

Beaver: 5 Valuable Powers of Assistance for California

1. Climate Change Assistance

Beavers create wetlands. Wetlands store 3000 grams of carbon per square meter. That's 30x more carbon storage that re-forested agricultural lands provide. (Source: USGS)

2. Wildfire Assistance

Beaver wetlands create natural firebreaks because water doesn't burn. The National Wildlife Federation has documented how beaver wetlands are the only remaining green spaces after wildfires in the western United States. Beavers can turn the dry creek nearest you into a year-round moat against fire. (Source: *National Wildlife Federation*)

3. Drought Assistance

In times of drought, active beaver ponds contain 9x more water than those without beavers. Much of the Western US is now in a state called "extreme drought", making it easy prey to wildfire. Beavers store water, re-wet the land, and slow runoff, returning creeks to their year-round status, providing water for drinking, agriculture, wildlife and all other needs. (Source: *Biological Conservation - University of Alberta*)

4. Wildlife Assistance

The US has lost 1/2 of its wetlands since its founding. More than 1/3 of the country's endangered species live only in wetlands. Salmon, for example, are so intimately linked to the habitat beavers create that multiple programs in the west are now restoring beaver ponds to restore decimated fish populations. Beaver wetlands provide water, food, nesting sites and safety to wildlife. Wherever beavers are allowed to remain, biodiversity is stunningly increased. (Sources: *US Fish & Wildlife Service; EPA; Northwest Fisheries Science Center*)

5. Human Assistance

Because modern flowage devices ensure that beavers can co-exist with humans without risk of flooding communities, people enjoy incredible beaver benefits. In addition to providing more protection from Climate Change, more safety from wildfire, resilience against drought and healthy diversity of wildlife, beavers filter water, removing up to 45% of harmful nitrates from the streams we all drink from, also reducing sediment and erosion. Every human act, from drinking, to bathing, to agriculture, to safeguarding our homes is benefitted by beavers. (Source: *University of Rhode Island*)

How Your Community Can Access Beaver Benefits in California

The Environmental Protection Information Center estimates that Wildlife Services killed 1000 of California's native, keystone beavers in a single year alone. Given the dangers of Climate Change, wildfire and drought, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife must reclassify beavers so that they are no longer listed as a "detrimental species" and can be protected instead of killed. Contact them at (916) 445-0411 to request reclassification and protection of beavers. If a beaver appears in your community or on your property, act swiftly to seek out the installation of flowage devices from a California provider like Swift Water Design.

Please print and share this information sheet with your neighbors at any and all community meetings. *For more information, visit www.beaversandbrush.com*

