



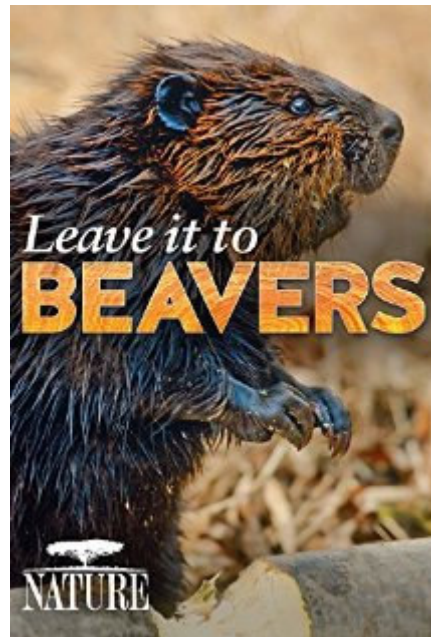
# Leave It To Beavers

#2 in a series of

## Climate Restoration Solutions

A partnership of the Moral Action on Climate  
and Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

(see [www.bio4climate.org/solutions](http://www.bio4climate.org/solutions) for others)



## Overview

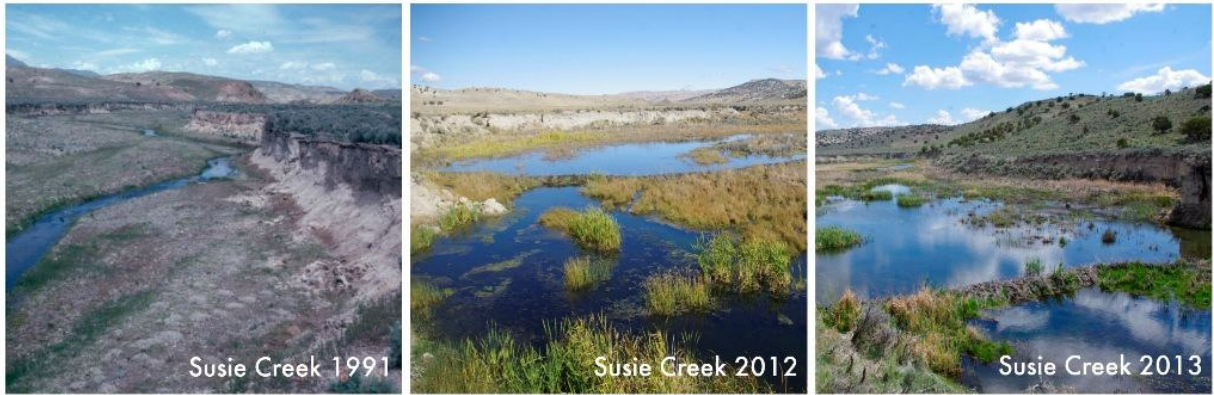
Beavers were once found in virtually every part of northern North America, Europe, and Russia. Alice Outwater reports that “[b]eaver wetlands once enlivened the now arid rangelands of the [American] West” and that “a tenth of the total land area of the [U.S.] was once beaver-built wetland.” “Since the arrival of the Europeans , the beaver population of the United States has dropped from perhaps two hundred million to ten million.” [pp. 32-22] If we allow beavers to return and restore wetlands (which can sequester approximately four times the amount of carbon as grasslands), worldwide perhaps 8 billions tons of carbon per year (4 ppm/yr) could be sequestered.

The PBS/Nature documentary *Leave it to Beavers* features Carol Evans, who has documented the restoration of Susie Creek in Nevada. Nevada is the driest state in the U.S. – it only gets about 10” of rain a year! If beavers can restore streams and wetlands in Nevada, they can do it elsewhere as well.



# Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

*Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming*



Susie Creek, Nevada, as beavers gradually restore wetlands and raise the water table 4 feet!

Method	A: Typical rate of T/C acre sequestered	B: Potential worldwide application	C: Potential PPM sequestered per year	Difficulty & Action Needed
<p>“Leave it to Beavers” – allow beavers to return to about 10% of lands around the world</p>	4 Ton / Carbon per acre per year	2 Billion Acres of Pastures / Grasslands	<p>4 ppm/yr</p> <p>(4 TC/acre x 2 B acres = 8 BTC/yr = 4 ppm/yr)</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Actions: Encourage respect for Nature’s engineers and help foster the recovery of beaver communities to their traditional ranges</p>

For further reading / viewing / action:

- *Leave it to Beavers*, <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/leave-it-to-beavers-leave-it-to-beavers/8836/>
- *Water: A Natural History*, by Alice Outwater. <http://www.amazon.com/Water-Natural-History-Alice-Outwater/dp/0465037801>
- *The Beaver Manifesto*, by Glynnis Hood. [http://www.rmbooks.com/book\\_details.php?isbn\\_upc=9781926855585](http://www.rmbooks.com/book_details.php?isbn_upc=9781926855585)

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