

Beavers

Thinking Beyond the Dam

Presentation

April 12, 2018

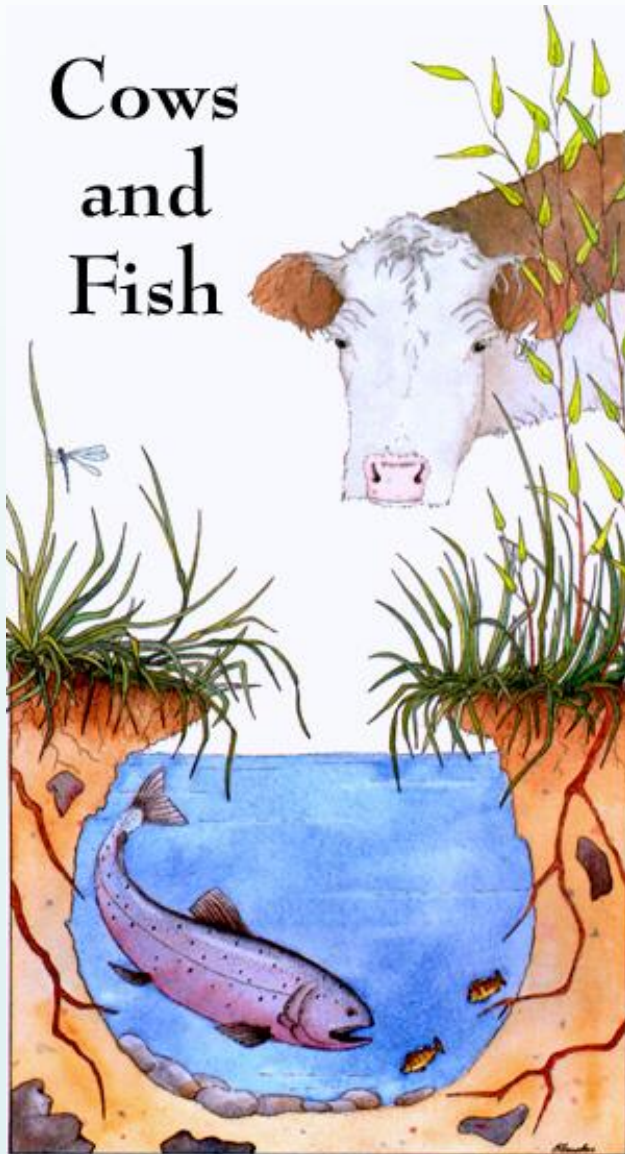
Online Links and Where to find More Info

Cows
and
Fish



Science
Outreach
- Athabasca

Photo Courtesy of Dr.
Robert Holmberg



*“Working with
producers and
communities on
riparian awareness”*

Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society

Contact Us

www.cowsandfish.org

- publications / factsheets
- riparian health assessment
- community stewardship ideas
- digital stories / videos / podcasts
- donations



Cows and Fish

Cows and Fish



Kerri O'Shaughnessy

Riparian Specialist,

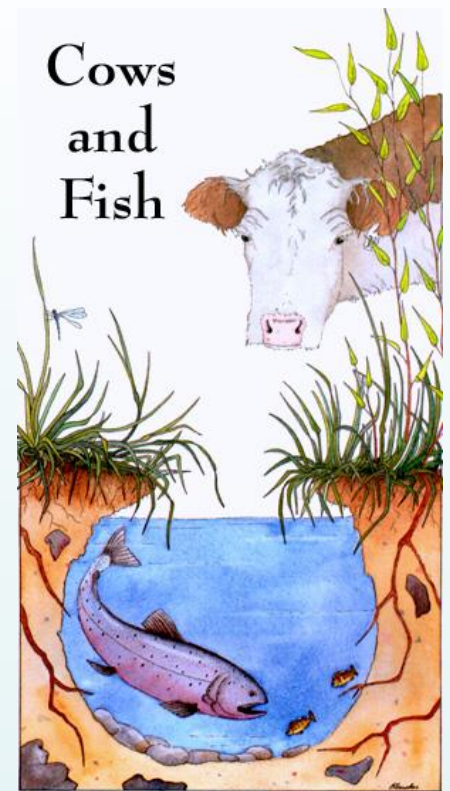
Edmonton

780-427-7940

koshaugh@cowsandfish.org



MIISTAKIS
INSTITUTE

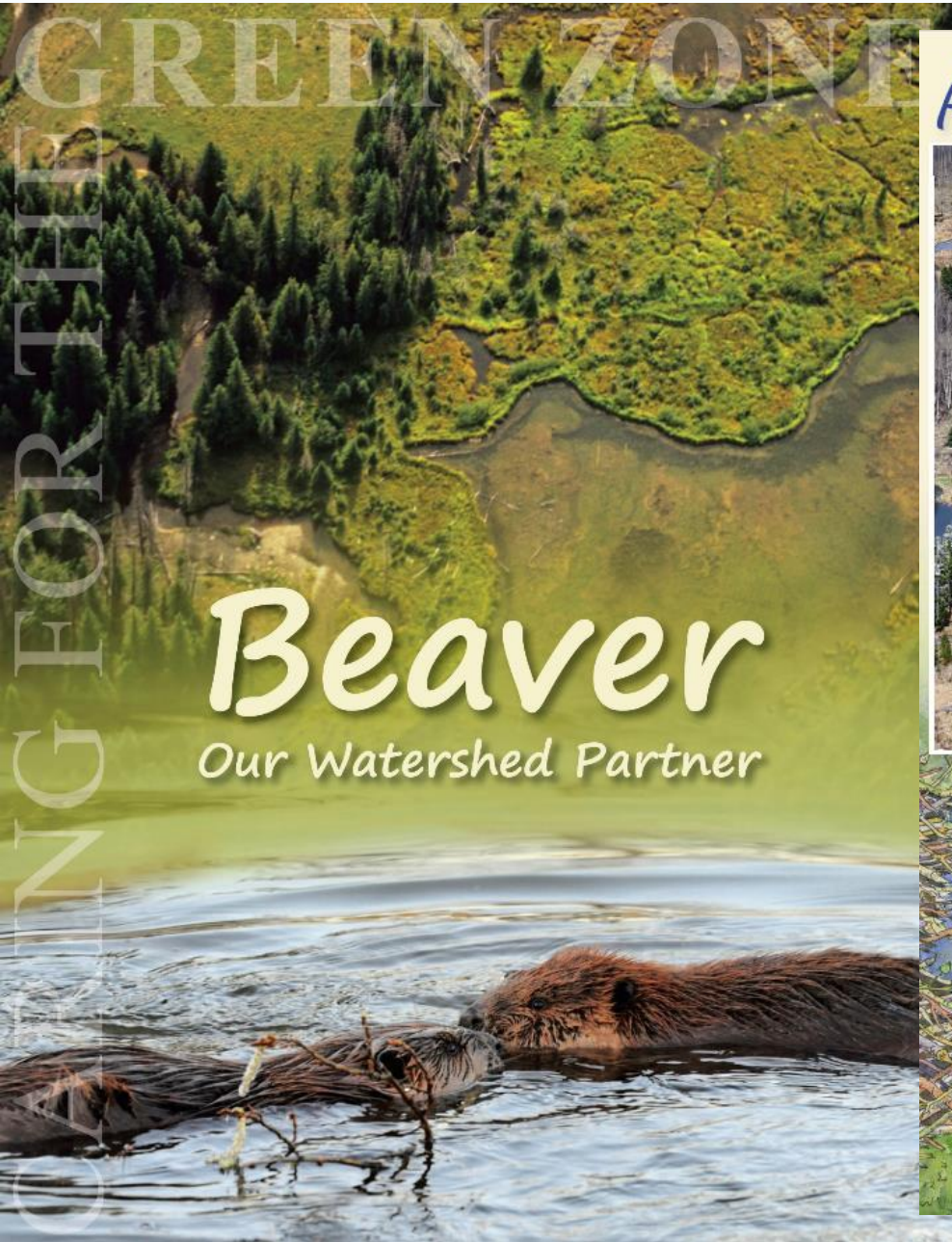


Putting beavers to work for watershed resiliency and restoration

A Partnership Project



Landowners,
Community Groups
& Municipalities



Beaver

Our Watershed Partner



A Pond of Gold



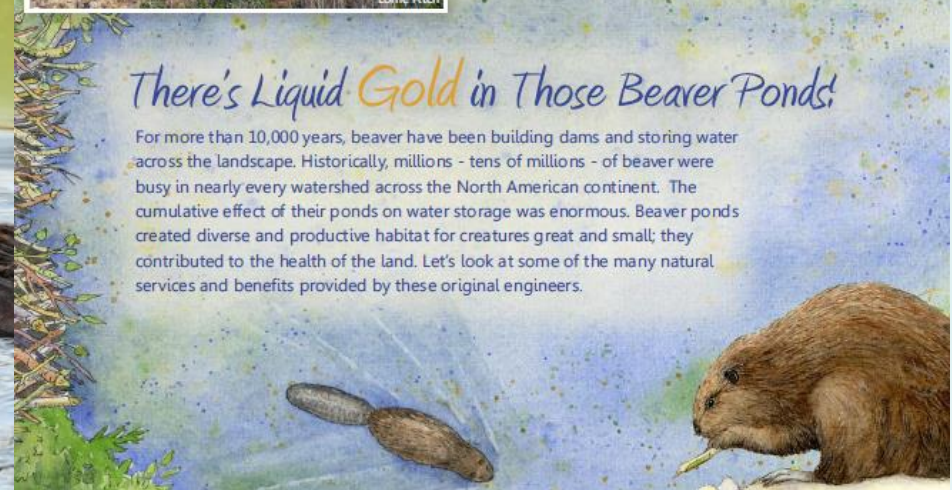
Storing Water, Naturally

Water ... we can't live without it. No substitute exists for this precious and beautiful resource, which has usually been scarce in the Rocky Mountain West. In the future, the flow of water may decline as our climate becomes warmer and drier. The amount of snowpack in the mountains will be less, melting and runoff will occur earlier in the spring, and stream flow will diminish earlier in summer. By late summer when we need water the most, it may be in short supply.

Many people believe that water will be the new gold of the future. As the reality of climate change becomes ever more apparent, we will need to catch and store water more effectively. We've given water lots of advice, in the form of expensive dams and big reservoirs but is that always the best solution? Likely not. Have we overlooked a natural ally in our efforts to conserve and manage water? Yes, consider the beaver!

There's Liquid Gold in Those Beaver Ponds!

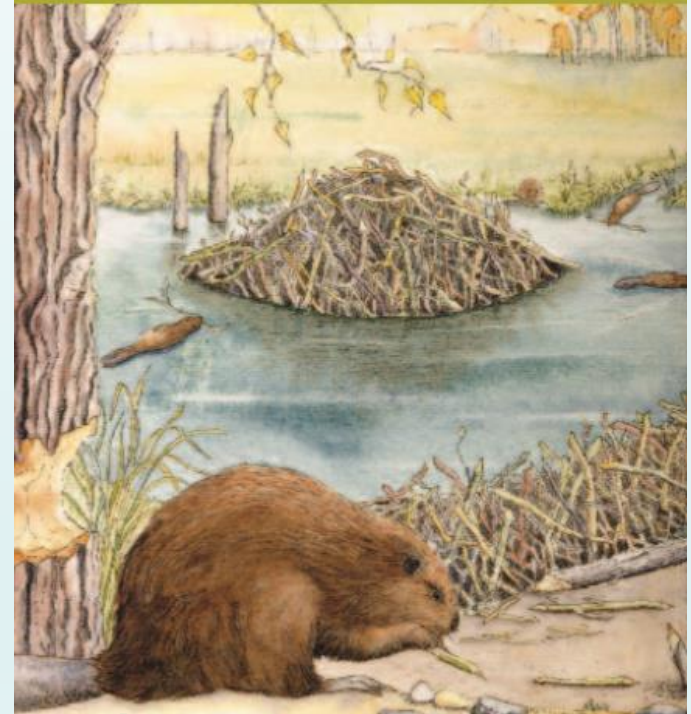
For more than 10,000 years, beaver have been building dams and storing water across the landscape. Historically, millions - tens of millions - of beaver were busy in nearly every watershed across the North American continent. The cumulative effect of their ponds on water storage was enormous. Beaver ponds created diverse and productive habitat for creatures great and small; they contributed to the health of the land. Let's look at some of the many natural services and benefits provided by these original engineers.



An Overview of Beaver Management for Agricultural Producers

These natural dam builders and water engineers can be aggravating and helpful, costly and beneficial. It is a matter of where and when.

This beaver management decision matrix tool, developed for agricultural producers, provides a host of potential actions to respond to various concerns and opportunities that producers have, related to beavers on their land. Beavers can pose management challenges, but also offer many potential benefits to agricultural operations and to ecosystems.



<http://cowsandfish.org/publications>



Beavers in Our Landscape Resources

- **Cows and Fish** <http://cowsandfish.org/>
 - publications, videos, webinars
 - You Tube Videos-Beavers: Love'em or Hate'em digital story
- **Miistakis Institute** www.rockies.ca/beavers/about
 - publications, videos,
 - Dec 2017 Beaver Symposium Presentations
- **The Fur Bearers** <http://thefurbearers.com/campaigns/living-wildlife/solutions/beavers>
 - general info, webinars
- **City of Calgary** – urban examples of beaver management
<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Planning-and-Operations/Pest-Management/Beavers.aspx>
- **Beaver Solutions LLC** www.beaversolutions.com
 - DVD for exclusion fences and pond leveller construction
 - Pond leveller You Tube videos



Beavers in Our Landscape Resources

Washington State Case Study

<http://landscouncil.org/what-we-do/beaver-solution/>

Video links - <http://www.rockies.ca/beavers/about.php>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wI5AjJd00cM>

Escalante Watershed, Utah Case Study

<http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/>

Utah State University

Gatineau Park, Quebec Case Study

<http://www.cbc.ca/beaverwhisperer/film.html>

Beaver County, Alberta Case Study

<http://www.beaver.ab.ca/departments/agricultural-services/beaver-management-project>

Remember...

If you like the idea of a water regulation device (pond leveller) check with your local Alberta Environment & Parks office before going ahead with any installation to ensure all, if any, permits are obtained.

Check with them about the culvert exclusion fences as well.

There may also be Federal Fisheries Act and/or Provincial Public Lands Act to consider.



THE BEAVER WHISPERERS



The beaver's new brand: eco-saviour

ERIN ANDERSEN

The Globe and Mail

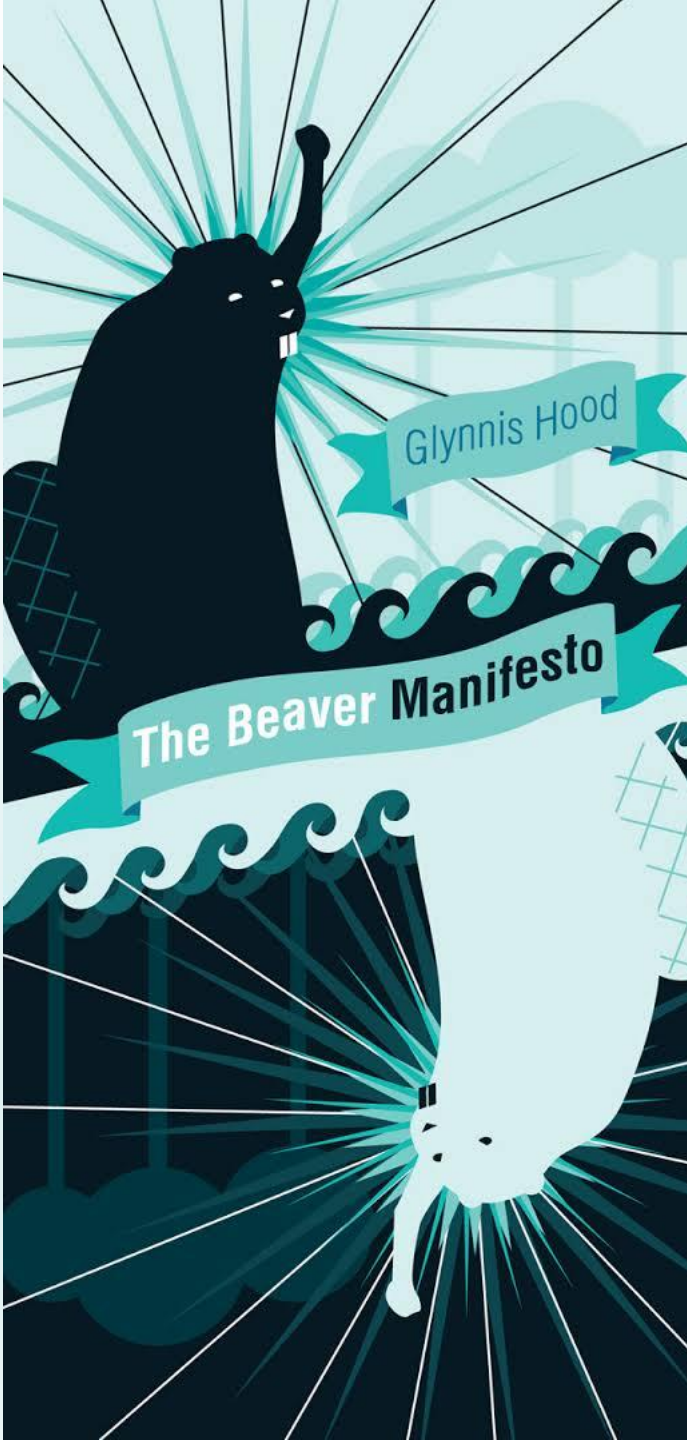
Published Friday, Feb. 18, 2011 7:24PM EST

Last updated Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 5:00PM EDT

thestar.com

Beavers may offer environmental second chance

Beavers have ability to preserve water resources, mitigate drought and boost biodiversity. By helping them, we help ourselves, professor says.





How Beavers Build a Lodge - BBC Animals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuMRDZbrdXc>



How Beavers Build Dams | Leave it to Beavers | PBS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJjaQExOPPY>