



No Matter the Climate, Beavers Have Us Covered

While the ecological benefits of beavers can be readily observed in our semi-arid region of north-central Washington, these critters make an impact wherever they live! Whether it's slowing the runoff of dwindling water supplies in the Methow, or holding back high volumes of stormwater in Seattle suburbs, beavers are at work providing ecosystem services that benefit humans and other wildlife!

So, you may ask, if beavers are so great, why are they such a contentious species? Historically, beavers have been managed rather than managed *for*. Coexistence with these ecosystem engineers is entirely possible, and often quite simple, but most of the conflicting infrastructure we see and utilize today was designed and built when beavers were to be removed from areas of human interest. We see these conflicts time and again when beavers inevitably return to wetlands we built roads through, or floodplains we built homes upon after dictating where rivers and streams could flow, rather than letting them take their natural course.

While beaver relocation can be a valuable restoration tool, especially when paired with other restoration methods, it is often a temporary solution to a bigger, more systemic problem. Some coexistence measures are as simple as wrapping trees with wire, while others can get trickier and involve confusing the animals or using knowledge of their instincts to influence their damming behavior. Need ideas or help to live harmoniously with beavers on your property? We're a call or click away!

Beaver Solutions Hotline: (509) 289-2770

This month's beautiful beaver-themed photo comes from Carla Trsek at a beaver pond near Renton. Thanks for sharing, Carla!



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