2026 On-the-Ground Project Application Form

General Information

Project Name: Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program

Applicant Name: National Wildlife Federation

Is your organization registered with the Montana Secretary of State? Y

Explanation: Each applicant must be registered with the Montana Secretary of State to do business in the state of Montana. Registration with the Secretary of State may be completed via the following website: https://sosmt.gov/business/

Is your organization registered with the federal System for Award Management (SAM)? Y

Explanation: Each applicant is required to register with SAM. To register or check your organization's status, go to https://sam.gov/content/home. If you get an "Unsupported Browser" error, copy, and paste the link into a Google Chrome browser window.

Primary Contact: Shelby | Title: Weigand

Address: PO Box 7465 | City: Missoula | State: MT | Zip Code: 59807

Phone Number: (406) 203-3426 | Email: weigands@nwf.org

Signature: Shelby Weigand

Explanation: This is the person who DEQ would routinely contact to discuss project progress, billing, etc.

Signatory: Ismael Savadogo | Title: Chief Financial Officer

Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive | City: Reston | State: VA | Zip Code: 20190

Phone Number: 703-438-6398 | Email: savadogoi@nwf.org

Signature: Ismael Savadogo (Mar 12, 2026 16:07:30 EDT)

Explanation: This is the person who can legally sign contracts and other binding documents on behalf of the applicant (e.g., a board chair)
Note: The primary contact, signatory and landowner must sign the application. Signatures must be either signed electronically, or wet-signed, scanned and sent electronically.

Landowner Name: Montana Department of Transportation (Patrick Cross)

Landowner Signature: PR Cross

Landowner Name:

Landowner Signature

Landowner Name:

Landowner Signature

Explanation: Landowner signatures are required. **Signing the application does not obligate the landowner to implement a project.** Instead, it is an indication that the landowner has read the application and agrees, in principle, with the project concept and goals.

Your organization's Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI #) | GEJMTLKRLVF4

Explanation: Each applicant is required to have a current UEI number. The UEI number replaces the old DUNS number. If your organization had a DUNS number, you should have received a notification from the federal government indicating that your DUNS number has been changed to a UEI number. If you did not receive this notification, or if you never had a DUNS number, you will need to go to the federal government's System for Award Management (SAM - https://sam.gov/content/home) to obtain your UEI number. DEQ recommends starting this process early as it is very time-consuming, requires providing documentation-sometimes with follow-up requests for additional information, and can take up to 2 months to complete. If you need assistance, you may contact the federal help desk at 866-606-8220 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. EST.

Does your organization have adequate liability insurance for the risks associated with your project? | Y

Explanation: Each applicant must have or obtain liability insurance coverage meeting the requirements stated in the Draft Sample Contract and/or requirements negotiated based on the appropriate level of risk associated with the project.

Describe the technical and administrative skills your organization will use to effectively and efficiently complete your proposed project(s).

Shelby Weigand, National Wildlife Federation Riparian Connectivity Manager – Shelby earned their B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Geographic Information Systems at University of Montana. Their career has been focused on land management, restoration, collaborative conservation and applied research. Shelby leads NWF's riparian connectivity program focusing on beaver restoration and watershed resilience in the Northern Prairies and Pacific Region. Project Role: Project management, reporting, and strategic partnership.
Elissa Chott, National Wildlife Federation Beaver Conflict Resolution Team Lead – Elissa is the team lead with the Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program. She brings years of experience addressing human-bear conflicts, first working with the Great Bear Foundation and transitioning to find places where beavers are causing problems in western Montana. She works with landowners, county road crews, state parks and wildlife managers, and conservation partners to show how beaver damage can be minimized by installing a few simple devices. Project Role: Technical assistance and staff supervision.
Beaver Conflict Resolution Technicians: NWF will hire and train seasonal technicians each year to facilitate on-the-ground work.

Budget Form

Please fill out the On-the-Ground Project Budget Template (Excel file). Cells highlighted in yellow may be edited to fit the needs of your particular project. DEQ uses a template to construct nonpoint source grant contracts. The Budget Template contains tasks and typical deliverables that match up with the grant contract template. Please see the Example Contract and Scope of Work Template for a more detailed look at typical task requirements and deliverables.

Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application. Use the following examples to help determine when to lump and when to split projects.

Splitting Examples (fill out multiple Project Forms)

- Stream restoration work occurring on two separate streams..
- Two projects with significantly different sets of project partners
- Two projects that address substantially different pollution sources (e.g., one project move a corral off of a streambank, and another removes mine tailings, with both projects being on the same property).

Lumping Examples

- Contiguous stream restoration work spanning multiple land parcels
- Three projects that address similar sources of pollution on a single land parcel (e.g., moving a corral off a stream, implementing a grazing management plan, and relocating a manure storage facility out of the floodplain, all on the same ranch)

Supplemental Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application. When submitting your final application, use the "Supplier's Attachments Page" in eMACS.

Project Name Exclusion Fence on Unnamed Tributary to the Gallatin River

Applicant Name National Wildlife Federation

Required Attachments

- [x] Letter of support from the organization that created or sponsored the creation of the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan or the Tribe that created the EPA-approved Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan (*if applicable)*.
- [x] Letter of support from EACH landowner associated with the proposed project area (*if applicable)*.
- [x] Budget Table (see Microsoft Excel Template).
- [x] **Detailed Project site map(s)** Attach a map or set of maps showing the location and size of proposed activity if a site has been predetermined. The map scale must be between 1:1,000 and 1:12,500. The map(s) must have an aerial photo background (e.g., USDA NAIP photography, Google Earth imagery, etc.). The map(s) must show the latitude, longitude, site name, and landowner for the activity site. The map(s) should also identify waterbodies affected by the pollution that the activity is designed to address. (*This is in addition to adding points of the project location to the website on page 4*).

Optional Attachments

Attach additional items and information that could help reviewers better understand your project. Information could describe public health risks, opportunities to leverage other funding sources, etc. However, application reviewers may have limited time available, and excessively long, optional attachments might not get reviewed. Do not attach copies of TMDL documents, TMDL implementation evaluations, Watershed Restoration Plans, Tribal Nonpoint Source Plans, or large comprehensive studies. The following attachments may be included. Please no more than 20 pages.

- [ ] Project Design Plans/Drawings
- [ ] Preliminary Engineering Reports / Site Evaluations
- [ ] Landowner Agreements / Construction Permits / Floodplain Permits
- [x] Site photos
- [ ] Additional Letters of Support
- [ ] Other:
- [ ] Other:
- [ ] Other:

Project Area

Please provide as detailed a description of the project area as possible.

List the counties in which the project will be located.

Gallatin

List the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs), sometimes referred to as Sixth Code HUCS, in which the project will take place. Use the following link to help assist you in determining the HUCs: https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/

Camp Creek-Gallatin River Subwatershed: 100200080705

Project Location Map

In addition to providing your own project site map, please go to the following website and follow the instructions to add your project location to the map.

https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/42f4a668285c4ef6aa94b1623f10df57

Connection to a Previous or Ongoing Project

Is this project tied to a previous or ongoing project? If so, please describe the connection.

This project is part of National Wildlife Federation's Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program. The program operates within Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 to increase tolerance for beavers on the landscape by using nonlethal techniques to solve beaver conflicts, keeping beavers in place so their wetlands benefit the watersheds at large.

We are providing this identified project site as an example of our work, the conflicts we receive, and how our process works from the first site assessment to post-installation maintenance checks. In addition, our program trains public partners and nonprofits to address beaver conflicts. When we install this project, MDT staff will be present to learn how to install coexistence devices to solve conflicts long-term. The alternative is to lethally remove beavers, resulting in a loss of wetland habitat as their dams and complex degrade over time. The stream system will benefit from having a beaver complex intact to capture sediment from agricultural land use up- and downstream, resulting in less turbidity and nonpoint source pollution.

Project Purpose

Select the watershed restoration plan or tribal nonpoint source plan that your project will help implement (please type in if missing from list) (*Not required for HAB reduction projects)*

Lower Gallatin - Greater Gallatin Watershed Council

Y — Letter of support from author, or if the author was contracted, the author sponsor, attached? *(If no, explain why below.)*

IMPAIRMENT LISTINGS: Projects that address water quality impairments on Montana's 2020 List of Impaired Waters are preferred though not a requirement. Funding may be used for projects that protect waterbodies that are demonstrated to be healthy.

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters: Gallatin River

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed: Sedimentation

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters:

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed:

HEALTHY WATERSHEDS: While project funding is prioritized to addressing known impairments, funding can be used to protect healthy waters from becoming impaired.

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected:

Description of identified threat:

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected:

Description of identified threat:

Project Partners

Identify each of the project partners and describe their contribution to the project. Include landowners, land managers, project designers, funders, and your own organization. Indicate whether each partner, other than your organization, has provided a letter of support. (*Note: each landowner must provide a letter of support if project site(s) have been predetermined.*)

Landowner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
Montana Department of Transportation	will help fund the project by purchasing materials; will be present during installation for a training to learn how to use nonlethal techniques; provide long-term maintenance of the exclusion fence	☑
		☐
		☐
		☐

Project Partner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
		☐
		☐
		☐
		☐
		☐

Project Coordination and Planning Task

This task would include completion of all applicable planning tasks from the list below, as well as coordination and oversight of the efforts of all project partners.

Identify the status of the following project planning tasks, where applicable.

	Completed?	Copy Attached?	To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Oct 2026)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
*Draft Project Designs	☐	☐	☑	☐
*Final Project Designs	☐	☐	☑	☐
Consultation With Potential Regulators	☐	☐	☑	☐
Necessary Permits	☐	☐	☑	☐
Cultural Resources Inventory *(if relevant)*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: exclusion fence installation	☐	☐	☐	☑
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

***See Call for Applications Section 5.1 for minimum design standards.*

Describe any additional project planning that *will have been completed prior* to execution of a contract (October 2026).

The initial site visit and subsequent project determination occurred in October 2025. MDT applied for a SPA 124 permit to remove the beaver dam in the culvert and included language about future beaver conflict resolution at the site. A final design and permit is still needed to be issued for the exclusion fence.

Describe any additional project planning and coordination that will need to be completed after the execution of a contract (October 2026).

Device installation and ongoing monitoring as described below. Routine maintenance to ensure the exclusion fence is functioning properly.

The proposed project will not include a 35 foot riparian buffer since implementation does not involve the direct creation of new riparian areas. The proposed project maintains beavers and beaver habitat, allowing for beavers to promote natural restoration while increasing water tables will expand riparian areas and vegetation.

Landowner Agreement Task

DEQ includes the following language in every nonpoint source contract involving on-the-ground activities:

Contractor shall submit signed landowner agreement(s) verifying that Contractor and DEQ staff may access the project site, at reasonable times and with prior notification, for the purposes of project planning, implementation, and post-implementation monitoring. The agreement(s) must ensure appropriate operation and maintenance of all structures, vegetation, and management measures for the life of the project (typically 10 years). If grazing will be allowed within the project area, the agreement(s) must include a sustainable management plan for livestock grazing, designed to protect and enhance riparian function. If a signed landowner agreement does not meet the above-stated minimum requirements, Contractor shall negotiate an amended agreement with the landowner that ensures appropriate operation and maintenance of all structures, vegetation, management measures, and includes a sustainable management plan for any livestock grazing for the life of the project (typically 10 years).

Identify the status of the following landowner agreement tasks, where applicable.

	Completed?	Copy Attached?	To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Oct 2026)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
Draft Landowner Agreement(s)	☐	☐	☑	☐
Final Landowner Agreement(s)	☐	☐	☐	☑
Grazing Management Plan	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐

Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task

If you will be conducting any on-the-ground implementation work, you will be required to complete the monitoring activities described in the task language below, as applicable. Describe below how you plan to determine the effectiveness of your project. Project effectiveness success criteria should be time-bound and assess each project objective quantitatively. Success criteria should clearly define adaptive management thresholds. Examples may include: a minimum 25% decrease in sediment/nitrogen/phosphorus load within 2 years; a 70% survival rate of containerized plantings after one year.

If you are applying for nonpoint source grant funding for project design only, and not for project implementation, you may either skip this task, or describe below which parts of this task you intend to complete:

We will conduct photo point monitoring using the "Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Guide to Photo Monitoring" methodologies, or similar photo monitoring protocols identified as acceptable by DEQ to determine wetland habitat expansion and increased surface water.

We will also use fresh beaver cuttings and fresh mud on structures to determine if beaver complexes remain occupied and maintained. NWF will monitor for new dam building that will also contribute to slowing flows, reducing nonpoint source pollution (sediment), and increasing wetland area and habitat.

There are no current sediment load reduction estimation approaches within the Load Reduction Guide that capture our project monitoring needs. NWF will work with DEQ to determine an appropriate method for estimating sediment load reductions. Possible options may include using BEHI(s) to monitor sediment for Stream Flow Alternations, however, this is not an exact 1:1 match for our monitoring needs.

Example Task Language

Contractor shall, in consultation with the DEQ Project Manager, develop a reasonable method or set of methods for evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the project in addressing water quality issues. Contractor shall complete a monitoring plan to guide monitoring activities. Contractor shall complete the following monitoring activities:

- *Estimate the sediment load reductions (tons/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *Estimate the nitrogen load reductions (pounds/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *Estimate the phosphorus load reductions (pounds/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *For projects designed to address pollution from pollutants other than nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the project in addressing water quality issues.*
- *Contractor shall collect data, as directed by the DEQ Project Manager, to be used in estimating sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus load reductions (and for harmful algal bloom reduction projects, carbon sequestration/emissions reductions) achieved through implementation of restoration activities and management practices designed to address these pollutants.*
- *Use the following measures to evaluate the sustainability of restoration activities and management practices:*
    - *[Vegetation mortality rate.]*
    - *Pre- and post-construction photo point monitoring consistent with the "Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Guide to Photo Monitoring" methodologies, or a similar published photo point monitoring method accepted by DEQ. The U.S. Forest Service provides additional photo point monitoring guidance in the "United Stated Forest Service Photo Point Monitoring Handbook".*
    - *[Riparian survey.]*
    - *[Other.]*

Please describe any additional monitoring you intend to do as part of the project.

NWF will monitor the condition of the exclusion fence to determine the lifespan of devices in Montana watersheds before replacement is needed. Visual inspection of device integrity (including but not limited to corrosion, structural soundness, and how flows and ice build up may impact function) will determine effectiveness of designs and materials in different hydrological conditions. This monitoring is something the program currently conducts on a handful of devices, and with increased funding from DEQ , could expand to monitor all devices installed within the grant agreement time frame.

Project Implementation Task

Provide a **detailed description of the solution you are proposing** to implement to address a nonpoint source pollution problem.

- Describe the practices you intend to design and/or implement to solve the problem (what, where, when, how much or how many).
- Describe the anticipated maintenance needs (what, where, who, how long).
- Refer to the minimum design standards in the Call for Applications.
    - *Please fill out this section to the best of your ability, even if you are only seeking funding for project design.*

NWF will draft an exclusion fence design to fit the site specifications including culvert size, stream width, water depth, and other hydrological considerations. The design will follow best management practices established by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for beaver conflict resolution flow devices. Creating a wildlife passage for semi-aquatic and aquatic species to use the stream for movement will allow for in-stream passage rather than creating further conflict with road infrastructure. The design phase will take place in summer of 2026 after a site assessment to take measurements and see flow patterns in spring and early summer. Once the design is reviewed by MDT, a SPA 124 permit will be submitted to the regional fish biologist. Once approved, planning for material purchase and installation can take place.

NWF has been using the following permits for exclusion fencing since the program's inception in 2019. Required permits for exclusion fencing are 310 for private landowners/applicants and SPA 124 for public landowners/applicants. At the regional FWP fish biologist's discretion, they may issue a 318 permit for the temporary turbidity caused by removing beaver dams from culverts.

Maintenance needs for exclusion fences are 3-4 times per year and will be conducted by NWF staff and/or MDT. Clearing debris off fence perimeters and ensuring water levels are maintained at desired levels is critical to ensuring the success of each project, in addition to the monitoring expectations as outlined in the monitoring section of this application. Additional beaver activity in the vicinity will be monitored to ensure it is not negatively impacting the device, such as damming downstream and back watering the culvert.

The traditional method for resolving beaver conflicts is to lethally remove beavers, leading to an overall lower population. Using a nonlethal conflict solution to prevent culvert damming alleviates the need to remove beavers from the site, allowing for the continued existence and future colonization of beavers as they reproduce and disperse throughout the watershed. The habitat has willows and other riparian and aquatic vegetation for the beavers to use as food sources and building materials, and meets our program's criteria for determining if a nonlethal solution will be successful.

The exclusion fence will prevent damming at the culvert and allow beavers to continue their natural behaviors up and downstream. This will allow for the dam complex to capture sediment, an identified nonpoint source pollutant, and a listed impairment to the Gallatin watershed.

Education, Outreach and Training Task

To get good projects on the ground, trained staff and board members and educated, enthusiastic landowners are required. To promote the development of future projects, DEQ encourages project sponsors to use up to $5,000 per project of funding to support training and conduct education and outreach. Example training topics might include: project management, public procurement, technical writing, GIS, water quality monitoring, web design, public speaking, human resource management, photo journalism, UAV (drone) piloting, financial management, and restoration techniques. Education and outreach activities might include targeted landowner outreach, conducting project site tours for local landowners, tabling at community events, holding a watershed festival, providing stipends and travel reimbursements for speakers and participants to attend a nonpoint source pollution prevention workshop, or generating articles for social media. The primary requirement for training and outreach is clearly explaining how the activity generates behavior change to address nonpoint source pollution. Funding may not be used to pay for food and beverages, or for honorariums and gifts.

Describe the education and outreach activities or training you will complete to promote behaviors or facilitate future efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Additionally, identify the goals of the training/education and outreach activities.

This project will serve as a training led by NWF. The program will organize a hands-on training course to go over site assessments, best management practices and incorporating them into project designs, different modification options available for nonlethal beaver conflict techniques, and installing exclusion fences. In addition to the technical overview of beaver conflict resolution, the training will provide information on why beaver complexes are important to our watersheds including water storage, water quality and reducing nonpoint source pollution, and creating habitat many species depend upon for their life cycles.

Identify the specific target audience and method of delivery. Additionally, describe how the proposed training and/or education and outreach will increase local capacity and interest for addressing/promoting behavior change to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Outreach within MDT to have agency personnel attend this training will be conducted by NWF. Additionally, NWF will organize and invite other partner agencies and nonprofits who either work in the beaver restoration field or frequently address beaver conflicts will be invited (such as Gallatin County Road Department, Gallatin Watershed Council, Montana Freshwater Partners, and City of Bozeman).

Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed activities.

NWF will evaluate the effectiveness of these activities based on participation from MDT in the training, increased participation with our program from invited partners, and MDT increasing their capacity for assessing sites for future conflict mitigation devices for beaver activity.

Project Administration Task

Please use the task description below as a guide when calculating your budget for project administration. DEQ typically includes these requirements in every nonpoint source grant contract, with only minor variation. Funding applied to the Project Administration Task on each project must not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding requested, or $12,000, whichever is lower.

Example Task Language

Contractor shall oversee and be accountable for the completion of all tasks. Contractor shall maintain regular contact with the DEQ project manager. Contractor shall prepare and submit Status Reports, Final Reports and Attachment B Billing Statements according to the format and schedule described below.

Report Format

- *Contractor shall submit each Attachment B Billing Statement, Status Report and Final Report using the most current reporting guidance and templates provided by the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure each Status Report and Final Report contains adequate documentation to justify accompanying reimbursement requests and match reporting, to the satisfaction of the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure that the Final Report is a standalone document describing all contract activities and containing copies of all contract deliverables (even if the deliverables were previously submitted).*

Reporting Schedule

- *Status Reports: Due June 15th and December 15th of each year the Contract is in effect, and each time an Attachment B Billing Statement is submitted.*
- *Draft Final Report: Contractor shall submit a complete draft Final Report for DEQ review and comment at least 15 days prior to the contract expiration date.*
- *Final Report: Contractor shall submit a Final Report, addressing DEQ comments on the draft Final Report, on or before the Contract expiration date.*
- *Attachment B Billing Statements: Contractor shall submit an Attachment B Billing Statement with each Status Report, or Final Report submitted to DEQ while the Contract is in effect. To maintain cash flow, Contractor may submit interim Attachment B Billing Statements as frequently as monthly during the term of the Contract. However, each interim Attachment B Billing Statement must be accompanied by an Interim Report.*

Project Timeline

	4Q 2026	1Q 2027	2Q 2027	3Q 2027	4Q 2027	1Q 2028	2Q 2028	3Q 2028	4Q 2028	1Q 2029	2Q 2029	3Q 2029
Project Coordination and Planning Task	✔											
Landowner Agreement Task	✔											
Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task			✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔		✔	✔
Project Implementation Task	✔											
Education, Outreach and Training Task	✔											
Project Administration Task	✔											

Co-Benefit Considerations

DEQ is committed to carrying out nonpoint source pollution reduction projects within engaged communities where the impact stretches beyond improving water quality. DEQ will award additional points in the scoring form where co-benefits extend beyond the project. Below are a few examples of how projects might exemplify co-benefits.

- Project will reduce economic hardship such as from livestock mortalities, cost and energy needs to treat municipal drinking and wastewater treatment, or loss of income from recreation
- Project will benefit underserved markets
- Project will improve or create equitable access to a clean and healthy environment
- Project planning included consultation with Tribal Nations
- Project will improve flood and drought resilience of the landscape
- Project impacts will benefit a downstream community and other natural systems (e.g., drinking water sources, human health, wildlife habitat, etc)

Please use this section to highlight co-benefits your project may have.

Co-benefits of keeping this beaver population and their wetland complexes intact, reducing nonpoint source pollution, and using nonlethal alternatives for conflicts include: maintain and expand future beaver populations. Currently, the only two beaver conflict management options in Montana are to either implement the nonlethal solutions or lethally remove beavers. By opting for coexistence, landowners are directly allowing for populations to continuously grow each year given beavers reproduction rate. If a beaver is lethally removed, you reduce the overall population and potential for future population expansionhigh flows (Puttock et. al 2020).; decreased need for road departments and maintenance crews to repeatedly unplug the same culverts, saving time and resources while reducing safety hazards associated with unplugging culverts; increased safety for Dry Creek Road users by reducing the risk of over-road flooding during spring and fall where ice and high waters are safety concerns by road departments; slowing flow velocity and increasing water table: improved soil moisture (microclimate refugia) over time and seasonally, extending later seasonal flows, and enhancing water storage ultimately increasing drought resiliency (Puttock et. al 2020); benefit additional flora and fauna: Over 80% of Montana's wildlife species depend on beaver-created wetlands at some point during their lifecycle, making beaver habitat critical for many species' survival (J. D. Maestas et al. 2023); beaver wetlands are listed in the draft update of MT's SWAP as Habitat of Greatest Conservation Need; Flood attenuation as beaver complexes spread out and act as "speed bumps" in stream systems for high flows (Puttock et. al 2020)

BUDGET

2025 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - On-the-Ground Project Budget Template

Project Title:								
Instructions	**Tasks and Potential Deliverables**	**319 Funding Request***	**Non-Federal Match****	**Other Funding*****	**Match Source**	**Match Secured? (Y/N)**	**Total Project Cost**	**Additional Information********
This task includes completion of all planning tasks and coordination and oversight of the efforts of all project partners. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	**Project Planning**							
	Preliminary site investigation data and site maps	$ 700.00	$ 377.91		High Stakes Foundation	Y	$ 1,077.91	
	Required Permits	$ 75.00					$ 75.00	
	Draft Project Designs	$ 75.00					$ 75.00	
	Final Project Designs	$ 350.00					$ 350.00	
	Travel	$ 250.00					$ 250.00	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 1,450.00	$ 377.91	$ -			$ 1,827.91	
This task includes costs for developing and managing landowner agreements and developing grazing management plans as applicable. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	**Landowner Agreements**							
	Draft Landowner Agreement	$ 50.00					$ 50.00	
	Final Landowner Agreement	$ 50.00					$ 50.00	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 100.00	$ -	$ -			$ 100.00	
This task includes costs for developing and implementing a monitoring plan to evaluate effectiveness to reduce nonpoint source pollution. See example contract template or application instructions for required monitoring activities. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	**Effectiveness Monitoring**							
	Draft Monitoring Plan	$ 50.00					$ 50.00	
	Final Monitoring Plan	$ 75.00					$ 75.00	
	Written Summary of all Monitoring Activities	$ 75.00					$ 75.00	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 200.00	$ -	$ -			$ 200.00	
This tasks includes all costs for implementation of the plans developed in the Project Planning task. If you are requesting funding for design only, leave this task blank. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	**Project Implementation**							
	Materials	$ 350.00	$ 350.00		Landowner materials Cost Sharing	N	$ 700.00	
	Labor						$ -	
	Equipment costs						$ -	
	Construction oversight	$ 1,100.00					$ 1,100.00	
	As-built surveys						$ -	
	Photo documentation	$ 200.00					$ 200.00	
	Landowner recommendation letter						$ -	
	Travel	$ 90.00					$ 90.00	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 1,740.00	$ 350.00	$ -			$ 2,090.00	
This task includes costs to develop and improve organizational capacity and to incorporate education and outreach into on-the ground projects. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.	**Education and Outreach**							
	Volunteer Coordination	$ 175.00					$ 175.00	
	Event/Tour Planning	$ 200.00					$ 200.00	
	Outreach/Publication materials						$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 375.00	$ -	$ -			$ 375.00	
319 Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of 319 funding requested, or $12,000, whichever is lower. Project includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.	**Administration**							
	National Wildlife Federation Indirect 10%	$ 386.50					$ 386.50	
	Match Indirect		$ 181.98		High Stakes Foundation	Y	$ 181.98	
							$ -	
							$ -	
							$ -	
	Total	$ 386.50	$ 181.98	$ -			$ 568.48	
		319 Funding Request*	**Non-Federal Match****	**Other Funding*****			**Total Project Cost**	
	Grand Totals	$ 4,251.50	$ 909.89	$ -			**$ 5,161.39**	

*319 Request - Must not exceed $300,000
**Non-Federal Match - Can include in-kind materials.
***Other Funding -Use this space for funding that will be used to support creation of task deliverables, but will not be reported as match.
****Additional Information - Use to justify cost if needed. (Hourly rates, rental costs, etc.)

MAPS/ DESIGNS

National Wildlife Federation
Northern Rockies ▪ Prairies ▪ Pacific

National Wildlife Federation 2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application: Supplemental Materials

The following information is intended to provide further context for the National Wildlife Federation's 2026 Application for DEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction funding opportunity for on-the-ground projects. Below is an overview of the total program reach, where project implementation has occurred, an example of a project we are currently planning that meets DEQ project standards/priorities, and project design standards.

Program and Project Maps:

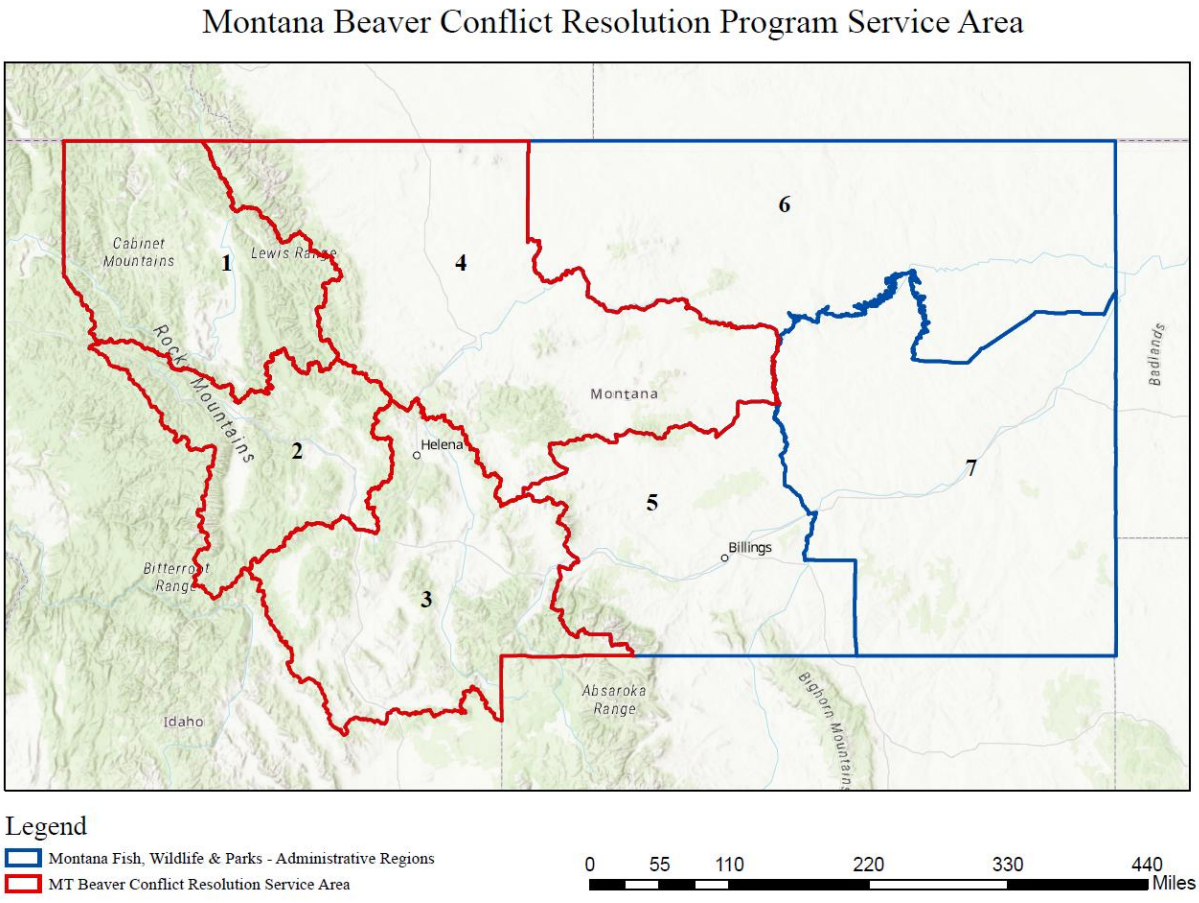

Figure 1. The above map describes the area in which the Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program covers (red).

240 NORTH HIGGINS, SUITE 2 ▪ MISSOULA, MT 59802 ▪ 406.541.6731
100 W HARRISON, SOUTH TOWER, SUITE 410 ▪ SEATTLE, WA 98119 ▪ 206.285.8707
6641 SE LAKE ROAD ▪ MILWAUKIE, OR 97222 ▪ 503.616.3613

NWF.ORG

Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program: 2019-2025 Project Locations

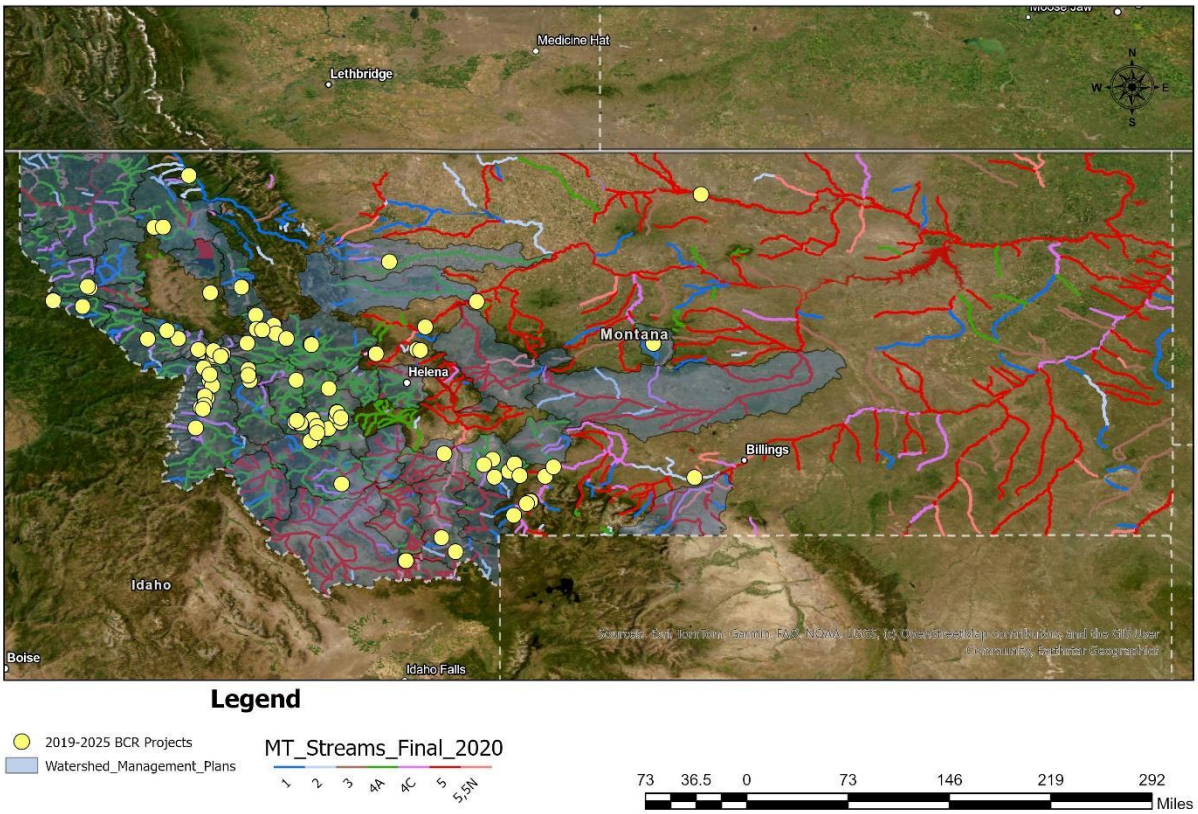

Figure 2. Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program map of projects implemented from 2019 to 2025 within Watershed Restoration Plan Areas and adjacent to Impaired Streams. There are a total of 110 projects the program has implemented within Watershed Restoration Plan areas. This proposal will focus within these watersheds in future years.

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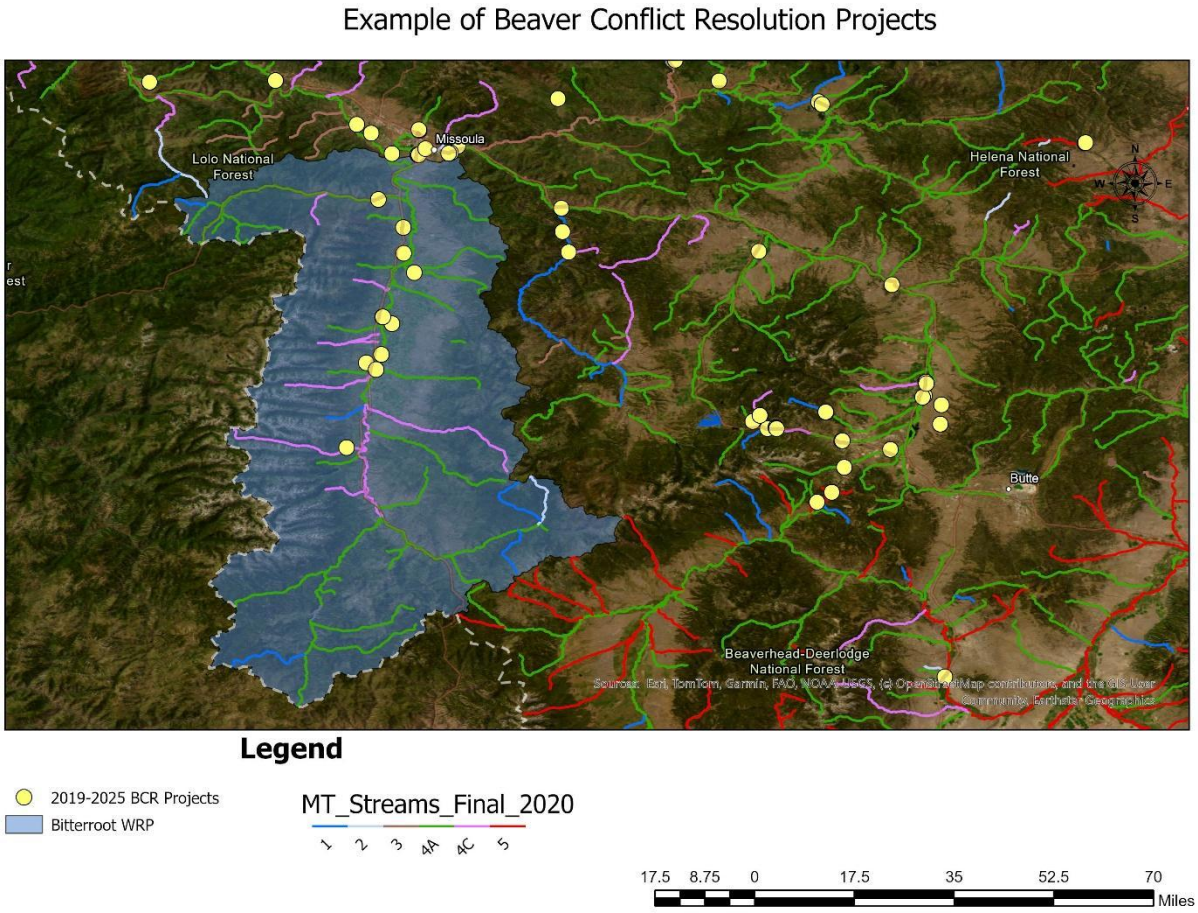

Figure 3. Example of Beaver Conflict Resolution Program projects previously implemented within Bitterroot Watershed Restoration Plan Area and within Impaired Streams.

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Exclusion Fence on Unnamed Tributary to the Gallatin River Project Information:

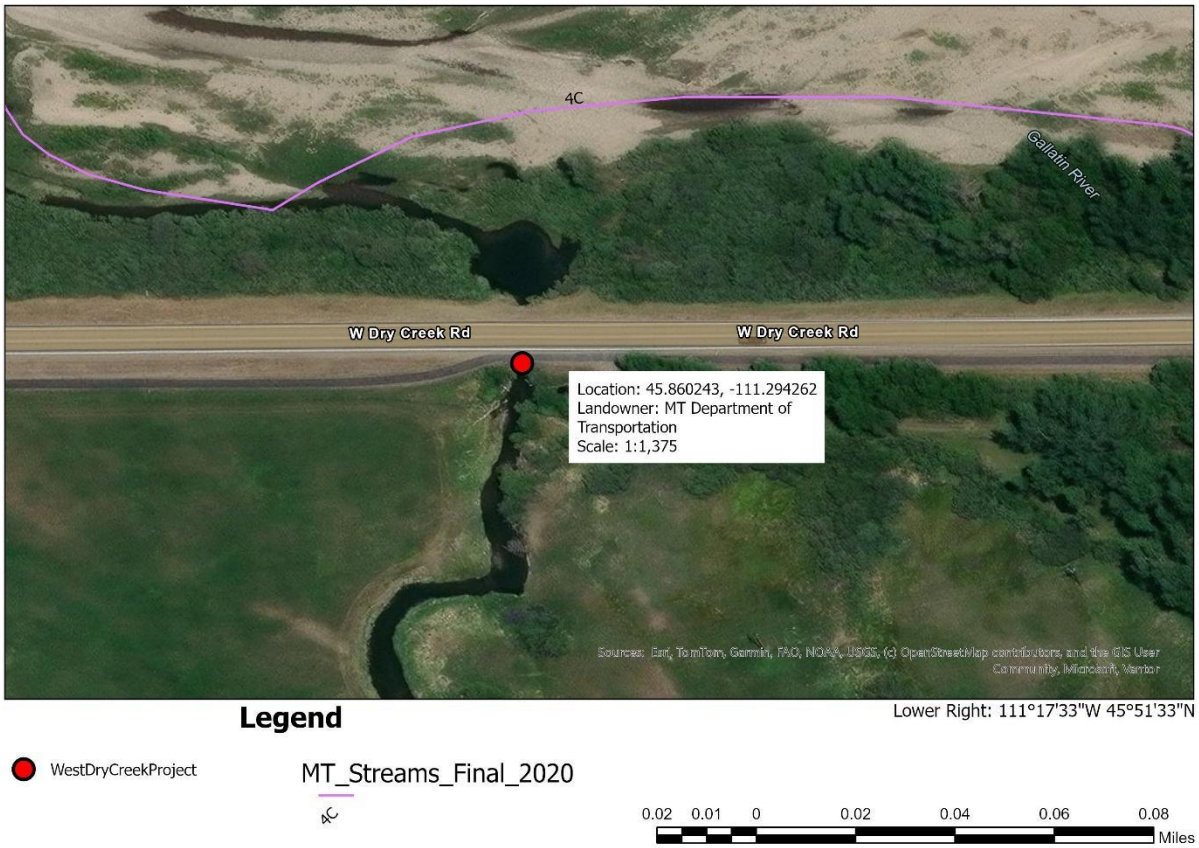

Figure 4. West Dry Creek Rd Culvert Exclusion Fence project location. See Supplemental Project Form for further information.

Project Description:

NWF's Beaver Conflict Resolution Program received a call about a plugged culvert along West Dry Creek Road and met with MDT personnel to discuss the need for a conflict resolution device. Dams inside culverts increase the risk of road flooding by reducing culvert capacity or blocking flow. Traditionally conflict resolution methods were to lethally remove beavers, resulting in a net loss of wetlands as beavers are not present to maintain dams which then degrade or are removed once beavers are removed. NWF will design and install an exclusion fence on the Unnamed Tributary to the Gallatin River to prevent culvert plugging and road flooding concerns (see Project Design Standards below). This site is located along a stream reach with heavy agricultural use up- and downstream. Using nonlethal methods to resolve this conflict means beavers can dam on the tributary, capturing sediment before the nearby confluence and raising the water table.

Project Design Standards:

- Project restores and maintains natural conditions and processes
- Project allows for the continued existence and future colonization of beavers
- Project will use Best Management Practices established with FWP for design and mesh size for beaver conflict flow devices

Project Outcomes:

Project will reduce road flooding risk by preventing beavers from plugging the culvert. This will also reduce resources used by MDT to unplug and maintain their culvert, reduce safety hazards while maintaining culverts, and help build capacity for MDT to assess future conflicts. Using a long-term conflict solution increases ecological function of the stream system by reducing nonpoint source pollution before the river confluence, keeps the beavers in place to maintain dams up- and downstream of the culvert, and increases the water table.

Project Photos:

Figure 5. Upstream view from the plugged culvert under West Dry Creek Road. There are additional dams upstream that are not causing flooding concerns.

Figure 6. Culvert view with damming materials inside. West Dry Creek Road.

240 NORTH HIGGINS, SUITE 2 ▪ MISSOULA, MT 59802 ▪ 406.541.6731
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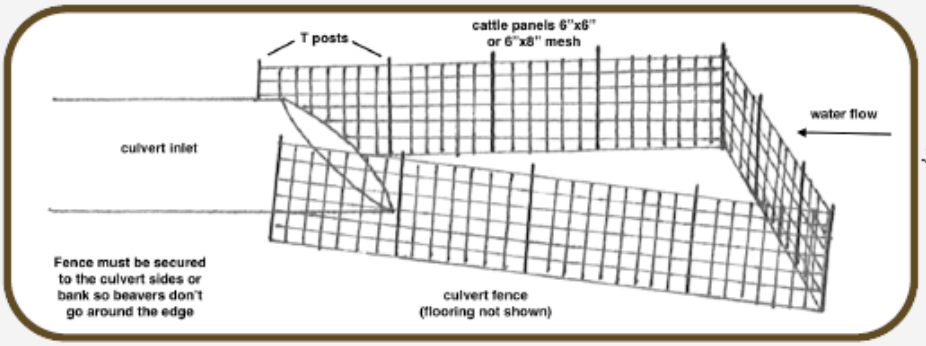
6641 SE LAKE ROAD ▪ MILWAUKIE, OR 97222 ▪ 503.616.3613

Flow Device Educational Handouts:

Beaver Conflict Resolution Program

Culvert and Head Gate Protection



Where to Use

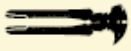
Beavers are attracted to culverts because of the sound and feel of flowing water. Culverts are one of the most common conflict sites. To a beaver, culverts are holes in otherwise perfectly good dams. Beavers are able to plug culverts with relatively little work using the road embankment to flood a large area.

How it Works

Installing an exclusion fence around the culvert inlet keeps beavers far enough away from the mouth of the culvert so they do not key into the sound and feel of flowing water. Designs vary and are site specific depending on culvert size and stream width, but all culvert fences need to be surrounded by water and have a floor to prevent burrowing. If space allows, flaring the fence sides outwards discourages beavers from damming on the fence. Rectangular fences may be used on narrower streams where flared sides would run too close to the bank.

Materials




Sturdy materials and proper construction techniques are a must. Devices will fail if flimsy fencing is used. Fencing that comes on a roll will not be sturdy enough for a flow device. Using quality materials ensures devices will hold up during high water and withstand ice. Rigid panel fencing used for cattle or hogs are the only materials appropriate for these devices.

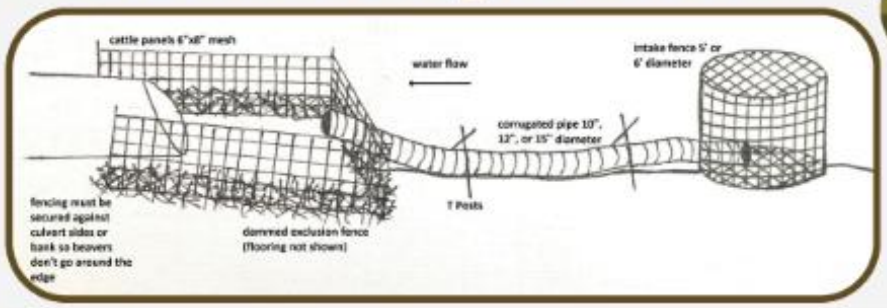
Maintenance

Maintenance is critical for proper function. Remove debris build up from around the culvert fence. Maintenance checks should be done three to four times per year, especially after high water, and usually take about 10-15 minutes per visit. More frequent maintenance may be needed if the device is on a flashy stream. Properly constructed culvert fences can last for 10 years or more.

For more information and help building these devices contact: (406) 393-5557
Tanner Clegg mtbeaver1@nwf.org, Elissa Chott chotte@nwf.org
www.nwf.org/Northern-Rockies-and-Pacific-Region/Conservation/Beavers/MT-conflict-resolution

Beaver Conflict Resolution Program

Fence and Pipe Device



Where to Use

Where freestanding dams are flooding roads or valuable property, pond levelers lower water depth upstream of dams while still allowing beavers to remain in the area. HDPE pipe is placed through a notch in the dam to control the pond depth and protect property. The intake is placed upstream of the dam within a large cylinder-shaped fence to ensure beavers do not feel the pull of water flowing into the pipe.

How it Works

The water level will drain to the level where the pipe is set at the notch through the dam.Generally about a vertical foot of water can be drained before beavers start to notice a change in pond water depth.Draining more than a vertical foot risks the beavers damming upstream or downstream in an attempt to hold lost water.When lowering pond levels, it is important to lower water only enough to protect human interests. A functioning pond leveler allows beavers to stay at the location without causing damage.

Materials




Proper, sturdy materials are a must. Devices will fail if flimsy materials are used. Using rigid panel fencing for cattle ensures devices will hold up during high water and withstand ice. Fencing that comes on a roll will not be sturdy enough for a flow device.

Maintenance

Clearing the intake fence of debris build up is important to ensure proper function. Clear any debris that builds up on the intake fence, check the pipe for damage, and make sure the outlet is clear. Maintenance checks should be done three to four times per year, especially after high water, and take about 10-15 minutes per visit. More frequent maintenance may be needed if the device is on a flashy stream. Properly built and maintained flow devices can last up to 10 years, offering a long-term solution for coexisting with beavers.

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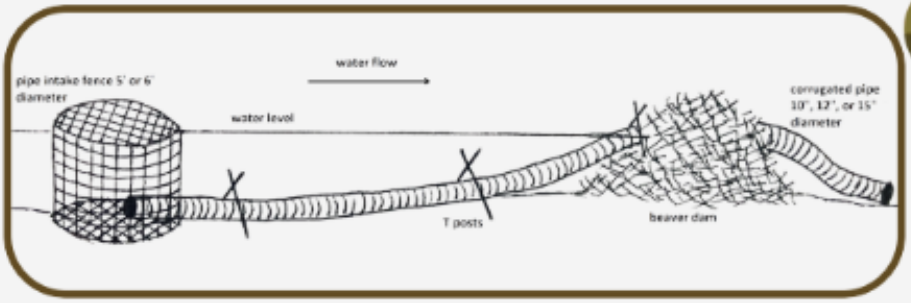
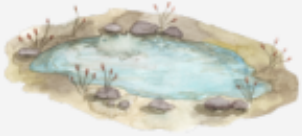
Tanner Clegg mtbeaver1@nwf.org, Elissa Chott chotte@nwf.org
www.nwf.org/Northern-Rockies-and-Pacific-Region/Conservation/Beavers/MT-conflict-resolution

Beaver Conflict Resolution Program

Pond Levelers





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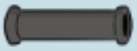

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Past Project Examples:

Figure 7. Pond leveler to prevent flooding of a private ranch access road and pasture, Choteau, within the Teton WRP and located on an impaired stream.

Figure 8. Exclusion fence to prevent culvert plugging on a Lolo National Forest Access Road, Seeley Lake, within the Clearwater WRP.

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LETTERS OF SUPPORT

February 18, 2026

Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Subject: 2026 On-The-Ground Project Application landowner letter of support

Greetings,

The Montana Department of Transportation supports the National Wildlife Federation's grant application for its Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program and its program work in MDT-owned right-of-way, particularly the proposed beaver exclusion fencing on West Fork Dry Creek Road described in the application.

NWF started developing this fence project with MDT Maintenance and Environmental staff last fall, providing plans and quantity estimates to use for permitting. MDT obtained SPA-124 authorization for this fence from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on 11/10/25 (SPA no. MDT-R3-06-2025) valid for two years. It included 318 Authorization under FWP's programmatic Environmental Assessment with DEQ valid for one year. Since then, NWF has continued working with MDT staff on this project as well as beaver education in general: NWF recently offered to host a short conflict resolution training for MDT later this spring, and more than 30 maintenance guys signed up right away.

MDT appreciates NWF's proactive and pragmatic support on beaver issues. There are many places across the state where beaver activity in the highway right-of-way causes serious risks to infrastructure and public safety, and dam removal is often the best option to eliminate those risks. But having more conflict resolution options, such as fencing to protect a culvert, benefits MDT's assets and capacity and the environmental resources alike. Through its technical assistance and educational outreach, NWF is doing valuable work getting those tools and ideas where they can have the biggest impact. We look forward to getting to work on West Fork Dry Creek Road this summer.

Sincerely,

PR Cross

Patrick Cross
Butte District Biologist

GALLATIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

February 19, 2026

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Dear DEQ Nonpoint Source Program Committee,

The Gallatin Watershed Council welcomes the opportunity to provide our support for the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Beaver Conflict Resolution Program and their proposal to improve water quality across the state with support from the 319 Grant Program. We're excited to see this program grow in response to increasing demand and have seen firsthand the benefits that the work has brought to the Lower Gallatin Watershed. By promoting human-beaver coexistence and keeping beavers on the landscape, the Beaver Conflict Program reduces nonpoint source pollutants like sediment, while maintaining natural watershed processes.

Keeping beaver complexes intact supports riparian vegetation recovery, improves late-season flows, increases drought resilience, and reduces flood impacts. We're especially excited about the continued investment in field-based capacity in the Lower Gallatin this season, with a Bozeman-based technician returning to strengthen relationships with local landowners and agency partners to demonstrate coexistence solutions and improve water resources in our rapidly changing watershed.

GWC developed the Watershed Restoration Plan for the Lower Gallatin Watershed and currently coordinates the Gallatin Water Collaborative, a group of over 45 local stakeholders working to unify efforts to protect, restore, and enhance water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. NWF's project goals are in alignment with the goals and direction of our watershed's WRP and Gallatin Water Collaborative. We urge your full support.

Respectfully,

Holly Hill

Holly Hill
Executive Director
Gallatin Watershed Council

Blackfoot CHALLENGE
Better Rural Communities through Collaborative Conservation

February 10, 2026

Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E. Sixth Avenue P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

RE: National Wildlife Federation Beaver Conflict Resolution Program 319 Nonpoint Source Project Program Proposal

Dear DEQ and Agency Review Panel,

The Blackfoot Challenge would like to express our support for collaborative restoration and stewardship work that helps to improve riparian health, stream flows and water quality across the Blackfoot watershed. The project work proposed by the National Wildlife Federation's Beaver Conflict Resolution Program follows a voluntary, collaborative, and solutions-driven conservation approach that balances the needs of people and wildlife. The Blackfoot Challenge supports these types of collaborative projects that lead to win-win solutions for the community, wildlife and the natural resource that they depend on.

As the author of the Blackfoot Watershed Restoration Plan, we support projects that enhance watershed health, especially while also supporting working landscapes and rural livelihoods. The proposed project, offers Blackfoot landowners and resource managers another tool to help manage the sometimes very real challenges of living, working, and managing among beavers. Where appropriate, the suite of conflict resolution tools meanwhile can allow the beneficial aspects of beaver activity for water quality and wildlife habitat to continue with less impact to their human neighbors. The Blackfoot Challenge has enjoyed working with the Beaver Conflict Resolution Program in the past and will continue to help build relationships, spread awareness within the community about available resources, and help facilitate the right people at the table to make projects a success.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding proposal and for all of the support DEQ has provided toward conserving and enhancing the Blackfoot watershed.

Sincerely,

Jim Stone

Jim Stone, Chairman

FLATHEAD
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

February 9, 2026

RE: Support for NWF Beaver Conflict Resolution On-the-Ground Projects Application

Dear Agency Review Panel:

The Flathead Conservation District is pleased to express support for the National Wildlife Federation's application to the 2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Program.

Flathead Conservation District authored the Flathead-Stillwater Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP), which identifies and prioritizes impaired streams and streams of concern and serves as a framework for collaborative watershed restoration. The NWF Beaver Conflict Resolution Program is a valuable implementation tool that advances the WRP's goals by reducing nonpoint source pollution and improving watershed health.

Funding for this program would support installation of proven beaver conflict-mitigation devices that allow beavers to remain on the landscape while minimizing infrastructure impacts. Beaver activity enhances drought resilience, reconnects streams to floodplains, increases habitat complexity, and supports wetlands that filter sediment and nutrients. By providing technical assistance and on-the-ground solutions, the program helps landowners address conflicts constructively while reducing demands on local government resources.

Flathead Conservation District is committed to partnering in implementation and is well positioned to connect landowners with available technical and financial assistance. As the local administrator of the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310 Law), the District regularly works with landowners planning projects in perennial streams, providing an opportunity to connect those experiencing beaver-related challenges with practical, stream-friendly solutions.

We appreciate your consideration of this application and respectfully encourage your support of the NWF Beaver Conflict Resolution Program.

Sincerely,

Samantha Tappenbeck
Resource Conservationist
Flathead Conservation District

MONTANA FRESHWATER PARTNERS

February 10th, 2026

MT Department of Environmental Quality
319 Nonpoint Source Program
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Members of the DEQ Nonpoint Source Funding Review Panel,

On behalf of Montana Freshwater Partners (MFP), I am writing to express our strong support for the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) proposal to secure funding through the 319 Nonpoint Source Program for the Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program.

MFP has worked closely with NWF for several years as the Beaver Conflict Resolution Program has expanded in geographic scope, including the establishment of a beaver conflict technician based in southwest Montana. Through this partnership, we have directly observed the program's value to watershed restoration practitioners, local communities, and aquatic ecosystems. The program is a critical asset to organizations like MFP that are implementing on-the-ground restoration projects. When beaver-related conflicts arise, having dedicated staff capacity and technical expertise available to respond quickly and effectively is invaluable. Just as importantly, the program allows us to work proactively with NWF to anticipate potential conflicts on restoration projects and put coexistence strategies in place before issues occur, supporting long-term success for both infrastructure and habitat.

From a water quality perspective, the Beaver Conflict Resolution Program directly supports the goals of the 319 program by reducing nonpoint source pollution. Keeping beaver complexes in place through the installation of coexistence devices, rather than removing beavers to resolve conflicts, helps reduce sediment and other pollutants while maintaining natural stream processes. Intact beaver complexes increase wetland extent and function, promote the recovery of native riparian vegetation, and sustain the ecological processes that support healthy streams.

The benefits of maintaining beaver-created wetlands extend well beyond water quality. Beaver complexes slow flows and raise local water tables, increasing groundwater recharge, late-season baseflows, water storage, and drought resilience. More than 80 percent of Montana's wildlife species rely on beaver-created wetlands at some point during their life cycle, making these habitats critical for biodiversity. Beaver wetlands are also identified in the draft update of Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan as Habitat of Greatest Conservation Need due to their essential role in supporting Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Additional co-benefits include flood attenuation, as beaver complexes act as natural "speed bumps" that dissipate high flows, and reduced conflicts with infrastructure, which

decreases the need for repeated culvert maintenance by road departments, saving time, resources, and reducing safety risks for maintenance crews. By reducing conflicts and preventing lethal removal, dispersing beavers are also more likely to reach unoccupied habitat and create new wetlands, further expanding these benefits across the landscape.

Montana Freshwater Partners recognizes the importance of sustainable, long-term funding for programs that deliver measurable water quality and community benefits. We believe that funding the Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program through the 319 program will have a meaningful and lasting positive impact on watersheds and communities across western Montana. Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Leah Swartz
Project Manager
Montana Freshwater Partners
215 E. Lewis Street
Livingston, MT 59047

1420 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-5645
DO006-26
February 2, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' (FWP) enthusiastic support for the National Wildlife Federation - Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program's grant proposal to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Pollutions Reduction grant program. The Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program (BCRP) has been one of the most important programs in the entire state for realizing the benefits of beavers in Montana's waterways.

Beavers can substantially increase natural water storage, improve water quality, reduce excessive flooding and erosion, provide landscape resilience to floods and wildfire, and create some of the most biologically rich and diverse habitats in the entire state. Working with beavers towards these goals is often significantly cheaper and easier than other forms of stream and wetland restoration. Unfortunately, the amazing engineering abilities of beavers can also lead to beavers repeatedly plugging culverts and irrigation systems, flooding roads and other property, or felling trees that are either desired by landowners or that pose a public safety risk.

As outlined in Ritter et al. 2023, the term "beaver restoration" is often used as an umbrella term to encompass all activities that help recover beaver populations and their associated effects in areas of their former range. Actions to restore beavers to areas of their former range include land-use changes, installation of beaver mimicry structures, encouraging natural beaver populations to expand into new areas, and transplanting beavers. However, none of these actions are feasible at large spatial scales without consideration of beaver-human conflicts.

Public support is critical for agencies and organizations to move forward with expanding beaver-modified habitats on the landscape. However, beaver-human conflicts can reduce tolerance for beavers and erode that critical public support. Therefore, it is essential that efforts to expand beaver activity are partnered with efforts to help people address conflicts with beavers. In short, we cannot do one without the other; beaver-human conflict resolution creates the social tolerance under which other beaver restoration efforts can occur.

While the most important role of the BCRP in reducing nonpoint source pollution lies in creating tolerance for beavers on the landscape, non-lethal beaver conflict resolution also leads to the direct creation and maintenance of beaver-modified wetlands. These beaver-modified wetlands can capture sediment and pollutants, force water through underground flow pathways that improve water quality, and initiate natural processes that lead to geomorphic changes to stream systems that are naturally more capable of capturing and sequestering suspended sediment and other pollutants. Beaver dam complexes often

consist of many dams built in a series, all maintained by a single beaver family. In most situations, there will only be one dam in the series that is causing a conflict with human infrastructure. To solve the conflict, beavers may be removed by trappers. This solves the problem at the conflict spot but also may remove or reduce maintenance on many other beaver dams in the area that do not conflict with humans in any way. This leads to the reduction or disappearance of wetlands as these beaver dams degrade due to lack of maintenance. The BRCP works to address these types of beaver conflicts at the source, alleviating the conflict while still allowing the beavers to maintain their dam-mediated wetland complex around the conflict hotspot.

The two examples above highlight the power of the BCRP. The BCRP not only directly maintains wetland complexes that otherwise might be degraded or destroyed, the program also creates opportunities for non-conflict-related beaver restoration projects that help reduce nonpoint source pollution. Alongside all of this, the BCRP also helps prevent beavers from being removed at the same locations repeatedly. This can help reduce "sinks" for dispersing beavers on the landscape, potentially keeping them moving along their dispersal pathways where they can colonize new areas and create additional wetland complexes.

The BCRP also conducts a large amount of education and outreach, seeking to expand the use of non-lethal conflict resolution techniques and devices in waterways across Montana. This outreach to roads crews, landowners, ranchers and farmers, state agency staff, and others, effectively expands the use of non-lethal methods and therefore expands the potential benefits listed in previous paragraphs to more areas and more communities across Montana.

In conclusion, the BCRP has been one of the most effective programs for realizing the benefits of beavers for the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of stream-wetland corridors across Montana. In summary, the BCRP:

1) Creates social tolerance for beavers which opens the door for more direct beaver restoration efforts.
2) Maintains and expands stream-wetland corridors by keeping beavers in place where they can maintain dam complexes that may have little to do with a conflict hotspot.
3) Reduces repeated removal of beavers at conflict hotspots, facilitating dispersal into areas where new wetland complexes can be created.
4) Expands the use of non-lethal conflict management through targeted education and outreach.

FWP strongly urges DEQ to support the BCRP through its Nonpoint Source Pollutions Reduction grant program, and we are confident it will be one of the best investments that DEQ can make towards their goals with this grant program.

If you would like more information on how the BCRP can benefit stream-wetland corridors and nonpoint source pollution reduction in Montana, please do not hesitate to reach out to Torrey Ritter, FWP Region 2 Nongame Biologist and Statewide Beaver Expert, at 406-381-2339 or at torrey.ritter@mt.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Quentin Kujala
Chief of Conservation Policy