



**Alexa Whipple – Project Director - Methow Beaver Project**

As an ecologist, a farmer, and the Project Director for the Methow Beaver Project, Alexa works for sustainability in all practices and effective natural process solutions to challenging environmental conditions. She has called the Methow Valley home for the last 20 years but has worked across the western US growing food and studying songbirds, carnivores, plant communities, agricultural impacts on habitat and wildlife, and wildfire impacts on western riparian ecosystems. Alexa completed her MS in Restoration

Ecology at Eastern Washington University where she focused on beaver ecology and beaver mediated restoration of degraded and wildfire impacted streams in the Methow River watershed.

**Presentation Title:** Rebounding from the Burn with Beavers & Beaver Mimicry: Beavermediated Watershed Restoration to Accelerate Wildfire Recovery and Re-build Disturbance Resilience.

**Presentation Abstract:** Increasing frequency of large-scale wildfires and climate change driven weather in the Western US is altering the severity and scale of stream and riparian disturbance. After wildfire, highly impacted streams are often shifting to a severely degraded and incised state, unable to connect seasonal high flows to floodplains, store water, or provide other once inherent and critical ecosystem functions. Beaver restoration has been gaining traction as a practical and sustainable way to address legacy stream and riparian degradation, but could there be even more potential with this partnership when it comes to disturbance recovery? Recent evidence documents beaver benefits in streams where newly established beavers have reduced channel incision, nutrient and sediment transport, and accelerated woody vegetation recovery after largescale wildfire impact and subsequent erosion events. Additionally, biodiversity has been documented to benefit from rapid stream and riparian restoration from beaver activity after wildfire. Learn more with Alexa Whipple and the Methow Beaver Project about partnering with beavers for accelerated wildfire recovery and rebuilding watershed resilience.