

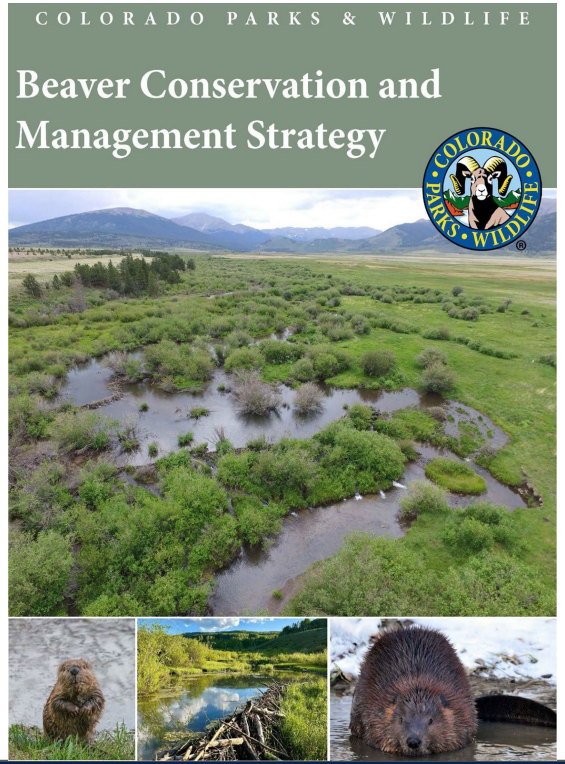
Governor's Wildly Important Goal (WIG) on Beavers

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
September 2026

COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

CPW's Beaver Conservation and Management Program

- Beaver Conservation and Management Strategy
- Presentation on Day 1 of the January 2026 PWC Meeting (4:34)
- Create a new program to implement the strategy
- Funded by SB24-230 (Oil & Gas Production Fees)
- Program manager and $1.1 million in operating cost



Governor's Beaver Wildly Important Goal (WIG)



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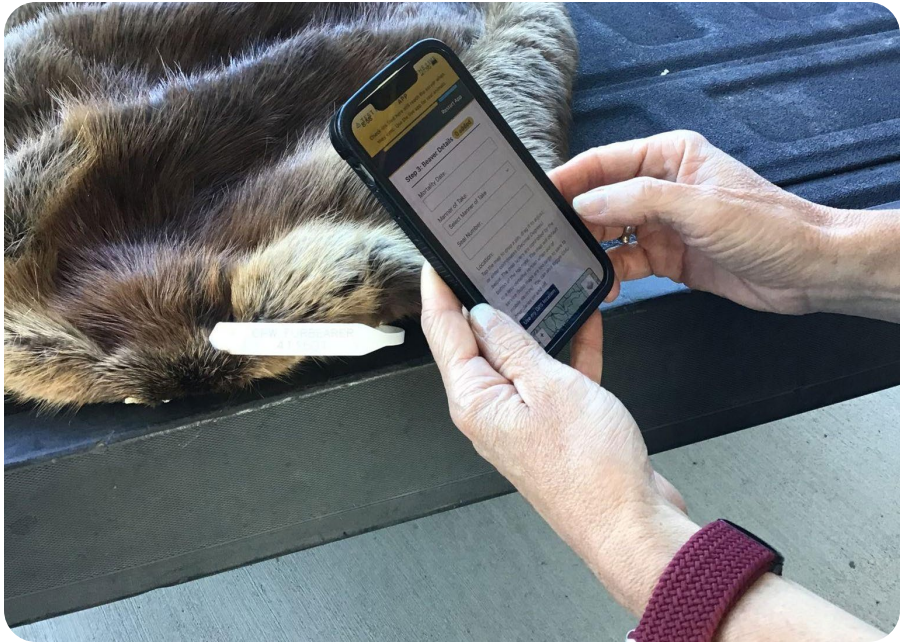
Strategy 1: Establish Staffing and Operational Framework

- ✓ Hire a Beaver Conservation Program Manager
- … Develop the program's operational framework (6/30/2027)

Strategy 2: Population Monitoring & Harvest Management

- ✓ Develop an app to collect beaver harvest check information
- ✓ Develop reference guides for staff on how to properly check and seal beavers
- ✓ Distribute beaver seals
- ✓ Train staff on the new harvest check system and sealing techniques
- … Launch an iNaturalist beaver occupancy monitoring project (3/31/2027)



Strategy 3: Support Habitat Restoration Projects

- ✓ Model and map suitable beaver habitat areas statewide
- ✓ Identify and rank Beaver Restoration Opportunity Watersheds (BROW)
- … Award $333,000 in grant funding to high-priority beaver restoration projects (In Progress) (9/30/2026)



Strategy 4: Translocation Policy and Protocols

- Acquire a beaver holding and quarantine trailer



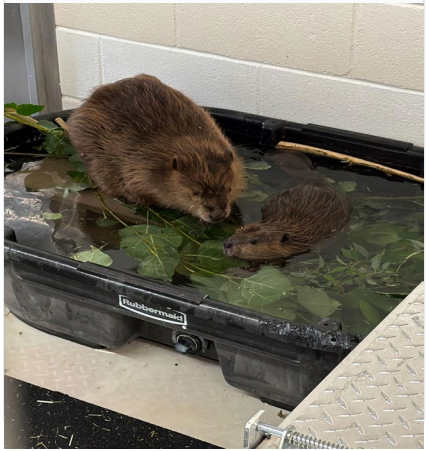
- Create a holding facility with aquatic tanks and quarantine bays



- Draft a "Pathogen Transmission Risk & Quarantine Protocol"



- Move the first group of beavers through the facility



Strategy 4: Translocation Policy and Protocols

- Develop a permitting process for translocating beaver (3/31/2027)

- Develop a funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to research aquatic pathogen testing and treatment methods during the beaver quarantine process. (6/30/2027)



Strategy 5: Non-lethal Conflict Resolution Educational Resource Guide

- Convene a joint CDA and CPW working group (In Progress) (8/31/2026)
- Draft the Resource Guide (9/30/2026)
- Finalize the Resource Guide (11/30/2026)
- Distribute to local extension offices and producers (12/31/2026)



Strategy 6: Non -lethal Conflict Resolution Staff Training and Technical Support Capacity

- Develop a beaver coexistence site assessment form and process. (3/31/2027)
- Train at least three CPW employees and two CDA employees as beaver coexistence practitioners and begin to promote additional training opportunities. (6/30/2027)



Strategy 7: Outreach Events

- Participate in 5 formal outreach events to increase awareness of CPW's new program to support the Beaver Strategy



Strategy 8: State Land Board - Identifying Beaver on State Trust Lands and Educating Lessees

- Inventory State Trust properties for beaver populations (12/31/2026)
- Contact lessees for a pilot project on properties with historic or current beaver activity and document any potential conflict issues between lessees and beaver. (6/30/2027)
- Distribute beaver coexistence educational materials to lessees (6/30/2027)



Strategy 9: State Land Board - Reintroduction and Restoration Projects on State Land Board Properties

- Identify at least two properties that have suitable habitat and lessees willing to collaborate on beaver reintroduction. (9/30/2026)
- Develop goals and criteria for beaver coexistence and reintroduction and include these in the lease advertisement. (12/31/2026)





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