

July 22, 2008

Information on Managing Beavers and Beaver Flooding

Landowners have the right to protect their property against damage from Beavers. There are some restrictions. This package is intended to assist landowners in understanding their rights and responsibilities. Please read all of the attached information.

You can remove beavers and beaver dams on your property providing you comply with the attached Operational Statement for Beaver Dam Removal prepared by DFO, you do it in a humane way, and you follow some simple rules. DFO asks that the Notification Form be completed and forwarded to the DFO Prescott Office per the Operational Statement instructions.

First always try to remove the beavers before or at the same time as breaching the dam. If you just try to breach or remove the dam, beavers can and will rebuild it right away which will result in wasted effort. Also it would be considered cruelty to animals if you breach the dam in late fall or in winter without first removing the beavers; if the water level drops in the pond by their lodge and feed bed they may not be able to access their home and food supply which is all they have to get them through the winter. Breach the dam a little bit at a time in accordance with the Operational Statement so you do not cause washouts, excessive sediment discharge or flooding downstream.

No dredging (See DFO Operational Statement for Beaver Dam Removal) should occur.

Do not alter the original channel or water level; while no Conservation Authority permission is required for a single beaver dam removal, if the project should advance to the extent that heavy equipment is brought in and works are undertaken which could be interpreted as altering, straightening, changing, diverting or interfering with the actual channel of the watercourse then written approval would be required pursuant to Ontario Regulation 174/06 under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario. Fill removal would likely be involved in such an activity.

Be aware that if you hire an Ontario licensed trapper to take care of a beaver problem they should have personal injury and liability insurance.

Work with your neighbors or other affected landowners to implement a long term monitoring and maintenance program but be aware that not all landowners will accept responsibility for beaver activity on their property... even when it is affecting others. In such circumstances you can not enter onto a neighbor's land without their permission.

Attachments

Beaver Management Flow Chart (will help you figure out what to do next)
DFO Operational Statement for Beaver Dam Removal (check for most recent version)
DFO Notification Form (check for most recent version)