



2020 IMPACT REPORT

Montana Beaver Project

The National Wildlife Federation works to protect and restore the natural function and quality of our nation's waters, wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas to sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and to benefit people.

Beavers may be our most important partner in protecting and restoring western streams and watersheds. By replenishing groundwater and supplementing stream flows during dry months, beavers help sustain year-round habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as downstream water users. Despite their important role, western states have a long history of treating beaver as a nuisance species and promoting beaver eradications. Slowly, attitudes toward beavers are changing as evidenced by a growing number of stream restoration projects that include human-built structures mimicking beaver activity, as well as the reintroduction of beaver to some portions of their historic habitat.

Beaver habitat expansion restores riparian areas and improves instream flows and helps build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate (drought, fires, floods, and loss of snowpack).

“We’re working to get beavers back on the map to benefit wetlands, wildlife, and people.”

— SARAH BATES, NWF



Thanks to your generous support, in 2020 our Montana Beaver Project

- » **Directly restored 13 acres of riparian area** to improve wildlife habitat and support beaver recolonization on public lands in north-central Montana, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), University of Montana, and the Montana Conservation Corps. Learn more [here](#).
- » **Convened the Montana Beaver Working Group** in a focused strategy meeting and produced an action plan for restoring beavers in Montana, available [here](#).
- » **Engaged local, regional, and national audiences** to build support for beaver restoration, using many platforms (blogs, social media, webinars, podcast, and a monthly newsletter); most of these materials can be viewed on the project [website](#).
- » **Successfully completed the second year of our [Beaver Conflict Mitigation Project](#)** in partnership with the Clark Fork Coalition and Defenders of Wildlife, aimed at building acceptance of beaver among private landowners, state park managers, and others. Project installations ranged from tree fencing to culvert exclusion devices. Additionally, we conducted one virtual field trip and two webinars illustrating the methods and effectiveness of these proven techniques.

In 2021, we will continue to expand our collaborative work on behalf of beavers in Montana and beyond.

We are especially excited to announce a new, five-year cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management to provide technical support to BLM staff and local watershed groups engaged in beaver habitat restoration. We also look forward to leading the Montana Beaver Working Group to connect diverse partners and support beaver restoration throughout Montana and beyond. Above all, we will continue to advocate for nature's master landscape engineers.



**Thank you! We couldn't do this
exciting and impactful work
without your support!**

Program Contact: SARAH BATES / 406-541-6730 / bates@nwf.org

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION / 240 NORTH HIGGINS, SUITE 2, MISSOULA, MT 59802 / NWF.ORG

