

Midwest Beaver News

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

January 2024

Wisconsin Beaver Management Policies Under Review

In November, USDA Wildlife Services announced that they were "preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the environmental impacts of alternatives for our involvement in beaver damage management (BDM) in Wisconsin." Wildlife Services requested "public involvement in the identification of management alternatives and environmental issues to be addressed in the EA and any data, reports, or other information pertaining to the project which should be considered." That opportunity for comment closed on December 20, 2023.

During that time, [Superior Bio-Conservancy](#), [Illinois Beaver Alliance](#), and other beaver advocates drafted a sign-on letter presenting data, scientific consideration, nonlethal conflict management, and alternatives to the current beaver program. Overall, 35 organizations and more than 50 credentialed individuals signed on.

The revised EA is expected to be ready for public review and comment by March 29, 2024. **Stay tuned for more detail on how you can participate in this important action.**

Missed the 2023 Midwest Beaver Summit?

You can still watch the presentations on our YouTube channel! Don't miss out on the opportunity to see what beaver experts like Ben Goldfarb, Leila Philip, Dr. Emily Fairfax, and Mike Callahan had to say about beavers in our region!

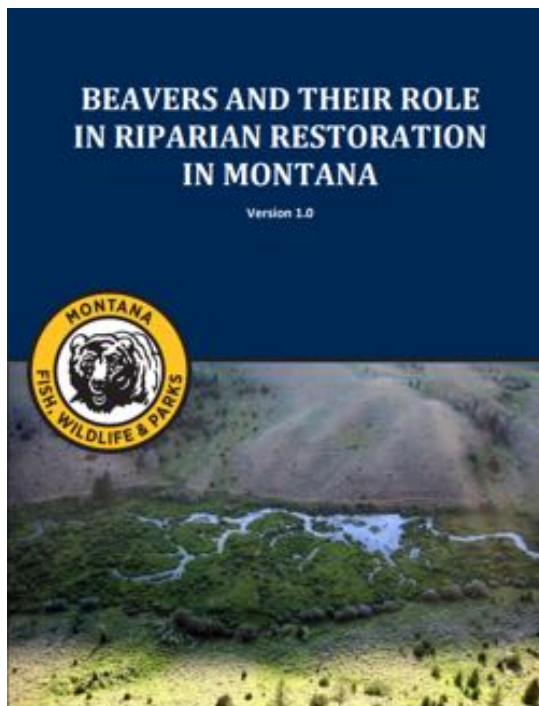
[Summit YouTube videos](#)



First Midwest Beaver Speaker Series Looks at Permitting Process

The first Midwest Beaver Speaker Series webinar, “Navigating the Pond Leveler Permitting Process in Wisconsin,” was held on December 12. In this webinar, Clay Frazer from Native Range Ecological discussed his experience with Wisconsin's permitting process for a beaver pond leveler. Clay explained how pond levelers are installed and function; described regulatory hurdles that needed to be cleared to install a pond leveler; and discussed his experience patiently working with the Wisconsin DNR and his client to secure the permit.

Watch the webinar



Montana Moving Forward on Beaver Restoration

The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department recently released a publication, “Beavers and Their Role in Riparian Restoration in Montana.” This new publication lays out the framework for beaver restoration decisions in the state. According to the executive summary, “The overarching goal of this document is to outline the settings and situations where beaver restoration can be implemented to achieve the benefits

of beavers while discussing the limitations or pitfalls of restoration that can limit the use of these techniques.”

Currently coordinated by the National Wildlife Federation, the Montana Beaver Working Group has done incredible advocacy work to move the state forward on beaver restoration and nonlethal conflict management. Find out more and sign up for its quarterly newsletter [HERE](#).

Read the publication



California Releases Beavers into the Wild, First Time in 75 Years

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has launched the initial phase of its beaver translocation activities, recently conducting the first beaver conservation release in nearly 75 years. Working with the Maidu Summit Consortium, CDFW released a family of seven beavers into Plumas County, in a location that is known to the tribal community as Tásmam Koyóm. The translocated beavers and receiving ecosystems will be monitored for multiple years following their release to assess the population, movement, habitat utilization, behavior and activity, potential conflicts, mortalities, and the need for additional translocations, as well as the ecological changes that result from beaver engineering on the landscape.

California has also announced the availability of up to \$2 million in grant funding for non-lethal beaver damage management in support of ecosystem restoration and

protection under the Nature-Based Solutions Initiative and CDFW's beaver restoration and human-wildlife conflict program objectives.

[Find out more](#)



Beaver "Rewilding" Expands in Scotland

The first beavers to be translocated to the Cairngorms National Park are settling into their new home after arriving in the National Park in December. The Cairngorms National Park Authority, working with local land managers and the Beaver Trust, oversaw the operation. The Park Authority was granted a five-year license for up to 15 families of beavers from NatureScot.

This is the first out-of-range translocation in Scotland and sees the return of Eurasian beavers to the area for the first time in around 400 years. By changing and re-naturalizing the landscape around them, beavers can help combat climate change and boost biodiversity.

[Learn more](#)

