Managing Beaver Problems in Kentucky

Beaver Removal Options for Landowners

The removal of beavers and beaver dams may provide temporary relief from beaver damage and flooding. In high density areas, neighboring beavers will likely move in to reoccupy a site. Landowners and road departments may utilize the following options to remove beavers:

- **LANDOWNERS MAY REMOVE BEAVERS OR DESIGNATE AN INDIVIDUAL TO CONDUCT REMOVAL**

  Landowners may kill or trap wildlife causing damage to their land or personal property per KRS 150.170. A landowner may request authorization to designate another person to shoot or trap wildlife causing damage by filling out a simple form provided by a local Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources wildlife biologist or conservation officer. Find your local biologist or conservation officer on the department website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). A hunting or trapping license is not required. Destruction of any wildlife must be reported to a conservation officer within 24 hours of the kill.

- **SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM A FUR TRAPPER**

  Landowners and farmers who have problems with furbearers (mink, muskrat, beaver, river otter, weasel, raccoon, opossum, gray fox, red fox, bobcat, coyote or striped skunk) may request assistance from a fur trapper during the legal trapping season. Through this program, farmers and landowners benefit by solving nuisance problems at no cost, and fur trappers benefit by gaining land access for trapping opportunities. Furbearer trapping season is open from mid-November to the end of February. Fur trappers are private individuals and not employed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for a list of Fur Trappers in your area.

- **HIRE A NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATOR**

  Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators are individuals permitted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide professional wildlife control assistance for a fee. Visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) to find a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator in your area.

- **CONTRACT WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S WILDLIFE SERVICES**

  Contact Wildlife Services to request a site visit and estimate at 1-866-4USDAWS
Using Flow Devices and Culvert Fences to Keep Water Moving

Flow devices and fencing around culverts can minimize flooding in some situations when beavers are present. Flow devices installed in conjunction with exclusion fencing keep water moving through culverts (Figure 1), lower water behind dams and maintain water flow (Figure 2), and maintain water control structures (Figure 3). Flow device intakes are beneath the water and far away from the dam or culvert. This tricks beavers by removing the sound and movement of running water to which they respond to repair dams or plug culverts.

Helpful Resources

- Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management: http://icwdm.org/wildlife/beaver/BeaverPipes.aspx