

Beavers and bovine sharing this North Fork
Crooked River Tributary



Living and Working with

Beavers

Nature's Engineers



Beavers create an ecosystem where all life can flourish.



During summer months, beaver pond water seeps into the soil. This cool, clean water resurfaces downstream, increasing summer flows and lowering stream temperatures.

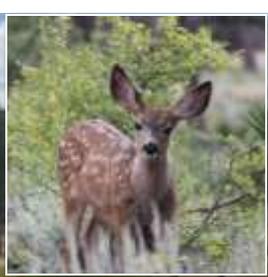
Beaver chewing on soft woody trees stimulates new tree growth and abundance.

Beavers raise water tables and saturate riparian soils, supporting wider riparian zones with connected floodplains.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Beavers are a keystone species, meaning, an organism that helps define an entire ecosystem. Without its keystone species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist.
- In eastern Oregon 80% of all native sagebrush steppe wildlife and 39% of ODFW's "Strategy species" flourish in the habitat that beavers create.
- In Oregon, it's estimated that beavers numbered 1,000,000 throughout the entire "beaver state", before Euro-American trapping exploration and then settlement (200 years ago).
- In 100 years between 1820 and 1920, Beaver populations dramatically dropped (estimated 95%), much because of fur-trapping and over-grazing along riparian meadows.
- Current day, beavers have not been able to recover in numbers due in part to severely degraded streams without vegetation (ie. beaver food).
- Beavers *need a lot of food* to successfully get established and do their thing - 3 to 5 acres of riparian woodies like willow, aspen and cottonwood along a ½ mile of creek.





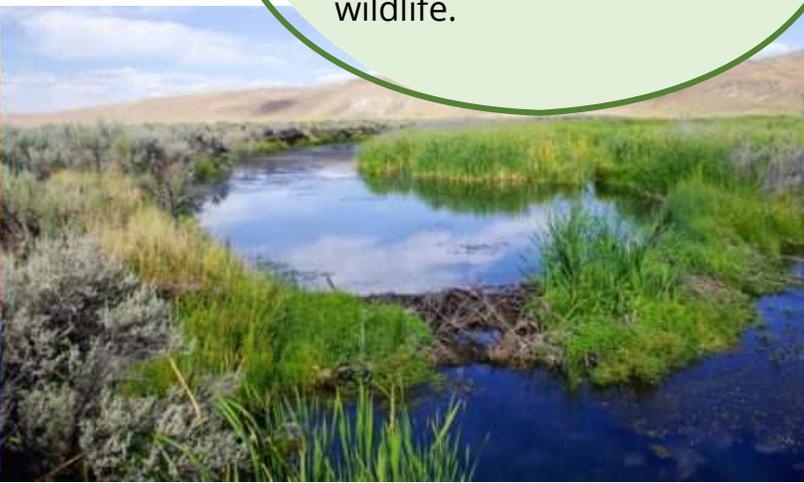
For every 1 gallon of water stored behind a beaver dam, there's another 6 gallons of water underground – reducing downstream flooding in spring and impacts of summer drought.



Beavers provide large and small woody material to the stream and riparian zone, and create associated wetland habitat that supports an abundance of wildlife.

Beaver dams trap sediment making streams cleaner, aggrading incised channels, raising ground water levels, and creating habitat for fish and wildlife.

Maggie Creek Ranch, Nevada 1980 and 2010 (Photos: Elko District, BLM)



Living with Beavers

While beavers are great for ecosystem services their behavior can damage human made property and infrastructure. But removing nuisance beavers is a temporary fix, not a real solution. If you remove one beaver, another will be along shortly to take his place. Straightforward, simple solutions are available including:

Blocked Culverts or Irrigation PODs

Set drain pipes with caging can be used when beaver blockage impedes irrigation flow or puts road culverts at risk.



Credit: Susan Charnley, USFS

Beaver Dam Flooding

Set a drain pipe when there is flooding from a free-standing beaver dam that can threaten fields, crops or human infrastructure.



Tree Protection

Individual trees can be protected from beaver chew and felling by placing 2"x4" grid wire cylinders around the base of their trunks.



Beaver Problems Can be Managed

We offer technical advice to adapt your irrigation infrastructure.



In coordination with the Beaver Institute's Beaver Corps program



Learn more at

www.westernbeavers.org

Email info@westernbeavers.org

Or call **541-362-1024**

Western Beavers Cooperative, Central Oregon

A grassroots, coordinated effort of ordinary folks supporting natural beaver recovery on eastern Oregon landscapes. We connect communities, people and ideas with beaver-focused resources, guidance and support for local agencies and working lands.