

BEAVERS



Figure 1. Beaver (*Castor canadensis*). Photo by Kansas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

OBJECTIVES

1. Communicate control options to clients.
2. Diagram typical sets used to capture beavers.
3. Identify the risks involved with working with beavers.

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE PREVENTION AND CONTROL METHODS

HABITAT MODIFICATION

Remove trees and other potential food sources

Install flow devices to control water levels

Remove dams

EXCLUSION

Fence around individual trees

Install fences to protect culverts

FRIGHTENING

Nothing is effective

REPELLENTS

Latex paint mixed with sand and applied to trees

TOXICANTS

None are registered

FUMIGANTS

None are registered

SHOOTING

.22 and .17 caliber rimfire (high power not recommended)

12/20 gauge shotgun with buckshot

TRAPPING

Cage Traps: Hancock style, Bailey Live Beaver Traps

Body-gripping traps-at least 8 x 8 inch opening recommended (e.g., Conibear-style 280 or 330)

Foothold traps (minimum jaw spread of 6 inches and offset jaws recommended) in drown sets

Cable-restraints

OTHER METHODS

None available

SPECIES PROFILE

IDENTIFICATION

Beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are the largest North American rodent.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Beavers can be identified by their round, stout bodies, circular head and small rounded ears. Special morphological characteristics enable beavers to remain submerged in water for long periods of time. They have a valvular nose and ears, and lips that close behind the four large incisor teeth.

The underfur is dense and generally gray in color. The guard hair is long, coarse and ranging in color from yellowish brown to black, with reddish brown the most common coloration. The prominent tail is flattened dorsoventrally, scaled, and nearly hairless. It is used as a prop when beavers sit upright, for a rudder when swimming, and as a warning signal when slapped on the water (Figure 1).

Beavers have large, bright orange front (incisor) teeth that grow continuously throughout their life (Figure 2). The incisors are beveled and continuously sharpened through gnawing and chewing during feeding, girdling, and cutting trees.



Figure 2. Beaver skull showing large, front incisors and broad flat dorsal surface.

The only way to externally distinguish the sex of a beaver, unless it is a lactating female, is to feel for the presence of a baculum (a bone in the penis) in males or for its absence in females.

Adult beavers weigh 35 to 50 pounds, with some occasionally reaching 70 to 85 pounds. Individuals

have reached over 100 pounds. Beavers are stocky rodents adapted to aquatic environments.

SPECIES RANGE

Beavers are found throughout most of North America (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Range of beavers in North America. Image by PCWD.

VOICE AND SOUNDS

Beavers use their tail to warn others of danger by abruptly slapping the surface of the water. Body posture, whines, whimpers, whistles and growls are other forms of communication used by beavers.

TRACKS AND SIGNS

Beaver feet have five digits, with the hind feet webbed between digits and a split second claw on each hind foot. The split second claw is utilized for grooming. The front feet are small in comparison to the hind feet (Figure 4).

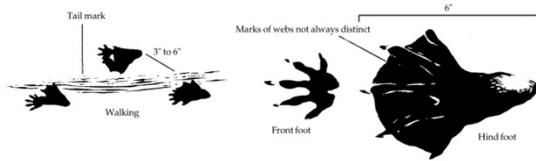


Figure 4. Beaver tracks may be found in soft soil. Image by PCWD.

Beaver presence can be recognized through flooding and removal of plant material, such as trees or garden plants (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Tree cut down by a beaver. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.

GENERAL BIOLOGY

Beavers have a relatively long life span, with individuals recorded to have lived to 21 years. Most do not live longer than 10 years.

Beavers have a few natural predators aside from humans including coyotes, bobcats, river otters, and

mink. In some areas, bears, mountain lions, wolves, and wolverines may prey on beavers.

Beavers are extremely territorial. A colony generally consists of four to eight related individuals that resist the addition of outsiders to the colony or the pond. Young beavers are commonly displaced from the colony shortly after they become sexually mature at about two years old. They often move to another area to begin a new pond and colony, though some become solitary and inhabit old abandoned ponds or farm ponds.

REPRODUCTION

Beavers form life-long pair bonds and mate October through March. Three or four young are born about 105 days after mating. Young beavers are typically weaned in two weeks. In Alabama there is the potential for beavers to produce two litters annually.

NESTING COVER

Beavers build lodges and/or bank dens depending on the available habitat. All lodges and bank dens have at least two entrances and may have four or more (Figure 6). The lodge or bank den is used for raising young, sleeping, and food storage during severe weather.



Figure 6. Cross-section of a beaver lodge. Image by PCWD.

BEHAVIOR

Beavers are unparalleled at dam building and build dams on both fast and slow moving streams. Beaver dam building and tree cutting tends to increase as fall approaches, when they are preparing food before the winter freeze. In northern areas, beavers will stockpile or cache cut limbs in ponds to have winter food below the ice. A food cache is a good sign of an active beaver lodge.

HABITAT & DIET

Beavers may be found wherever there is aquatic habitat, food, and a location suitable for a lodge or burrow

FOOD HABITS

Beavers are herbivores and they do not consume fish. Bark, twigs, leaves and wood encompass the majority of the Alabama beaver diet. Aquatic and agricultural plants are also utilized. The size and species of trees beavers cut is highly variable, from 1 inch diameter at breast height (DBH) softwoods to 6 foot DBH hardwoods. In some areas beavers cut down trees up to 10 inches DBH and merely girdle or partially cut larger ones. Some beavers girdle large pines and sweet-gums for the gum or storax that seeps out of the girdled area.

LEGAL STATUS

The legal status of beavers varies among states. In Alabama the beaver is designated as a furbearer species. However, during daylight hours beaver have no bag limit or closed season. In some states, beavers are protected except during furbearer seasons; in others they are classified as pests and may be taken year-round when causing damage. Beavers are generally not considered pests until economic loss is extensive. Beavers provide valuable fur, water, and wildlife conservation through dam building. Consult state regulations for additional legal information on beavers. In Alabama a permit is

required to remove beaver at night with a gun. The permit process begins at a District Office.

DAMAGE IDENTIFICATION

Beaver damage is easily identified through flooding and loss of vegetation.

DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES

Flooding and falling trees pose severe risks to structures. For example, highways may flood because of beaver ponds, reservoir dams can be destroyed by bank burrows collapsing, and train derailments can be caused by continued flooding and burrowing. Housing developments have been threatened by beaver flooding. Roadside ditches, drain pipes, and culverts can get plugged so badly that they have to be cleared with explosives and replaced. Bridges have been destroyed because of beaver dam-building activity.

DAMAGE TO PETS AND LIVESTOCK

Beavers, being vegetarian, are not generally a threat to animals. Some beavers in urban areas may become habituated to human activity and act aggressive if approached.

DAMAGE TO LANDSCAPES

Beavers damage gardens and landscaping through flooding and removal of plant materials. Thousands of acres of cropland and woodlands (including pine and hardwoods) are damaged by flooding due to beaver dams. Damage caused by beavers is a result of dam building, bank burrowing, tree cutting, or flooding. Some states, where beaver damage is extensive, have estimated the cost at \$3 to \$5 million annually for timber loss, crop losses, roads, dwellings, flooded property, and other damage.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

Beavers generally avoid human contact with the exception of those infected with rabies, which is very uncommon in beavers. Beaver flooding undermines roads and interferes with septic systems, while bank dens contribute to the collapse of the banks of farm and shoreline properties. Falling trees pose physical threats to structures, power lines, and people.

Beaver trappers should use caution when working in and around water. Drowning and hypothermia are serious threats during water work. Use extreme caution, particularly when walking on ice over beaver runs.

Beavers are hosts to several ectoparasites and internal parasites including nematodes, trematodes and coccidians. Beavers contaminate water supplies with *Giardia* - a pathogenic intestinal parasite that contaminates human water supply systems. To avoid *Giardia* contamination, trappers should avoid splashing water in their face and carefully wash their hands before eating. Anyone that develops severe abdominal cramps or persistent diarrhea in the days following beaver work should consult medical personnel. Tularemia has been reported in beaver from Canada and the northern US. Proper precautions should be taken when skinning or eviscerating beaver carcasses.

NUISANCE PROBLEMS

When dam-building conflicts with human objectives the impact of the damage may outweigh the benefits of beavers. Low-grade streams (less than 3%) with culverts or constricted areas are at highest risk for dam building and flooding.

DAMAGE PREVENTION AND CONTROL METHODS

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Timing, Economics, and Methods

Beavers do not hibernate and can be controlled any time the law allows. When beaver colonies become well established over a large and contiguous area, achieving control is difficult and costly. Control becomes even more difficult when adjacent landowners do not control beavers. In these situations one can expect periodic reinvasions and continual problems even if all beavers are removed from the property where control is practiced.

The benefits of beavers and beaver ponds are not covered in depth here but they are numerous. Aside from creating fish, waterfowl, furbearer, shorebird, reptile, and amphibian habitat, beavers in many areas are important fur and food resources.

HABITAT MODIFICATION

Most habitat modification practices have little impact on beavers. Continual destruction of dams and removal of dam construction materials daily (depending on availability of construction materials) may cause a colony or individual beavers to move to another site, though they might be even more troublesome at the new location. Where feasible, the elimination of food, trees, and woody vegetation adjacent to beaver habitat may cause beavers to seek a more favorable location. This is usually only feasible along major interstate highways.

Beaver flow pipes can provide sufficient relief from flooding issues under the right circumstances. They are popular because beavers do not have to be killed. Installation of these devices may result in the beavers simply moving up or down stream.

Flow pipes should be used only when:

- a. Landowners do not mind damage to trees or other plant life;
- b. Corrected water depth is deep enough to allow beaver activity under ice;
- c. The area has sufficient room to handle the additional water typical of spring flooding;
- d. Standing water does not threaten to undermine roads or other sensitive areas.

Flow pipes designs have improved significantly over the Clemson leveler. Consult the ICWDM <http://icwdm.org> for literature about flow pipes.

EXCLUSION

It is often cost-prohibitive to exclude beavers from ponds, lakes, or impoundments. Protect valuable trees adjacent to waterways by encircling them with hardware cloth, woven wire, or other metal barriers (Figure 7).



Figure 7. This fence would have worked if it was installed before the beavers damaged the tree. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.

Construction of concrete spillways or other permanent structures may reduce the impact of beavers. Culverts can be protected from plugging by beaver dams if fences are installed properly and there is sufficient water flow. A variety of techniques are available. Consult the resources at ICWDM <http://icwdm.org> for details on constructing these devices.

FRIGHTENING DEVICES

No frightening devices have been found to be effective for controlling beavers.

REPELLENTS

There are no chemical repellents registered for controlling beavers. A mixture of 8 ounces of fine sand to 1 quart of oil or latex paint applied to tree bark to a height of 4 feet may repel beavers. Stir the mixture frequently to keep the sand in solution. The paint color is a personal preference. Avoid painting young trees less than 6 feet tall. Opinions on the efficacy of this technique are mixed. Additional research is needed on repellents for beaver damage prevention.

TOXICANTS

No toxicants are registered for beaver control.

FUMIGANTS

No fumigants are registered for beaver control.

SHOOTING

In some states, regulations have been relaxed to allow shooting of beavers; In Alabama, a permit is required before using a light to shoot beavers at night. Before attempting to shoot beavers check regulations, secure the necessary permits, and notify local law enforcement personnel of your intentions.

Beavers are most active from late afternoon to shortly after daybreak, depending on the time of year. They usually retire to a lodge or bank den for the day. If night shooting is not permitted, early evening and early morning hours are most productive. Weapon choice depends on the range and situation. Close range shooting is done with a shotgun and buckshot ammunition. Long range shooting is not recommended due to the dangers of ricocheting bullets. Shooting alone is generally not effective in eliminating all beaver damage in an area though it is useful for quickly reducing a population.

One particularly effective method of attracting beavers is removing material from the dam to allow increased water flow. The sound of the water and lowering of the pond level will readily attract members of the colony to repair the damage. Some states require permits to breach a beaver dam. Alabama does not require a permit to breach or remove a beaver dam. However, large reservoirs of water released after a dam breach can cause considerable damage to private or public property down stream. A concealed shooter may have the opportunity to shoot multiple beaver in the early evening or nighttime hours. Avoid ricochets if you are shooting with a rifle or large shotgun pellet sizes.

TRAPPING

The use of traps where beavers are causing damage is often the most effective, practical, and environmentally safe method of control. The effectiveness of any type of trap for beaver control is dependent on the trapper's knowledge of beaver habits, food preferences, ability to read beaver signs, use of the proper trap, and trap placement. A good trapper with a dozen traps can generally trap all the beavers in a given pond (behind one dam) in a week. In a large watershed with several colonies, more trapping effort will be required. Almost anyone with trapping experience and some outdoor "savvy" can become an effective beaver trapper in a short time.

Additional expertise and improved techniques will be gained through experience. A variety of trapping methods and types of traps are effective for beavers, depending on the situation. Check traps daily.

Use a stake or "walking staff" when wading in beaver ponds to locate deep holes, runs, or trails. This will prevent stepping off over waders or hip boots in winter, and will help locate cottonmouth snakes in the summer. The staff can also help locate good dive holes under logs as you walk runs or trails. In older beaver ponds, particularly in bottomland swamps, it is not uncommon to find runs and lodge or bank den entrances where the run or hole is 2 to 3 feet below the rest of the impoundment bottom.

CAGE TRAPPING

Several kinds of cage traps can be used. The most common are the Hancock-style trap and the Bailey Beaver Live Trap. Traps are heavy and expensive, but effective. To reduce theft, chain and/or place the traps in hard-to-reach areas.

The Hancock-style trap (hereafter Hancock) uses strong springs to lift the beaver out of the water (Figure 8). Since only one side of the trap is in motion, the opposite side must be properly anchored to prevent the trap from flipping. Hancocks can be anchored to trees or set in the middle of ponds and streams by driving two 3 inch poles (five feet in length) 24 inches apart and attaching the trap to the poles. In all circumstances, the trigger should be three to four inches below the surface of the water. Secure bait (shaved sticks with food or gland lure) to the upright portion of the trap three to four inches above the water line. Hancocks use powerful springs prone to accidental firing. Some people have been knocked out when a trap sprung.



Figure 8. Demonstration set of a Hancock-style trap. Note sticks are for bait. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.

Bailey Beaver Live Traps (hereafter Bailey, Figure 9) lay flat; both sides of the trap move to envelope the beaver like a clamshell. The trap is prone to misfires when used incorrectly.

To remove beavers from Hancock and Bailey Beaver traps slide a catch-pole between the jaws, slipping the loop over the base of the tail and tighten. Use the catchpole to control the beaver's movements. Open the cage and remove the animal. Beavers typically try to crawl away, though sometimes they turn and approach you. Direct the fleeing beaver into an open cage. Close the door while releasing the loop and removing the pole.



Figure 9. Bailey trap set to catch a beaver approaching the tree. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.

BODY GRIPPING TRAPS

The Conibear® type No. 330 is one of the most effective and easy beaver traps (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Conibear®-style trap set in a beaver run in half-submerged position with trigger on bottom jaws. Photo by Stephen M. Vantassel.

In Alabama, conibear type traps with a jaw spread over 5 inches can only be used in water. When properly set, this trap will kill the beaver. Designed primarily for water use, it is equally effective in deep and shallow water. Some additional equipment will be useful: an axe, hatchet, or large cutting tool; hip boots or waders; wire; and wire cutters. With the

Conibear®-type trap, some individuals use a device or tool called “setting tongs” while others use a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch nylon rope. This tool or rope is used to depress the strong springs on the conibear trap. The two safety hooks, one on each spring, must be carefully handled as each spring is depressed and during trap placement. In all circumstances, use a Conibear safety tool (Figure 11) in addition to the safety hooks.

Remove the hooks when the trap is set, making sure to keep hands and feet safely away from the center of the trap. If the extra (unattached) safety catch is used, it should be removed before the safety hooks that are attached to the springs to keep it from getting in the way of the movement of the safety hooks.



Figure 11. One type of Conibear® safety. Photo by Wildlife Control Supplies LLC.

Conibear®-type traps are best set on solid ground with dry hands. Once the springs are depressed and the safety hooks in place, the trap can be carried into the water for proper placement. Stakes are needed to anchor the trap down. In most beaver ponds and around beaver dams, plenty of suitable

stakes can be found. At least two strong stakes, preferably straight and without forks or snags, are needed to place through each spring eye. Additional stakes may be useful to put between the spring arms and help hold the trap in place. Do not place stakes on the outside of spring arms. These stakes also help to guide the beaver into the trap and are useful in holding a dive stick at the water surface (Figure 12). If necessary, the chain and circle attached to one spring eye can be attached to another stake. In deep water sets, a chain with an attached wire should be tied to something at or above the surface so the trapper can retrieve the trap.

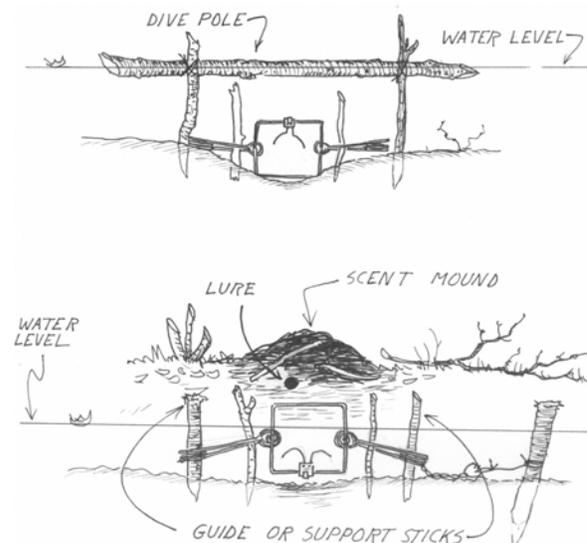


Figure 12. (Top) Conibear® in a beaver run. (Bottom) Conibear® used in a bait or castor mound set. Image by Bob Noonan.

There are many sets that can be made for use with the traps listed above (dam sets, slide sets, lodge sets, bank den sets, “run”/trail sets, under log/dive sets, pole sets, under ice sets, deep water sets, drain pipe sets), depending on the trapper’s capability and ingenuity. Most beavers can be trapped using dam sets, lodge or bank den sets, sets in “runs” or trails, dive sets, or sets in slides entering the water from places where beavers are feeding. Beavers swim both at the surface and along the bottom of water bodies, depending on the habitat and water depth. Beavers establish runs or trails, much like cow trails

in a pasture, which they habitually use in traveling from the lodge or den to the dam or to feeding areas.

To stimulate nighttime beaver movement, tear a hole in a beaver dam so the water moves out of the pond. Beavers quickly respond to the sound of running water and the flow of the current. Timing is important if you plan to make dam sets. Open a hole in the dam about 18 inches to two feet wide and two to three feet below the water level on the upper side of the dam in the morning to move a substantial amount of water out of the pond before evening (Figure 12). Set traps in front of the dam opening late that same evening. Two problems can arise if you set a trap in the morning as soon as a hole is made:

1. When the beavers become active in late evening the trap may be out of the water and ineffective; or
2. A stick, branch, or other debris in the moving water may trip the trap, rendering it ineffective.

The best dam sets are made about 12 to 18 inches in front of the dam. Using stakes or debris on either side of the trap springs, create a funnel to make the beaver go into the jaws of the trap. Always set the trigger on the Conibear®-type trap in the first notch to prevent debris from tripping it before the beaver swims into the trap. The two heavy gauge wire trippers can be bent outward and the trigger can be set away from the middle to keep debris from tripping the trap. This can also keep small beaver, fish, or turtles from springing the trap.

FOOTHOLD TRAPS

Double-spring foothold traps are very effective when properly used by skilled trappers. Use at least No. 3 double (long) spring or coil spring type foothold traps or traps of equivalent size jaw spread and strength (Figure 13). Use a drowning set attachment with any foothold trap. As the traps are tripped, the beaver will head for the water. A weight is used to hold the trapped beaver underwater where it

drowns. Some trappers stake the wire in deep water to accomplish drowning. If foothold traps are not used in a manner to accomplish drowning, beaver will likely escape and become trap-wise.



Figure 13. No. 4 double-long spring trap. Photo by Dallas Virchow.

Placement is even more critical with foothold traps than with the Conibear®-type. Place foothold traps just at the water's edge, slightly underwater with the pan, jaws, and springs covered lightly with leaves or debris or pressed gently into the pond bottom in soft mud. Make a cavity under the pan so when the beaver's foot hits the pan it will trigger the trap and allow the jaws to snap closed. Place traps off-center of the trail or run to prevent "belly pinching" or missing the foot or leg. With some experience, beaver trappers learn to make sets that catch beavers by a hind leg rather than a front leg; the front leg is much smaller and easier to twist off or pull out.

Make two sets in a slide, run, dam, or feeding place to increase trapping success. In some situations, combining trapping methods can shorten trapping time and increase success.

Trappers have devised unique methods of making drown sets. One of the simplest and most practical is a slide wire with a heavy weight attached to one end, or with an end staked to the bottom in three or more feet of water (Figure 14). The other end of the wire is threaded through a hole in one end of a small

piece of angle iron (called a one-way slide). The trap chain is attached to a hole in the other end of the one-way slide. The end of the wire is then attached to a tree or stake driven into the bank. When the beaver gets a foot or leg in the trap, it immediately dives back into the water. As the one-way slide moves down the wire, the beaver is guided into the deeper water. The one-way slide will not move back up the wire and most often bends the wire as the beaver struggles, preventing the beaver from coming up for air. Trappers should be prepared to quickly and humanely dispatch a beaver that is caught in a trap and has not drowned.

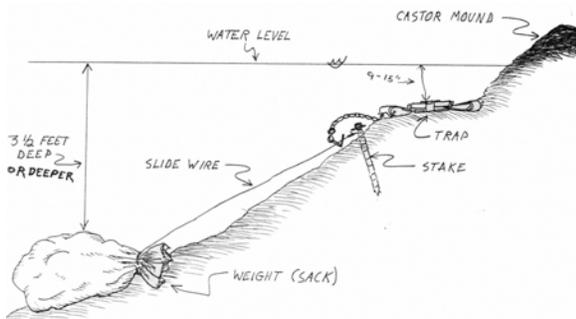


Figure 14. Diagram of a traditional drown-set. Note that a food lure with shaved branches can be used instead of castor. Image by Bob Noonan.

The foothold trap set in lodges or bank dens is also

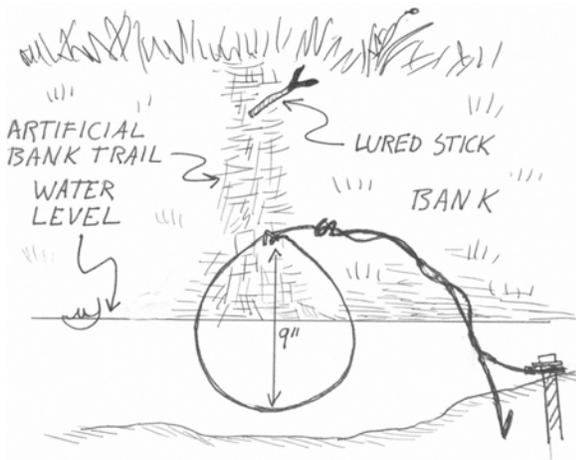


Figure 15. Diagram of a baited snare set. Image by Bob Noonan.

effective, especially for trapping young beavers. Place the set on the edge of the hole where the beaver first turns upward to enter the lodge or den, or place it near the bottom of the dive hole. Keep the jaws and pan off of the bottom by pulling the springs backward so a swimming foot will trip the pan. Stake the set close to the bottom or wire the trap to a log or root on the bottom to avoid the need for drowning weights, wires, and angle iron pieces. Generally, more time and expertise is necessary to make effective sets with foothold traps and snares than is required with the Conibear®-type trap.

Use scent or freshly cut cottonwood, aspen, willow, or sweetgum limbs to entice beaver to foothold trap sets. Bait or scent is especially useful around scent mounds and up slides along the banks or dams. Most trappers who use Conibear®-type traps do not employ bait or scent, although they are occasionally helpful. In Alabama it is legal to use bait and scent to trap beaver.

CABLE RESTRAINTS

Cable restraints are a cost effective method for capturing beavers. Equipment costs far less than other trap designs and is more convenient to use in many situations. In addition, beavers can be captured alive and released elsewhere.

Restraint placement is similar to trap placement. First, look for runways and fresh sign that indicate where beaver activities are focused. Find a suitable anchor such as a large tree, log, or root within 10 feet of the runway where the wire will be set. If necessary, anchor cable restraints by rods driven into the ground, but this is more time consuming and less secure. Attach three 14-gauge wires to the anchor so that each can swivel freely. Cut each wire to length so they reach about one foot past the runway. Twist the wires together to form a strong braided anchor cable. Drive a supporting stake into the ground near the runway and wrap the free end of the anchor cable around it twice (Figure 15).

Prepare a new dyed No. 4 beaver or coyote snare, consisting of 42 inches of $\frac{3}{32}$ -inch steel cable with an attached wire swivel and slide lock. Twist the free ends of the three anchor wires around the wire swivel on the end of the snare cable. Wrap the longest anchor wire around the base of the wire swivel and crimp it onto the snare cable about 2 inches from the swivel. Use both the stake and the supporting anchor wire to suspend a full-sized loop about 4 inches above the runway. If necessary, use guide sticks or other natural debris to guide beaver into the snare.

The above described set is very common, but there are several variations and sets that can be used. Cable restraints are frequently placed under logs, near bank dens, and next to castor mounds. Drowning sets can be made using underwater anchors, slide cables, and slide locks.

Restraints should be checked at least every 24 hours. Use a catch pole or net to captured beavers and place in a cage for transfer or only use them in kill sets.

In Alabama, cable restraints can only be utilized in the water. Check with your local wildlife agency for regulations associated with trapping and snaring. Cable restraints are illegal in some states.

In freezing conditions, under ice sets may be preferred. Both baited and un-baited sets can be very effective. These sets are intended to drown captured beaver as the ice refreezes after the set is constructed. In both cases the set is composed of 2 to 3 inch diameter dry poles stuck thorough holes cut in the ice and into the bottom. These poles are lined with two to 10 inch snare loops. In the case of the baited set, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch green poplar, aspen or other branches are wired to the support pole as bait. In the un-baited set one or more of these poles are placed in the channel to intersect and entangle the beaver as it passes through. Routes habitually used by beavers in the channel are easy to identify after ice has formed; bubbles are released from the beaver's fur as it swims. These trails of bubbles can

be easily seen in clear ice and are valuable in guiding snare placement.

HANDLING

RELOCATION

In Alabama it is illegal to trap and relocate wildlife.

TRANSLOCATION

Given the habitat needs of beavers, translocation should only be considered under state agency recommendation. Consult your state regulations.

EUTHANASIA

Carbon-dioxide chambers are very effective. A single bullet to the brain is effective as well, but needs to be done carefully as low powered bullets may ricochet off the skull.

DISPOSAL

Check your local and state regulations regarding carcass disposal.

OTHER CONTROL METHODS

No other methods are practical for beaver control.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank past and present employees of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Department of the Interior, county extension agents with the Cooperative Extension Service in various states, cooperators with the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services program in a number of states, and the many landowners with beaver problems across the South. The experience gained in efforts to assist landowners with wildlife damage problems provided most of the information contained herein.

AUTHORS

Material is updated and adapted from the book,
PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE
— 1994

Published by the University of Nebraska—Lincoln-
Extension and the US Department of Agriculture-
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife
Services

EDITORS OF THE NWCTP

Stephen M. Vantassel, Paul D. Curtis, Scott E.
Hygnstrom, Raj Smith, Kirsten Smith, and Gretchen
Gary

REVIEWERS

- Tim L. Hiller, Oregon Department of Fish and
Wildlife
- James Fitzpatrick, private animal control
operator, Instructor- Fur Harvest, Fur
Management and Conservation Course, Ontario
Canada
- Rob Beckman, private animal control operator,
Ohio State Trapper Educator Instructor
- Lynn Braband, Cornell University

RESOURCES

KEY WORDS

Wildlife, wildlife control, damage management,
NWCO, beavers

ON-LINE RESOURCES

<http://wildlifecontroltraining.com>

<http://icwdm.org/>

<http://wildlifecontrol.info>

DISCLAIMER

Implementation of wildlife damage management
involves risks. Readers are advised to implement the
safety information contained in Volume 1 of the
National Wildlife Control Training Program.

Some control methods mentioned in this document
may not be legal in your location. Wildlife control
providers must consult relevant authorities before
instituting any wildlife control action. Always use
repellents and toxicants in accordance with the EPA-
approved label and your local regulations.

Mention of any products, trademarks or brand
names does not constitute endorsement, nor does
omission constitute criticism.