

Too much
CO₂?

Water
scarcity?

Forest
fires?

Dry
stream
beds?

High
stream
temps?

Erosion?

Flooding?

Changing
hydro-
graph?

“THERE’S
A BEAVER
FOR THAT”

- Ben Goldfarb

Nature’s Best Engineers are Allies in Climate Change Adaptation

The Lens of the Beaver

Beavers are not a panacea for adapting to climate change, but they are a critical and necessary part. In his book *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, Ben Goldfarb writes: “Beavers, the animal that doubles as an ecosystem, are ecological and hydrological Swiss Army knives, capable, in the right circumstances, of tackling just about any landscape-scale problem you might confront. Trying to mitigate floods or improve water quality? There’s a beaver for that. Hoping to capture more water for agriculture in the face of climate change? Add a beaver. Concerned about sedimentation, salmon populations, wildfire? Take two families of beaver and check back in a year.” We have been saying for some time now that we need to see the world through the lens of climate change. Now it’s time to approach climate change planning through the lens of the beaver.

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King County

Poster citations

Include beavers in your climate plans

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Include beavers in your models

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Beavers-and-Climate-Change Resources

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Climate Change Adaptation and Beaver Management Team. 2014. National fish, wildlife, and plants climate adaptation strategy: report of the climate change adaptation and beaver management team to the joint implementation working group implementing the national fish, wildlife, and plant climate change adaptation strategy. 25 pp.

Pollock, M.M., G. Lewallen, K. Woodruff, C.E. Jordan, and J.M. Castro (Eds.). 2017. The beaver restoration guidebook: working with beaver to restore streams, wetlands, and floodplains. Version 2.0. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 219 pp.

Wheaton, J.M., S.N. Bennett, N. Bouwes, J.D. Maestas, and S.M. Shahverdian (Eds.). 2019. Low-tech process-based restoration of riverscapes: design manual. Version 1.0. Utah State University Restoration Consortium. Logan, UT. 286 pp. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.19590.63049/1.

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Beaver resources

Beaver activity and climate benefits of beavers will vary depending on geographic location. Beaver activity also may impact nearby landowners in ways they don't always appreciate. It's therefore important to be thoughtful about where you encourage beaver activity as well as messaging to anyone who might be affected. The website www.kingcounty.gov/beavers provides beaver FAQs, resources to help coexist with beavers, technical information on beaver biology, life history, and the environmental benefits beaver provide, and laws and policies related to beaver management in Washington State.