
CATEGORY:	<u>AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD</u>	(Pest Control)
TITLE:	<i>Beaver Dam Removal</i>	
DATE APPROVED:	1989/09/09, 2008/02/26	
DATE REVIEWED:		
DATE REVISED:	2008/02/20	

PURPOSE: The County of Paintearth No. 18 Agricultural Service Board recognizes that beaver dams need to be removed or breached periodically to protect, maintain or construct infrastructure or to avoid the flooding of private and public land.

STATEMENT: The County has adopted the following the procedures for removal of beaver dams.

Procedures:

1. Beaver control measures may be undertaken at the request of a landowner/occupant or at the initiative of the County on lands to which access is permitted.
2. Prior to the commencement of any control work, an initial investigation shall be conducted concerning the indicated problem area(s) as well as the potential result of the loss of the beaver dam to all affected parties. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) do not need to be contacted if the following conditions can be met:
 - a) the project is not located on a Class A stream according to the *Alberta Water Act – Code of Practice*;
 - b) removal of the dam will not adversely affect a fishery or recreational property uses that depend on the dam's existence, both upstream and downstream;
 - c) the removal activities are limited to removing or breaching the beaver dam itself and do not involve channel or shoreline modification downstream (e.g. widening, straightening, ditching, etc.);
 - d) individual detonations of more than one kilogram of explosives will not be used to remove the dam (diesel fuel and fertilizer is not be used as a type of explosive);
 - e) the removal does not involve a beaver dam that is directly connected with a culvert or bridge (removal in these situations is addressed in Operational Statements for *Culvert Maintenance and Bridge Maintenance*); and
 - f) you incorporate the *Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when Removing Beaver Dams*.
3. Prior to the start of the blasting, the landholder must sign a Beaver Dam Blasting agreement (Appendix E) to commit payment for the services rendered. In the event that blasting is on fish-bearing waters the dam blaster will comply with the conditions specified by DFO (subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*).

4. For the blasting service a \$100.00 charge will apply for the first beaver dam, and \$50.00 for each additional beaver dam.
 - a) The removal of beaver shall be the responsibility of the landowner or occupant prior to, or after, the dam blasting so as to prevent/minimize the rebuilding of the beaver dams.
 - b) The County shall remove only the necessary section(s) of beaver dam(s), as required to facilitate the flow of water. Removal of entire dams will be done in a discriminating manner so as to avoid downstream flooding and siltation, increased dynamite costs, and increased risk of blasting damage from larger sized charges. Dams shall be removed sequentially starting from the ones lowest downstream, and moving in an upstream manner for subsequent blasts.
 - c) The blaster is to ensure the blast locations are not in the immediate proximity to underground and overhead utility lines.