



If I remove a dam, will the beavers go somewhere else?

No matter how many times a dam is removed, the beaver will rebuild it. Usually very quickly.

If you are concerned about loss of nearby trees, removing the dam typically leads to *more tree loss*. When the dam is partly or completely removed, most of the dam building materials will wash downstream. The beaver will now cut more trees to repair the dam.

Dam removal can have other negative effects. It can release a small flood of water and sediment that erodes the area immediately downstream, or floods your neighbors property, (possibly creating a financial liability for you) or injure fish, or smother fish spawning areas. For many beaver conflicts, a flow device is a much more effective long-term solution.

There must be other alternatives ...?

Conflicts with beaver are not new and over time almost everything has been tried.

- Both live-trapping and kill-trapping are temporary solutions since beaver will recolonize suitable habitat - sometimes within days. In sites where flow devices cannot be used, however, ongoing kill-trapping may be necessary. Contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for more information on this option.
- There are no poisons registered for use on beaver and none that are safe for other wildlife, fish, pets, or curious children.
- Even the “best” chemical repellants work for very short periods of time and under very limited circumstances.
- Noise, dogs, electronic frightening devices and shock devices are also ineffective.

About 7GI..

Founded in 2006, Seventh Generation Institute is a nonprofit conservation organization. 7GI is based in Santa Fe and works almost exclusively in New Mexico.

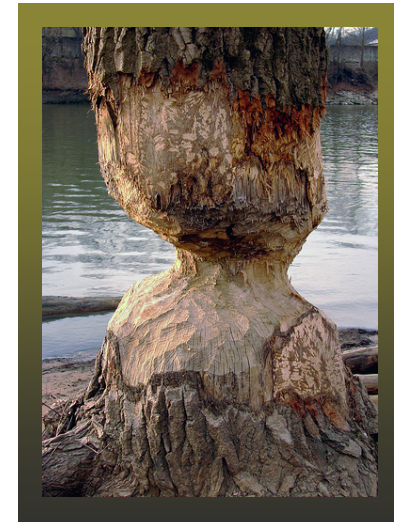
Our mission is to conserve biological diversity, foster sustainable resource use, and ensure an optimistic future for the human communities that depend on the natural world, through excellence in science and collaboration.

Our guiding philosophy is that successful conservation is founded in both applied science and strong community participation. We partner with agencies, user groups, tribes, private land owners, and other nonprofit and community-based organizations to develop new tools and information, restore ecosystems, and improve resource stewardship.

Seventh Generation Institute is working to use beaver as a watershed restoration tool. Beavers provide many benefits, but like many types of wildlife, they can also conflict with the activities of people. To realize the ecosystem benefits that beaver can create and build greater acceptance of beavers, it is also necessary to minimize the conflicts. Seventh Generation Institute has developed this program to help manage beaver impacts.

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Beaver Nuisance
Management Services





Beaver Nuisance Management from Seventh Generation Institute



Beaver dams in natural streams provide many benefits such as controlling erosion, improving water quality, and building wildlife habitat. But the very same “engineering” skills that make beaver an asset in streams can make them a headache in agricultural or urban settings.

There are tools to manage many of the nuisance impacts from beaver - reducing the cost, time, and frustration of ongoing beaver control. In some cases, these tools also help retain the ecosystem benefits of beaver.

Seventh Generation Institute, a nonprofit conservation organization, can help you manage beaver impacts through these tools:

- Comprehensive beaver management plans for areas that have multiple problem sites.
- Installation of “flow devices” to control damming, flooding, plugged culverts etc.
- Installation of vegetation protection to reduce tree loss.

Beaver Management Plans

Comprehensive Beaver Management Plans are a sensible approach for towns, recreation areas, and other landowners who are dealing with multiple beaver conflict sites. A Beaver Management Plan replaces reactive management with proactive management that enhances safety for

workers, decreases long-term costs, liability, damage, and labor. Beaver Management Plans include:

- List, photograph, describe, and GPS beaver conflict sites.
- Prioritize conflict sites for treatment.
- Develop recommended management strategies and cost estimate for each site.

Flow Devices

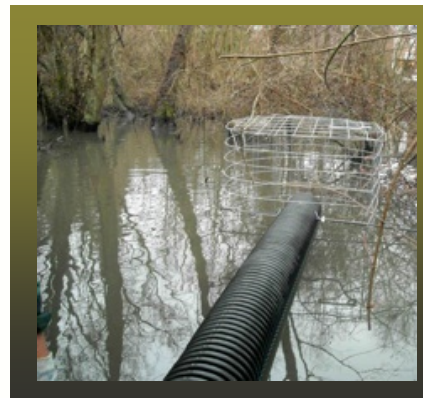
“Flow device” describes several different structures which have the common goals of preventing or controlling beaver damming activity, and reducing beaver-related maintenance, while still maintaining the benefits that beavers create in ecosystems. Typically, flow devices are used to control the water level in beaver ponds or to prevent the blocking of culverts.

To prevent the blocking of a culvert, a specially designed "Culvert Guard Fence" can be installed. The fence design uses knowledge of beaver behavior to make it more difficult for them to dam the culvert.

To control the water level in beaver ponds, a system of pipes and guard fencing can be installed - the "Pipe



Culvert Guard Fence.



Pipe and Cage System.

and Cage System." This is appropriate where some ponded water is tolerable but the extent must be limited.

Flow devices cost more to begin with, but pay off over time when compared to labor intensive traditional beaver management practices such as kill-trapping, dam removal, or culvert unplugging. A 2006 study by the Virginia Department of Transportation compared the cost of flow device installation to traditional management and found that every \$1 spent on flow device installation saved \$8 in management costs.

Vegetation Protection

When beaver and people have different ideas about the best use of the same tree, vegetation protection can be the answer. Techniques used include tree wrapping and textural repellants.

Cost and Financial Assistance

Each site or set of sites requires a custom solution. These are designed by 7GI's team of a conservation biologist and a master carpenter, thus combining the best current knowledge of flow device construction with detailed knowledge of beaver behavior.

The cost to install individual flow devices ranges from \$900 to \$2900, not including travel. Prices for beaver management plans depend on the number of problem sites to be evaluated.

7GI has funding available to cover part of the cost of installations in sites where there is a conservation benefit to be gained by retaining beaver in the ecosystem. Please contact us to inquire if your site is a candidate for use of this funding.

*Good Beaver...Bad Beaver...
Useful Beaver.*

*Good Beaver?
Bad Beaver?*