

Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Project

2019–2021 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.
- 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.

Here's a quick summary testifying to three successful seasons, the summers of 2019 to 2021.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

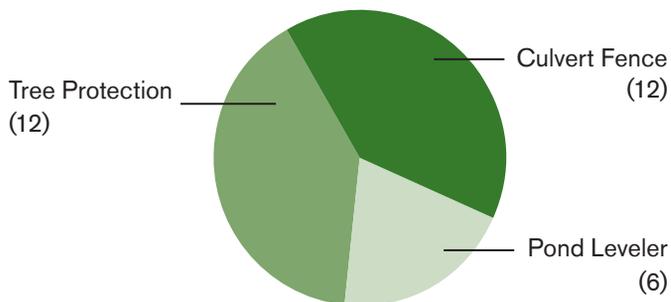
- 30** on-the-ground projects completed
- 8** hands-on workshops delivered
- 595** people reached through workshops and webinars

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



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Above right, an exclusion fence around a culvert on Whalen Ditch. Bottom left, fenced aspens along Racetrack Creek. Bottom right, a pond leveler on Willow Creek prevents flooding of an upstream bridge and mudding inside a nearby railroad tunnel.



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PARTNERS ENLISTED

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



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TESTIMONIALS

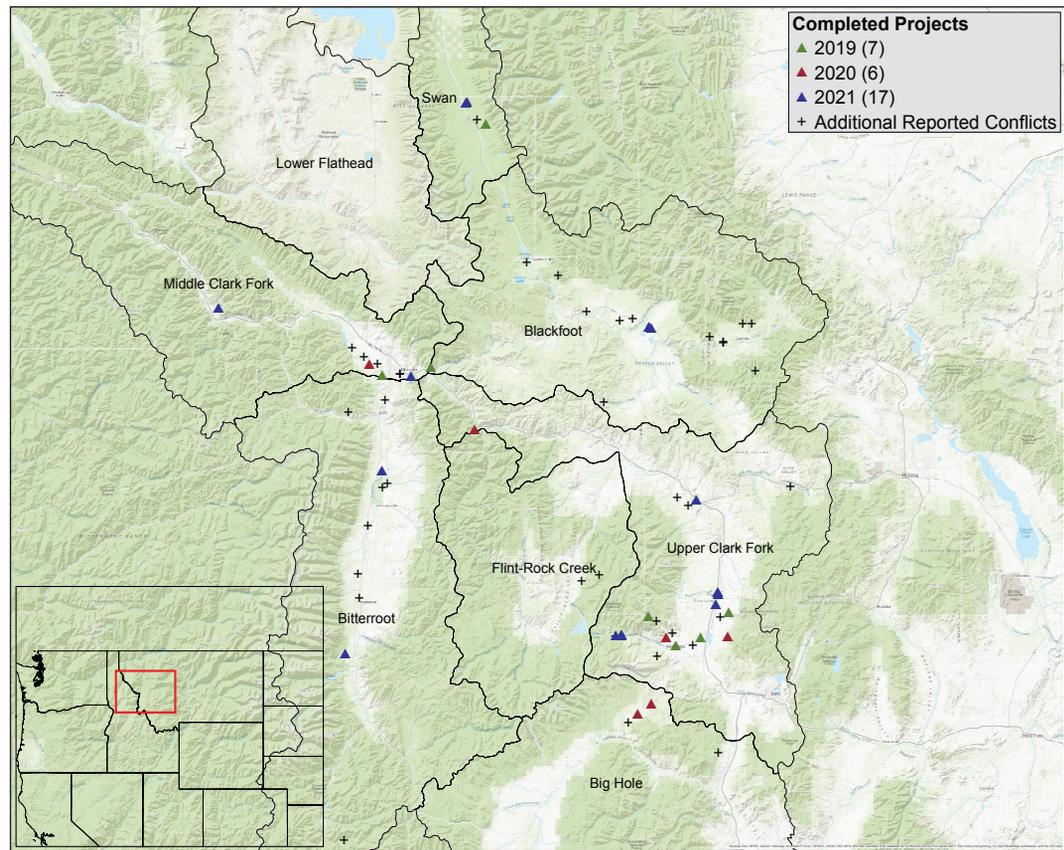
“Working with the beaver mitigation team gave us the invaluable experience and knowledge to continue to build these important beaver conflict reduction projects into our wildlife programs in the future!”

—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
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