

Project Update: May 2011

In our first fieldwork season, we have found and surveyed 30 beaver colonies distributed in two study sites with contrasting habitat characteristics: forest and steppe. These two habitats are the most representative of Patagonia and estimation of site-specific population parameters will enable a more accurate modelling of the invasion. We observed more than 70 beavers in these colonies and we marked 15 individuals (kits, yearlings, sub adults and adults) to study their dispersal and estimate survival using radio-telemetry. Direct observation data using specific lures has also allowed us to obtain fecundity data for each colony. For the next season we are planning to survey additional colonies and increase the number of radio-tagged individuals.

