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The Methow Beaver Project
Washington, United States

The Methow Beaver Project – Where We've Been and Where We're Going in 2 Acts

A Twelve-step Program for Beaver Addicts. - *Kent Woodruff*

If you have read Ben Goldfarb's excellent book, you know the Methow Beaver Project in central Washington has been ambitious. In the first ten years, among other things, we included landowner counseling, field techniques seminars, weeks-long visits by multiple film crews, and even a staff person dedicated to sharing what we have learned with all who are interested. Our ambition may have looked to some like an obsession. Perhaps we needed counseling...

The project "Implementation Plan" states:

In this project we move beavers to places where they present fewer problems and where they can build dams to increase stream complexity, increase riparian vegetation, increase groundwater recharge, capture stream sediment, and delay stream runoff.

Not unreasonable, but the goals we set were ambitious. They included re-establishing beavers in at least 50 sub-basins of the watershed in the first 10 years. We noted that this would improve those drainages and be a benefit to salmon and other aquatic organisms - especially as more abundant beaver populations started cooling the rivers that had Clean Water Act temperature violations.

In this presentation, I will share the "12 Steps" we developed for framing a beaver restoration program, look at the key accomplishments of the first 10 years of the Methow Beaver Project, and provide a few lessons learned.



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MBP 2.0 - Beaver Restoration Reload – *Alexa Whipple*

Standing on the shoulders of giants, MBP 2.0 takes the lessons learned from a decade of beaver relocation and watershed restoration and applies them to current conditions and predicted models. Where do beaver populations stand currently in North America? The Pacific NW? The Methow Valley? Is top down watershed relocation/restoration working for beavers? Is habitat restoration occurring fast enough with beaver relocations alone or do we need to prepare degraded streams and rivers to better support beavers and their dam building? Can beavers help streams recover after wildfire or even prevent or reduce wildfire impacts? Are beavers and salmon still co-evolving considering the landscape and complexity limitations created by human development? Do beavers warm the water? How are we answering these questions? What are we doing with those answers? Find out what all the dam fussin' is about! Come explore the next generation of beaver conservation, restoration and relocation in the Pacific Northwest and across North America with MBP 2.0.