

Riparian Restoration in White River Basin of Colorado



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RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT
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TNC and the BLM

- 5-year cooperative agreement
- Implement low-tech process-based restoration projects on BLM lands
 - White River Basin
 - Yampa River Basin
- Host annual workshops
- Streamline the process to empower others to do this work



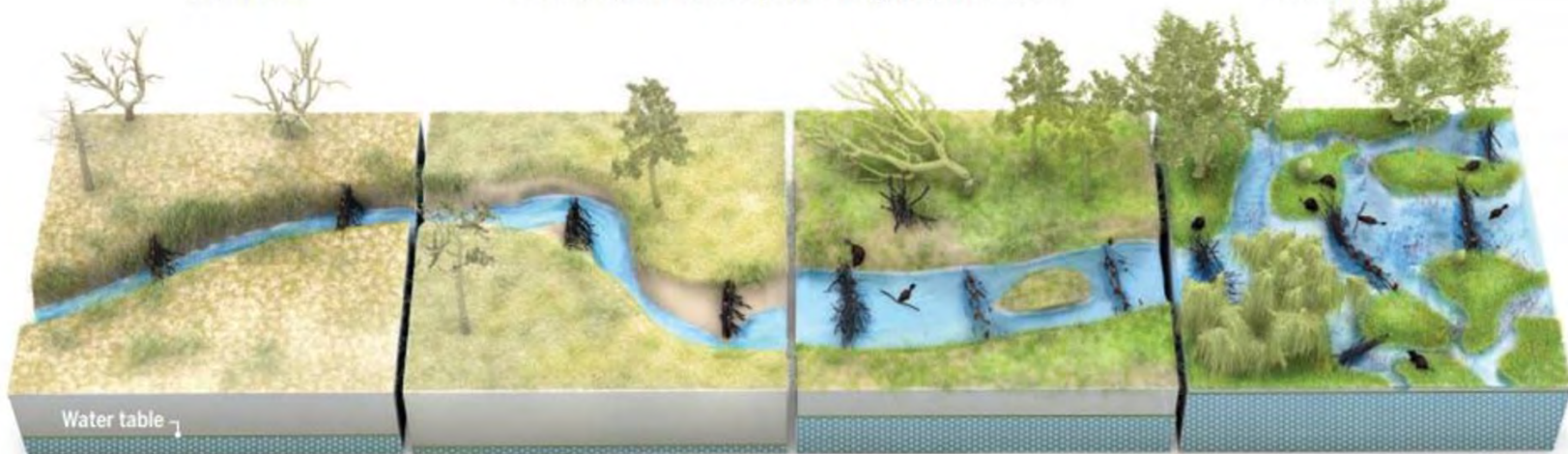
Incised stream

A stream comes back to life

Across the U.S. West, scientists and land managers are using beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to heal damaged streams, re-establish beaver populations, and aid wildlife. In some cases, researchers have seen positive changes in just 1 to 3 years.



Restored stream



Adding dams

Beaver trapping and overgrazing have caused countless creeks to cut deep trenches and water tables to drop, drying floodplains. Installing BDAs can help.

Widening the trench

BDAs divert flows, causing streams to cut into banks, widening the incised channel, and creating a supply of sediment that helps raise the stream bed.

Beavers return

As BDAs trap sediment, the stream bed rebuilds and forces water onto the floodplain, recharging groundwater. Slower flows allow beavers to recolonize.

A complex haven

Re-established beavers raise water tables, irrigate new stands of willow and alder, and create a maze of pools and side channels for fish and wildlife.

Source: Goldfarb, *Beaver, rebooted* (2018)

Yellow Creek Project

- Four weeks of implementation in 2025
- 3 ½ miles
- Slow and spread water
- Raise groundwater levels
- Increase riparian habitat and biodiversity
- Improve forage quality



Additional Projects

- Yampa River Basin
 - Meadow Creek near Dinosaur, CO
 - Willow Creek north of Craig, CO
- 2025 Workshop
- Permitting additional projects in White River Basin

Thank you!

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