

MIDWEST BEAVER NEWS



FEBRUARY 2026

A roundup of recent regional, national, and international beaver news curated for you!

Upcoming Events

Chicago Beaver Festival: Join us for the 2026 Chicago Beaver Festival from 1 to 4 p.m. on May 2, 2026, at Nichols Park in Hyde Park. The Festival is free and open to everyone and will include fun activities for kids, live music, and awesome environmental learning opportunities!

BeaverCON 2026 Request for Proposals Is Open: Submissions for presentation proposals are now open! BeaverCON 2026 will be held September 28 to 30, with workshops and field trips taking place before and after, in Minneapolis.

Free Virtual Program on Mountain, Rangeland & Prairie Wet Meadow Restoration: The March 19 Riverscape Restoration Network quarterly meeting will feature a program about Mountain, Rangeland & Prairie Wet Meadow Restoration - West meets Midwest. The program will feature Dr. Michael Pollock, NOAA; Lori Brown, Rangeland Ecologist, Watershed Program Manager for the SD Black Hills Watershed Collaborative; and Shawn Conner, BioLogic, Montrose, Colorado. The meeting will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. MST. Join the Zoom meeting.



Beavers' Ecosystem Services

Watch Footage of Wolves from Different Packs Near Beaver Dam: The footage highlights the dynamic between a remote beaver dam, wolf packs and other wildlife in a biodiverse area called Capsaicin Pond in Minnesota.

Nature-Based Mitigation Banking: Beaver Dams at New Melleray Abbey in Iowa Support Environmental Goals: In a unique collaboration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New Melleray Abbey have partnered with nature's engineer, the beaver, to establish a mitigation bank aimed at restoring ecosystems and enhancing water quality. This innovative project harnesses the beaver's natural ability to shape landscapes, supporting healthy wetlands, improving water quality, and boosting biodiversity.

How the Beaver is Teaching Indigenous Communities about Ecological Balance and Reciprocity: Beavers are spiritually significant to many Indigenous cultures across North America. They are tenacious builders, an important keystone species for the environment and carry teachings of reciprocity and family connection. "Indigenous land management techniques bring together Indigenous knowledge with modern science to help solve issues facing the environment," says Albert First River, an environmental scientist and environmental manager for Blood Tribe Land Management in Alberta, Canada.

The World's Biggest Beaver Dam is as Long as Eight Football fields: From end-to-end, the dam structure spans 800 meters. It holds back run-off water from the Birch Mountains in Alberta, and

the pond that has formed upstream is estimated to contain around 70,000 cubic meters of water.

New Study Uncovers Surprisingly Beneficial Effect of Beaver Dams on Bat Populations: To understand how bats respond to beaver populations, researchers studied eight Swiss streams with active beaver dams and compared them to nearby stretches without beavers. Bat activity increased by about 60% near beaver ponds, while feeding activity more than doubled. On average, researchers recorded five bat species per night in beaver territories, compared to four in control areas. Endangered bats were more likely to show up around beavers.



Beaver Restoration

Beaver Mimicry Shows Range of Ecological Benefits: The use of artificial beaver dams shows promise for offsetting damage to fish habitat, water quality, and biodiversity arising from climate change.

New Mapping System to Maximize Benefits and Minimize Risks of Beaver Restoration: Stanford researchers have developed a novel mapping system which can give land and watershed managers a more comprehensive understanding of how beaver dams reshape landscapes. The approach could help ensure beaver restoration projects maximize benefits and minimize risk through more precise site selection.

Artificial Beaver Dam Show Promise in Offsetting Climate Change Effects: Researchers evaluated 161 studies on a range of possible effects from beaver-related restoration efforts. They concluded there is substantial evidence that such efforts can make waterways more resilient to climate change, reducing summer water temperatures, increasing water storage, and enhancing flood-plain connectivity. They also can enhance biological diversity and build resistance to wildfires. However, researcher Jonah Piovia-Scott suggests the field

needs to slow down strategically, investing in focused research that can guide effective large-scale implementation.

Can Beavers Help Heal Burn Scars After Wildfires? Researchers in Colorado Build Their Own Dams to Find Out: Researchers with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado State University are building fake beaver dams in burn scars to study how wetlands created by the dams impact ecosystem restoration and water quality after wildfires.

From Foe to Friend: Colorado Regenerative Ranch Welcomes Beavers As "Ecosystem Engineers": Grazing management and beaver restoration go hand in hand in increasing native grasses and improving soil moisture.

Bringing Water to the Arizona Desert after the San Pedro River Dried Up: Fifteen beavers were released into the desert in a river that had become a dry canal. In 2006, four years after the last release, researchers counted more than 30 dams, with aquifer recharge, swamp formation, and a 50% increase in bird populations in that arid region. In 2008, a flood swept through the area and destroyed the existing dams. In one year, the beavers rebuilt the dams, restoring the previous number.



Policy and Resources

The Wisconsin Beaver Management Plan is being updated!: Keep track of progress on the management plan [here](#).

Lessons from Bow's Beaver Dam Conflicts Shape New Bill at State House: New Hampshire House Bill 1530 would require landowners to notify neighboring property owners when a beaver pond crosses property lines and one owner plans to lower the water level or remove a dam.

Beaver Resources for a Better Environment created by Animal Protection New Mexico: Animal Protection New Mexico created a beaver resource aimed at teaching the public how to help beavers and benefit from them at the same time.

Beavers Rehabilitated, Studied at Mississippi Sanctuary as Nonprofit Expands Research: Beavers are often labeled a nuisance across Mississippi, blamed for flooding roads, damaging property and clogging culverts. A nonprofit sanctuary in Hancock County is working to change that perception through rehabilitation, research and education focused on coexistence.

How Volunteers Are Tracking Beavers on the San Pedro River: The Watershed Management Group, a Tucson-based nonprofit environmental organization, has been running a binational beaver survey to estimate the number of beavers in the San Pedro River since 2021. The survey is run entirely by volunteers, with each group assessing at least a 2-mile stretch of river.



Beaver Coexistence

Maine Town Looks at How to Save Beavers and Money: According to Third Selectman Coreysha Stone, "These are sites where we've historically paid for beavers to either be trapped, and exterminated, removed ... and for their dams to be destroyed, and we pay for this annually ... which is a reactive approach and not proactive. And as we've gone through developing the hazard mitigation plan, it's become evident that proactive infrastructure to build resilient communities is really the smartest way to go, both in terms of response to nature (and) weather changes, but also in terms of economic sustainability and forethinking and planning."

Land Trust Works to Balance Salmon Passage, Beaver Habitat at Kristoferson Creek: Planning is underway to install permanent fish

passage structures within the beaver dams. These pipe- and box-style devices are designed to allow salmon to pass through the dams whenever water is flowing, without compromising the dams' overall structure.

Conservation Group Has Non-Lethal Solution to Beaver Dam:

With a collaborative effort between the Alouette River Management Society, the City of Maple Ridge, The Fur-Bearers, Silver Creek Wildlife, and local residents in British Columbia, a beaver conflict has been resolved with a pond leveler, addressing neighborhood concerns and supporting a healthy watershed.

The Global Scene

- Is Love in the Air for Beavers Chip and Willow?: Owners of a country estate are hopeful that love is in the air for two beavers released there as part of a wildlife project.
- Poland's prime minister has come under fire by environmentalists for blaming recent destructive flooding on beavers.
- The beaver-rich canton of Zurich created a beaver hotline. The local Beaver Advisory Centre is staffed by ecologists who give advice, assess damages and evaluate potential compensation. Find out more.
- Cameras have captured the latest additions to two wild beaver families living "happily" at Longleat Safari park.
- A council in Derbyshire is pursuing plans to reintroduce beavers in a bid to boost biodiversity.
- London's largest beaver enclosure could be coming to South London soon as part of a rewilding plan for South Norwood Country Park.



Underwater Camera Captures Beaver "Selfie"



Illinois Beaver Alliance

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