Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Project

2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT



lark 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 treefelling 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.
- Develop a strong working relationship with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks as a basis for a broader, longerterm beaver conflict resolution program linked to larger scale beaver restoration goals.

Here's a quick summary testifying to two successful seasons, the summers of 2019 and 2020.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

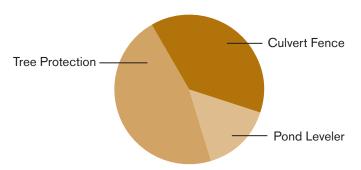
- 13 on-the-ground projects completed
- 4 hands-on workshops delivered
- **393** people reached through workshops and webinars

INSTALLATIONS ON THE GROUND

Types of projects installed:

- Pond levelers to minimize flooding caused by beaver activities;
- Tree fencing to prevent beaver browsing;
- Exclusion fences to protect culverts and other pinch points where beavers like to build their dams.

Completed Projects by Type





At right, a fenced tree, Washoe Park, Anaconda. Top right, an exclusion fence, Big Hole watershed. Bottom right, a pond leveler, Lost Creek State Park.





PARTNERS ENLISTED

- Game wardens
- Fish biologists
- State park managers
- County road departments
- State road department
- Watershed groups
- Private landowners
- Land trusts

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!"

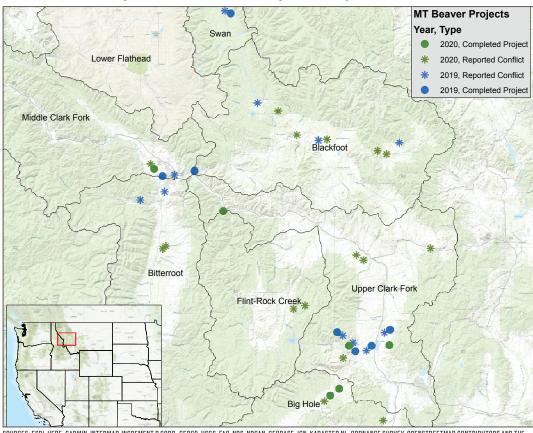
—Ben LaPorte Big Hole Watershed Committee

"The Beaver Conflict
Resolution project 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



Beaver Conflict Report Locations and Completed Project Sites



SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEOBASE, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY







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