



Living & Working

— with —

Beavers

Nature's

Engineers

Beavers create an ecosystem where all life can flourish.

Beavers raise water tables and saturate riparian soils, thus supporting wider riparian zones with connected floodplains.

Beavers provide large and small woody material to the stream and riparian zone, and create associated wetland habitat that supports an abundance of wildlife.

Beavers create and maintain deep pools that act as rearing/overwintering habitat for fish.

Beaver dams trap sediment making streams cleaner, aggrading incised channels, raising ground water levels, and creating habitat for fish and wildlife.

During summer months, beaver pond water seeps into the soil. This cool, clean water resurfaces downstream, increasing summer flows and lowering stream temperatures.

During winter months, groundwater is warmer and prevents streams from freezing solid during periods of extended cold. This helps reduce juvenile salmonid overwintering mortality.

About the Beaver:

- It is estimated that before European settlement, there were 50,000,000 beavers in North America.
- An increase in demand for beaver fur severely depleted the beaver population by 1890.
- Adult beavers are about 3 feet from head to tail and weigh between 35 and 50 pounds (some up to 100 pounds!).
- Bodies are covered with thick brown, insulating fur called a pelt.
- Their flat, heavy tails are used for swimming, balance and slapping the water to warn others of danger.
- They have large, sharp front teeth that are continuously growing.
- Beavers eat up to two pounds of wood each day, which helps wear down their teeth.
- Beavers are herbivores. They eat grasses, shrubs, water lily tubers and trees.
- Beavers generally are active at night, but may also be active during the day.



Beaver in its natural habitat

Beaver Mitigation Projects:

Each year, many beaver colonies are removed for flooding roads, plugging culverts, and damaging private property. Where feasible nonlethal management techniques are used to control beaver damage.

Pond Levelers – These set drain pipes are used when there is flooding from a free-standing beaver dam that threatens human property, health or safety. Pond Levelers create a permanent leak through the beaver dam that the beavers cannot stop.



Pond Leveler

Cage Protection – These protective fences eliminate beaver culvert damming by keeping it open to water flow without obstruction. If a beaver dams against the fences, the water will continue to flow around the cage and dam material.



Cage Protection

Tree Protection - Individual trees can be spared from beaver gnawing by placing wire cylinders around the base of their trunks. The purpose of the heavy wire cylinder is to keep the beaver from getting to the tree.



Tree Protection

Bed Sheet Beaver Deceiver – The dam is breached and two stakes are placed on each end of the breach with a torn bed sheet hung between to simulate a predator flying over dam, scaring the beaver away.



Bed Sheet Deceiver

For more information, visit:
www.klamathpartnership.org

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