#### BEAVER SURVEYS IN JOHNSON CREEK

# TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM THREE YEARS OF BEAVER SURVEYS!

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# BEAVER ACTIVITY (Castor canadensis) within JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED









In August and September 2016, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council sent 29 volunteers to survey Johnson Creek looking for beaver dams and activity. Volunteers walked 13 reaches, each a mile long. They spotted a total of 45 beaver dams, averaging 3 dams per mile of stream! We will conduct more surveys in 2017, helping us learn how to work. with beavers in stream restoration.

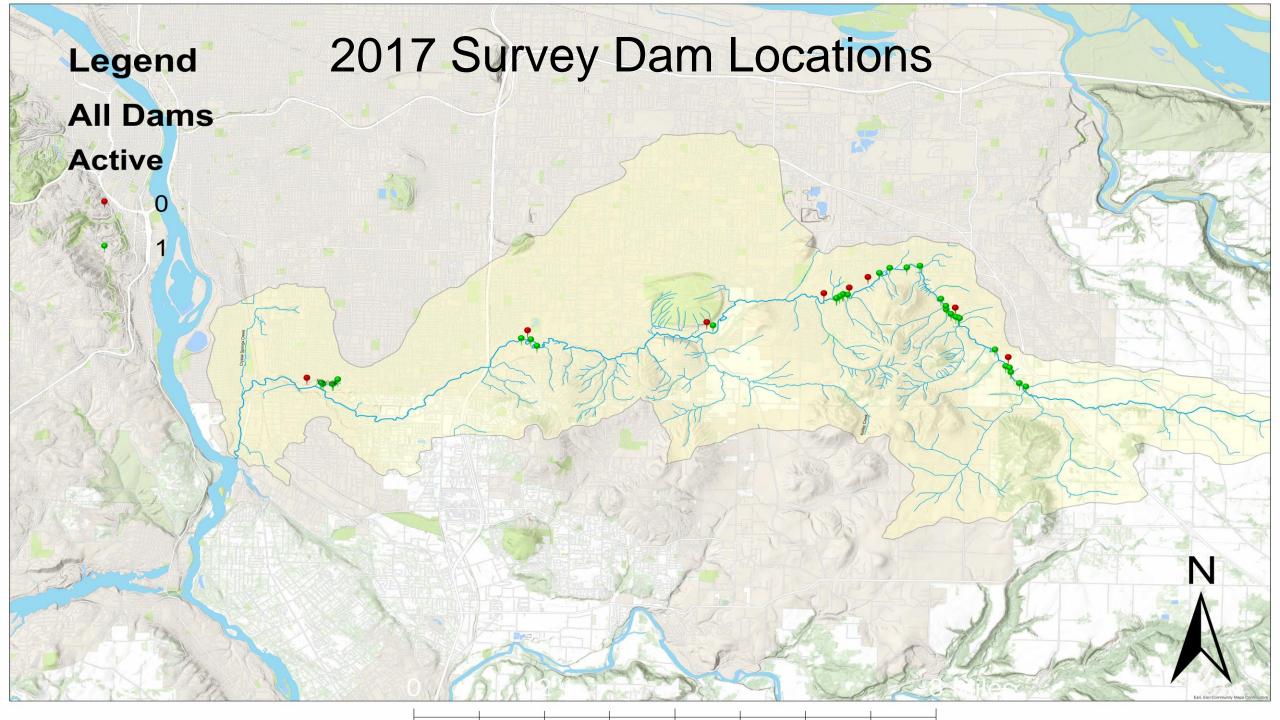
More into at www.jowc.org/beavers.

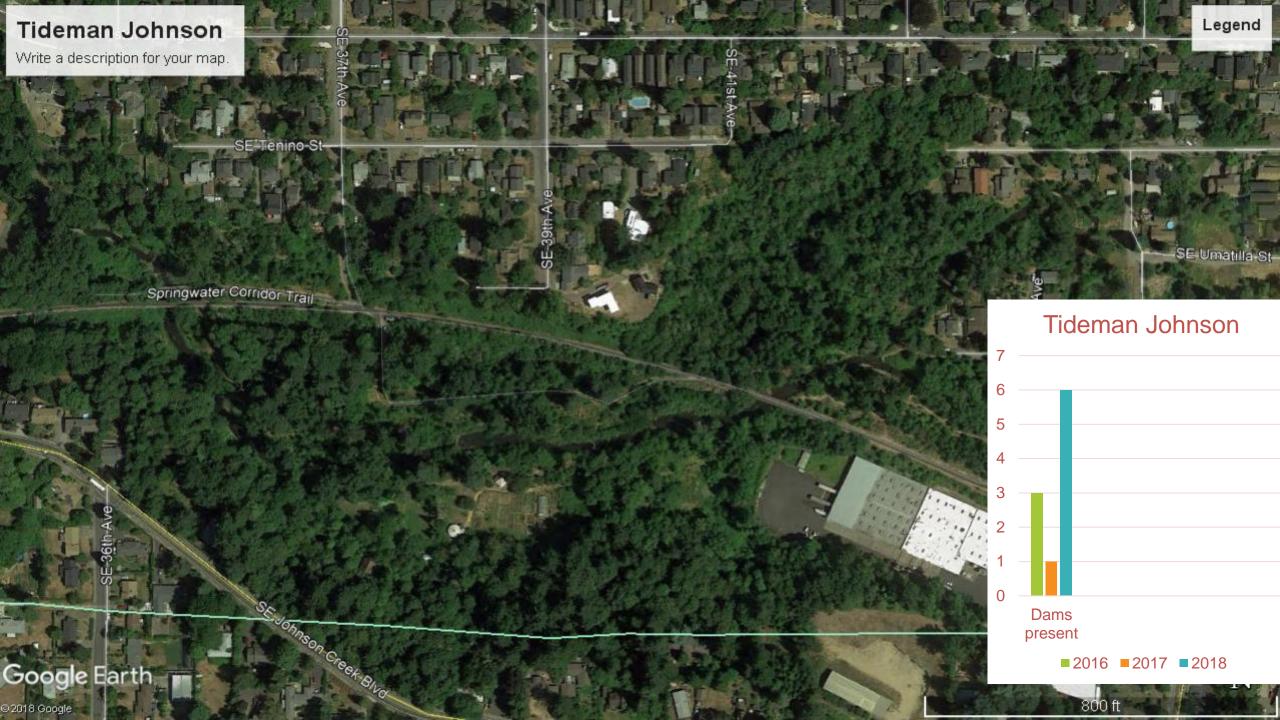






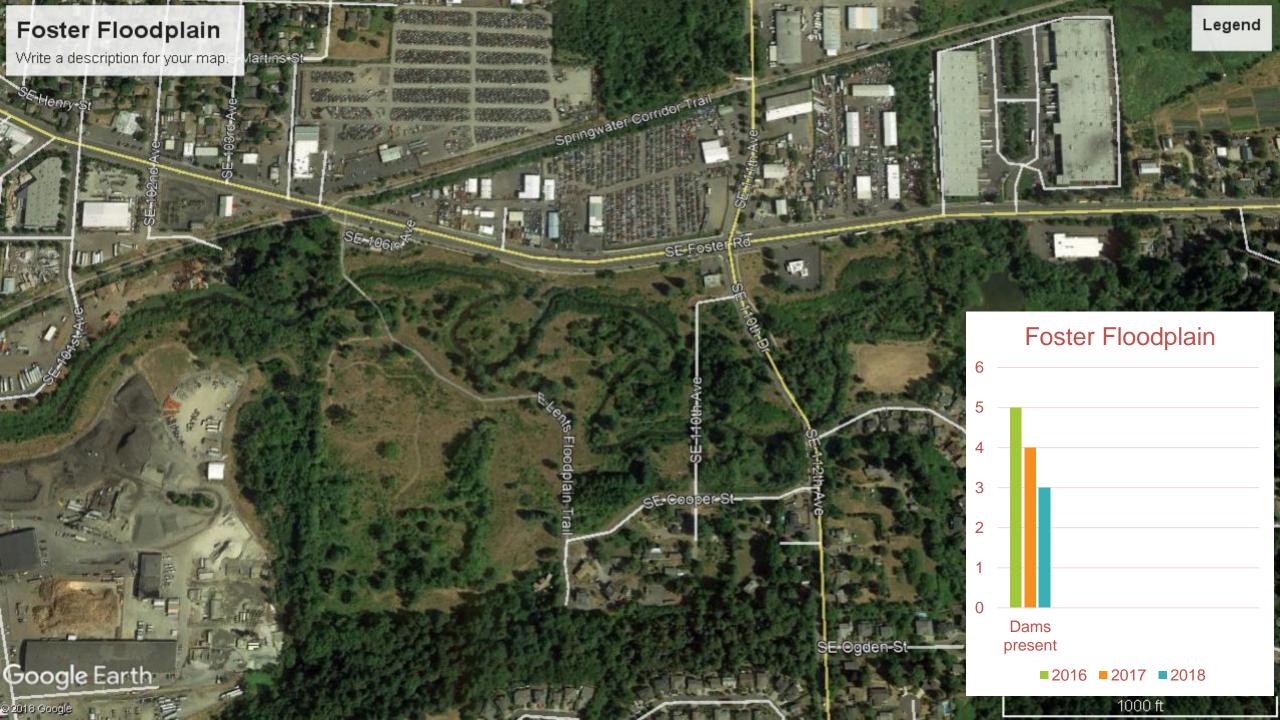






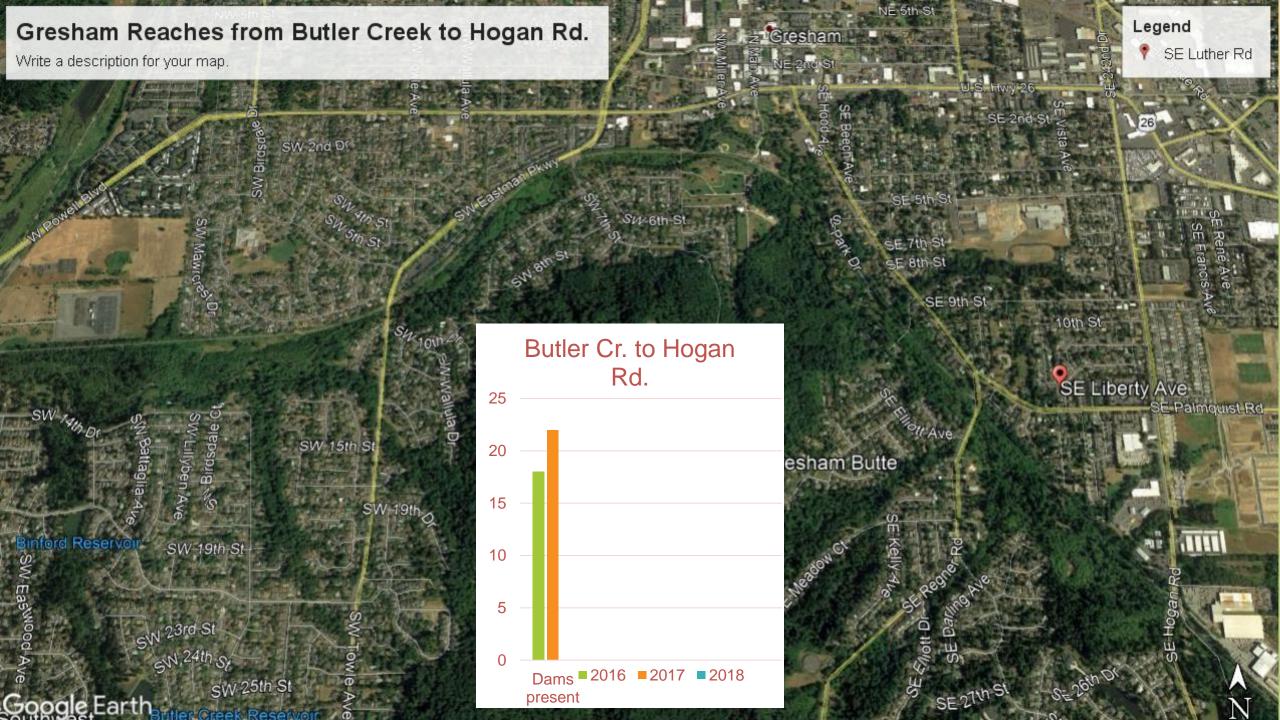














## Riparian Variability and Channelization



Quality habitat



**Human Presence** 

## Channelized Reaches vs. Less Channelized/Restored Reaches

- •3 of the 10 reaches are highly channelized- collectively surveyors found very little activity and 2 dams over 3 years.
- •Of the 7 less channelized reaches, 3 had consistently high levels of beaver activity.
- •Only 1 of the less channelized reaches showed little activity; it's a newly restored site (2014) that had it's first beaver dam this year!

#### Risk Factors to Consider

- •Vulnerability of riparian restoration?
- •Vulnerability of adjacent land and/or roads to flooding?
- •Vulnerability to the beavers themselves?
- •Connectivity of intact and/or protected habitats?



## Beavers and Restoration Planning?

- Beaver-based habitat objectives?
- Planning for beavers "help" with restoration?
- Beaver-friendly, sustainable reforestation?
- •Contingency planning and beavers?
- •There goes the neighborhood?

