

Management Options for Snoqualmie Valley

Beavers

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES



Beavers prefer to build dams on small- to medium-sized, low-gradient streams flowing through unconfined valleys. They will also occupy lakes, wetlands, estuaries, off-channel river habitat, and

any other water body where additional water can be retained by building a dam. Beavers use a wide variety of trees, shrubs, substrate, and herbaceous vegetation as construction materials. For food, beavers prefer species from the genera *Populus* and *Salix* (i.e. aspen, cottonwood, and willows). Beavers can play a critical role in the expansion of riparian areas, enhancing groundwater recharge, and providing habitat for insects, amphibians, fish and birds. On floodplains near stream channels, flooding from beaver dams can create conflicts with human infrastructure, such as buildings, roads, and commercial agricultural crops. Instream infrastructure with the potential to create conflicts include culverts, stream gages, outfalls irrigation/diversions ditches, weirs, and fish screens.

BEAVER MANAGEMENT OPTION

Beaver Trapping:

SVWID is under contract with local beaver trappers to provide nuisance beaver trapping for SVWID district members. Members properties pay \$75/beaver removed directly to the trappers. A detailed report of trapping activities will be provided to the Member. SVWID and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will receive an annual report. No trapping will occur during April 1 - June 30th. During this time, female beavers are giving birth and nurturing their young. Exceptions may be available as determined by the trapper.

Contact: Rob Shogren, 206-399-7773; rshogren@hotmail.com

BEAVER MANAGEMENT OPTION

Technical Assistance:

SVWID works with Snoqualmie Valley landowners to schedule site visits with non-regulatory Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff to develop site-specific suggestions and solutions. Recommendations may include:

- **Evaluating impacts** of the problem and potential solutions is the first step. If beavers on the property are not creating an impact, then the landowner may choose to leave beavers and their dams in place;
- **Controlling access** to construction materials/food sources;
- **Installing beaver dam leveler.** Installation of a flexible, flow-through tube in the dam can create a positive change in the depth of a beaver pond. This keeps the rise in the water level at a minimum by using one or more plastic pipes to continually drain the pond area.
- **Install beaver deceiver.** A woven-wire mesh fence in the proper location can help prevent beavers from damming small culverts.
- **Other options such as** trapping and dam removal.

Contact: Erin Ericson, Program Manager, SVWID, 425-549-0316; erin@svwid.com

BEAVER MANAGEMENT OPTION

Beaver Relocation:

The Tulalip Beaver Project (TBP) operates under the sovereign rights of the Tulalip Tribes to enhance and protect salmon habitat within their usual and accustomed fishing areas. Their goal is to relocate urban and suburban nuisance beavers to headwater streams of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie river basins on United States Forest Service land. The TBP's relocation season typically ranges from mid-May to mid-October.

Contact: Molly Alves, malves@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov or David Bailey, Tulalip

Read More

Read More: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/beavers.html>

Tulalip Beaver Project, <https://nr.tulaliptribes.com/Programs/Wildlife/Beaver>

Methow Beaver Project, <http://pacificbio.org/initiatives/other-projects/beavers.html>

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement, <http://spsseg.org/education-outreach/the-benefits-of-beavers/>