



United States Department of Agriculture

## Reintroducing Beavers in Washington State National Water Replenishment and Enhancement Initiative

The Methow River basin provides spawning areas for Spring Chinook salmon, as well as spawning steelhead, cutthroat trout, and bull trout. By reestablishing active beaver colonies to area streams, the partnership helped reestablish key watershed processes that support these fish species. Beaver colonies reintegrate dams into the area surface water, establishing wetlands, expanding habitat, and increasing the regularity of flows. In addition, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and its partners gain a better understanding of the ecological effects of climate change, this project demonstrates an adaptive practice that offsets snowpack loss by storing water in beaver wetlands.

**Location:** Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington

**Partnership Accomplishments:** Reestablished multiple beaver colonies.

**Number of Projects:** One (2014)

**Restoration Benefits:** Captured sediment and expanded wetlands.

**Additional Benefits:** Established cooler water temperatures and slower stream flows.

**Coca-Cola Replenishment Value:** 13 million liters per year.

**Total Funding:** \$247,670 (Funding Sources: Other Partners—\$177,150, Coca-Cola—\$42,320, National Forest Foundation—\$18,125, Forest Service—\$10,075)

**Implementation Partners:** National Forest Foundation, Methow Salmon Recovery Fund



*A new dam and pond, October 2014. (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)*



Forest  
Service

National  
Headquarters

September 2016



*Staff and partners prepare two beavers for transport to the Majestic Methow release site, spring 2014. (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)*



*Forest Service personnel and partners carry two beavers toward the release site, spring 2014. (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)*



*A team releases the first of two beavers into the Majestic Methow site, spring 2014. (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)*