirondack Council says some streams in the Adirondack Park are being scraped to bedrock or dug into narrow channels. Spokesman John Sheehan believes there has been confusion over Governor Cuomo's permitting waiver.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Deb Markowitz says most contractors are following the rules.

Hunters Anglers and Trappers Association of Vermont Treasurer Rob Mazza, who owns an excavating company, says environmental groups are blowing the situation out of proportion.

According to Natural Resources Secretary Deb Markowitz, in order for those working on the rivers to be reimbursed by FEMA, they must have certification that it was done in compliance with state requirements.