

*COLLABORATION,*  
*CREATIVITY, &*  
*DETERMINATION*

KEY ELEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING  
CHANGE TOWARDS BEAVER  
MEDIATED PROCESS-BASED  
RESTORATION



Yukon Territories [lflscience.org](http://lflscience.org)



*ALEXA WHIPPLE*  
*PROJECT DIRECTOR*  
[\*alexa.mbp@methowsalmon.org\*](mailto:alexa.mbp@methowsalmon.org)

**METHOW  
BEAVER  
PROJECT**

METHOW SALMON  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION

[www.methowbeaverproject.org](http://www.methowbeaverproject.org)



Ancestral Lands of the  
**mətx<sup>w</sup>u** – Methow Tribe  
12 Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

*MBP's PERSPECTIVE ON EFFECTIVE  
COLLABORATION & COALITION BUILDING*



# *MBP PERSPECTIVE ON EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION & COALITION BUILDING*

- Developing Effective Partnerships



# *MBP PERSPECTIVE ON EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION & COALITION BUILDING*

- Developing Effective Partnerships
- Overcoming Institutional Ruts



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- Developing Effective Partnerships
- Overcoming Institutional Ruts
- Minimizing Conflict Over Beaver Management



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- Consider common goals yet diverse actions & stakeholders among potential partners

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*WATER  
STORAGE*



*ENDANGERED  
SALMON  
HABITAT*



# *BIODIVERSITY*

*SARAH GILMAN*

# *FLOODPLAIN CONNECTIVITY*

*OKANOGAN HIGHLANDS ALLIANCE-TRIPLE CREEK PROJECT*



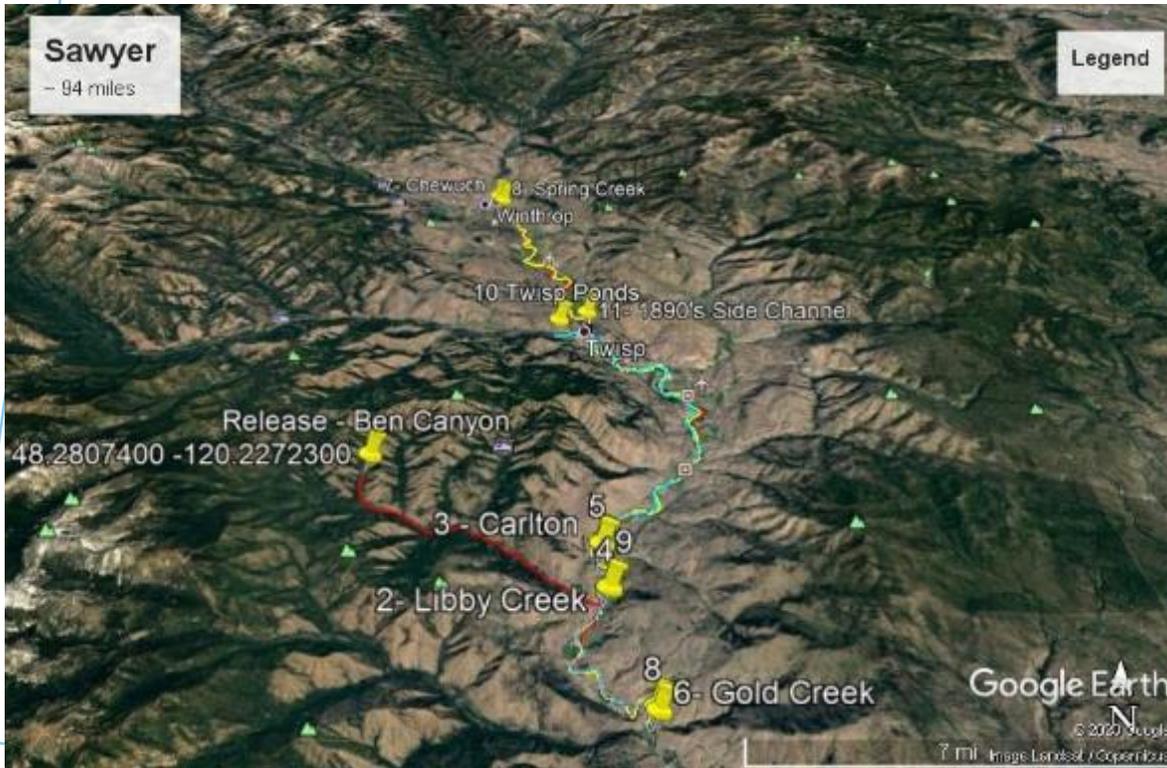
Photo: Julie Vanderwal



*RESILIENCE TO  
DISTURBANCE*

Foster Creek, WA 2020 Pearl Hill Fire

# *SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING*



# *CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING*



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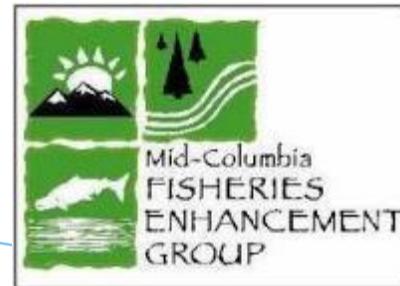
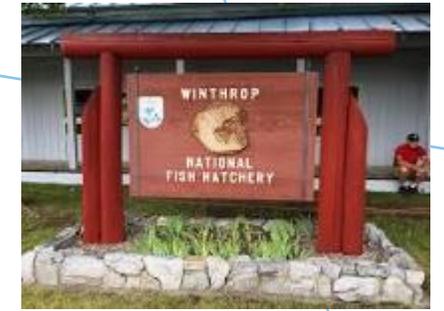
# Partners & Collaborators



[www.methowbeaverproject.org](http://www.methowbeaverproject.org)



OKANOGAN  
HIGHLANDS  
ALLIANCE



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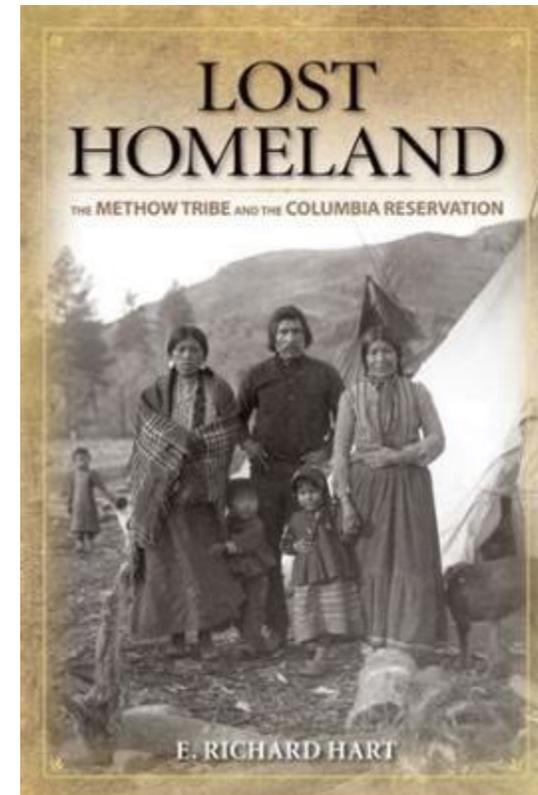
*COMMUNITY*

# *TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE & CULTURAL VALUES OF THE COLVILLE TRIBES*

- Take time to learn the history of the First People's in the watersheds you work in to better understand their perspective

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  - Help provide & participate in experiential education in restoration & stewardship of the watershed & stewardship of cultural relationships



*COLVILLE  
TRIBE -  
FIRST  
SALMON  
CEREMONY*

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“Make the Revolution Irresistible.”

Toni Cade Bombara

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- Practice Listening
- Quiet The Ego

*“It is amazing what can be accomplished  
when it doesn't matter who gets credit”*

*Harry Truman & Others*





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USFWS Winthrop National Fish Hatchery

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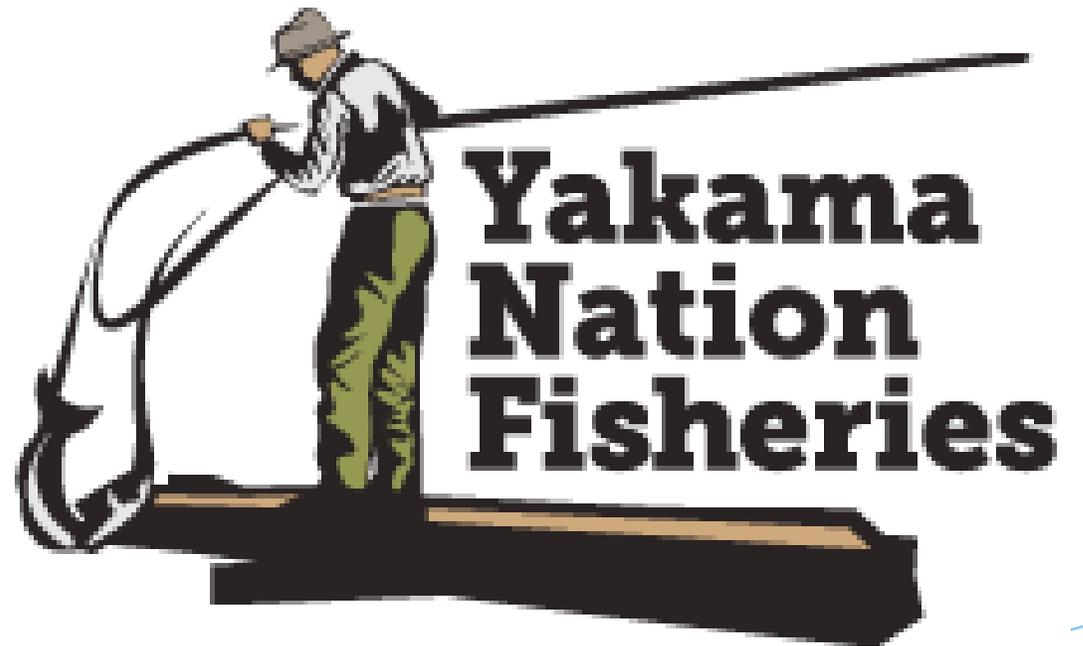




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*Washington  
Department of*  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

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- Local – Watershed Council, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Land Trusts, Environmental Groups, School Districts-public, private, native



# *DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS*

- Landowners - Private & Public – be a good partner, LISTEN to their concerns & reflect that back to them, commit to the partnership with cost sharing/maintenance agreements

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# *DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS*



2015 Practitioner Training



2015 WA Beaver Working Group Meeting



*WA State  
Aug 2019*

*1<sup>st</sup> Official  
Beaver  
Relocator  
Training*

*WDFW's Pilot Licensing  
Program*



*October 2019  
Building  
BDA's With  
Okanogan  
Highlands  
Alliance*

# *2014 Oregon - State Of The Beaver Conference*



# *2020 Maryland – BeaverCon - Presenters*



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Wheaton et al 2019

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## Potential Deliverables

- Increased stream length
- Increased water surface area
- Increased temperature heterogeneity
- Increased wood cover
- Increased max depth
- Increased habitat unit heterogeneity

A yellow excavator is positioned on a rocky riverbank, working on a large pile of debris and logs. The river flows through the center of the scene, surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene depicts a construction or restoration project in a natural setting.

*OVERCOMING  
INSTITUTIONAL  
RUTS*

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Permitting

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Heter 1955

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**LOW-TECH  
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**WA Beaver Working Group:** Beavers Northwest, Tulalip Beaver Project, Methow Beaver Project, Cowlitz Beaver Project, The Lands Council, Wishpush Project (Yakama Nation, MARS, MCSRB), King County, WDFW, WDNR, USDA, WA Dept of Ecology

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- Help create guiding documents to make regulatory permitting easier

### **The Beaver Restoration Guidebook**

*Working with Beaver to Restore Streams, Wetlands, and Floodplains*

*Version 2.0, June 30, 2017*



*Photo credit: Worth A Dam Foundation (martinezbeavers.org)*

*Prepared by*

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
University of Saskatchewan  
US Forest Service

Janine Castro  
Michael Pollock and Chris Jordan  
Gregory Lewallen  
Kent Woodruff

*Funded by*

North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative



Version 2.0. Get the latest version at: <https://www.fws.gov/oregonwo/promo.cfm?id=177175812>

# *OVERCOMING INSTITUTIONAL RUTS*

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## Oregon DFW Website Wildlife Management Definitions What is a Furbearer?

Furbearers are beaver, bobcat, fisher, marten, mink, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, red and gray fox. For any person owning, leasing, occupying, possessing or having charge or dominion over any land (or an agent of this person) who is taking or attempting to take beaver or muskrat on that property, these two species are considered to be predatory animals.

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  - At least: Establish protections in beaver restoration watersheds
  - At best: Reclassify beavers as keystone species, partner in ecological restoration/resilience



“The beaver isn’t just an animal:  
*it’s an ecosystem.*”

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  - Help draft language for new policies that shows beaver benefit to communities on numerous levels (2006 WA Beaver Bill-allowed non-lethal removal & relocation of beavers, NGO’s were instrumental)



Rep. Joel Kretz  
7<sup>th</sup> Leg. District, WA



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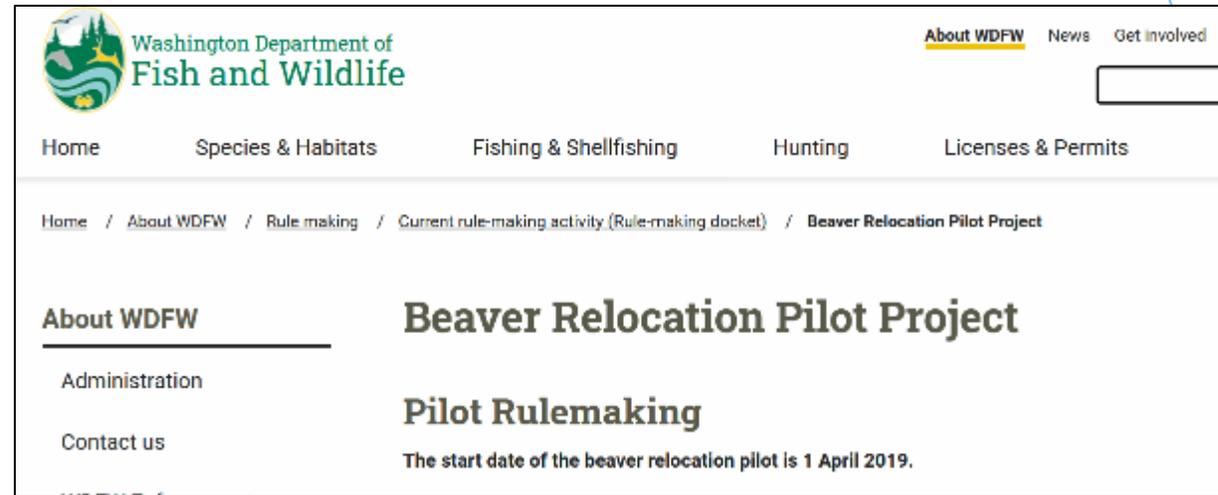
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  - **Demonstrate need/contradictions (public policy/funds for restoration & harvest opportunity)**



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- Develop pilot studies or programs to test new actions (sometimes don't require new laws until made official program)



The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website. The header includes the department's logo and name, along with navigation links for "About WDFW", "News", and "Get involved". A search bar is visible on the right. The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Species & Habitats", "Fishing & Shellfishing", "Hunting", and "Licenses & Permits". The breadcrumb trail reads: "Home / About WDFW / Rule making / Current rule-making activity (Rule-making docket) / Beaver Relocation Pilot Project". The page title is "Beaver Relocation Pilot Project". Under the "About WDFW" section, there are links for "Administration" and "Contact us". The main content area features the heading "Beaver Relocation Pilot Project" and "Pilot Rulemaking", with a sub-heading stating "The start date of the beaver relocation pilot is 1 April 2019."

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- Coexistence measures needed to compliment protections



**BEAVER**  
**SOLUTIONS**

# *MINIMIZING CONFLICT OVER BEAVER MANAGEMENT*



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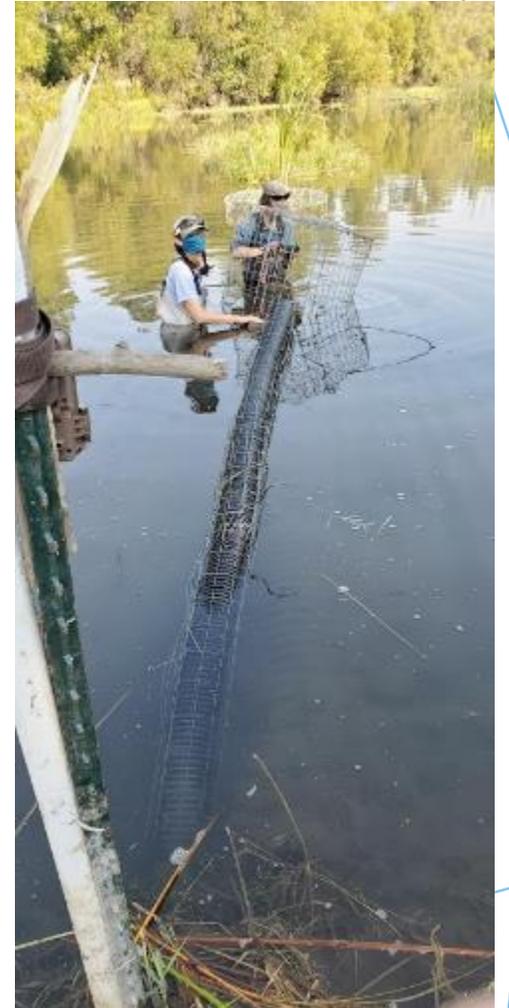
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*“MAKE THE REVOLUTION IRRESISTIBLE.”*

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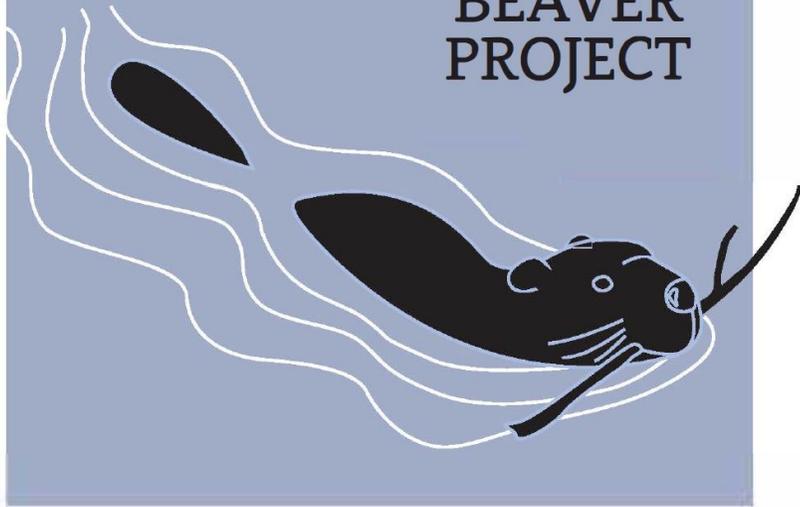




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METHOW SALMON  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION

# Thank You!



Alexa Whipple – Project Director  
[alexa.mbp@methowsalmon.org](mailto:alexa.mbp@methowsalmon.org)

# Ben Goldfarb's sharing of "already pledged" Day 1 Executive Order's from our Beaver Believer in Chief - President Joe Biden

- 1) **Ban** recreational fur trapping on all federal lands
- 2) **Suspend** USDA's aquatic mammal damage program
- 3) **Mandate** the installation of nonlethal Beaver Deceivers at all road culverts on federal highways
- 4) **Require** that USFS, BLM, and other land agencies restore degraded streams using Beaver Dam Analogues
- 5) **Designate** National Monuments at all occupied beaver ponds
- 6) **Appoint** a federal Beaver Czar to coordinate semiaquatic rodent recovery efforts
- 7) **Declare** International Beaver Day (April 7) a federal holiday
- 8) **Excavate** a beaver pond on the White House lawn and populate it with animals relocated from the Potomac River
- 9) **Replace** the Biden family German shepherds with a colony of beavers that lives within the walls of the White House itself
- 10) **Annex** Canada