



Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Project

2019-2022 REGION 2 IMPACT REPORT

Clark Fork Coalition, National Wildlife Federation and Defenders of Wildlife collaboratively launched the Beaver Conflict Resolution Pilot Project in 2019 with a three-fold goal: 1) to build greater tolerance for beavers on our landscape, 2) to reduce beaver-related problems like flooding and tree-felling via nonlethal methods, and 3) to educate our partners about these methods.

Our objectives for accomplishing these goals are:

- Build a cost-share and technical assistance pilot program for landowners who experience beaver-related problems.
- Train local partners how to assess beaver-related problems and address them with nonlethal solutions which include:
 - ◊ **Pond levelers to minimize flooding caused by beaver activities;**
 - ◊ **Tree fencing to prevent beaver browsing;**
 - ◊ **Exclusion fencing to protect culverts and other pinch points where beavers like to build their dams.**
- Develop a strong working relationship with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks as a basis for a broader, longer-term beaver conflict resolution program linked to larger scale beaver restoration goals.

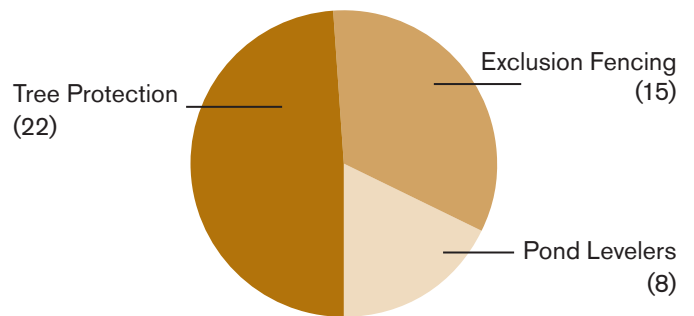
The following summary of our first four seasons, the summers of 2019 to 2022, demonstrates the success of Montana's Beaver Conflict Resolution Project.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

45 on-the-ground projects completed

Over **20** workshops and webinars engaging the public

INSTALLATIONS ON THE GROUND



Clockwise from far left: Tree wrapping protects aspens along Little Mill Creek. An exclusion fence protects a private pond outlet from beaver plugging. Pond levelers control flooding along Savenac Creek.

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PARTNERS ENLISTED

- Game wardens
- Fish biologists
- State park managers
- County road departments
- State road department
- U.S. Forest Service
- Watershed groups/
homeowner associations
- Private landowners
- Land trusts



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Forging partnerships is one of the keys to successful beaver conflict resolution.

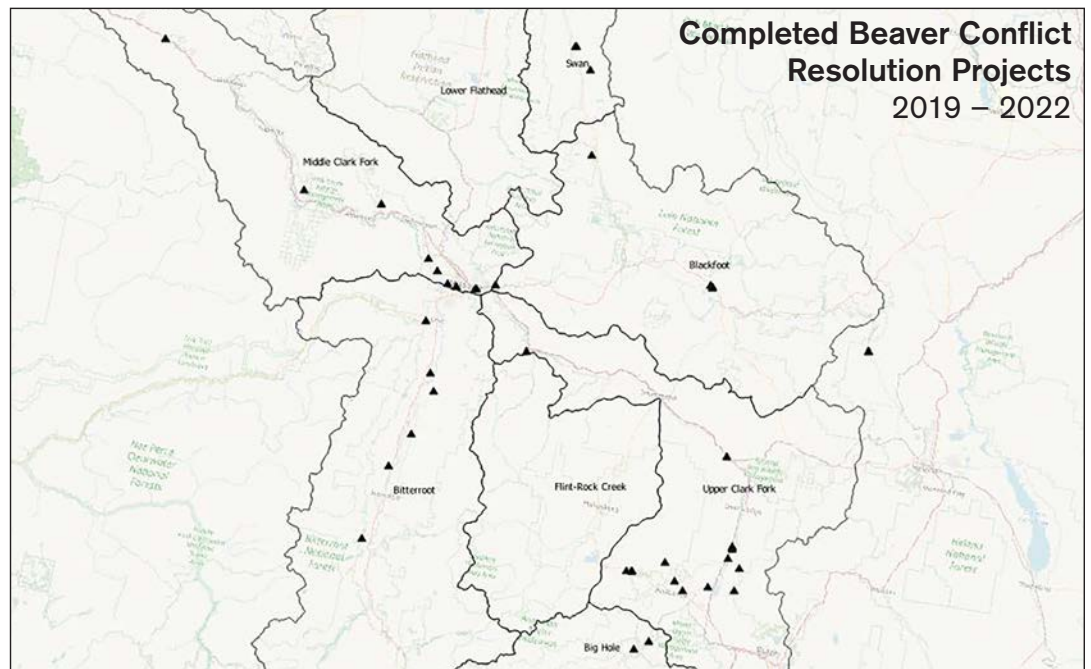
TESTIMONIALS

“Working with the beaver mitigation team gave us the invaluable experience and knowledge to continue to build these important beaver conflict reduction projects into our wildlife programs in the future!”

—Ben LaPorte
Big Hole Watershed Committee

“The Beaver Conflict Resolution Project has provided a valuable service to land owners and land managers across west-central Montana, while relieving a significant burden on FWP’s enforcement and wildlife management staff. Through on-the-ground projects and educational events, the Project has massively expanded the use of non-lethal measures for dealing with beaver conflicts which is a vital step towards wider acceptance and implementation of beaver-related habitat restoration.”

—Torrey Ritter
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks



“The Beaver Conflict Resolution project provided an innovative, and nonlethal, alternative to an age-old problem of beavers plugging road culverts. As manager, I like to see beaver on the landscape, but I also have to look out for the park’s infrastructure. I think the beaver culvert fence served both needs admirably.”

—Mike Kustudia
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks



For more information: clarkfork.org/our-work/what-we-do/restore-the-best/beaver-conflict-mitigation
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