

Policy statement

Leduc County Agricultural Services will 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 where possible and permissible to do so. Leduc County will provide assistance to landowners/occupants who request the removal of beavers and/or beaver dams on their private property where it is possible and permissible to do so.

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

Legislative implications:

- *Wildlife Act* – Revised Statute of Alberta 2000, Chapter W-10, current as of August 25, 2020
- *Federal Firearms Act S.C. 1995 c. 39* Current to February 8, 2022
- *Federal Fisheries Act R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14* Current to February 8, 2022 and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Operational Statements
- *Water Act*, Revised Statute of Alberta 2000, Chapter W-3, Current as of March 29, 2014
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act* – Statues of Alberta, 2020, Chapter O-2.2, Current as of December 1, 2021. Occupational Health and Safety Code, Alberta Regulation 191/2021, Current as of December 1, 2021: Part 33 Explosives
- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

All beaver control work and investigations will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines in the Pest Control Safe Practices and Administrative Procedures.

Policy standards

1. Beaver control and beaver dam removal activities will be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation, policy, and procedures on public and private lands.
2. 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:
 - In order to protect the integrity of Leduc County roads and bridge infrastructure
 - In order to protect the integrity of Leduc County waterways and drainage ditches that are licensed to Leduc County
 - In order to reduce the incidence of flooding on crop land
 - In order to reduce the incidence of flooding on hay land
 - In order to reduce the incidence of flooding on pasture and rangeland
 - In order to reduce the incidence of flooding in other areas.

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Policy responsibilities

Council responsibilities:

Council will,

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

Administration responsibilities:

Administration will,

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

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County’s website.
- This policy should be reviewed every four (4) years.

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