

Preventing Unwanted Flooding

- Pipes can be installed in beaver dams and ponds to maintain the water level of the pond. Large diameter flexible pipes are inserted horizontally through the dam. The upstream end of the pipe is protected from being dammed with a vertical cylindrical wire cage. To help insure beaver will remain at the site the water level of the pond should not be lowered below 3 feet.
- Culverts can be protected from damming by installing barrier fencing at upstream culvert opening. Fencing material can include field fence or wire livestock panels installed in a rectangular or trapezoidal shape to prevent beaver from accessing the mouth of the culvert.

More information, plans, and examples of the above techniques can be found in The Beaver Restoration Guide Book located at:

<http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/ToolsForLandowners/RiverScience/Beaver.asp>

Live Trapping and Moving Problem Beaver

Translocating beaver is an option that may be used in specific situations. Beaver survival, risk of continued problems, staff expertise, and cost are considered before using this technique.

In urban areas, where trapping is illegal or unsafe, live trapping may present the only option for beaver removal.

Release sites that provide habitat insuring beaver survival must be available. Often good habitat is already occupied by beaver and populations may be at carrying capacity for available resources.

The season of the year must also be appropriate to insuring beaver survival. They must have time to create food caches for winter survival. Late summer and early fall are considered the best times for successful translocations.



Photo by RogerDaigle

Lethal Control

Removing beaver is often a short-term solution as dispersing individuals will seek out good habitat. However, lethal control may become necessary when other efforts will not be successful in preventing damage. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game can issue landowners special permits for the lethal removal of beaver, as well as help contact trappers who may be willing to assist landowner with beaver removal.

Legal Status

The beaver is classified as a protected species in Idaho. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages beaver as a furbearer species with trapping seasons throughout the state. A trapping license is required to take them. However, beaver that are damaging property may be removed with proper permits. A beaver taken in this manner remains the property of the state and must be turned over to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game unless otherwise directed.



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

For more information please visit: idfg.idaho.gov

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Living With Mountain Lions, PCA #, date/#copies, Glenna Gomez

LIVING WITH BEAVERS



Preventing Damage to Landscape and Gardens

Plant trees, shrubs, and gardens away from waterways with a known beaver population.

Wrap tree trunks with material such as chicken wire, welded wire, hardware cloth, or plastic pipe. Install material at least 3 feet high. Extend the material higher if your site receives several inches of snow.



Paint tree trunks with a mixture of 2/3 cup masonry grade sand per quart of latex paint. The gritty coating should discourage beaver from eating the tree.

Groups of trees and shrubs and gardens can be protected with wire fencing such as 3-4 foot high welded wire, field fencing, or wire livestock panels. Two strands of electric fencing placed at 8 and 12 inches from the ground will also deter beaver from an area.

Beaver will try to push down or go push underneath fencing, so reinforce and stake down wire fencing.

Taste and odor repellents can deter beaver if applied at the first sign of damage and when application is repeated often their effectiveness is increased. Commercial repellents marketed for big game have shown success for beaver.



Photo by Kieth Carlson

Beaver Facts

- The North American Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*) is the largest and longest lived rodent in North America. They can weigh over 50 pounds, reach lengths up to 3.5 feet, and live up to an average 10 years in the wild.
- Beavers are herbivores and their preferred foods include aspen, cottonwood, and willows. They create a 'food cache' of sticks and logs in ponds, lakes, and waterways to provide a food source throughout the winter.
- The beaver's incisors (front teeth) are harder on the front surface than on the back, as a result the back of the teeth wear faster. This creates a sharp edge and chisel-like shape enabling a beaver to more easily cut through wood.
- The Beaver's broad, flat tail is used for swimming, balance while on land, and is slapped on the water surface as a warning signal when they are startled or feel threatened.

- Beaver construct dams from woody material, mud, and stones, creating ponds for protection and food storage. They construct dome shaped lodges of sticks and mud to serve as homes within the ponds. In larger streams, rivers, and lakes they may create dens in the banks rather than construct dams and lodges.
- Beaver often live as family groups of as many as 12 individuals; groups include the monogamous parents, kits from the current year, and the yearlings from the previous year. Juveniles generally leave the family group at about 2 years of age.
- Beaver activity creates and maintains important habitat for a diversity of fish and wildlife species, including native cutthroat trout, amphibians, birds such as warblers and waterfowl, and mammals including moose.
- Beaver dams and ponds increased the area of riparian habitat and can create wetland habitat.
- Beaver dams hold water in a stream reach longer and can maintain streams as perennial rather than intermittent.
- Beaver dams and ponds play a role in replenishing aquifers and increasing groundwater recharge.
- Beaver dams and ponds improve water quality by reducing sediments in water, moderating stream temperatures, improving the nutrient cycle, and removing and storing contaminants.

“Beaver benefit many wildlife species by helping create and maintain healthy riparian and wetland habitat.”

