



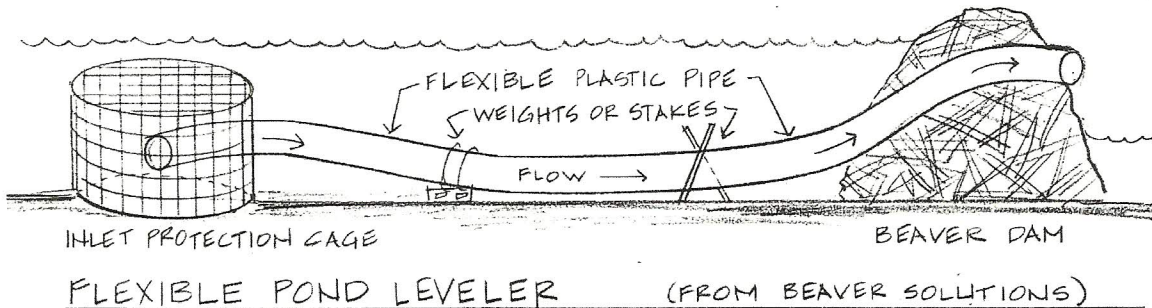
# Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting humane and practical solutions for living with beavers, coyotes and all our local wildlife

Hello Friends -

11-5-14

**Great News!** Finally, after two years of discussions, the Forest Service is becoming more beaver-friendly at their Taylor Creek Site! In the past, they routinely tore apart beaver dams, to prevent flooding trails and to enhance passage of the introduced Kokanee salmon. This August the FS allowed us to put a Leveler (a pipe and cage device that keeps water levels steady to avoid flooding) as a 'research' project at a small beaver dam on a side channel.



We think they were pleasantly surprised to see that it worked, and they clearly were happy that it was not very visible. So they asked us to put more Levelers at beaver dams in the main channel - one on a lower pond (just below the boardwalk section) and we just finished one at the main beaver dam near their Stream Display. This was our main goal, as the dam they removed here in the middle of December last year stranded our beaver family. Here's the Leveler being installed:



The water is low, and will not flow thru the pipes until water levels rise this winter, to keep pond levels safe for beavers while not flooding trails. By the time we finished, the leveler pipes are hidden with sticks and logs. The cage will be underwater when levels come up, and hide now with a few thinner willow branches on top.





**There's more!** SWC was invited to a meeting with CA Fish & Game (now Wildlife) to discuss options for this fall's Kokanee salmon run, given that there was so little water—usually they have plenty to release from Fallen Leaf Lake so there's enough for a fall spawn. The Forest Service directed F&W to disturb the beaver dams as little as possible, and just 'notch' dams instead of destroying them. All agreed that notches would actually work better with low water to create stronger currents to attract the fish. And notches are easier for our beavers to repair (which they did every night :-)

**AND the Forest Service** asked us to protect about 25 of their larger aspens at Taylor Creek with sand-paint, **and has invited our continued input on beaver issues** :-)

This is another Leveler at Taylor Creek, on a Beaver Dam further downstream. Since the photo was taken noon, you can see the pipes and concrete weights underwater.



**HUGE THANKS** to Worth a Dam in Martinez, CA and Wylie Animal Rescue Foundation (WARF) of Tahoe, as their generous donations made this work possible!!!



**SWC was also actually recommended by the Town of Truckee** to help with beaver flooding issues at **Rock 'n Rose Nursery** in Truckee!



We installed this Leveler on a well-established Beaver Dam behind the Nursery to prevent any flooding. We also helped staff sand-paint some trees near the pond to prevent beaver chewing. Big thanks to the Town for their referral, and especially to Rock 'n Rose for their help, and for buying all the materials.

(We had to buy all the materials for the Forest Service to get their permission to install Levelers.)

While Taylor Creek kept us busy, we also monitored previously installed Levelers in Tahoe Donner and Tahoe Vista, which continue to work well. The **Tahoe Donner Homeowner News** this summer featured a SWC Article on Beaver Benefits! The pond in Tahoe Vista was dry again by the end of summer, but in winter beavers return as soon as rains fill the pond (which this last winter wasn't until the rains in February.)

**Don't forget to keep an eye on the beavers in your 'hood:** There are beavers in Martis, Trout and Alder Creeks in Truckee; upper Griff Creek in Kings Beach; near Pomin Field in Lake Forest; Blackwood Creek, West Shore; Taylor Creek and all over the Upper Truckee in S. Lake Tahoe, and others. **Keep us updated**, so we can avert any problems. It takes all of us working together!

**It was a busy year for our SWC booth too** - these community events are fun and are a great opportunity to get out information - come see us next year!

**April**-Earth Day at Squaw Valley, **June**-Native Species Day, USFS Taylor Creek, SLT,

**July**-Truckee Tahoe Air Show in Truckee, **August**-Martinez Beaver Festival VII :-)

**September**-Dog Day in the Park, Tahoe Vista, **October**-Fall Fish Festival at USFS

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Taylor Creek, S. Lake Tahoe

Finally, please take time to go to [www.savetahoe forests.com](http://www.savetahoe forests.com) to read the facts and sign the petition to **protest the proposed Martis Valley West development**, which would add 100+ gated luxury homes inside the Tahoe Basin, on what is now undeveloped forest land on the ridge above Carnelian Bay, destroying invaluable wildlife habitat and corridors forever.

Just for fun, a video of a bear fishing at Taylor Creek - <http://youtu.be/N8zyYigtj9U>

(Video & Taylor Creek photos courtesy Sheri Hartstein)

We hope you are all enjoying our lovely fall, and have a peaceful and snowy winter -

*Sherry and Ted Guzzi* for the **Sierra Wildlife Coalition**