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When the Beaver Calls Your Name:
Managing Beaver in the Umpqua Basin

Leonard Houston is a fourth generation Oregonian, with family's roots predating Oregon statehood. As a youth hunting, fishing and trapping the forests and streams of the Umpqua Basin, he has seen firsthand the benefits of an active beaver population. He was taught as a youth a deep abiding respect for the beaver and its role in our aquatic ecosystems. Like many Oregonians he spent most of his life working in the forest resource extraction industry. His work took him throughout the western region of the United States. His long career expanded the skill ranging from pre-commercial contracting to helicopter logging.

Returning many years later to the forests of his youth he was shocked to find the beaver populations all but extirpated. The pristine rivers and streams were now radically changed. The spawning beds and rearing ponds created by the beaver were now bedrock and barren rock bars. Millions of dollars were being spent to restore our streams and anadromous fish runs but yet something was still missing; the beaver dams and ponds of his youth. The Houston's will share their work beginning in 2006 and continuing until the present with a pictorial slideshow of how they have become the most successful organization in hands on beaver relocation in the state of Oregon. Their work is recognized worldwide and is a blueprint for relocation efforts and beaver management everywhere beavers are present. Leonard Houston, Board of Directors of the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership. Co-Chair and founder, with Lois Houston, of the Beaver Advocacy Committee.