

# LTPBR and Beaver Reintroduction on the Rio Grande National Forest

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# Outline

- Planning Process
- Guiding Documents
- LTPBR
- Beavers
- Education & Outreach
- What is working!

# Planning Priority Restoration Areas

RGNF Forest Plan- Aquatic Focal Species

RGNF Beaver Surveys- Presence/Absence

CPW Input- Rio Grande Cutthroat Habitat

DNR Division of Water Resources Input- Water Rights

BRAT Model

Beaver Heat Map- CNHP

Local Knowledge

Watershed Restoration Action Plans

# Planning Documents

- Rio Grande, Conejos, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan
- Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment
- NFWF Southwest Rivers Business Plan
- RGNF Forest Plan (2020)
- Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs)

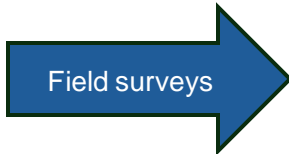


# LTPBR Project Overview

- Started in 2020
- Primary Partners:
  - Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF)
  - Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP)

Year	Number Structures
2020	1 (pilot structure)
2022	9
2023	22
2024	30 planned

# LTPBR









































# LTPBR Lessons Learned

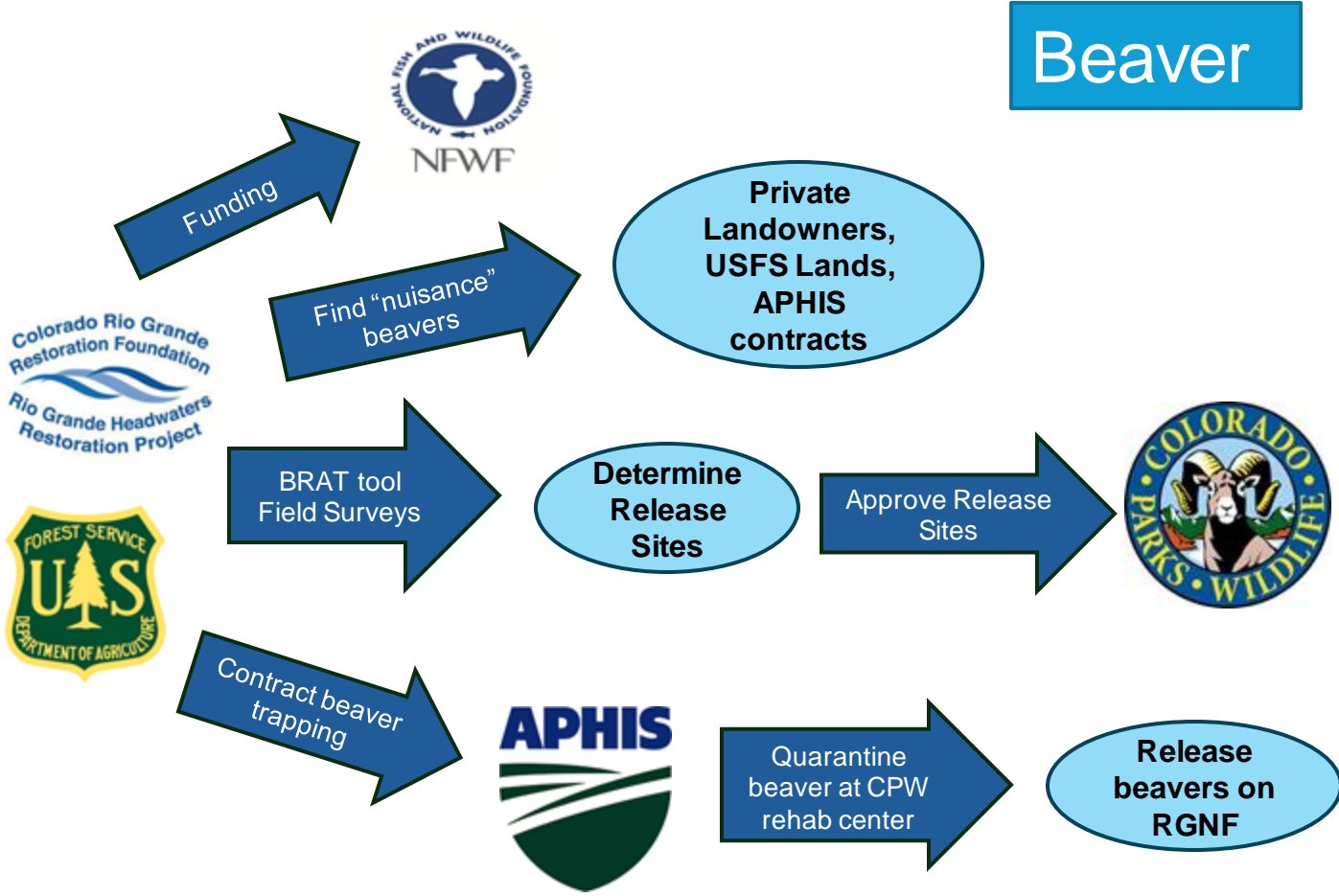
- Evolution of how we build structures
- Key takeaways
  - Smaller streams tend to respond faster
  - Don't put structures in meanders
  - Communication with community and partners
- Building momentum- “Cautious Optimism”
  - First several projects have been “lite”
    - Lower quantity/density of structures
    - Giving DWR time to see how things are working on the landscape
- Timing
  - FS NEPA and funding timelines
  - Work crew availability
- Permits and Reporting
  - Army Corp
    - Certificate of completion
    - Annual monitoring and reports
  - Internal FS Monitoring
  - Grant reports

# Beaver Relocation Project Overview

- Started in 2017
- Primary Partners:
  - RGNF
  - RGHRP
  - APHIS

Year	Beavers Released
2017	3
2019-2021	10
2022	1
2023	13
2024	Releases planned for July/Aug

# Beaver



**Determine Release Sites**



**Release beavers on RGNF**





## 2017 Releases















# Beaver Relocation Lessons Learned

- 2017 Releases: 1 success at Wolf Creek
- 2023 Releases:
  - 1 success - Cat Creek
  - 1 unknown - Alder Creek
  - 2 failures- Prong Creek, Rio de los Pinos
- 2024
  - Install game cameras at release sites
  - Building “beaver corral” for easier trapping/moving
- Future goals:
  - Tracking
  - eDNA
  - Disease testing
- Disease transmission concerns
- Quarantine Logistics

# Outreach/Education

- VOC events
- RGNF
  - Forest Specialist Series talk
  - Local TU chapter
  - Adam State University Classes
- RGHRP
  - Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
- Youth conservation camp
- Beaver releases as outreach
  - Public interest is high















# What is working!





A scenic landscape of a mountain valley. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish-brown shrubs and grasses. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills with sparse evergreen trees. The background shows a valley leading to distant mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# Thank you! Questions?

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