

Here it comes....

While the valley bottom didn't show us much in the way of snow this year, snowpack from the mountains will be making its way downstream as temperatures rise. Water storage is one of the primary benefits of beaver complexes! In oversimplified and degraded stream systems, water quickly shoots down through the Methow watershed to the Columbia. Come August, it's no wonder flows are so low!

Put a beaver on it!

Beaver-maintained wetlands slow the flow of water off the landscape, helping to maintain flows later in the summer. These complexes can also serve as fire breaks and critical habitat refugium in the face of wildfire and climate uncertainty. Pictured above, a beaver complex serves as an "Emerald Refuge" following Idaho's Sharps Fire in 2018 (Joe Wheaton, Utah State University).

Ever set fire to water?

"Well obviously not", you might think. But consider it... Reconnecting streams to

their floodplains, restoring wetlands, and maintaining wet, healthy riparian zones provides benefits to those well beyond the myriad of species that thrive in these systems. Interests of wildlife and humans alike can be served by healthy streams!

Have a few minutes to learn more? Read this brief, informative article from the National Wildlife Federation!

https://blog.nwf.org/2018/10/beavers-water-and-fire-a-new-formula-for-success

As always, we're here to field questions and provide support for any concerns surrounding North America's largest rodent.

Best wishes to You and Yours in these trying times,

The Methow Beaver Crew

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A beaver complex in the Methow Watershed. The Methow Beaver Project promotes wetland health and beaver-based restoration in support of habitat, water storage, and resilience in the face of shifting climate norms.

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