

# Methow Beaver Project

*Partnering with beavers to adapt to climate change and its predicted impacts*

## **Hello Volunteers,**

We're excited to have so many friends returning and to welcome new beaver enthusiasts to our team. It's an honor to share this critical and hopeful work with you all in 2022 because we need to accelerate our impact more than ever. Drought and water shortages are already gripping much of the western US and wildfires are on the horizon but we have a practical, feasible, effective, natural, affordable, self-perpetuating, and incredibly hopeful community resilience building strategy... partnering with beavers, our furry and humble engineering superheroes, to rebuild water holding capacity in our watersheds and support sustainable water use that allows all biological communities to thrive. We are

excited to have so many people contributing time and effort to this essential common good for all... WATER!



## You know what beavers can do for us, but what can we do for our watershed's beavers?

WE are excited to have **You** on our team! We are a small but scrappy organization with passionate staff and supporters! We need you, the beavers need all of us, so here's the scoop...

**Volunteer Training will be held April 30th at 9:00-12:00am** at the [Winthrop Hatchery](#). You'll learn about all the different options of volunteering with us, receive hands-on training, and meet the staff. Look below for a sneak peek at the great opportunities to make a difference and have some fun while you do! Email us at [methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org](mailto:methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org) to sign up today!



MBP Youth Naturalist gets up close and personal while helping care for beavers being relocated from conflict.

## Sign Me Up!!

Here are the current volunteer needs and options that you can learn more about during the volunteer training. What's your pleasure?

1. **Beaver Husbandry at the Hatchery.** Responsible for caring for, feeding and recording observations of beavers are in our care. This is a less frequent "as needed" position as we are doing our best to manage beavers in place and not relocate beavers unless absolutely necessary but also one of the most rewarding to see beavers up close.

2. **Aspen collection and delivery:** When there are beavers at the hatchery, we supply them with their favorite foods like aspen and willow. This job is ideally suited to those who have copious aspen or willow on their property and feel it could use some thinning. (Aspen and willow regenerate well from this type of coppicing, beavers taught us that). Cut and gathered aspen can then be delivered to the hatchery. If you have a truck or trailer and can bring it yourself, great, but we can arrange for cuttings to be picked up as well.
3. **Stream Restoration:** Like working hard outside doing incredibly meaningful work? Assist the MBP team with in-stream construction of beaver mimicking wood structures that slow water down and help prep degraded streams to better support beavers again. This will require hauling and staging supplies, vegetation, and equipment for construction and includes participating in the structure building. Build dates on the books are Thursday May 12th and Tuesday June 28th. Additional dates will be added.
4. **Coexistence Projects:** This involves assisting MBP staff with tree wrapping and/or installing and maintaining flow devices (as seen in the header photo) to ensure that beavers can safely stay where they have chosen to be and landowners can more easily share the space. Dates to be announced.
5. **Beaver Population Study** – Citizen Science - "Adventures with a Purpose". On your own time, walk and record beaver sign/activity in our priority streams of Bear Creek, Ramsey Creek, Texas Creek, and Cow Creek with the iBeaver App created by Defenders of Wildlife and modified for our study to keep beaver locations safe. Trail Camera management in project sites is also available for those who are motivated by seeing what the cameras picked up first!
6. **Special Events:** Share your passion by working a booth with a staff member at a public event.
  - ○ ■ Saturday May 21st: Okanogan Land Trust event - Celebrate World Fish Migration Day on Salmon Creek
  - Saturday June 11th: Winthrop Kids Fishing Day – help work the booth (face painters, beaver tattoos, tail making craft)
  - July 4th Methow Art Fest – working a booth much like Fishing Day
  - Beaver Celebration - Fall. Need lots of energy and input on this.

*We are looking forward to seeing you or meeting you on April 30th at the*

# Hatchery!

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## MBP in a Nutshell

Over the past 13 years, MBP has been communicating the benefits of living with beavers with our larger community. This knowledge is helping overcome our collective ecological amnesia of what a watery world it was in the Methow Valley before beavers were nearly extirpated. By the early 1840's, beavers were harvested to rarity for their valuable fur and for Britain's political revenge on a "young, snappy, & hungry" United States of America. (Please read *Eager* by Ben Goldfarb or *Once They Were Hats* by Frances Backhouse if that previous sentence has you intrigued). Since 2019, our original mission to store more water on the landscape has expanded to emphasize supporting beaver coexistence with affected landowners & to prioritize the improvement of stream habitat to better accommodate relocated beavers, when relocation is unavoidable. We have secured funding to do both!!!

Our beaver coexistence funding from Defenders of Wildlife, Methow Valley Fund, Animal Welfare Institute, and USDA APHIS requires a landowner cost share to implement effective "in-place" management strategies and services provided by MBP. The broadening of our mission from simply relocating conflict beavers from private lands is helping maintain beaver populations where they are already established, accelerating the expansion of their myriad of benefits, and supporting landowners by partnering with them for long term, cost-shared, coexistence solution strategies. Our broadening mission also falls in line with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife's evolving acknowledgement of the value of keeping beavers in place where we can all benefit from their amazing ecological work. MBP will continue offering non-lethal trapping and relocation of beavers in irreconcilable conflict with people but relocation is now one of many tools in our toolbox for partnering with beavers.

Our stream restoration funding from WA Department of Ecology, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Seattle City Light is supporting beaver mimicking structure restoration in 7 degraded and wildfire impacted streams in the Methow and Okanogan River watersheds. Returning natural woody structure to our streams slows water down and stores it longer in our severely channelized, straightened, degraded & unnatural form streams. Slowing water down with woody structure allows beavers to establish more successfully and speed stream restoration along even faster!

Come help support watershed resilience, climate adaptation, biodiversity, and so much more by volunteering with us to support beaver coexistence and reestablishment in streams that have been missing their presence for a century or more! Many hands make light work, and btw, we also like to have fun doing this critically important work!!!

Hope to see you soon!!

*Alexa, Julie, Joe, and Willy*

PS. The first person to sign up for the Volunteer Training gets one of our new signature hats! Sign up now by emailing [methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org](mailto:methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org)



Because the living environment is what really sustains us.  
E.O.Wilson



Storing water for the future—one beaver at a time  
[www.methowsalmon.org](http://www.methowsalmon.org)



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**Our email address is:**

[methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org](mailto:methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org)

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