

Methow Beaver Project

Partnering with beavers to adapt to climate change and it's predicted impacts.

Greetings Beaver Believers and Happy International Beaver Day!!!

That's right, today, April 7th the whole world can join together in celebrating the original ecosystem engineer and the smartest thing in fur pants! We have put together a banger of a newsletter for you, with lots of reasons to celebrate beavers, new beaver happenings, announcements, suggested reads, and big shout outs to our partners investing in climate & ecological resilience by directly supporting coexistence with beavers! There is also a Beaver Lodge themed desert recipe! So, sink your iron clad teeth into this!

Five Reasons to Celebrate Beavers Today!!!!

- **Beavers store water on the landscape longer**



- **Beavers create complex aquatic and riparian habitat that supports biodiversity and benefits all species dependent on freshwater systems in North America like endangered salmon, orca's, macroinvertebrates, amphibians, songbirds, aquatic birds, ungulates, carnivores and humans, to name a few**



- Beavers create more fire resistant landscapes & refugia for wildlife during and



after fires

- Beavers help restore fire impacted, channelized streams and other types of stream disturbance



- Beavers are extremely family oriented but also provide shelter for other species like muskrats & otters (check out the video from [Janet Pasaturo](#))



Announcements!!!

- Reminder.... Beavers don't hibernate but their winter activity in our cold climate is noticeably reduced. Now, they have are enjoying the onset of spring just like us are getting busy! If you live along a river or stream or wetland, expect an increase in beaver activity. If you haven't done it yet, wrap those favorite trees, but don't forget to leave a few for the Beavers! 😊
 - More and more landowners are choosing to live with beavers rather than remove them. This is a win for landowners, lucky to have increased water storage, wildlife, and wildfire resilience on their property and a win for beavers who can remain where they have chosen to be and more successfully expand their benefits. You can find examples of our coexistence services around the Methow River watershed at Bear Creek Golf Course, Twisp Ponds, and Pearygin State Park!
 - The MBP team has opened our beaver holding facility for beaver relocation needs at the US Fish and Wildlife hatchery in Winthrop! When we cannot resolve a conflict between landowners and beavers, we do offer relocation services to give beavers a second chance somewhere else in the watershed. We try to announce when we have beavers at the facility on our FB page so follow us there if you want a chance to quietly peak at our visiting eco-engineers.
 - Are you a Beaver relocater in Washington or interested in becoming one?! Well, you need your license and may need re-nen on your training, pardner! There are some other requirements as well but if you're interested get in touch and get your application turned into WDFW pronto. Wait for an email linking you to the online training course, then come visit us in Winthrop on May 26th or if you are on the west side, visit the Tulalip Beaver Project (Tulalip, WA) on June 23rd for your field training! Thank you to the Tulalip Beaver Project and Tulalip Tribe for helping us support the Beaver Relocation Permit Program hosted by WDFW. Let's keep leading the nation in Beaver coexistence, relocation, & non-lethal management efforts!
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Host an MBP Intern!

We regularly receive inquiries from enterprising young people interested in working as seasonal interns. This year, we are excited to have two interns joining us for the summer who will be assisting with our Beaver-based stream restoration projects and Beaver coexistence projects! We are pleased to introduce you to Livvie and Katie and look forward to welcoming them to the Valley in the coming months, check out their bios below! We are still searching for affordable housing options for Katie

from Colorado College! If you are interested in hosting or renting to Katie for the summer or know someone who might be, [please reach out to us for coordination!](#)



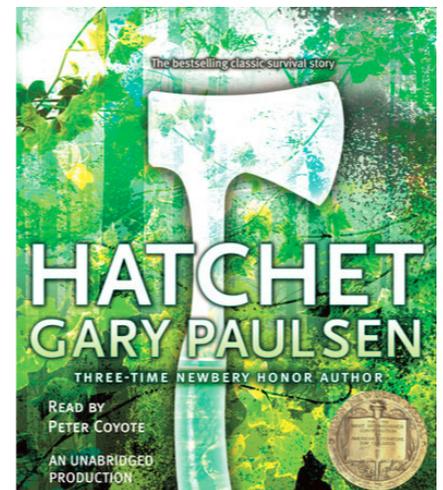
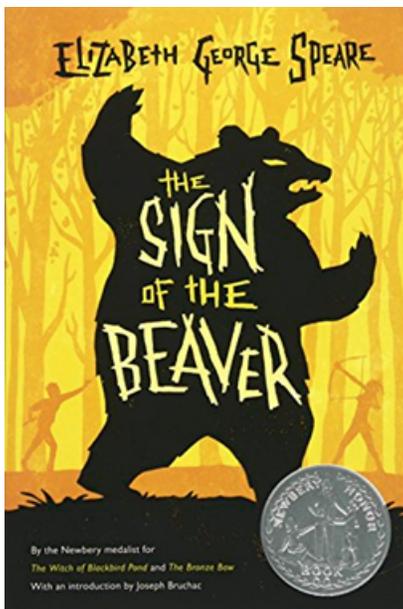
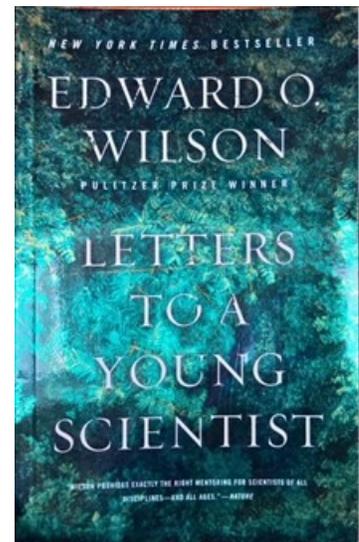
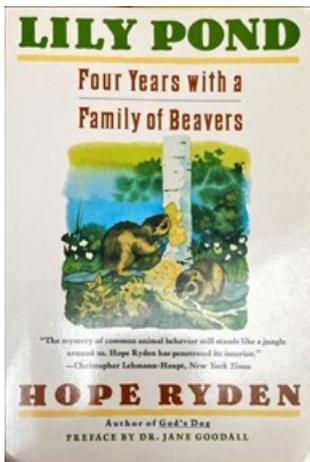
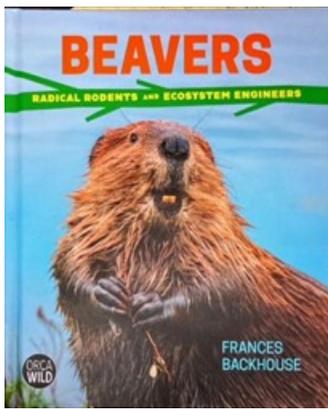
Livvie is thrilled to be joining the Methow Beaver Project team this summer. Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Livvie is currently a student at Whitman College, where she is majoring in environmental studies and politics. She recently spent the fall on Semester in the West- a traveling field studies program focusing on the ecology, politics, and social dynamics of the interior West. Livvie's experiences on the three-month program helped cultivate a passion for holistic ecosystem restoration. She's excited to learn about beaver ecology and river restoration and to help MBP make the Methow a happier place for salmon, beaver, humans, and everyone else! In her free time, Livvie enjoys hiking, backpacking, climbing, making art, and cooking yummy things.



Katie is currently working on her Bachelor's Degree in Geology at Colorado College, where she is excited about studying soil science and geomorphology. Alongside her professors, she has assisted in research and projects in Wyoming, New Mexico, and the San Luis Valley, in Colorado. This upcoming summer, Katie will be joining the Methow Beaver Project as a Streamflow Restoration Project Intern. This will all how to pursue her interests in post-wildfire sediment flows, and river restoration at large. In her free time, Katie enjoys mountain biking, skiing, and knitting herself sweaters.

Methow Beaver Project Reading List

Do you love to sink your teeth into a good book? Assuming you have already read the Beaver essentials like *Eager* by Ben Goldfarb, *Once They Were Hats* by Frances Backhouse, or *Beaversprite* by Dorothy Richards, you will appreciate this extended reading list of Beaver and environmental themed texts, curated by MBP staff for you and your family. Enjoy these wild reads!



- *Beavers: Radical Rodents and Ecosystem Engineers* by Frances Backhouse.
Frances Backhouse wrote a delightful and highly visual book for upper elementary or middle school students. She covers all topics beaver; from history to fur trade, life cycle, to why they matter, and finally coexistence and mitigation strategies. She visited us several years ago and interviewed several of our young beaver naturalists for this book.
- *Lily Pond – Four Years with a Family of Beavers* by Hope Ryden.
Ryden patiently and bravely persevered through all seasons in the Northeastern United States to observe and document a pair of wild beavers and their offspring. She masterfully weaves beaver facts and her daily observations to create a captivating, eerily familiar, and awe-inspiring story of these amazing, family focused beings.

- *Letters to a Young Scientist* by Edward O. Wilson. In this book, the author shares his life time of scientific discoveries while imparting wisdom on the next generation of scientists. He shares practical advice on how young people can excel at science and why it's important. A thoughtful and inspiring read.
- *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare. A great short story for any adventure lover in your family. *The Sign of the Beaver* is about a young boy (Matt) in early settlement times, left alone to look after his family's new homestead. When his family doesn't return after many weeks and a series of misfortunes befall Matt, he is struggling to survive on his own. Near death, Matt is rescued by local Native Americans who share their food, teach Matt how to provide for himself, and inadvertently impart their cultural connection with their home, other indigenous people, and the many beings that provide for them. Though we can not speak to the accuracy of the descriptions of Native Americans and their traditions in *The Sign of the Beaver*, we think this book is a great introduction to the topics of First Nations, Indigenous Knowledge and their spiritual connection to the landscape and wildlife.
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. Another tale of wilderness survival, this story follows young Brian Robeson, lost and alone after a plane crash in Canada's northern interior wilderness. Lucky to be alive, Brian must reevaluate his place in nature and rely on little more than the clothes on his back and his trusty hatchet to carve out a place for himself in the wilderness. Filled with vivid descriptions of the natural world, Gary Paulsen tells a harrowing tale of adventure while inducing reflection on humanity's fragility when separated from civilization but also from nature. This story shows our innate ability to endeavor as well as find joy in the challenge and reward of living with nature.



Bite down on this sweet Beaver Lodge themed cookie!

Extremely Chocolatey Beaver Huts

by Jessie Grearson & Eleanor Sapat from Falmouth, ME

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup Quaker instant oats
- 1 Tbsp. cream or half and half
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup white chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup dark chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- One Hershey's kiss

5-6 Tbsp. Nutella

1/6 bag thin stick pretzels, some broken, for decorating huts

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
 2. In large bowl beat together butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla until light and fluffy.
 3. In another bowl whisk together flour, cocoa, oats, baking soda and salt; stir into the butter mixture and add cream slowly, just enough to form a stiff, but well-blended dough.
 4. Fold in chocolate chips and chopped walnuts (we think of these as rocks and stones).
 5. Roll by large tablespoons into rough balls, about the size of a ping-pong ball (these are your mud huts) then hide a chocolate kiss "beaver" inside one cookie.
 6. Bake cookies for 10-12 minutes on an ungreased AirBake cookie sheet in the preheated oven until set (watch carefully).
 7. After cookies cool, spread a small amount of Nutella as muddy layer over each hut and have fun adding pretzel "sticks" to the outside of each beaver hut.
- Makes 20-24 cookies.

Our Gratitude

We receive vital assistance in the form of volunteerism and donations from a lengthy list of organizations and individuals. We are humbled by everyone's continued support and are grateful to all!

This month we would like to give a big tail slappin' THANK YOU! to the following organizations for their contributions specifically supporting beaver coexistence outreach and coexistence strategies and services for landowners facing challenges with beaver activity:

- The Animal Welfare Institute for their recent timely and generous grant
- Defenders of Wildlife and the Methow Valley Fund who helped launch our current beaver coexistence program
- USDA APHIS for providing coexistence materials like fencing and flow device pipe to support non-lethal and in-place beaver management in WA State,
- And as always, a HUGE thank you to our parent organization, the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, and our permitting agency, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, for supporting our mission!

Most of all, we want to thank the beavers for all the benefits they provide in our watershed and all they have to teach us about doing good work that helps others thrive as well. Thank

You Beavers...Today is Your Day!



Photo by Ben Goldfarb



Storing water for the future-one beaver at a time
www.methowsalmon.org



methowbeaverproject.org

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