

# LOW TECH RIPARIAN RESTORATION

## 2019 Field Workshop Series - *Agenda*



Lewistown, Montana  
Aug 6 -8

Yogo Inn, 211 E Main St

Tuesday, Aug 6: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (Yogo Inn)

### Introduction to Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration

- Logistics, learning objectives, and introductions
- Background and purpose (*Chapter 1 - Design Manual*)
- Build your first Beaver Dam Analogue exercise (*Pocket Guide*) & Break
- Introduction to low-tech tools (*Chapter 1 & 4 - Design Manual*)
- Guiding principles (*Chapter 2 - Design Manual*)
- Questions & plans for rest of workshop

Evening Social - 6:00 PM (Big Spring Brewing, 220 E Main St)

- Appetizers provided - Sponsored by: The Nature Conservancy in Montana

Wednesday, Aug 7: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Yogo Inn & Field Trip)

### Planning and Designing Low-Tech Riparian Restoration

- Planning Phase 1: Reading riverscapes (*Chapter 3 - Design Manual*)
- Field trip: Valley bottom mapping and exploring beaver complex (*Pocket Guide*) & Lunch
- Planning Phase 1: Valley bottom mapping, risk assessment, condition assessment (*Chapter 3 - Design Manual*)
- Mimicking and promoting wood accumulation and beaver dam activity (*Chapter 4 - Design Manual*)
  - Post Assisted Log Structures
    - Case Study: Asotin Creek
  - Beaver Dam Analogues
    - Case Study: Bridge Creek
- Break
- Planning Phase 2: Designing low-tech restoration projects (*Chapters 4 & 5 - Design Manual*)
- Planning Phase 3: Implementation (*Chapters 3 & 6 - Design Manual*)



**Evening Dinner & Presentation - 6:00 PM (Big Spring Brewing, 220 E Main St)**

- A Rancher's Story: Reintroducing beaver to bring back perennial flow
- Dinner provided - Sponsored by: Pheasants Forever

**Thursday, Aug. 8: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Field Trip - Meet @ Yogo Inn to carpool)**

**Building Low-Tech Restoration Structures**

- Design exercise - (*Chapter 4 - Design Manual; Pocket Guide*)
- Logistics, safety & post pounding (*Chapter 6 - Design Manual; Pocket Guide*)
- Hands-on construction of various structures (*Chapter 6 - Design Manual; Pocket Guide*)
- Review and discuss group projects
- Discussions on adaptive management (*Chapter 3, 4 & 6 - Design Manual*)
- Workshop synthesis (review principles) & where to turn for help

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**Instructors**

Joe Wheaton (USU), Jeremy Maestas (NRCS), Scott Shahverdian (USU), Steve Bennett (USU), Jay Wilde (rancher), and others

**Audience**

This workshop will bring together NRCS conservationists and partners interested in low-tech alternatives for restoring streams and associated riparian and mesic habitats. Techniques include Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs), Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS), and other simple hand-built structures designed to mimic and promote process-based restoration benefiting wildlife and working lands. This workshop is not meant to turn you into an expert, but instead expose you to the concepts and principles of 'low-tech' process-based restoration of riverscapes (streams, rivers and their riparian areas). Participants will also connect with a network of restoration practitioners to share perspectives and lessons learned.

\*Participation by invitation only

**Resources**

Additional resources available at: <http://lowtechpbr.restoration.usu.edu/>

*Hosted with support from our state and local partners at:*

