

Recruiting Restoration Beavers: How to Invite, Host, and Translocate

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Newbies Post-Trapping Insights

- Best trapping opportunity for us – late August to late September
- Attention to beaver health & safety critical
- Time commitment high
- **ALL** equipment must be in place before starting to trap
- Beavers prefer to eat: cottonwood, aspen, non-invasive willow, and fruit tree wood; will tolerate redosier dogwood & alder
- Beavers love apples, yams, & carrots
- **TRAPS TRIP EASILY, MANAGE FOR KIDS & DOGS**

1. Invite Beavers

- Secure live-trapping permit from state fish & wildlife agency
- Use Hancock or Koro basket type live-traps, trap pan set 4" to 6" below water line
- Safety stick, (2" x 4" x 44") notched on ends on opposite sides
- Cable (14 gauge/plastic coated) & t-rebar (44" x 3/4" dia) to stabilize trap to bank
- Safety ring remover dowel (48" x 1/2" dia) w/ metal hook
- Bait: scrape leafy sticks (6-8" x 1/2" dia) add lure & cored apple slices in fan configuration, wire to basket 4"-6" inches below top
- **CHECK TRAPS DAILY** in the early morning

Techniques to Move Beavers

- Visually check trapped beavers for signs of poor health
- Transfer beaver into wire kennel sized for a 60-lb dog
- Use 1" x 12" x 6' boards for a travel lane between trap & kennel
- Put tarp over kennel and travel lane to encourage movement
- Put snacks in kennel, cover with wet towel & nursery tray with ice
- Pour clean water from gallon jug over ice into kennel
- **ALWAYS KEEP BEAVERS COOL AND COMFORTABLE**



Safety stick & cable, bait fan, & trap pan



Note T-rebar & cable stabilizing setup



Trap to kennel travel way & tarp tunnel



Shaded kennel, pool, lodge, & snacks

2. Host Beavers

- Large kennel in shade w/ wire top & shade cloth all over
- Large dog crates for sleep quarters
- Straw bedding or grass on kennel floor
- Water dishes & snack centers w/ lots of foodstuffs
- Kiddie pools w/ rock or block: clean several times/day; nocturnal beavers use for toilet when getting up late afternoon
- Gentle spray hose nozzle for play & cooling beavers
- Monitor beavers for signs of stress
- Trap the **ENTIRE** family before translocating



Beaver snuggle fest

3. Translocate Beavers

- Cargo vans w/ AC & tarp on floor - we used U-Haul
- Enlist volunteers to help
- Move beavers into travel kennels w/ twig & apple slice snacks, using travel lane boards
- Beaver habitat suitability: water & food
- Leave lots of foodstuffs at site to ease transition
- Set up motion activated camera to monitor beaver activity
- **RELEASE ENTIRE FAMILY AT SAME PLACE & TIME**



Beavers enjoying apple slices



Co-authors & 8 beavers ready to ride



Transition food is vital. We used 3 pickup loads & resupplied several times; it is not possible to provide too much



The more movers the better



Beavers arrive at new home in Corral Creek in the Potlatch River watershed of the Clearwater River subbasin, Idaho



Appreciations: Craig Hatley, Landowner; Lynn Burton & Robbin Johnston, USFS; Maynard Fosberg, Duane & Kelly Olson, Judy Ferguson, & Tim Kientz, Idaho; Sage Sorenson, Utah; and Sherrie Tippie, Colorado