

TREE PROTECTION GUIDE FOR BEAVER COEXISTENCE



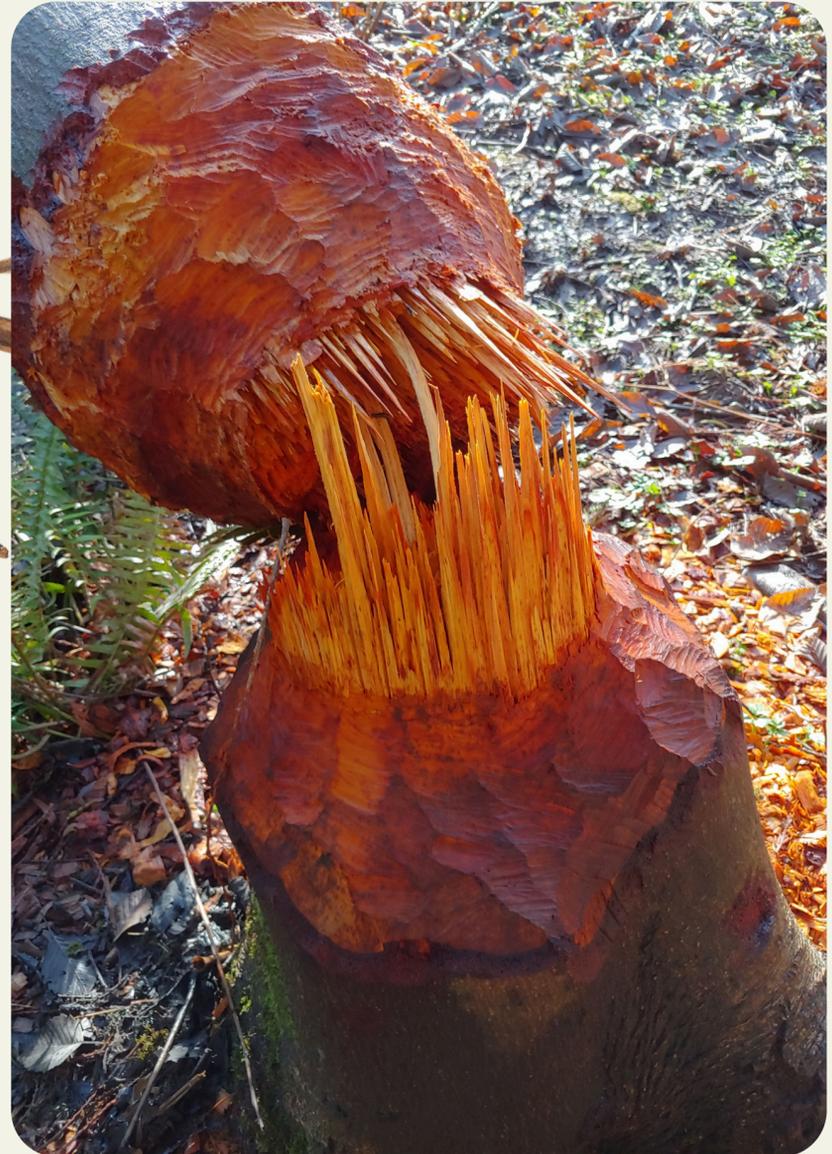
Why coexistence? What benefits do beavers have?

- Beaver dams raise the water table and recharge groundwater
- Increased water storage makes land more resistant to potential wildfire impacts
- Beavers create valuable wetland habitat for fish, amphibians, and birds and felled trees provide additional habitat benefits for these and other animals
- Wetlands are critical for improving water quality and reducing flood risk



When should I fence my tree from beavers?

- Destruction of tree poses a threat to human safety or critical infrastructure
- Tree has significant historical/cultural/sentimental value
- Tree is in a vulnerable stage of development



When should I not fence my trees?

- Species that have co-evolved with beavers and are resilient to beaver chew (Willow, Aspen, Red-osier dogwood, Salmonberry, Nootka rose and Spirea)
- Smaller trees that pose little risk to safety and/or infrastructure
- Tree has no significant cultural value

***Note:** Wrapping all trees in an area is not coexistence! Beavers need access to trees for food and shelter! Without any trees, beavers may abandon the site or work harder to access the trees that you've fenced

What about tree painting?

- Method consisting of the application of a paint and sand mixture to trees to discourage beaver chew
- Although less appetizing, beavers often still chew the painted trees!
- Most paints are toxic to beavers when ingested
- When fencing is done properly, it creates a physical barrier between beavers and tree that is more effective

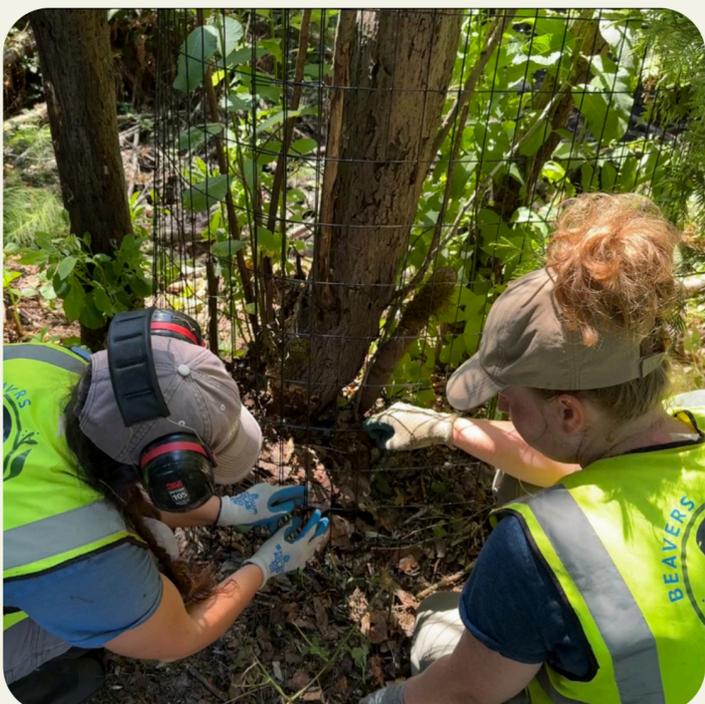


HOW-TO FENCE YOUR TREES

MATERIALS



1. **Welded Wire Rolled Fencing (2 x 4 in. mesh; 10-16 gauge)**
 - a. We recommend at least 4 ft tall fencing; beavers are taller than you would think!
 - b. Rolled fencing is easy to work with
 - c. Typical chicken wire is not strong enough to keep beavers out
2. **At least 1 u-post or**
3. **1 Wooden stake to secure fencing in place**
 - a. Several u-posts/stakes may be needed for larger diameter fencing
4. **Wire for attaching fencing to u-posts**
5. **Set of wire cutters for cutting fencing and strips of wire**



How do I ensure I fence properly?

- Leave 6-12 inches of space between tree trunk and fence to allow tree growth
- Ensure that fencing is flush with ground with no room for beavers to squeeze or dig under fencing
- Place u-posts/wooden stakes alongside fence to secure placement
- Use scrap metal to create a fence skirt if ground surrounding tree is uneven to fill any gaps