



# North Carolina Beaver Management Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Summary for Counties

The NC Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) provides beaver damage management through a combination of fully funded and cost-share services in which state and federal agencies, counties, and individual landholders work together to address problems caused by beaver. Each year counties can opt into the program at their preferred participation level. More information about the program can be found online at [www.ncwildlife.org/bmap](http://www.ncwildlife.org/bmap).

## Program Administration

Beaver damage management services are provided directly by USDA-Wildlife Services (WS). WS and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) share responsibility for administering the program under the direction of the Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board (NC Statute [113-291.10](#)). The program has been serving North Carolina citizens since 1993.



## Cooperative Cost-Share

In participating counties, landholders experiencing beaver damage can receive BMAP services at a reduced cost-share rate. The cost of these services is shared between the landholder, participating counties, WS and the WRC. The roles of each entity are as follows:

## Participating Counties

Counties that opt into the program must contribute a \$6,000 baseline participation fee that is used to provide beaver damage management services to landholders at the reduced cost-share rate. BMAP services provided on state highways, roads, and bridges are funded separately out of NCDOT's maintenance budget, at no cost to counties. Each county typically receives 80–112 site visits in a year (38-57 DOT, 42-55 non-DOT). The number of site visits varies based on demand for services and availability of funding/personnel. Counties may arrange to receive expanded services by agreement with WS.

All NC counties receive a written letter each January inviting them to participate in the BMAP. To participate in the upcoming state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30), each county must:

- Provide written notification of their intent to participate no later than May 1 of each year.
- Establish a cooperative service agreement with WS no later than June 1 of each year.
- Submit payment of the \$6,000 participation fee to WS no later than July 31 of each year.
- Identify a BMAP liaison who collaborates with WS personnel throughout the year to prioritize requests and facilitate BMAP service in that county.

## ***Landholders***

In participating counties, landholders will:

- Request assistance with beaver damage issues through the county BMAP liaison or directly through WS personnel assigned to that area.
- Sign a cooperative service agreement (CSA) and a work initiation document giving written permission for WS to conduct this work on their lands.
- Provide funds according to the CSA for work conducted by WS personnel. Landholder cost-share fees are \$25 per visit (up to 15 visits per year) and \$125 per dam removed (beginning July 1, 2023, cost for each dam removal will increase to \$150 to reflect increasing cost of materials). An initial consultation is provided free of charge. Landowners are also provided guidance on addressing beaver damage themselves at no charge.

## ***USDA Wildlife Services***

WS implements the program by providing beaver damage management services directly to landholders.

- Notifies counties of their eligibility to participate no later than January 31 of each year.
- Hires and supervises professional wildlife specialists to conduct beaver damage management activities throughout the state.
- Maintains records of rendered services and expenses throughout the year.
- Reports annually on all BMAP activities to the WRC.
- Provides technical assistance regarding beaver damage management and non-lethal options for beaver damage control at no cost.

## ***Wildlife Resources Commission***

WRC provides annual funding to be distributed for beaver damage management services among participating counties. Funds are distributed based on how many counties participate each

year. For example, WRC contributed \$385,000 from its general funds (license revenues) in FY 2022-23 and 49 counties chose to participate in BMAP, so each of these counties gained access to around \$7,857 in beaver damage management services in addition to the participation fee, totaling \$13,857 in services.

## **Prioritizing Requests for Assistance**

Requests for assistance are generally addressed on a first-come, first-served basis with top priority placed on services that address threats to public health and safety, particularly along highway rights-of-way. DOT agreements are always prioritized in emergency situations, defined as when water is going over roads or water is threatening to reach the road within the next twenty-four hours. In general, the following priority rankings are observed when responding to requests for assistance:

- 1) State highways, roads and bridges
- 2) County-owned property in participating counties
- 3) Private property in participating counties
- 4) City/municipality-owned property in participating counties
- 5) Other property (e.g., publicly traded corporations)

## **Landholder Guarantee**

BMAP activities are guaranteed for 30 days following the completion of a project. If a problem recurs within the guarantee period, the project is reworked at no additional charge.

