

<b>Department:</b> <b>Agricultural Services</b>	<b>Section:</b> <b>PC – Pest Control</b>
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## **PC-01 Beaver Control and Beaver Dam Removal on County Right-of-Ways and Private Property**

### **Policy Statement**

Leduc County Agricultural Services will, where possible and permissible to do so, provide for the removal of beavers and beaver dams from Leduc County right-of-ways to protect the integrity of Leduc County roads and infrastructure. Leduc County will provide assistance to landowners/occupants who request the removal of beavers and/or beaver dams on their private property.

### **Definitions**

- Landowner/occupant is the person responsible for a property who:
  - Is the legal owner of it,
  - Has lawful possession of it, or
  - Has the right to exercise control over it.

### **Policy Authority**

1. All Beaver control work and investigations will be undertaken in accordance with the following Acts:
  - *Wildlife Act* – Revised Statute of Alberta 2000, Chapter W-10, current as of May 27, 2013
  - *Federal Firearms Act S.C. 1995 c. 39* Assented to 1995-12-05
  - *Federal Fisheries Act R.S.C., 1985, C. F-14* and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Operational Statements
  - *Water Act*, Revised Statute of Alberta 2000, Chapter W-3, Current as of December 11, 2013
  - *Occupational Health and Safety Act* – Revised Statute of Alberta 2000, Chapter O-2, Current as of October 1, 2013. Part 33 – Explosive Use
  - Occupational Health and Safety Code, 2009: Section 498 Firing Explosives, Community Protection
  - *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
2. All beaver control work and investigations will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines in the Pest Control Safe Practices and Administrative Procedures.

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### **Beaver Control and Beaver Dam Removal on County Right-of-Ways and Private Property Standards**

- (a) Inspections for the determination of beaver control will be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation, policy, and procedures on public and private lands.
- (b) Prior to any beaver dam removal, the landowner/occupant must initiate a service request with the Alberta One-Call service and follow through with all utility owners concerned to establish locations of all buried utilities and provide clearance documentation.
- (c) When required, the removal of beavers and/or beaver dams will be conducted to reduce the incidence of flooding with work undertaken in order of priority as follows:
  1. In order to protect the integrity of Leduc County roads and bridge infrastructure
  2. In order to protect the integrity of Leduc County waterways and drainage ditches that are licensed to Leduc County
  3. In order to reduce the incidence of flooding on crop land
  4. In order to reduce the incidence of flooding on hay land
  5. In order to reduce the incidence of flooding on pasture and rangeland
  6. In order to reduce the incidence of flooding in other areas.

### **Policy Responsibilities**

#### **1. Council responsibilities**

Council shall:

- Approve the Beaver Control and Beaver Dam Removal on County Right-of-Ways and Private Property Policy.

#### **2. Administration responsibilities**

Department directors and managers shall:

- Review this policy as required to ensure that the policy complies with all current, relevant legislation and municipal policies.

The Pest Control Officer shall:

- Inspect properties for the determination of beaver control and/or beaver dam removal.
- Conduct the removal of beavers and/or beaver dams when required.

### **Monitoring & Updating**

This policy should be reviewed every three years.

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