

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game considers the following document to be an agency guidance document for purposes of Idaho Executive Order 2020-002. The guidance document is not new law; it is the Department's interpretation or implementation of existing law.

Department Point of Contact (to obtain additional information or provide input):

Deputy Director, Programs and Policy
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
Phone: (208) 334-3771
Email: rules@idfg.idaho.gov



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Management of Beavers in Depredation Areas PROCEDURE NO.: WLD-5.0

Revision Date: April 2013

The furbearer major program in the *Policy Plan* contains the following policy: **Beaver which cause damage and cannot be taken under established trapping seasons will be controlled by Department personnel.** The following guidelines will govern management of beaver in depredation areas:

- A. Liberal trapping seasons should be recommended in the chronic damage complaint areas to keep beaver populations at a minimum level and provide the maximum length of time during which private trappers can pelt problem animals.
- B. When beaver are reported to be causing damage to property, it is the responsibility of the local Conservation Officer to investigate the complaint and take measures to alleviate the depredation.
- C. If the depredation occurs during an open beaver trapping season, the Conservation Officer should encourage private trappers to take the problem animals.
- D. In situations where it is apparent that the landowner can service his beaver problems to the benefit of the landowner and the Department, a permit may be approved and issued by the regional office, upon request of the landowner. The permit should contain the name and address of the landowner, exact description and location of the problem, what action the landowner is authorized to take, disposition of any animals removed, permitted methods of removal of animals or dams, and names of persons authorized to remove animals or dams.
- E. If the beaver trapping season is closed and the problem cannot be handled by the landowner, the officer will attempt to live-trap and relocate the animals into suitable habitat which can absorb additional beaver, without creating a new depredation problem.
- F. If steps C, D, or E (above) are not feasible or if the problem animals have not been live trapped after reasonable expenditure of costs and effort, the District Conservation Officer may approve elimination of the beaver by the conservation officer, using Conibear or steel traps and/or firearms.
- G. The method of taking animals and the practicability of salvaging hides will be determined for each separate complaint, in consultation between the conservation officer and district conservation officer prior to solving the problem by the method outlined in Step F.
- H. In addition to removing the beaver responsible for property damage, the Conservation Officer will also take steps necessary to remove any beaver dams which are directly responsible for the damage.