



# Beaver Benefits

The North American beaver, *Castor canadensis*, build dams and wetlands that are among the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to coral reefs and rain forests.<sup>i</sup> Beaver pond benefits include:<sup>ii</sup>

*Create diverse habitats and ecosystems*<sup>iii</sup>

*Increase biodiversity*<sup>iv</sup>

*Promote salmon/trout recovery*<sup>v</sup>

*Regulate stream flows*<sup>vi</sup>

*Improve water quality, acts as the “Earth’s Kidneys”*<sup>vii</sup>

*Replenish drinking water aquifers*<sup>viii</sup>

*Stabilize the water table*<sup>ix</sup>

*Repair eroded stream channels*<sup>x</sup>

*Restore watershed health*<sup>xi</sup>

**Beavers do these AMAZING things,  
for FREE, saving us MILLIONS of dollars!**

However, despite these valuable ecological services, beavers can cause significant damage. Fortunately though, cost-effective, long-term, environmentally-friendly and humane options exist to resolve most beaver conflicts and retain their benefits. Beaver trapping is legal, but to retain all the beaver benefits it should be a last resort.

**Effective Nonlethal Tools Exist for Beaver Problems**<sup>xii</sup>



For more information please see our website

Beaver Institute, Inc.

**[www.beaverinstitute.org](http://www.beaverinstitute.org)**

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## **References:**

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Functions and Values of Wetlands, EPA 843-F-01-002c, September 2001.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pdf, 2016, <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/wetlandfunctionsvalues.pdf>

**The Beaver Restoration Guidebook: Working with Beaver to Restore Streams, Wetlands, and Floodplains**, Pollock, M.M., G.M. Lewallen, K. Woodruff, C.E. Jordan and J.M. Castro (Editors) Version 2.0, 2017. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 2017, pp. 219 is a comprehensive manual of the beaver scientific literature. It can be downloaded in its entirety at: <https://www.beaverinstitute.org/education/beaver-basics/>

<sup>iii</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, p 5.

<sup>iv</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 13-19.

<sup>v</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 15-17.

<sup>vi</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 4-5.

<sup>vii</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 7-10.

<sup>viii</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 6 -7.

<sup>ix</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 4-5.

<sup>x</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 11-13.

<sup>xi</sup> The Beaver Restoration Guidebook, pp. 2-19.

<sup>xii</sup> <https://www.beaverinstitute.org/management/flow-devices/dams/>