



Status Report on Beaver Restoration Projects

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Beaver Restoration Program

July 2026

Introduction

As part of Governor Newsom's *Initiative to Expand Nature-Based Solutions*, in 2022 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was tasked with creating a Beaver Restoration Program (Program) to support habitat restoration and species conservation, restore ecosystem function, and improve climate change, drought, and wildfire resilience throughout California. The Program's mission is to gather a comprehensive understanding of where, when, and how beavers can be utilized to restore ecosystem processes and habitats in California, communicate those findings in clear and meaningful ways, and with that knowledge, effectively utilize beavers as a nature-based solution in restoring and conserving habitats and watersheds for the species under CDFW's purview.

In collaboration with the Maidu Summit Consortium and Tule River Tribe, in 2023 and 2024, the Program initiated two beaver restoration pilot projects, marking the first beaver conservation translocations in the state of California in nearly 75 years. Through these pilot projects the Program refined its protocols and procedures in preparation for broader implementation and eventually increasing the scale of its operations. In 2024, the Program established a process for the submission of beaver restoration project proposals. In 2025, the Program expanded beyond its initial pilot projects and began conducting translocations into restoration project areas submitted through the Beaver Restoration Program's [project proposal process](#). The information summarized below is intended to build upon the [2024 Status Report](#), providing updates on the beaver restoration project proposals received, project implementation, translocated beavers, and progress toward overall ecosystem benefits and restoration objectives.

Table 1. Number of project proposals received to date, by county and year, as of April 2026.

Proposed Project County	2024	2025	2026	To Date
Butte	1	1		2
Calaveras			1	1
Del Norte		1		1
El Dorado	1	1		2
Fresno		1		1
Lake		1		1
Marin	1		1	2
Mariposa		1		1
Monterey	1			1
San Benito	1	1		2
Santa Barbara		1		1
Santa Clara		1		1
Shasta	2			2
Sierra	1	1		2
Sierra/Nevada	1			1
Siskiyou	1	1	1	3
Tehama			1	1
Tulare		1		1
TOTAL	10	12	4	26

Proposed Restoration Projects

To date, the Program has received a total of 26 project proposals: 10 in 2024, 12 in 2025, and four thus far in 2026 (Table 1). The proposals span 18 counties and represent a variety of ecotypes, restoration objectives, project readiness, and ownership, which includes federal, state, municipal,

tribal, private, and non-profit entities. To date, two proposed project areas have been deemed unsuitable for beaver translocation, but all others are either preparing to advance, undergoing further site evaluation, or completing pre-existing restoration work in advance of potential beaver reintroduction.

Project Implementation

In 2025, the Program continued implementation of the Maidu Summit Consortium and Tule River Tribe projects. Additionally, in collaboration with federal, municipal, and private landowners, the Program initiated three additional beaver restoration projects, which are described below:

- **Tahoe National Forest (Sierra County):** This project location exhibits suitable meadow habitat characterized by a perennial low gradient stream with deep pools. There are abundant stands of alder and willow as well as mature stands of aspen for food resources, and abundant conifers for woody building material near the stream. The site features soil banks and loose, fine substrates that will facilitate burrowing and lodge building. Project objectives include increased groundwater storage, improved water quality, increased growth of native wetland vegetation, and increased wildfire resiliency. Beavers were known to be historically present on the property.
- **Municipal Land (Sierra and Nevada counties):** This project location exhibits highly suitable river and meadow habitat. It is characterized by a low-gradient river with perennial water, though an upstream reach runs subsurface in late summer. The perennial section of river has many deep pools and low water velocity. The site supports abundant willow and alder stands for food resources as well as conifers in a full range of sizes for building material. The main channel is rocky with mostly gravel and cobble substrate, but there are main-channel and off-channel pools with sandy substrate and soil banks, as well as large root wads and cut banks that will allow for burrowing. The floodplain is wide, though the main channel is slightly confined incised stream banks on river bends. Some side tributaries are present, although they do not hold adequate perennial water to support beavers year-round. Project objectives include increased wildfire resiliency, improved hydrology, and improved habitat conditions for fish, amphibians, and birds. Beavers were known to be historically present on the property.

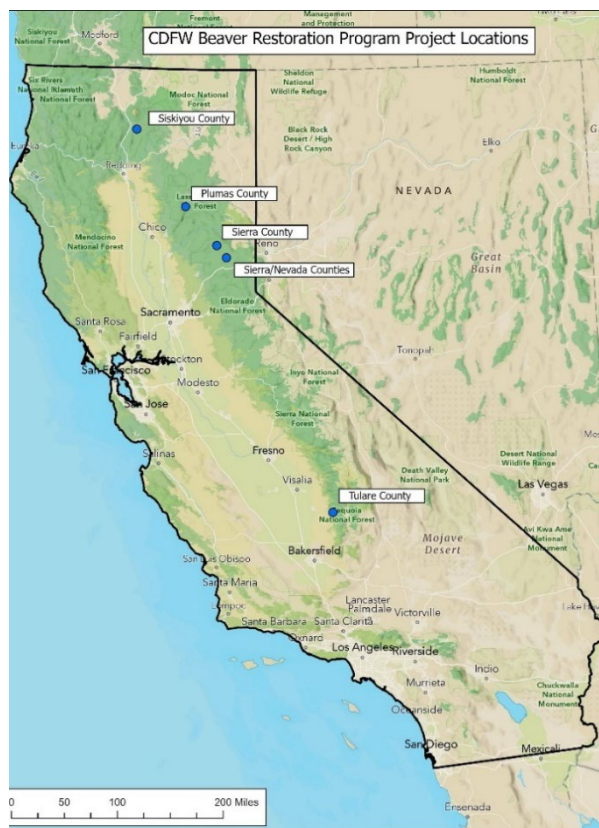


Figure 1. As of 2025, the CDFW Beaver Restoration Program is currently implementing five beaver restoration projects at sites in Plumas, Tulare, Sierra, Nevada, and Siskiyou counties.

- **Private Land (Siskiyou County):** This project location exhibits suitable meadow habitat characterized by a perennial, low-gradient stream with some small pools. The site contains many dense alder stands as well as some willow stands for food resources. There are both large and small conifers for building material. The stream has mostly soil banks, fine substrate, root wads, and cut banks that will facilitate burrowing and lodge building. A small marsh is present on one section of meadow, which has water averaging 18 inches deep during the wet season. Project objectives include protecting water resources and restoring ecosystem function in the meadow. Beavers were known to be historically present on the property.

Translocation Summary

From October 2023 through September 2024, CDFW conducted five translocations (28 beavers) into two initial pilot projects implemented on Maidu Summit Consortium and Tule River Tribe lands. In 2025, 10 beavers were translocated to three new project areas, while four beavers were released to supplement the numbers and/or genetics in the initial pilot projects.

The translocated beavers were captured on private, municipal, and state properties where the beavers were causing depredation or were otherwise in conflict with local infrastructure management. In 2025, source sites were in Placer, Butte, and Yolo counties. These human-beaver conflicts could not be feasibly resolved with non-lethal deterrents so in lieu of CDFW issuing depredation permits for lethal take of the beavers, the Program trapped them for translocation to beaver restoration project sites.

Table 2. Summary of beaver live-trapping efforts, translocations, and survival, by year, as of January 2026.

	2023	2024	2025	To Date
Potential Release Sites Surveyed	7	12	19	38
Trap Nights	147	414	598	1159
Beavers Trapped	8	22	14	44
Translocation Events/Sites	1	4	5	10
Beavers Translocated	7	21	14	42

Following capture, all beavers were transported to CDFW's wildlife holding facility (Wildlife Health Lab) in Rancho Cordova. The beavers were held for a quarantine period while being evaluated for overall health and condition and until the remainder of the family group was captured to ensure groups were translocated intact. All beavers were weighed upon intake and, based on their weight, assigned an estimated age class: kit (<11 kg), subadult (11-19 kg), or adult (>19 kg). The weight-based subadult classification is representative of size and may or may not be indicative of sexual maturity. Beavers were sexed via external palpation for presence of a baculum or by, with the exception of kits, assessing anal gland secretions for the color, scent, and viscosity characteristics unique to each sex. All beavers received internal and external tags for unique identification during quarantine and following release. Each beaver received Floy ear tags in distinguishing color combinations for unique identification while in quarantine, when visually observed in the field, and when captured on game cameras following release. Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags were implanted (subdermal, inguinal) and used for detection via portable PIT antennas submersed at or near the release sites. A portion of adult and subadult beavers were also tagged with tail-mounted GPS or VHF transmitters to facilitate tracking on the landscape, monitoring for dispersal from release sites, and documenting habitat utilization.

Following translocation, the Program conducted post-release monitoring of the beavers, their release-site fidelity, dispersal or movement, survival, habitat use, reproduction, and engineering activities (i.e., building of lodges, dams, canals, or burrows). These parameters are simple measures of translocation success and help inform the translocation strategy for future beaver releases at a translocation site. Post-translocation monitoring is often constrained by winter conditions that limit site access and the Program's ability to deploy and retrieve monitoring equipment. As a result, the translocated beavers and restoration sites are typically not monitored from January through March, and therefore most of the updates presented here are current through December 2025.

Restoration Site Summaries

In 2023, the Program began collaborating with the Maidu Summit Consortium and the Tule River Tribe on two pilot beaver translocation projects. In each pilot project, multiple sites were surveyed to assess beaver habitat suitability, restoration potential, and risk of potential conflicts. In October 2023, the first pilot beaver translocation was conducted, with four more translocations occurring during 2024. In 2025, the Program conducted a supplemental beaver translocation in each pilot project, as well as beaver translocations in three new restoration sites on private, municipal, and federal lands for which the landowners/managers had submitted beaver restoration project proposals to the Program. Details of the translocations, status of the released beavers, and updates on the pilot projects are summarized by release site below.

Note: In the initial implementation of a project, we often provide a finer level of detail about the status of individual beavers and distinct release sites. However, as projects progress (i.e., as reproduction and establishment occur), summarizing overall trends in the population and ecosystem become much more meaningful than the status of individual beavers. This shift in details is reflected in the Tásmam Koyóm update below.

Tásmam Koyóm (Maidu Summit Consortium)

Translocated Beavers

From 2023-2025, we translocated a total of 14 beavers into two sites within the project area (Table 3). As of summer 2025, the 12 beavers released in 2023 and 2024, along with the valley's one known resident beaver, had established or were otherwise occupying three distinct sites within the project area (Table 4). In 2025, two additional beavers were released to augment the genetic diversity of the budding population. To date, we have observed interactions of individuals from all three release groups at multiple locations within the project area.

Table 3. Summary of all release dates and sites with the Tásmam Koyóm project to date, along with counts and demographics of the beavers in each release group.

Release Group	Release Date	Release Site	Beavers Released	[Released] Beaver Details
1	Oct 2023	MSC-1	7	Adults – 2 (M/F) Subadults – 1 (M) Kits – 4 (2M/2F)
2	July 2024	MSC-2	5	Adults – 1 (F) Subadults – 3 (2M/1F) Kits – 1 (F)
3	July 2025	MSC-2	2	Adults – 1 (F) Kit – 1 (Unk)

In July 2025, a supplemental release of two beavers, one adult female and one kit, took place at the site of the 2024 release, which was no longer occupied by the previously released beavers. Following their release, the adult female made an exploratory movement to a downstream location occupied by a [now] adult male from the 2024 release. The adult female subsequently moved to a new (fourth) site several hundred meters upstream of the release site, where she remained for the next six months.

Table 4. Sites of beaver establishment or ongoing occupancy in the Tásmam Koyóm project area.

Established/ Occupied Site	Occupied Since	Occupied By	Interactions
MSC-1	November 2023	Only known to be occupied by release group 1 and subsequent offspring	Maintained breeding pair; no confirmed interactions with other groups
MSC-1B (Downstream)	November 2023	Subadult [now adult] M from release group 1; adult F, valley resident beaver; offspring; and [now] subadult F from release group 3	Formed breeding pair; has incorporated young female from 2024 release group
MSC-2 (Downstream)	August 2024	Only known to be occupied by release group 3 and subsequent offspring	Reproduction observed; interactions TBD

Survival and Reproduction

Through post-translocation monitoring, using telemetry, camera stations, PIT antennas, and visual observation surveys, we were able to detect five of the seven beavers released in 2023 on multiple occasions through the end of 2023. Three of the beavers were repeatedly observed throughout 2024, and at least one beaver (adult female) from the original release group was observed in 2025 (Figure 2, left). Though, difficulty identifying similarly-sized individuals, inability to distinguish uniquely colored ear tags in night images, loss of external tags over time, and natural dispersals affect our ability to detect specific individuals.

Beavers at the 2023 release site, MSC-1, constructed a bank lodge in November 2023 which was still occupied in 2025 (Figure 2, right). Of the original 7 beavers released in 2023, we have confirmed mortality

of two, presume three to be alive, including the adult breeding pair and another [now] adult male, while the remaining two are unknown.



Figure 2. Left: The original adult female beaver (2023 release) seen on camera in May 2025, twenty months post-translocation. Right: The release group's lodge at MSC-1, first observed in November 2023, still standing as of March 2026.

The adult breeding pair released in 2023 produced at least one litter of kits in 2024, though no additional litter was confirmed in 2025. The other [now] adult male formed a breeding pair with the valley's resident beaver at a downstream site, MSC-1B, in winter 2023-24. That pair produced litters of kits in both 2024 and 2025 (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Two wild-born kits observed in fall 2025 at site MSC-1B. This marks the second known litter of kits produced by this breeding pair.

In January 2025, the Program was alerted to and recovered two beaver carcasses from the established site of the 2023 release group. Of the two mortalities, neither had ear tags, but one was identified via PIT tag as one of the larger kits (23MSC-07) released in October 2023. The second beaver, a slightly smaller female, had no detectable PIT tag, transmitter, nor ear tags for identification. Based on size, sex, and reproductive

immaturity, the beaver is presumed be a wild-born kit from the spring 2024 litter. The beavers were found approximately five meters apart, but neither beaver showed signs of injury from fighting, further suggesting they were from the same family group. The carcasses were submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Lab for analysis, the results of which indicated *Francisella tularensis*, or tularemia, which is an acute disease that would have been contracted in the post-translocation environment.

In May 2025, an additional beaver (23MSC-03) was found deceased in a pond adjacent to the original release group's lodge. Like the two carcasses previously found in January 2025, this animal lacked obvious injuries; the carcass was not submitted to the CAHFS lab, but we suspect tularemia is the likely cause of death. Despite multiple mortalities, the family group continues to inhabit and reproduce in the area. The adult female from the 2023 translocation was observed on camera in May 2025, and multiple other adult and sub-adult sized beavers were also observed on camera throughout the area. As of December 2025, a family group of beavers is still present at the original site (MSC-1) and despite the multiple mortalities in 2025, there has been no noticeable reduction in activity or detection frequency.

Table 5. Beaver ID, sex, age class, weight, and status of all beavers translocated to the Tásmam Koyóm project area, to date.

Beaver ID	Sex	Age Class (at release)	Weight (Kg)	Current Status	Confirmed Mortality Date
23MSC-01	M	Subadult	15.6	Presumed alive	-
23MSC-02	F	Adult	20.2	Presumed alive	-
23MSC-03	F	Kit	7.0	Mortality (Tularemia suspected)	5/13/25
23MSC-04	F	Kit	1.4	Unknown	-
23MSC-05	M	Adult	22.2	Presumed alive	-
23MSC-06	M	Kit	6.6	Unknown	-
23MSC-07	M	Kit	8.4	Mortality (Tularemia)	1/23/25
24MSC-18	M	Subadult	18	Mortality	8/15/24
24MSC-20	F	Subadult	11.2	Presumed alive	-
24MSC-21	M	Subadult	17.8	Alive	-
24MSC-22	F	Adult	20.8	Mortality	8/15/24
24MSC-23	F	Kit	5	Presumed alive	-
25MSC-31	F	Adult	20.4	Mortality (Predation)	12/10/25
25MSC-33	Unk	Kit	4.4	Unknown	-

At the end of 2024, we had been unable to detect the subadult male and two kits that were released in 2024 (Table 3). However, in 2025 we discovered the [now adult] male residing 800 meters downstream of the release site along with at least one wild-born kit (Figure 3), indicating that the subadult male released in 2024 paired with another beaver in the area during the winter of 2024-2025. Throughout 2025, the

male was consistently seen on camera with kits. However, we have yet to document which female is in the area and produced the litter.

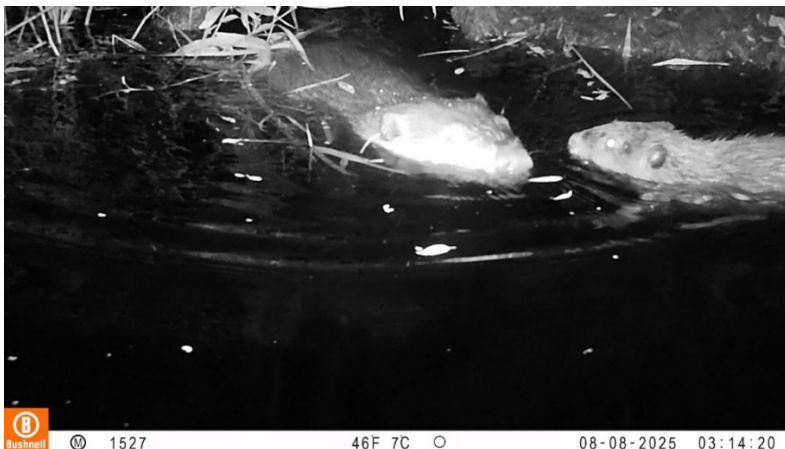


Figure 4. An adult male beaver (left), 24MSC-21, from the 2024 translocation group observed in August 2025 with a wild-born kit (right).

The supplemental translocation of two beavers in July 2025 resulted in the released adult briefly interacting with the 2024 release group downstream of site MSC-2 (Table 3), before traveling upstream where she would reside for the next six months. However, in December, VHF triangulation revealed that the beaver, 25MSC-31, was predated sometime after she was last located in mid-November. The beaver had avoided predation and persisted in the same stretch of stream for over six months prior; considering the thick vegetation cover, abundance of food, and no lack of water (escape cover), the predation cannot be attributed to any specific factor.

In 2025, we also observed other significant interactions among the release groups. Specifically, one of the beavers released in 2024 at site MSC-2, which is in a distinctly different part of the valley, was observed on camera with the family group established at site MSC-1B, 2.1 km from its release site and 1.3 km from where the 2024 release group currently resides. The dispersed beaver was distinguishable by only one of its ear tags, which identified the beaver as either the subadult female or the young female kit from the 2024 release group (Figure 5). This beaver has been observed on camera with the family group that consists of the subadult male released in 2023, the valley's resident adult female beaver, and their two litters of wild-born kits. These interactions represent the beginnings of genetic mixing that will be important for ensuring genetic diversity as the incipient population in the valley grows.



Figure 5. A beaver from the 2024 translocation group observed in June 2025, 2.1km downstream of its release location. A blue ear tag can be seen on the beaver's left ear indicating this beaver is either 24MSC-20 or 24MSC-23.

Restoration Progress

In spring of 2025, six dams were present at the site, four of which are still being actively maintained. A 1-meter-tall dam on the mainstem of the stream was breached by high flows from spring runoff but was subsequently rebuilt by the family group. This dam continues to divert streamflow onto the floodplain and into the beaver's pond complex, raising the water levels within (Figure 6).



Figure 6. A 1-meter-tall beaver dam constructed on the mainstem of the stream at site MSC-1 (top left) and that same dam one year later spreading water across the floodplain (bottom left). A 100-meter-long beaver dam on the downstream perimeter of a beaver pond.

The network of dams and canals created by the beavers have connected several ponds that were previously disconnected from one another (Figure 7). Additionally, a comparison of aerial imagery taken each fall is used to quantify changes in surface-water area following beaver establishment in the project area (Figure 8). Following the October 2023 release, estimates indicate a 30.5% increase in surface water area from November 2023 (8,334 m²) to November 2025 (10,880 m²). A time series slider comparing imagery (Figure 8) collected pre- and post-beaver establishment is available [here](#) and will be updated as additional imagery is incorporated over time.



Figure 7. An aerial view of the 100-meter-long beaver dam (delineated in red) as of fall 2025.

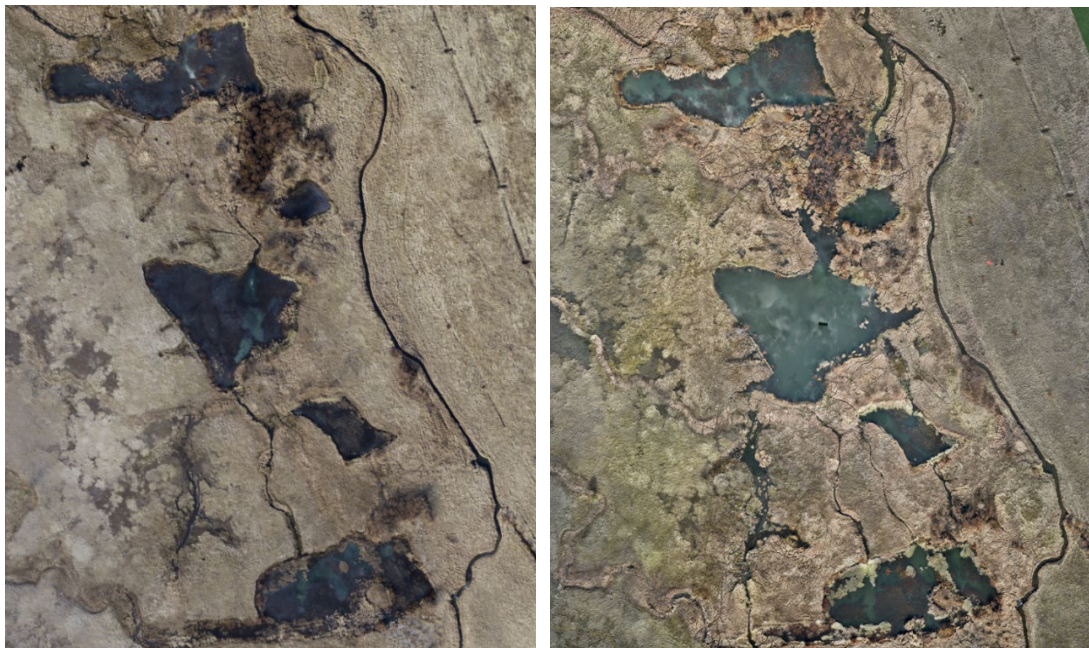


Figure 8. Aerial imagery of the MSC-1 release site in November 2023, immediately following the beaver translocation (left), and two years post-release (right; November 2025).

At site MSC-2, which is in a different part of the valley, surveys in the fall of 2024 found minimal engineering activity. However, in the spring of 2025, we found a dam complex located in a thick stand of willows (Figure 9). The complex is a series of small dams consisting of willow cuttings, mud, and standing willow trees.

The subadult from the 2024 translocation, 24MSC-21, has been observed regularly building upon and maintaining this dam complex, which has slowed the flow of water and is spreading it onto the floodplain.



Figure 9. A dam complex located at site MSC-2, downstream of the 2024 and 2025 release site, constructed within a stand of willows (left). The dam has been actively maintained by a subadult beaver (24MSC-21) released in 2024 (right).

Future Plans

The beavers released in 2025 were intended to serve as a fourth source of genetics in the valley's incipient population, helping to increase the genetic diversity of the beaver population at Tásmam Koyóm and further advance the project's restoration objectives by helping to populate the valley more rapidly. With reproduction now having been observed at sites MSC-1, MSC-1B, and MSC-2, supplemental translocations may not be necessary in 2026. Beavers from at least three (potentially four) genetic sources are present in the valley; with three sources now cohabitating at site MSC-1B. The Program will assess the population again in 2026 to determine whether additional translocations are necessary to further increase genetic diversity or help advance population establishment in the valley. Though, the project area remains a viable site for releasing any single beavers that are captured but do not meet translocation objectives (e.g., a robust family group) for other new project areas. Annual monitoring of the beaver population and associated ecosystem changes is expected to continue over the next 3-5 years.

Tule River Reservation

Translocated Beavers

In 2024-2025, we translocated a total of 18 beavers into three sites within the project area (Table 6). Due to predation and dispersal, by the end of 2024 the only beavers still known or suspected to be alive had moved upstream from release site TRT-3 into the adjacent Sequoia National Forest.

Table 6. Release dates and sites at the Tule River Reservation project to date, along with counts and demographics of the beavers in each release group.

Release Group	Release Date	Release Site	Beavers Released	[Released] Beaver Details
1	June 2024	TRT-1	7	Adults – 2 (M/F) Subadults – 2 (M) Kits – 3 (M/F/Unk)
2	June 2024	TRT-2	2	Adult – 1 (M) Subadult – 1 (F)
3	September 2024	TRT-3	7	Adult – 1 (M) Subadult – 1 (F) Kits – 5 (1 F, 4 Unk)
4	August 2025	TRT-3	2	Adult – 1 (Unk) Subadult – 1 (F)

In 2025, two beavers, one adult (unconfirmed sex) and one subadult female, were translocated to release site TRT-3, the only successful release site from 2024 but from which the beavers had subsequently dispersed upstream (offsite). The beavers released in 2025 were detected on camera shortly after release but subsequently moved downstream (Figure 10).



Figure 10. An adult beaver seen on camera after translocation to release site TRT-3 in August 2025.

Survival and Reproduction

By the end of 2024, there was no sign of beaver presence at or near release sites TRT-1 and TRT-2, despite the two beavers persisting at TRT-2 for several months after release. In spring 2025, we re-surveyed both sites for signs of beaver presence but found no indication that beavers remained at either site.

During surveys in December 2024, we found willow cuttings upstream of release site TRT-3, within the adjacent Sequoia National Forest. In spring 2025, we conducted additional surveys in the area and found cuttings further upstream, over 1.6 stream kilometers from the release site, indicating that the beavers released in September 2024 had moved upstream to a tributary of the release creek. Due to challenges navigating this remote, upstream area, the family group has not yet been monitored well enough to determine whether any reproduction has occurred since their release.

Following the 2025 release of two additional beavers into site TRT-3, the subadult beaver was detected at TRT-3 by a PIT antenna 5-days after the release, but by mid-October the beaver had moved approximately 2 km downstream where it was subsequently detected via telemetry. The adult beaver, which was not outfitted with a transmitter, has not been detected since the release but is presumed to be downstream with the subadult. Since these beavers were released in 2025, reproduction is a possibility in spring of 2026.

Table 7. Beaver ID, sex, age class, weight, and status of all beavers translocated to the Tule River Reservation project area, to date.

Beaver ID	Sex	Age Class (at release)	Intake Weight (Kg)	Current Status	Confirmed Mortality Date
24TRT-09	F	Adult	23.8	Presumed mortality	-
24TRT-10	M	Adult	24.55	Mortality	8/1/24
24TRT-11	F	Kit	2.5	Presumed mortality	-
24TRT-12	M	Adult	19.5	Mortality	8/2/24
24TRT-13	M	Subadult	13.75	Mortality	8/1/24
24TRT-14	F	Kit	2.85	Presumed mortality	-
24TRT-15	M	Kit	2.5	Presumed mortality	-
24TRT-16	M	Adult	23.08	Unknown	-
24TRT-17	F	Subadult	16.55	Unknown	-
24TRT-24	-	Kit	8.45	Presumed alive	-
24TRT-25	-	Kit	6.05	Presumed alive	-
24TRT-26	-	Kit	3.3	Presumed alive	-
24TRT-27	M	Adult	19.9	Presumed mortality	Transmitter recovered 11/14/24
24TRT-28	F	Kit	2.75	Presumed alive	-
24TRT-29	-	Kit	3.75	Presumed alive	-
24TRT-30	F	Subadult	16.15	Presumed alive	-
25TRT-34	Unk	Adult	20	Presumed alive	-
25TRT-35	F	Subadult	14.2	Presumed alive	-

Restoration Progress

No dam-building or other engineering activity was observed at the 2024/2025 release site prior to the beavers' upstream and downstream dispersals. Surveys in spring of 2026 will determine where the remaining beavers are residing and what, if any, engineering activities have occurred.

Future Plans

Pilot efforts to reintroduce beavers to the Tule River Reservation have had many challenges following the relatively recent impacts of wildfire and catastrophic flood events. To increase the likelihood of beaver survival and establishment in future translocations, the Program has identified two primary needs: greater abundance of preferred food plants and increased escape cover (e.g., large deep pools, dense vegetation, overhanging banks) to better support predator avoidance. Surveys are ongoing for other, more suitable release sites, and potential sites are being improved through installation of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to increase pool habitat and planting of willows to increase the abundance of preferred food resources. The Program, in collaboration with the Tule River Tribe, will continue monitoring these areas in the future to gauge recovery from natural disasters and beaver-based restoration progress.

Additionally, the Program is working with the Tule River Tribe to evaluate the potential for beaver reintroduction on their recently acquired 17,000-acre property now known as Yowlumni Hills. CDFW and the Tule River Tribe's Natural Resources staff have assessed multiple sites on the property for suitable beaver habitat and restoration potential. Compared to the past and potential release sites on the Reservation, the habitat at Yowlumni Hills is in a relatively advanced recovery state, has lower stream gradient, more sustained water storage, and more available forage. Near-term efforts to reintroduce beaver to the Tule River Tribe's land may shift to Yowlumni Hills if the Tribe chooses to proceed with species reintroduction efforts on the property.

Private Property (Siskiyou County)

Translocated Beavers

In October 2025, a breeding pair of beavers were translocated to a private property in Siskiyou County. The translocated group (Table 8) was comprised of one subadult male and one subadult female.

Table 8. Beaver ID, sex, age class, intake weight, and transmitter information for beavers translocated to Siskiyou County private property.

Beaver ID	Sex	Age Class	Intake Weight (Kg)	Transmitter Type
25-36	F	Subadult	14.6	GPS
25-37	M	Subadult	17.6	VHF

After release, the pair made exploratory movements roughly 2 kilometers downstream, where they remained for the next several weeks. However, in mid-November, following increased flows, the pair returned upstream, temporarily residing in the stream until taking up residence in an off-channel pond in December.



Figure 11. One of the translocated subadult beavers gathering dam materials in November 2025, eight weeks post-translocation.

Survival and Reproduction

Following their release, the beavers were repeatedly detected in the area by PIT antennas, VHF telemetry, game cameras, sign surveys, and visual observations (Figures 11 and 12). The beavers were observed on camera in late November prior to moving into the off-channel pond where lodge-building activity was observed during a subsequent site visit. As recently as April 2026, both beavers have been observed swimming and foraging in the pond where they constructed their lodge. Since this release took place in fall 2025, reproduction may have occurred over the winter/spring, but the presence of kits would not be confirmed until summer 2026.



Figure 12. Beaver activity at the [private] release site in Siskiyou County includes foraging (left) and damming (right). A coexistence device was preemptively installed at an on-site culvert (right) prior to beaver translocation, which reduces the potential for human-beaver conflict caused by the beavers' activity at the site.

Restoration Progress

Following the pair's return to the release site, beaver activity has been steadily observed. While occupying the stream, the beavers built several small dams over only a few days. By early December the beavers excavated a bank burrow along the stream, which the pair utilized until moving to the off-channel pond. However, by January the beavers had moved and built a lodge in the pond.

Future Plans

Additional releases will be required at this site to support population establishment, as well as to ensure beavers occupy not only the pond, but also the adjacent stream where their damming activities can better yield the restoration benefits of beaver engineering. Given that the length of stream contained within this project's property boundaries is relatively limited, beaver releases will also need to occur elsewhere in the watershed to ensure adequate numbers and genetic sources are present in the system while accounting for the size of beaver territories. To date, one other restoration project proposal was submitted from a nearby property in this watershed; site suitability assessments support beaver translocations onto this property, which will likely provide the additional beaver capacity needed to help support establishment in the watershed and ultimately this restoration project.

Municipal Property (Sierra and Nevada counties)

Translocated Beavers

In October 2025, a family of four beavers was translocated to a municipal property located in Sierra and Nevada counties. The translocated group (Table 9) was comprised of one adult male, one subadult female, one subadult male, and one kit.

Table 9. Beaver ID, sex, age class, intake weight, and transmitter information for beavers translocated to the municipal property in Sierra/Nevada counties.

Beaver ID	Sex	Age Class	Intake Weight (Kg)	Transmitter Type
25-38	Unk	Kit	6.4	-
25-39	M	Subadult	17.8	VHF
25-40	F	Subadult	16.4	-
25-41	M	Adult	24.6	VHF

After release, the subadult male made an exploratory movement roughly 1.5 km downstream, through a narrow river canyon and down a >5 m tall waterfall. Due to the topography of the river canyon, height of the waterfall, and steep surrounding landscape, it is unlikely this individual will return to the release site. The other three members of the family group remained near the release site and foraging has been observed in the surrounding area (Figure 13).



Figure 13. An adult or subadult beaver and kit, swimming near the release site in October 2025.

Survival and Reproduction

Based on detections with VHF telemetry, game cameras, and presence of beaver sign, as of December 2025 both subadults and the kit are presumed alive. However, in late November we confirmed predation of the adult male. The tail of the adult male, confirmed via telemetry, was found 450 m uphill from the floodplain. The attached transmitter had been chewed on, and the tail and tag were completely buried under a layer of dirt and pine needles, a behavior consistent with mountain lion predation. The subadult female remains present at the release site with the kit. The subadult male that moved downstream lost its transmitter after moving below the previously mentioned waterfall. Abundant, recent beaver sign was found around and downstream of the tag recovery location, indicating that the subadult male has persisted at the downstream site. Though it is possible that the site is occupied by other previously unknown beavers in the system, the absence of older beaver sign suggests the translocated subadult is the likely occupant. It is unlikely that reproduction occurred prior to the males being separated from the female; we do not expect that reproduction at this site prior to 2027, after additional beavers are released at the site.



Figure 14. The adult beaver, 25-41, seen on camera following release in October 2025.

Restoration Progress

During post-release surveys, we observed burrowing at the downstream site and the potential beginnings of a dam near the release site. While we do not yet have confirmation, we suspect the downstream burrow was created by the translocated subadult. Post-release site visits were limited in 2025 before weather restricted winter access to the site, therefore restoration activities at the site(s) will not be fully known until 2026 surveys are completed.

Tahoe National Forest (Sierra County)

Translocated Beavers

In November 2025, a family group of four beavers was translocated to a site within the Tahoe National Forest in Sierra County (Figure 15). The translocated group (Table 10) was comprised of one adult female, one subadult male, and two female kits.

Table 10. Beaver ID, sex, age class, intake weight, and transmitter information for beavers translocated to Sierra County municipal property.

Beaver ID	Sex	Age Class	Intake Weight (Kg)	Transmitter Type
25-42	F	Kit	7.5	-
25-43	F	Kit	8.2	-
25-44	M	Subadult	18.6	-
25-45	F	Adult	20.6	VHF

Several days after release, the adult female (25-45) was observed on camera moving downstream in the evening and returning to the site the following morning. After this, no other beavers were detected on camera before survey efforts ceased for the season due to winter access limitations.



Figure 15. An adult beaver (25-45) seen on camera downstream of the release site in November 2025.

Survival and Reproduction

Given the timing of the release and seasonal constraints with accessing the site, post-release monitoring of the beavers was limited. However, three weeks after the release, the adult female was found deceased downstream in a rocky section of stream 1.7 km downstream of the release site. A subsequent necropsy found no disease or indicators of illness and could not point to a primary cause of the mortality. Given the mortality of the only breeding age female in the group, no reproduction will occur in 2026. As of December 2025, no additional detections have been made of the remaining beavers, so it is presumed that they either dispersed from the monitored release location or are also deceased. Once access to the site becomes available in summer 2026, we will reassess to confirm presence or absence of these previously released individuals.

Restoration Progress

No engineering activities were observed in the few weeks we were able to monitor the site after release. The site will continue to be monitored in 2026, with updates provided in the subsequent annual report.

Projects Summary

Of the eight translocation sites across five restoration projects implemented to date, dam-building activity has occurred at five of the eight release sites, with extensive dam-building and associated increases in surface water area occurring at sites MSC-1 and MSC-2. Exploratory movements and dispersals have been observed at seven of the eight release sites. In the first four weeks following release, the average distance of exploratory movements was 2.5 km from the release site. In evaluating future release sites, we will anticipate similar movements from at least one individual in the release group. Burrows or lodges have been built at four of the eight release sites to date. The full extent of beaver activity may not yet be known due to logistical and seasonal constraints in site access, remoteness, and vegetation cover. Post-translocation beaver survival across all years may be as high as 66% but is presumed to be in the range of 50-60% due to the unknown fates of some beavers. To date, the primary causes of known post-release mortalities (n=11) have been predation (55%), illnesses presumably related to underlying conditions/capture-related stressors (27%), and contraction of tularemia in the post-release environment (18%). After refining program procedures using knowledge gained from pilot projects in 2023 and 2024, beaver translocations in 2025 yielded higher initial survival rates (79%) in the months following translocation. Resurveying all translocation sites in 2026 will help inform further refinement of program procedures and evaluation of variables and strategies that influence the likelihood of beaver establishment and project successes. Within the Tásmam Koyóm project area, reproduction has been observed in consecutive years and now at three different sites, indicating site conditions are favorable for beaver establishment. Though, with multiple mortalities due to [both confirmed and presumed] tularemia contracted in the project area, ongoing monitoring for mortalities will be necessary to understand if and how population establishment may be impacted by naturally-occurring diseases in the release environment.

Looking Ahead

Future Projects

In 2025, the Program began implementing projects that were submitted to CDFW through the beaver restoration project proposal process. That process will continue to be the mechanism through which landowners and resource managers submit to CDFW their interest in receiving translocated beavers. To be considered for beaver translocations, landowners, or land managers acting on their behalf, are asked to submit fundamental information about the proposed site using a project proposal form and additional information spreadsheet when applicable (e.g., for projects involving multiple collaborating landowners or numerous parcels). These forms and additional information about the process are available on the Program's website (www.wildlife.ca.gov/beaver).

To further expand the impact of CDFW's beaver restoration efforts, the Program has developed a statewide Beaver Restoration Prioritization Model to identify priority watersheds for beaver restoration efforts. The Prioritization Model incorporates several ecological variables that can be positively impacted by beaver establishment in the ecosystem, including: probability of high severity wildfire, probability of annual burning, history of fish rescues and drought stressors, critically overdrafted groundwater basins, climate change projections, significant anadromous fish habitat, biodiversity indices, aquatic significant habitats, and critical habitat for/presence of pertinent special status species. Those potential ecological benefits are quantified as a 'restoration value,' which will ultimately identify the watersheds in which beaver

restoration can potentially yield the greatest ecological benefits and be used to rank beaver restoration project proposals where site conditions have been deemed suitable. In those priority watersheds [where beavers are not known to be present or widely established], CDFW will conduct outreach with public and private landowners, tribes, and conservation NGOs to pursue a watershed-scale approach to beaver restoration.

Evaluation of potential beaver restoration projects must also consider whether translocations are needed or if beaver establishment can be facilitated through habitat improvements and migration from adjacent source populations within a watershed. To incorporate these considerations, the Program has compiled a [North American beaver distribution map](#) (Figure 16), which is based on currently available beaver presence data. In the absence of any comprehensive beaver population surveys in California, the Program is seeking submission of additional presence data through its [Beaver Observation Survey Tool](#).

Source Beaver Selection

In alignment with the Program's efforts to improve human-beaver coexistence and reduce conflicts when and where possible, the Program intends to translocate beavers from conflict scenarios that cannot be feasibly resolved with non-lethal deterrents and would likely otherwise be lethally taken via depredation permit. The Program selects capture locations and target beavers from active depredation complaints in the CDFW's [Wildlife Incident Reporting \(WIR\) system](#). Factors that must be considered when selecting source beavers are proximity of the beavers (i.e., daily trapping efforts) to the Department's husbandry/quarantine facilities, ability to safely and effectively implement trapping operations at the site, presence of diseases, pathogens, or invasive species of concern, timeline for subsequent translocation relative to conflict urgency, group demographics relative to project needs, and, when important, similarity of the source habitat to the receiving habitat.

Over the past two years, the Program has received great interest from landowners and managers who desire to have local conflict beavers relocated rather than lethally taken via depredation permit. However, the volume and



*Figure 16. The Beaver Restoration Program's North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) distribution map depicts documented beaver presence at the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 watershed level and, in few instances, the HUC 8 sub-basin level. The map is based on presence data from CDFW's human-wildlife conflict and nutria survey datasets, iNaturalist research-grade observations, verified observations reported through the Beaver Observation Survey Tool, iBeaver, and research and practitioner datasets.*

geographic distribution of human-beaver conflicts reported each year is far greater than the capacity of the Program to address these issues via translocation. It is also important to note that the Program's directive is not conflict beaver relocation, but rather implementation of beaver restoration, and not all conflict sites are conducive to efficiently live-trapping beaver groups or breeding pairs which are needed for population establishment in restoration project sites. As such, translocation should not be considered a readily-available solution for resolving beaver depredation. For these reasons, as well as for the ecological benefits beavers provide to the ecosystem, the Department consistently encourages the use of non-lethal deterrents, where feasible, as the primary alternative to lethal management of beaver depredation.

Next Steps

The Program's top priorities for 2026 are continuing its efforts to finalize the California Beaver Management and Restoration Plan, releasing a Coexistence Toolkit to serve as a resource for non-lethal management of human-beaver conflicts, continuing to monitor the beaver populations and restoration projects thus far underway, and conducting site suitability assessments for proposed restoration projects. In 2026, the Program will highlight the results of its Beaver Restoration Prioritization Model and begin recruiting projects and associated partners within priority watersheds to advance California's ecological objectives, as well as expanding its focus to beaver restoration efforts that prioritize salmonids and recovery of [beaver-associated] special status species.