



Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Natural Resource Arctic Network Inventory & Monitoring Update Fall 2026

BELA Beaver Project

A funded NPS Natural Resource Regional Block project.

2025: Year 1 was completed in September 2025 with two days of an aerial beaver lodge and dam survey. Observations recorded as active or inactive lodge.

2026: Year 2 of the project is tentatively moving forward into collaborative work with the Wildlife Conservation Society. Conduct another beaver lodge and dam survey in September 2026. Water quality monitoring efforts with data loggers seasonally installed at Serpentine Hot Springs began in May 2026.

Project objectives of the collaborative work include:

- quantifying the abundance, distribution, and occupancy of beaver infrastructure (e.g., lodges and dams) across the western Seward Peninsula, with emphasis on areas surrounding Serpentine Hot Springs and within BELA
- identifying and characterizing patterns of colonization and range expansion at the periphery of current beaver distribution, and evaluating the feasibility of estimating expansion rates;
- evaluating and improving the efficacy of satellite imagery for detecting beaver activity by developing correction factors and quantifying detection error through comparison with aerial survey data; and
- conducting pilot studies to assess trophic and other impacts of beaver colonization of new areas.

Contact for more information:

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Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Coastal Lagoons-Arctic Network Program and Wildlife Conservation Society

The National Park Service entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to conduct and complete coastal lagoons inventory and monitoring in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (BELA).

The project involved two WCS biologists (Kevin Fraley and Kayla Shively), and a chartered local commercial crab vessel to transit from Nome to Ikpek and Kupik lagoons to conduct fish and water quality monitoring fieldwork in mid-July 2026.



- Fin clips were collected from Bering cisco for genetic analyses
- Fin clips were collected from adult chum and pink salmon caught at the mouth of the Nuluk River in Ikpek Lagoon for genetic analysis
- Submitted a nomination for Kupik Lagoon to be included as an "Anadromous Water" in ADFG's database, because a moderate number of Bering Cisco were observed

A more detail report and results will follow.

What we want to know about coastal Lagoon systems (copied from 2017 resource brief):

- Lagoon water chemistry and connectivity with the marine environment
- Fish community composition and patterns of use
- Fish growth rates for resident and migratory species
- Aquatic food web and trophic dynamics

Contact for more information:

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