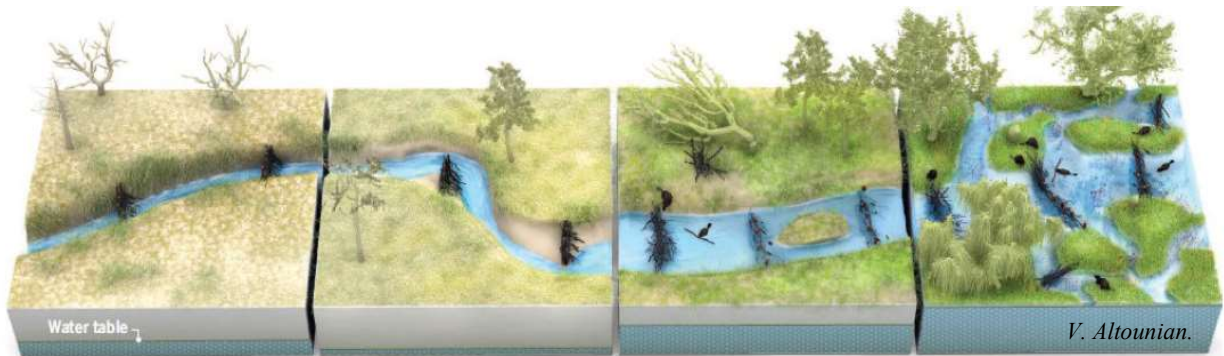




Chehalis Basin Beaver Dam Analog Project

Restoring Natural Processes to Benefit the Ecological Integrity of our Watersheds

The Chehalis Basin Beaver Dam Analog Project seeks to restore beaver habitats that increase water storage and support aquatic species throughout the Chehalis River Basin.



Reach-scale restoration over time, using beaver dam analogs.

Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) are simple artificial structures designed to mimic the form and function of natural beaver dams. Wetland filling and declines in beaver populations have reduced the occurrence of slow water habitats important for natural flow regimes, salmon, and waterfowl. Installation of BDAs is intended to increase the quality and quantity of these important habitats to benefit streamflow and buffer native fishes and other aquatic species from the impacts of climate change.

Research across the western United States has demonstrated that installation of BDAs can effectively:

- store water and recharge groundwater;
- increase aquatic habitat diversity;
- reconnect streams and floodplains;
- store sediment;
- promote aquatic productivity;
- reduce high water temperatures.



BDAs are designed to be a simple and cost-effective approach to stream restoration. This project proposes to site, design, permit, and construct BDAs in select Chehalis Basin streams. The project team will monitor reach-scale physical and biological responses to BDAs, and determine their effectiveness in achieving streamflow goals, to inform future BDA projects.

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