

# Beavers at Work in the Watershed



A beaver in the water.

## Friend or Foe?

While sometimes considered a nuisance, beavers are a keystone species in North American forests because they provide important ecosystem services. **Coexistence should be prioritized over removing beavers and their dams!**

## Beaver Benefits

**Beavers provide many benefits to their ecosystems by building dams to hold back water.** Key benefits include:

- Increasing drought and wildfire resilience by storing water
- Holding back sediments and removing pollutants
- Slowing flows to minimize streambank erosion and reduce flood damage
- Restoring wetland plant communities
- Removing early succession trees like boxelder and aspen
- Creating habitat for aquatic bugs, fish, reptiles, amphibians, waterfowl, and other mammals



**BROWN'S CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Preserving the integrity of the watershed for future generations

## Beavers and Brown's Creek

You may notice beaver activity (downed trees, dams, lodges, and pooling water) along Brown's Creek and its tributaries. **These beavers are enhancing wetland habitat by raising water levels to restore the native plant community and removing early succession trees.**

**Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) is aware of the activity and is monitoring it closely to determine if action needs to be taken.** In general, BCWD supports beaver-human coexistence by encouraging their presence but also wants to prevent flood-related impacts to landowners. BCWD has installed levelers in a few beaver dams to let some of the water through without removing the dams. This preserves much of the ecological benefit provided by dams while reducing flood risk.

Learn more about beavers and BCWD's work at [bcwd.org/beavers/](https://bcwd.org/beavers/) or by scanning the QR code.



Beaver lodge and dammed area of water.



Beaver dam along the creek.