

Comment Guidelines on the Draft Beaver Conservation & Management Strategy, From Audubon Rockies

Endorsed by Black Canyon Audubon Society

Thanks for considering participating in this opportunity to influence the future of a keystone species!

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is collecting public comments on the draft State Beaver Management Plan, and Audubon's voice is needed. The public comment deadline is Wednesday, Dec 17th.

- The draft plan and a form to provide feedback are on [EngageCPW.org](https://engagecpw.org), as well as other helpful resources
- [CPW's 11/17 Press Release on Draft Beaver Strategy](#)

Audubon Rockies review - **The plan is in a very strong place, and at this stage, the most impactful action is for us to express strong support for the key strategies and actions CPW has proposed.** It's important we help provide balance to other viewpoints and show

Talking points below are by key chapters/strategies (this is how CPW's [comment form](#) is laid out if you decide to submit individual comments. You may want to comment on all chapters or just one or two that most interest you.

Key Talking Points for Public Comments

First, express strong support for CPW's stated purpose:

"To increase and sustain the prevalence of beaver and beaver-influenced wetlands in suitable habitats for the benefit of Colorado's stream and wetland ecosystems and the array of wildlife species that utilize them."

Affirm that the Beaver Strategy provides the leadership, coordination, and resources needed to support beaver conservation and management statewide. The action items below are taken directly from the draft Beaver Strategy - emphasize that you support these things.

Population & Habitat Status and Monitoring

- Support mapping and data collection to improve the accuracy of beaver population and habitat estimates.

Beaver Harvest Management

- Support developing harvest caps for all HUC4 basins.
 - *NOTE: If "HUC" is a new term for you, a HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code) is a unique numerical code used to identify a specific watershed. It is a hierarchical system where the number of digits in the code indicates the size of the watershed, with fewer digits representing a larger area and more digits representing a smaller area*
- Require **mandatory harvest reporting** (instead of voluntary).
- Consider **HUC10 harvest closures** where restoration work is impacted.
- Support research to better understand survival and mortality factors.

Beaver Restoration Opportunities

- Identify priority beaver restoration opportunity watersheds with high ecological benefit and lower risk of conflict.
- Collaborate with partners to implement restoration in these locations.

Living with Beaver: Nonlethal Conflict Resolution

- Lead and collaborate on educational materials about beaver benefits and nonlethal solutions.
- Increase nonlethal capacity through training, workshops, demonstration projects, and landowner support.

Translocation Policy and Protocol

- Optimize translocation to meet restoration goals through a standardized permitting process.
 - Reduce disease and ANS risks.
 - Build a statewide network of holding facilities and BMPs through partner collaboration.
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Why This Matters

Implementing these strategies over the next decade—in collaboration with agencies, organizations, and Tribal partners—will make a tremendous difference for people and wildlife across Colorado. This work will:

- Increase resilience to drought, wildfire, and flooding
- Improve water quality
- Restore riparian and wetland habitats
- Support birds and other species that depend on healthy stream systems

Audubon strongly supports this plan and looks forward to working with CPW and partners to bring it to life. Support from individuals in Colorado will help in this effort.

For more information on making comments, please contact Sallie Thoreson, Co-President and Conservation Chair for Black Canyon Audubon Society at black.canyon.audubon.society@gmail.com