

photo provided by Dr. Joe Wheaton



Nature's Firefighters: The Role of Beavers in Wildfire Mitigation and Recovery

Thursday, April 22, 2021, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Eastern Time

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ASSOCIATION

Symposium description:

Beavers provide a wide range of ecological benefits, including wildlife habitat creation, pollution filtration, and the attenuation of both drought and flooding. In recent years, researchers have begun to explore another crucial beaver service: wildfire mitigation and post-fire recovery. A growing body of evidence suggests that beaver-created ponds and wetlands offer fire refugia and even fire breaks and aid the recovery of post-fire landscapes by capturing debris and aggrading incised stream channels. In this Earth Day symposium, hear from experts from the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council & University of California Cooperative Extension, California State University-Channel Islands, Utah State University, and the Methow Beaver Project. Learn about research, insights, and management recommendations. Participants will develop a greater understanding of how these two keystone ecological processes, beavers and fire, interact on North American landscapes.

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SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Time	Session Title	Presenter
12:00 pm – 12:05 pm	Welcome	
12:05 pm – 12:20 pm	Introductory Remarks	Lenya Quinn-Davidson
12:20 pm – 12:40 pm	<i><u>Dam It: Partnering with Beavers to Achieve Restoration Goals</u></i>	Ben Goldfarb
12:40 pm – 1:00 pm	<i><u>Smokey the Beaver: Can Beaver Dams Keep Riparian Corridors Green During Wildfire</u></i>	Emily Fairfax, Ph.D.
1:00 pm – 1:20 pm	<i><u>Rebounding from the Burn with Beavers & Beaver Mimicry: Beaver-mediated Watershed Restoration to Accelerate Wildfire Recovery and Re-build Disturbance Resilience</u></i>	Alexa Whipple
1:20 pm – 1:40 pm	<i><u>Beaver & Low-Tech Processed Based Restoration: Leveraging the Labor and Ingenuity of a Rodent as a Talented Ecosystem Engineer</u></i>	Joseph Wheaton, Ph.D.
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm	Facilitated Discussion and Q&A	Facilitator: Ben Goldfarb

SPEAKERS



[Ben Goldfarb - Moderator](#)

Journalist, Editor,
Author and Beaver
Believer



[Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson –
Introductory Remarks](#)

Area Fire Advisor, University of
California Cooperative Extension
Director, Northern CA Prescribed
Fire Council



[Dr. Emily Fairfax](#)

Assistant Professor, California State
University Channel Islands,
Environmental Science and
Resource Management



[Alexa Whipple](#)

Project Director, Methow
Beaver Project



[Dr. Joe Wheaton](#)

Associate Professor
of Riverscapes, Utah State
University