



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

The logo for GiveMethow.org is a circular emblem. The outer ring is teal and contains the text "GIVE METHOW" at the top and "GIVING CAMPAIGN" at the bottom. Below "GIVING CAMPAIGN" is the text "COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NCW". In the center of the circle is a stylized sunburst or flower with eight yellow petals and a red center.

**GiveMethow.org**  
**October 1-31**

It's time for GIVE Methow! Give to One, Give to ALL!!

Thanks for Supporting Methow Beaver Project's work towards naturally sustainable watersheds and helping us provide more student internship

## opportunities in Summer 2024 with this year's GiveMethow donations!

Check out the promotional video for the campaign!

<https://vimeo.com/868887805>



Donate through Give Methow October 1-31

## Welcoming Autumn: the Busy Beaver Season

As the month of September comes to an end, we say farewell to the warmth of summer once again and HELLO to October! Many beautiful seasonal patterns are observable on the Methow landscape as the seasons shift: a snowline stretches across the Cascade peaks, flocks of Canada geese & Sandhill Cranes pause in our fields to feed and rest as they migrate South for winter, the Methow and Twisp rivers are flowing low and slow as fall-run salmon make their way back home, and the beavers, compelled by the cold nights, are busier than ever felling trees, building winter food caches, and mudding their dams and lodges in preparation for a long winter.

The MBP team has been hard at work this late summer & early fall, supporting beavers in

every way we can. We respond to private landowner calls for beaver coexistence assistance, we are currently relocating a family of beavers from an irreconcilable conflict, we've been presenting at workshops & conferences, hosting a field trip for Paschal Sherman Indian School students, visiting with students at Highlands High School in Omak, and completing beaver mimicking woody structure installations and adaptively managing previously built structures at our beaver-based stream restoration project sites in Ramsey Creek, Chiliwist Creek, Loup Loup Creek and Tunk Creek in the Methow and Okanogan Watersheds.



*Joe, Willy, and Emma installing wood posts for a beaver dam analog at our Tunk Creek beaver-based stream restoration site. Picture credit: Alexa Whipple*

## Why has Beaver Activity Increased Lately?

Beavers do not hibernate, so in autumn, beavers in cold climates must build a substantial winter food cache near their lodge to feed the family through winter. During this time, Beavers also work to build their dams high to insure that the water around their lodges is deep enough so that it doesn't freeze to the bottom. Even if their pond, lake or river freezes completely over, the beavers awaken every day to eat and socialize in the lodge and under the ice.



A happy little ecosystem engineer building up their autumn dam in Carburn Park, right in the heart of the city of Calgary Alberta. *Source: P. Helmer.*

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Beavers often target road culverts to build dams and deepen water for winter living. We can help people coexist with native beavers by protecting culverts with fencing designed to allow wildlife passage and prevent beavers from damming them.

Check out the photos below of a beaver dammed culvert and one of our coexistence culvert protectors installed earlier this year with the help of interns and friends from Beavers Northwest. These devices really work well if installed properly!!! Call us if

you need more information or an installation!



## Wildlife Cameras Reveal Many Winter Inhabitants of Beaver Ponds

The snow-capped peaks nearby hint to an early first snow. Luckily, beaver ponds provide important winter habitat and forage for many species. Last winter we saw bobcat, river otter, coyote, deer, and many birds enjoying visiting this pond (and some busy beaver too, of course).

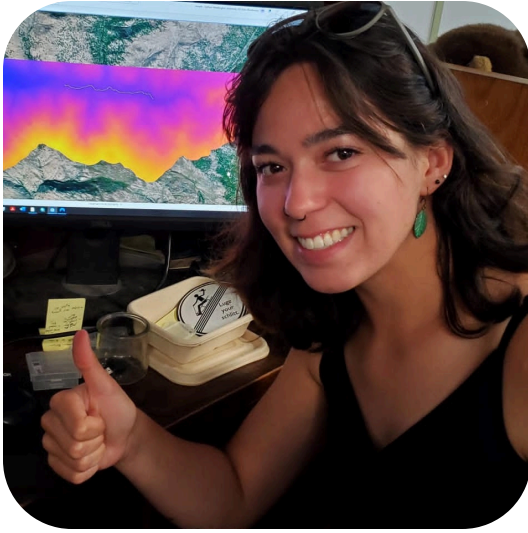




*Above: A hunting coyote (left), bobcat (right). Center: A pair of river otter (left), beaver (right). Bottom: Trumpeter Swans with well muddied beaver lodge in the background in the Methow.*

## Thank You, McKenna & WWU!

At the end of August we said goodbye to our last remaining summer intern, the wonderful and strong McKenna Varela (*below*) from Western Washington University. This summer McKenna was member of the Sustainability Pathways Program, a Methow Valley place-based sustainability cohort that places interns with with many local organizations including MBP. Over the summer, she helped us install BDA's for stream restoration and install/monitor groundwater wells. She also learned more about map making and restoration design work in ArcGIS for multiple project sites. Have a great senior year, McKenna, thanks for spending your summer with us! It's been a blast!



## Paschal Sherman Indian School Field Trip

Our team had a blast with this awesome group of PSIS 5th graders at our restoration site at Chiliwist Creek in the Okanogan Valley. Students played a field game simulating the positive impact of BDA's in a stream, learned about the importance of collecting field data and collected stream channel morphology data points using RTK technology, flew a drone to collect riparian imagery, and wove BDA's to slow and spread water. Over the next three months, we have three more field trips planned with this class, and we could not be more excited!

Huge shout out to Sarah Fox for her leadership and dedicated efforts to put this series of field trips together. Thank you, Sarah!







*Above: Willy's BDA building crew. Middle: A student flying a drone with Joe (left), and students and Sarah Fox posing on their woven BDA (right). Below: The class playing the BDA field game.*

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## Aeneas Valley Beaver Family Relocation

We have been working hard to relocate a family of beavers all together. After capturing three yearlings: Lil Bee, Rainy, and Pyro in the first few nights, we finally captured the trap savvy adult of the family... Gertrude!

The family has been joyously reunited at our housing facility located at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery. They will be relocated to Chiliwist Creek on private lands tomorrow, Oct 2. If you want

to see the family before they are released, come down to the hatchery today. They are open to visitors during regular business hours, including weekends. The babies are adorable!!!!





*Above: Our amazing sawyer, Jason, and the beaver he trapped, Rainy, on a very stormy morning (left), and Joe and Alexa weighing Pyro upon intake to the hatchery (right). Middle: Emma and Alexa holding Lil Bee still in a beaver bag (above left) while Willy captures a photo of the beaver's tail; a beaver's tail has a unique pattern that can be used to identify it in the future if recaptured (above right). Below: Lil Bee swimming exploring their temporary home at the hatchery.*



*Above: Lil' Bee, Rainy on the left and Pyro feeding on the right.*

*Below: Gertrude the momma beaver finally captured after 7 days on the left and Gertrude reunited with Pyro and Lil' Bee on the right.*

*Young beavers love to ride on the backs of adults. It's adorable but they seem to be getting a little big for this bonding behavior. Gertrude barely stayed above water during this joyful reunion.*



**Want to Visit our Beavers?** Come today as they will be leaving tomorrow for their new home!!

Community members are welcome to visit the raceway at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery where the beavers are housed before being relocated.

We ask visitors to be respectful of the stressful environment the beavers are in and recommend holding still and keeping voices low for the best opportunity to see them outside of their concrete lodges.

Say tuned for Facebook or Instagram posts announcing the next time to see beavers!



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## **Huge THANK YOU's to our Wonderful MBP Volunteers & our Generous Funders!!**

We shared some fun & very productive times in the field this year with local volunteers, had much needed help caring for translocated beavers, and are so grateful to have many caring hands to share the load! Thanks to each of you! We look forward to working with you and other volunteers more & more!!

Thanks to WA Dept. of Ecology, Wildlife Conservation Society, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, WA Dept. of Natural Resources, the Broad Reach Fund, and our many community based donors for the critical support to make this great work happen!



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



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**METHOW SALMON**  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION

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*Methow Beaver Project, a program of Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation*

**Our mailing address is:**  
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