



# Lesser Slave River

**Title:** BEAVER MANAGEMENT POLICY  
**Policy Number:** AG-63-05  
**Effective Date:** 2023-04-26  
**Resolution:**  
**Department Responsible:** Transportation  
**Supersedes Policy No:** J.7- July 27, 2005  
**Next Review Date:** April 26, 2026

## POLICY STATEMENT:

This policy will determine the management of beaver and the removal of beaver dams on private and public land any issues affecting MD road allowances or infrastructure, and ratepayers concerns with beaver management, issues affecting private property is undertaken in an efficient and effective manner as possible, giving consideration for human safety, municipal liabilities, and the mitigation of non-target animal capture.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1.1 To protect the M.D. Road infrastructure and public safety by managing beavers and/or removing dams that are or will cause flooding on M.D. Road allowances.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

05/10/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reeve

05/10/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## LESSER SLAVE RIVER PROCEDURE

TITLE: BEAVER CONTROL

PROCEDURE NO: AG – 63 – 05.01

RESOLUTION:

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 26, 2023

LEAD ROLE: CAO (or designate)

NEXT REVIEW DATE: APRIL 26, 2026

SPECIAL NOTES: BEAVER CONTROL POLICY – J.7

### **GENERAL PROCEDURES:**

1. Removal of beavers will commence in the spring by the hired contracted trapper who must be under the Municipality's damage control license. The contracted trapper would continue with the trapping for the balance of the season (May 16-Sept 30). Traps set would be left in place over the balance of the season and be regularly checked and reset as necessary.
2. The trapper is to remove problem beavers and beaver dams affecting MD right-of-ways (ROW), Infrastructure.
3. Removal of dams and/or beavers shall be done by authorized personnel in accordance with Wildlife Act, Federal Firearms Act, Federal and Provincial legislation, including the Federal Fisheries Act, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Species at Risk Act (SARA), Alberta's Water Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP).
4. Prior to any contracted beaver dam blasting, the blaster will ensure that all legal and safety requirements have been fulfilled and proper authorities have been notified. A call to Alberta First Call will be completed prior to work commencing, at the discretion of the Blaster. The CAO (or designate) will notify adjacent landowners if necessary.
5. The CAO (or designate) will submit a Beaver Harvest Report to Fish and Wildlife at the end of the season. A copy of the report will be kept in the MD Administration office.
6. The trapper will be allowed to retain the beaver carcasses as part of the remuneration for services.

### **REQUESTS FOR SERVICE – PUBLIC AND MD LAND**

1. MD of Lesser Slave River is responsible for the maintenance of road culverts blocked by beaver on all MD owned roadways, therefore, landowners requesting service on these locations shall be directed to their department for remedial action.
2. The CAO (or designate) will coordinate with other MD departments for the removal of beaver dams and cleaning of culverts for the protection of MD infrastructure and public safety. Transportation will determine whether protective devices are warranted on culverts with chronic beaver problems.

**3. Beaver and beaver dam removal to alleviate flooding or any other environmental issues on MD of Lesser Slave River property (including Municipal Reserve) will be coordinated by the Transportation department. This includes the impact of water flow at inflow/outflow locations around any lake or water body. In these events, the MD of Lesser Slave River will be responsible for all associated control costs.**

**4. The CAO (or designate) will notify appropriate downstream landholders of the intent and approximate date of water release from dam removals. Responses from all those notified must be received by the Transportation department prior to the commencement of any work with any conditions or objections noted.**

**5. Beaver control requests for non-flooding damage (i.e. trees) can be referred to contracted trapper for resolution.**

**6. The CAO (or designate) will issue work orders to Trapper, authorizing the beaver control work.**

## **2.0 AUTHORIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**2.1 The M.D. is granted the authorization to manage beaver and remove beaver dams on M.D. controlled property and public and private property to which it has access, under authority of the Wildlife Act by way of a Damage Control License from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Fish and Wildlife Division**

**2.2 The CAO (or designate) is responsible for conducting and supervising the Beaver Management Program (BMP)**

**2.3 The CAO (or designate) is responsible for securing the Damage Control License**

**2.4 The CAO (or designate) is responsible for ensuring all beaver management work is conducted according to all applicable federal and provincial legislation.**

**2.5 The CAO (or designate) is responsible for ensuring best management practices are used in the removal of beaver dams.**

**2.6 The CAO (or designate) is responsible for ensuring his safety as well as the public's safety (including property, buildings, infrastructure, etc.) when conducting beaver management work and has the authority to refuse to carry out any work if conditions are not safe.**

**2.7 The CAO (or designate) is responsible to take into consideration the characteristics of the site and the consequences of the control work.**

**2.8 The CAO (or designate) may delegate beaver management work to the Animal Control Officer (ACO) or other designates and they must adhere to this policy.**

**3.0 BEAVER MANAGEMENT ON MUNICIPAL ROAD ALLOWANCES:**

**3.1** The CAO (or designate) is authorized to manage beaver and/or remove beaver dams within the M.D. Road allowance.

**3.2** Beaver management work will be carried out on municipal road allowances as required. The intent is to prevent flooding problems and damage to the road infrastructure before they occur.

**3.3** If the beaver and/or dams are located off the M.D. Road allowance, a "Permission to Enter Upon Lands for Problem Wildlife" (Schedule "A") must be obtained from the landholder.

**3.4** If a landholder will not authorize the M.D. to carry out beaver management work on their land for the protection of M.D. Road infrastructure and public safety, the matter will be referred to Environment and Sustainable Resource Development for investigation under the Water Act

**3.5** Beaver management work will be coordinated with culvert cleaning operations.

**4.0 REMOVAL OF BEAVER DAMS:**

**4.1** The MD will follow recommended best management practices for the removal of beaver dams.

**4.2** The MD will not remove beaver lodges using dynamite given the limited value of such an exercise.

**4.3** The MD will remove only the necessary sections of beaver dams as required facilitating the flow of water. Removal of the entire dam structure could result in severe downstream flooding and an increased risk to people and property.

**5.0 DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES:**

**5.1** On Public Lands exposed to frequent human interference, the Designate will remove and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

05/10/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Lesser Slave River

## CONSENT TO ENTER PROPERTY AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

THIS AGREEMENT dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

**BETWEEN:** The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (hereinafter called the "MD")

- and -

Name	Mailing Address	Phone Number
(hereinafter called the "Owner")		

**WHEREAS** The "Owner" is the owner, purchaser or lease of the following land:

\_\_\_\_\_ Rural Address

I, the undersigned owner of the property located at the below-mentioned address, hereby consent to entry onto my property by the MD and its designees for the removal / destruction of beaver dams and/or problem beavers on the lands.

I am aware that the removal or destruction of beaver dams and/or problem wildlife involves inherent risks, dangers and hazards, and may involve the use of firearms, traps or explosives. I freely accept and assume all such risks, dangers and hazards and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage or loss resulting therefrom.

I release the County, its' employees, agents and representatives (the "Releasees") from any and all liability for any loss, damage, injury or expense that I may suffer or that my successors or assigns may suffer as a result of anything done that may be related to the removal or destruction of beaver dams and/or problem wildlife, due to any cause whatsoever, **INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES**

I agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Releasees from any and all liability for any property damage, personal injury to any third party or other financial loss or expense, including legal expenses and costs (on a solicitor and his own client basis), which may be caused by the removal or destruction of beaver dams and/or problem wildlife. I fully understand and agree to the above terms.

_____	_____	_____
Owner / Authorized person name (please print)	Owner / Authorized person name (signature)	Date

_____	_____	_____
Witness name (please print)	Witness (signature)	Date