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October 2, 2018

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee members

**FROM:** Stacy Horton

**SUBJECT:** Beavers as an Ecosystem Conservation Tool: Strategies and Results from the Upper Columbia

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenters:** Cody Gillin, Project Manager for Trout Unlimited, and Julie Nelson, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Methow Beaver Project

**Summary:** This presentation will provide historical context for beaver extirpation, explain how beaver engineer ecosystems, describe methods for selecting suitable beaver relocation sites, and highlight some results of beaver relocation work. This information reflects the activities and experiences of the Methow Beaver Project (operational since 2008) and the Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver Project (operational since 2018).

**Relevance:** Emerging priorities in the Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program call for continued efforts to improve floodplain habitats, and for taking into account the effects of climate change, when appropriate. Of course the purpose for both priorities is to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Beavers may function as habitat engineers that aid in salmon recovery efforts.

**Workplan:** Addresses the updated 2018 Fish and Wildlife Division Workplan.

**More Info:** Beaver Restoration Guidebook v2.01:  
<https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Documents/2018BRGv.2.01.pdf>

Wenatchee Beaver Project Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/WenatcheeBeaverProject/>

'Beaver Believers' Blog Post: [https://www.tu.org/blog-posts/the-beaver-believers?utm\\_source=informz&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=informz](https://www.tu.org/blog-posts/the-beaver-believers?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=informz)

Methow Beaver Project Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/Methow-Beaver-Project-221123695055531/>

Methow Beaver Project web site  
<http://methowsalmon.org/beaverproject.html>

Methow Beaver Project: Status Report 2016-2017  
<http://methowsalmon.org/Documents/2016-17%20Methow%20Beaver%20Project%20Report.pdf>