

Resolving conflict with beavers:

Learning to coexist



Mid-Columbia Fisheries is a non-profit, community-based group dedicated to restoring self-sustaining populations of salmon and steelhead.

Beavers can cause damage to infrastructure by felling trees, blocking culverts and damming irrigation canals. Because of the many benefits of beaver activities, **Mid-Columbia Fisheries** assists landowners with non-lethal solutions to beaver issues. Damage from beaver activities can be prevented by protecting trees with fencing, installing beaver deceivers or flow devices, and relocating beavers to less developed areas.

Please visit our website for more information:

www.midcolumbiafisheries.org

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McNary Fisheries Compensation Committee

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Beavers

Helping to build a better Washington



Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

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Nature at work for you-

Beavers Help Fish, Wildlife, and People

Beavers are industrious engineers, constructing dams and lodges for shelter and food storage. Beavers actively modify streams and surrounding woodlands, improving the health of a watershed by creating lush ponds or wetland

habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. By damming water, beavers create a refuge for juvenile and overwintering fish. These ponds provide homes to aquatic invertebrates (fish food), amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl, songbirds, and mammals.



Photo: Caleb Zurstadt

“Any watershed restoration plan that excludes beaver as a restoration tool will have limited success in restoring salmon populations.”

- Michael Pollock, NOAA Fisheries, 2004

Benefits of Beavers in a Dry Climate

Storing water and reconnecting floodplains

- By building dams, beavers are able to slow spring runoff, reducing the potential for flooding and erosion.

- Beaver dams spread water onto the floodplain and reconnect side channels allowing for greater water storage.

- Beaver ponds provide a continuous water supply that percolates into the ground, recharging aquifers.

- Beaver ponds trap sediment and filter out toxic materials providing cool, clean water for downstream water users.



Photo: Melissa Babik



Photo: Ben Carroll