

[Commented via e-mail on 10/31/13]

Thank you for including the public in your important ideas for our State Wildlife. Since I will be unable to attend my local meeting, I wanted to make sure you had my comments in writing. They focus on the misinformation regarding beaver (*castor Canadensis*) which by extension has significant impact on wetlands, erosion and fish population statewide.

The first misunderstanding concerns beaver nativity: Your website lists the animal in your Non-Native & Nuisance Terrestrial Vertebrates

Castoridae (Beavers)		
Beaver	Castor canadensis	I *Some populations were introduced into the Sierra Nevada and Southern California from stock taken from Oregon and Washington

I wanted to make sure that you were aware of the new data on this issue, including our papers published in your own journal last year by

California Fish and Game 98(2):65-80;2012

California Fish and Game 98(2):129-132;2012

An additional paper on beaver nativity in California coastal rivers has also been accepted for publication and should be emerging shortly. Obviously there is no longer serious question about beaver nativity in the state of California.

The second issue has to do with beaver management, which until now has been poorly understood in our state. Landowners with beaver problems are routinely advised that their two options are doing nothing and depredation. In my city of Martinez, California many people called CDFG regarding the possibility of installing a flow device and were repeatedly told “those things never work, don’t bother”. As you may know a flow device was installed to control pond height in 2008 and it has eliminated flooding problems since that time. The active colony is still in residence and the pipe is still controlling how high beavers build the dam, 6 years later.

It is important that a better understanding of these tools is readily available through your work and website. Instructional tools include this book by the Grand Canyon Land Trust and this DVD by Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions. There is no longer any excuse for saying these devices don’t work or are too difficult or expensive to install. And I would be happy to show you our working device if you doubt me.

Obviously understanding beaver nativity and management is essential not just for the animals themselves, but for bio-diverse acres of wetland that they maintain which protects and supports

countless other wildlife, many of them species of special concern. I hope you will use my comments to think seriously about the role of beaver in the next state wildlife action plan.

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President & Founder

Worth A Dam

