



Photo Credit: Chase Dekker; Biohabitats.org

Developing Beaver Action Plan 2.0

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Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting | September 18, 2026



Wrapping Up BAP 1.0



Beaver Emphasis Areas

Landscape-Scale Learning Labs



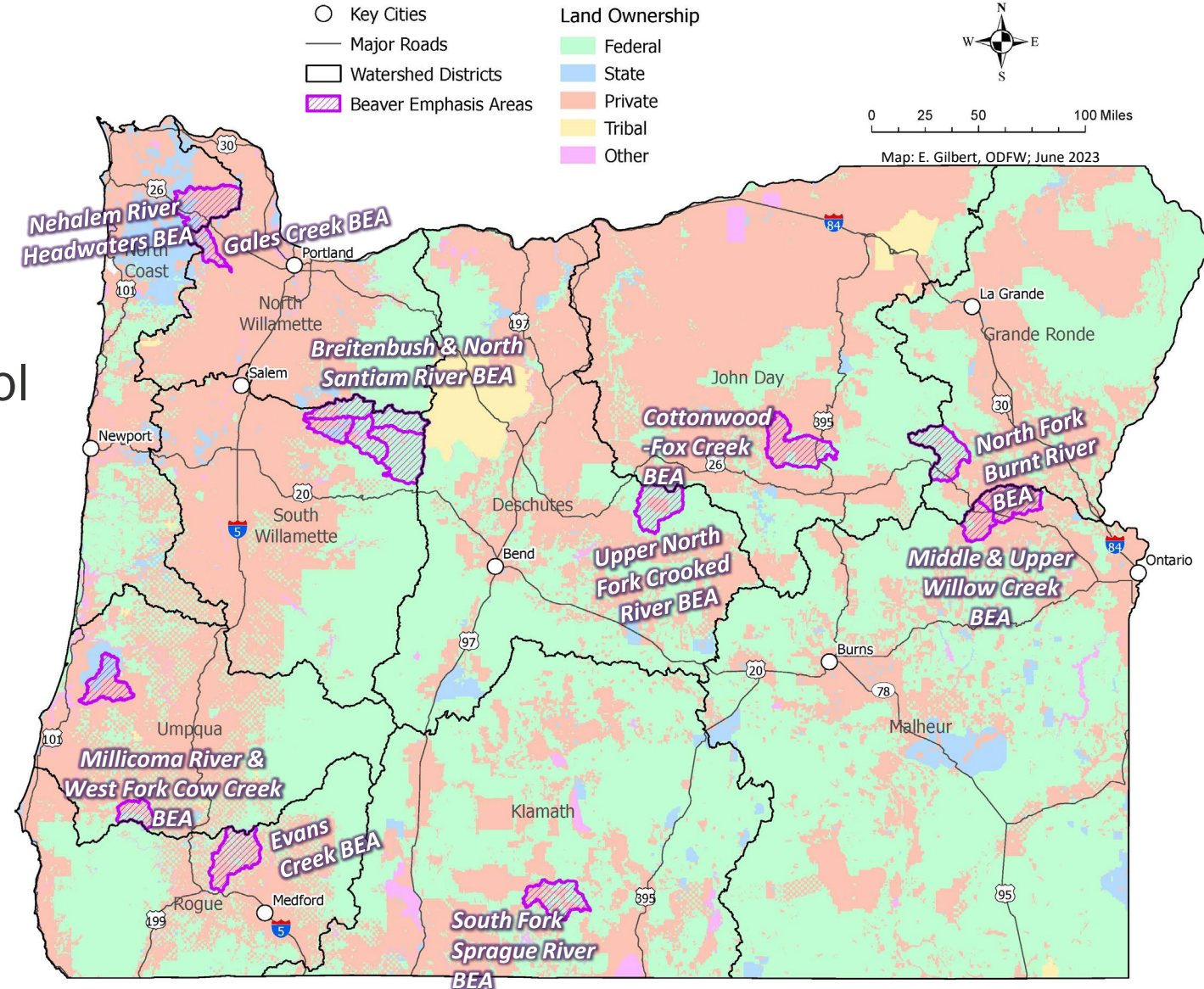
Tested monitoring protocol



Expanded partnerships

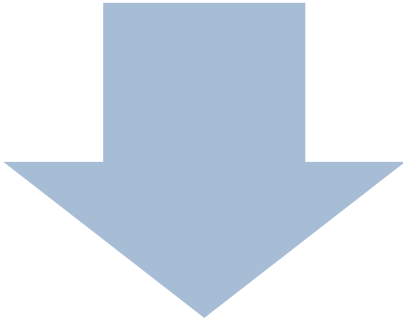


Implemented restoration projects, where possible

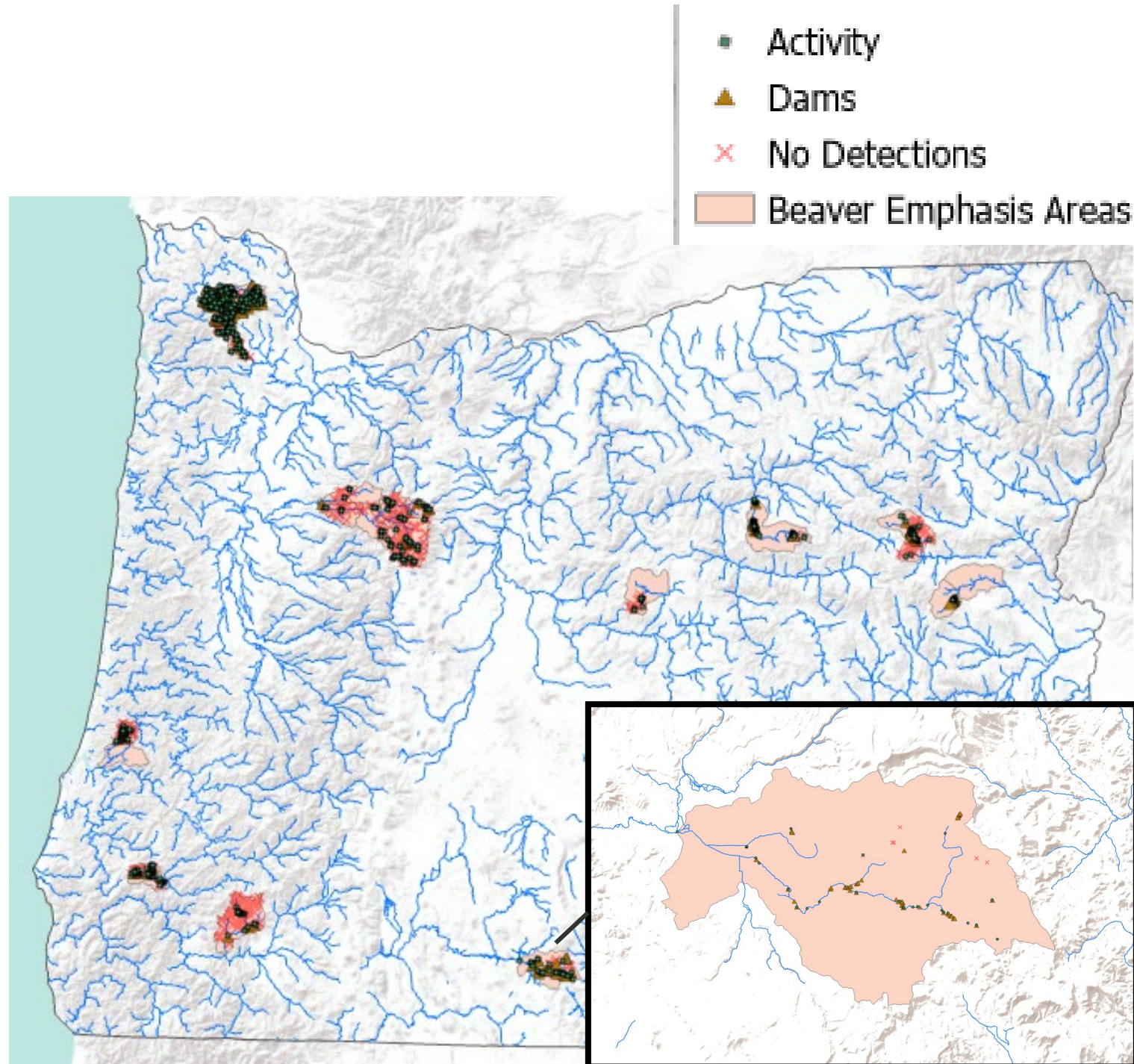


Better data

Work in the Beaver Emphasis Areas allowed us to refine a clear, consistent survey approach. Testing the form in the field led to new metrics that strengthen data collection and provide a solid methodology.



**Data dashboard (BAP 2.0)
to track progress**





Habitat for Beaver → Habitat by Beaver

Beaver Habitat Guidance Manual

Habitat conditions
for beaver fitness &
survival



WATER



FOOD



SPACE



TOLERANCE



The role of tailored communication, trust stewardship, and practitioner community in promoting human-beaver coexistence

Dr. Megan Jones

Dr. Brian Erickson



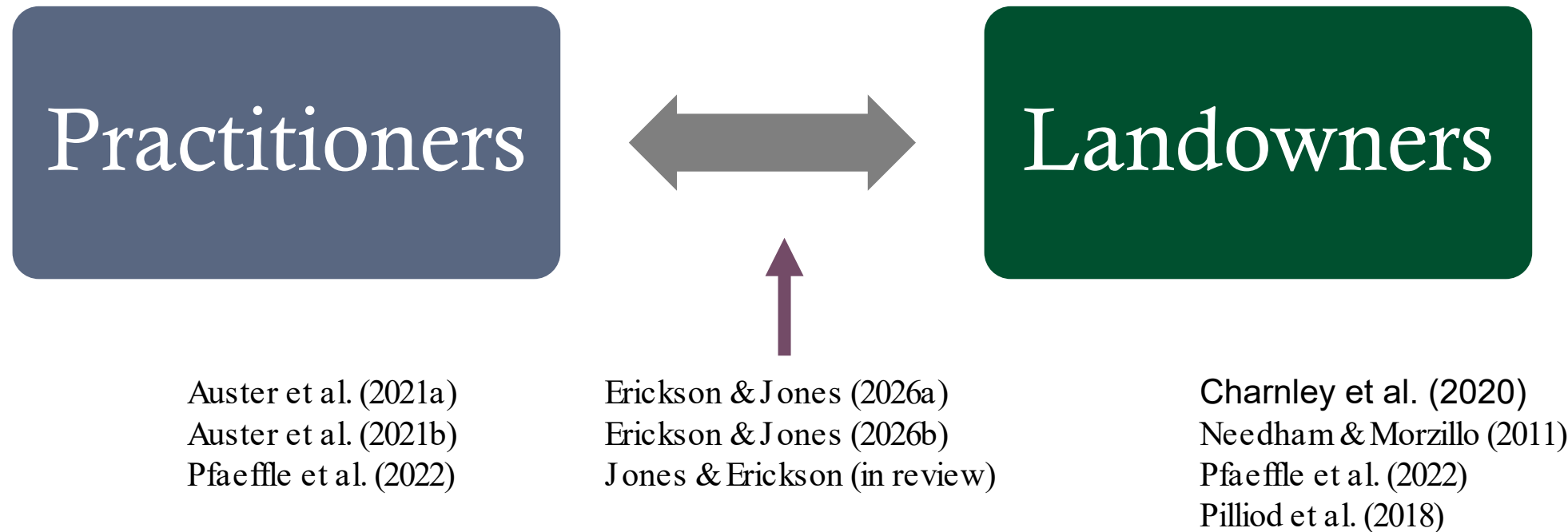
Oregon State
University



Challenge: Beavers help buffer climate risk – but not everyone welcomes them



Practitioners' beaver communication: the missing link



Project Question How can private landowners be supported to take coexistence actions that are mutually beneficial for their needs and beaver populations in Oregon?

1. **What drives behavior?** Capability, Opportunity, and Motivation
2. **What builds trust?** Shared Foundations
3. **What fosters practitioner learning?** Community of Practice

Innovations to reign in + bring in beavers = **coexistence**

Our Activities & Outputs



23

Semistructured interviews

with human-beaver coexistence practitioners across Oregon's regions & sectors



1

Community of Practice (CoP)

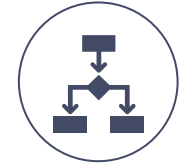
11 Practitioners; 12 hours together online over 6 months



2

Social data analyses

from practitioner interviews and CoP



12

Additional outputs

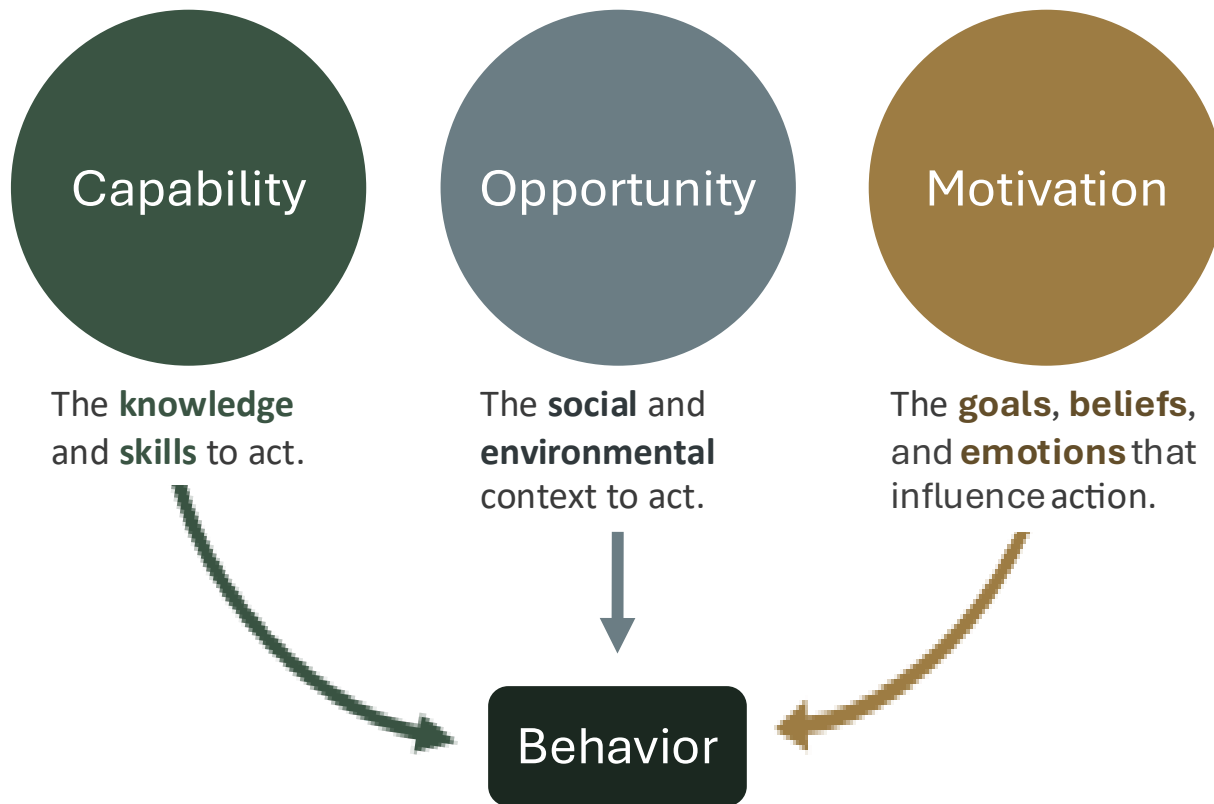
- 2 published and 1 pending open access peer-reviewed publications
- 1 state/regional, 1 national, 2 international presentations
- 1 funder report in development
- 4 Bonus Activities & Outputs

***Bonus Activities & Outcomes:** Audience segmentation analysis of 2011 statewide beaver survey data; student project video; landowner-engagement collaborations with Beaver Works Oregon (landowner post cards; ongoing) and the Western Beavers Cooperative.*

What drives behavior?

Read More at: beav.es/beavers

In this project, Practitioners = people working on beaver coexistence solutions on private lands, such as conservation nonprofit organizations, service agencies (watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts), government agencies (federal and state), and private businesses.



INSIGHT 1: Practitioners LISTEN FOR Landowners' Capability, Opportunity, & Motivation

INSIGHT 2: Practitioners TAILOR MESSAGING TO Landowners' Capability, Opportunity, & Motivation

What builds trust?

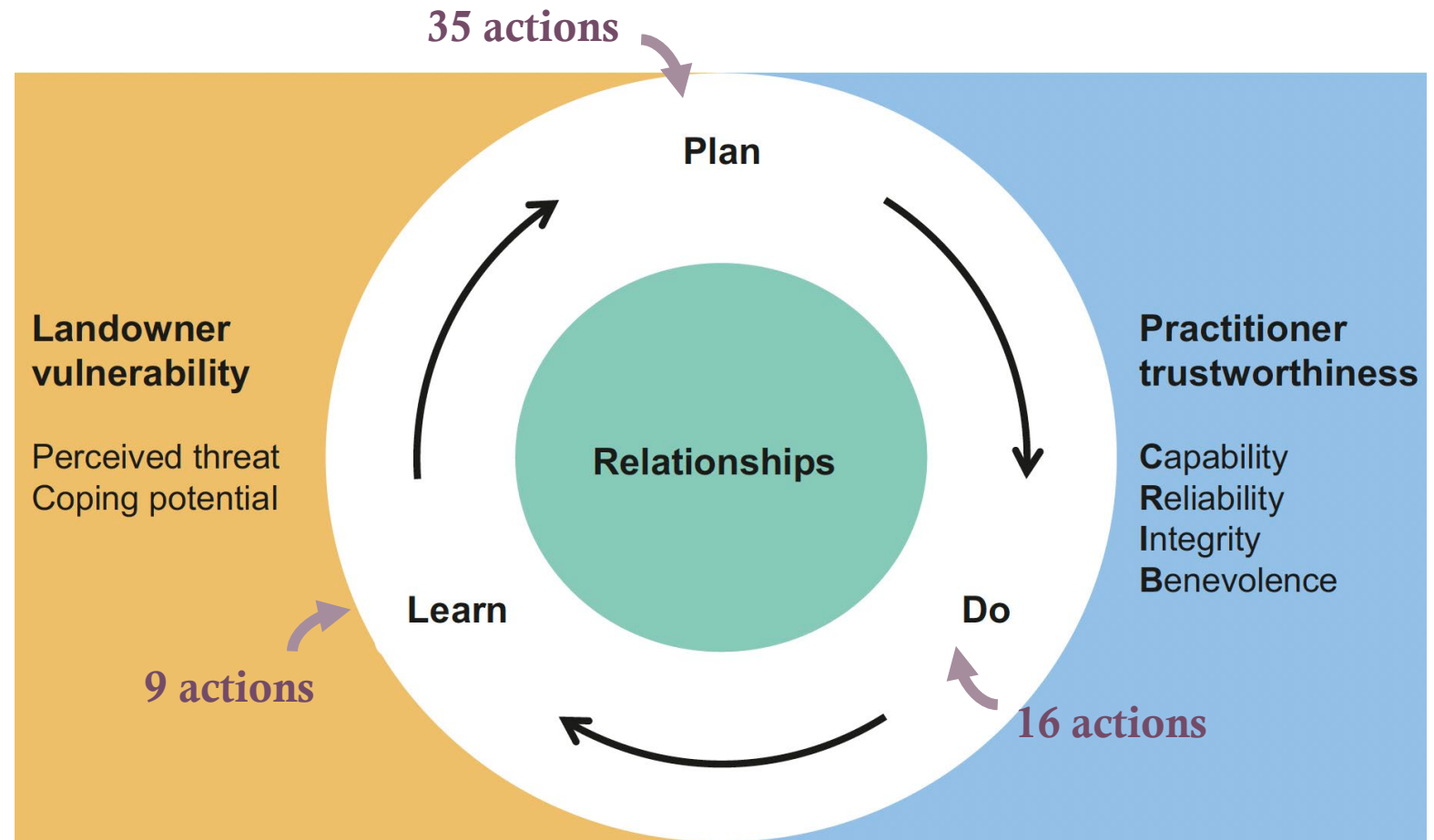
Read More at: beav.es/beavers

Identified **60 tactics** Practitioners use to build trust with Landowners

INSIGHT 1: Practitioners Knew Trust and Relationships were Important

INSIGHT 2: Practitioners Built Trust Throughout the Adaptive Management Cycle

INSIGHT 3: Practitioners Navigated Tensions Surrounding Trust-Building Tactics



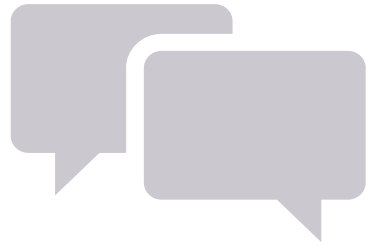
Implications for Advancing Beaver Coexistence Work in Oregon

- Communicating & building trust-based relationships with private landowners takes time
- Next Steps: Opportunities to share & test tools to better support practitioner community & landowners in living with beaver
- Key Question: How to scale one-on-one communication to the landscape-scale?



2026 Castor Camp practitioner field site tour, Middle Fork John Day River
(Logo: Western Beavers Cooperative; Photo: A. Averett, ODFW).

Application: Beaver Action Plan (BAP; Action 4A)



**COMB & Trust
Frameworks**

Strengthening
the Beaver
Action Plan
Partnership

Plan Pillar 4; Action 4D



**Communities
of Practice**

Fostering
proactive
coexistence
communication

Plan Pillars 1 - 4



**Community
Champions**

Supporting
Champions
through Beaver
Emphasis Areas

Plan Pillars 1 - 3



**Plan Actions
& Outcomes**

Shaping BAP 2.0
actions &
outcomes
tracking

Beaver Action Plan 1.0



Better beaver data



Living with Beaver policies



More tools to support staff & partners

BAP 1.0 gave us a solid foundation of tools and learnings that can be built upon to expand consistent beaver activity data collection and suitable conservation, rehabilitation, and connection of beaver habitat and beaver modified landscapes





Beaver Action Plan 2.0



Pillars of Action Framework



How We're Scaling Up



Direction:

*Expanding on BAP
1.0 actions*



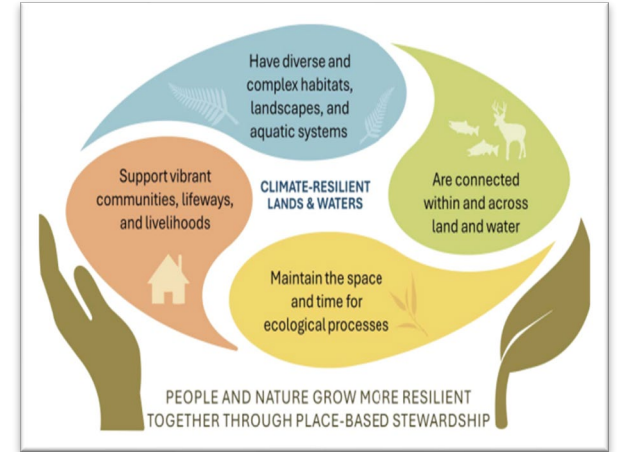
Capacity:

*Adding New
Funding & Staff*



Strategy:

*Optimizing
Coexistence &
Collaboration*



Statute to Field: Beaver Integration

Beaver considerations are built into statutes, administrative rules, Plans, & on-the-ground practices for unified stewardship

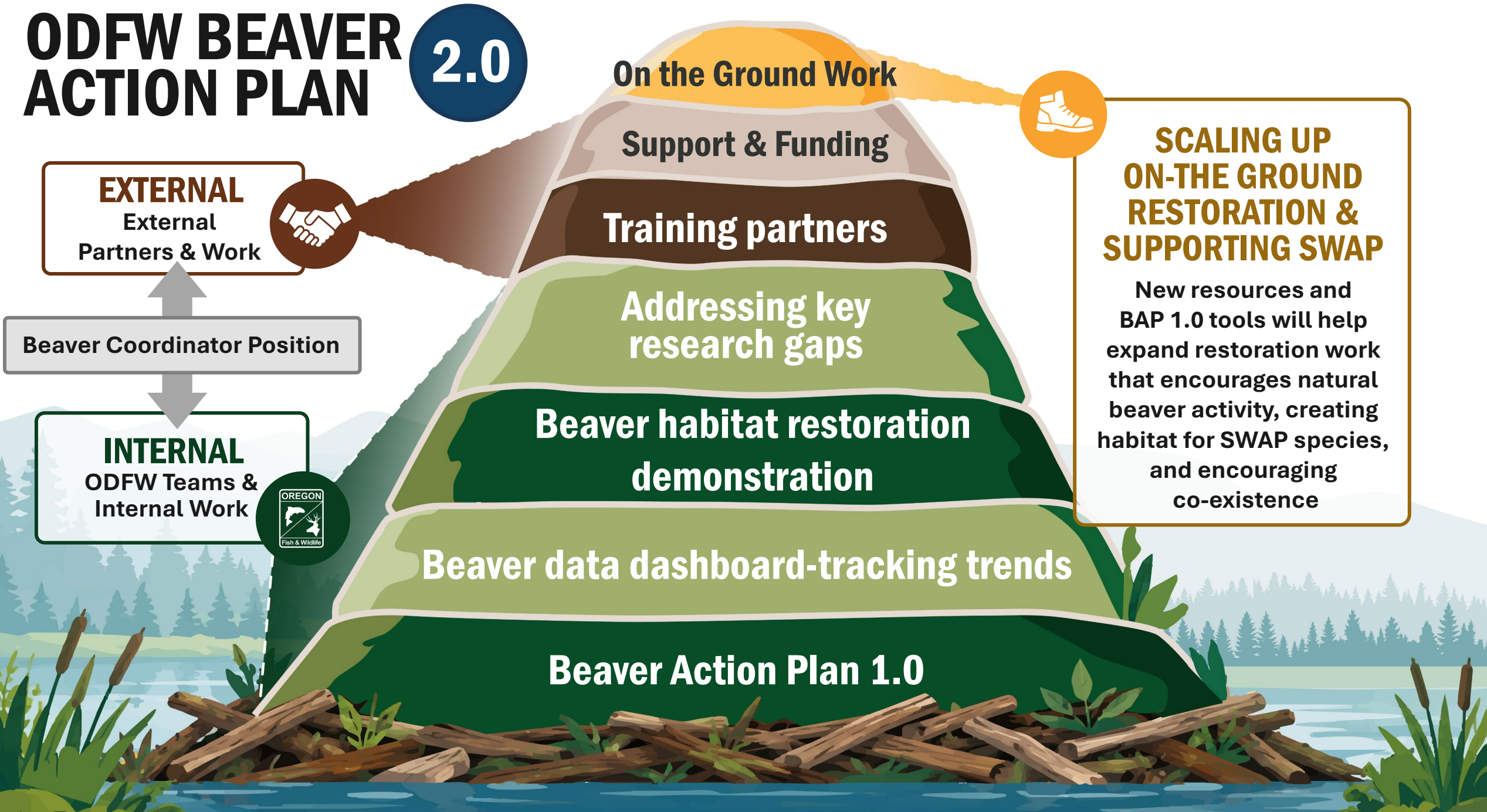
Adding Capacity

- Statewide Beaver Coordinator position
- TLT funding
- New Habitat and Wildlife Diversity Biologists' duties



ODFW, USDA Wildlife Services, WWMP, Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, and Long Tom Watershed Council successfully installed 2 pond levelers and 3 culvert exclusions on a WWMP conservation easement. Beavers were plugging the culverts that allow a slough originating at the Fern Ridge Reservoir to enter the Long Tom River. The resultant flooding caused significant die-off of native tree plantings from the legacy of conservation work on the property. Installing these devices demonstrates the importance of coexistence work and using adaptive management to balance various restoration goals. Photo Source: Noa Meiri, Mid-Coast Beaver Conservation Biologist.

ODFW BEAVER ACTION PLAN 2.0



Beaver Action Plan Partnership Meetings: Opportunities for Input

Wednesday, October 7th 2026 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/289274928025558?p=IM1brzNhKX9P7sW0xh>

Meeting ID: 289 274 928 025 558 | Passcode: 2FT2oT6u

Dial in by phone: +1 503-446-4951 | Phone conference ID: 674 344 721#



Winter Virtual Meeting:

Tuesday, December 15th 2026 | 10:00 am - Noon

Partnership's Purpose: Provide clear updates on Beaver Action Plan progress and needs through open, respectful partner engagement, and strengthen relationships that support beneficial outcomes for wildlife, habitat, and communities.

Thank you!



Welcome Beavers, Corvallis, Oregon, October 21, 1930.
Photo Source: OSU Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research
Center, Union, OR.