



Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting Humane & Practical Solutions for Living With Beaver, Coyotes and all our local Wildlife

2021 News & Happy New Year 2022!

We hope this update finds everyone safe and healthy – it’s been another long year. And once again, all events were cancelled, so we weren’t too busy, but several beaver sites were upgraded by both beavers and humans.

At the USFS Visitor Center at Taylor Creek near SLT, the Forest Service completed the Rainbow Trail upgrades – a new raised boardwalk now connects the existing one on the main creek to a new paved walk higher on the hill by the parking area. Now the entire trail is above all beaver activity... almost! The beavers built a new lodge right next to the new boardwalk (just visible in the back right of photo), which started to spill over onto the raised walk. We cut back the small part on top of the decking, just ahead of the first big snows, and in the spring we will help extend the side railing past the lodge – to keep the beavers off the walk, and people safely away from the beavers!

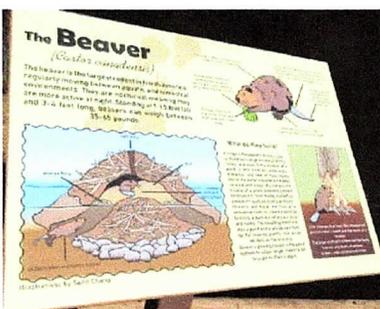


In Tahoe Vista, the Leveler we installed in 2012 along with the California Tahoe Conservancy (who restored the wetlands there, across from Moon Dunes) was being covered by moving sand dunes (the pipe is barely visible in photo at left).



The Conservancy crew dug out the old pipe and inlet cage, and installed and staked new pipe sections (above) to extend past all beaver dams (beavers kept building dams further down the creek). We set the pipe height to keep the pond level safely below the road, if and when beavers return to the site. (The beavers moved elsewhere when the creek dried up the past two dry summers.)

Earlier last summer, several South Lake Tahoe residents were concerned about flooding from beaver dams behind their homes. Denise Upton, Animal Care Director at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, and two of her staff helped us clear and add protective fencing to an existing flow device (aka Leveler) to lower the water, and also “adjust” a couple small beaver dams to divert flows – both worked to divert flows away from nearby yards.



In Truckee, the Tahoe Donner Trails Dept. has completed a brand-new raised boardwalk past the beaver wetlands along upper Trout Creek (below the golf course) with a great new informative sign about the beavers near their pond.

Last April the first-ever California Beaver Summit (held virtually) was hosted by Sonoma State University. Beaver researchers, advocates, and agencies all gave informative and inspirational presentations. The 2nd day focused on “Process Based Restoration” - using the stream itself and natural processes, including beavers, to restore watersheds. People are realizing the incredible benefits of beavers, especially as droughts worsen with climate change.

Looking ahead, BeaverCON 2022 - the 2nd BeaverCON - has been moved from March to June 14-16, 2022. Held every other year near Baltimore (and near wetlands in Chesapeake Bay ☺) the three-day international conference is for researchers, agencies, practitioners and beaver enthusiasts to learn what works in beaver conflict management and watershed restoration. The 2020 conference was informative and inspiring – check out www.beavercon.org or contact us if you’re interested ☺

And as always, Tahoe-Truckee people please keep an eye on your own neighborhoods for beaver activity, so we can help address any issues *before* they become problems. Thank you ☺ Sherry

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