

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

DRAFT

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JUN 17 2019

June 4, 2019

COUNTY MANAGER'S/
COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

Dear County Manager,

The United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Program works directly with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to implement the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) throughout North Carolina. This program provides beaver damage management services to landholders at significantly reduced cost and prevents millions of dollars in land resource damages each year. More information about the program can be found at www.ncwildlife.org/BMAP.

BMAP is funded in large part by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, but each county must opt into the program on an annual basis in order for its residents to receive beaver management services at reduced rates. The cost for counties to participate for the upcoming 2019-2020 year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) is \$4,000. Note: for planning purposes, next year there will be proposed legislation to increase this participation fee to \$6,000 starting July 1, 2020.

Please complete the requested information on the reverse side of this letter and thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Todd Menke
Assistant State Director
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

Falyn Owens
Extension Wildlife Biologist
NC Wildlife Resources Commission



Please provide or update the following contact information for your county:

County	FORSYTH
Contact Name/Position	DUDLEY WATTS / COUNTY MANAGER
Address	201 N CHESTNUT ST
City	WINSTON - SALEM NC 27101
Zip	27101
Phone	336-703-2020
Email	fcmenges@forsyth.nc

Please indicate your desired involvement for the upcoming year 2019-2020:

No, my county does not wish to participate in the Beaver Management Assistance Program.

Yes, my county wishes to participate in the Beaver Management Assistance Program. Please distribute the following phone number that county residents may call to obtain these services:

My county's BMAP Liaison Phone Number: 336-703-2020

J. DUDLEY WATTS, JR.
Print Name and Title

[Signature]
Signature

Please complete and return this form to no later than May 1, 2019, even if you do not wish to participate:

Todd Menke
USDA APHIS WS
PO Box 80395
Raleigh, NC 27623-0395

You can also email your response and/or any questions that you may have directly to:

todd.a.menke@usda.gov
(919) 594-0459 (cell)

or

falyn.owens@ncwildlife.org
(919) 707-0068

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services
North Carolina State Office
PO Box 80395
Raleigh, NC 27623-0395
(919) 788-4480



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
1722 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1700
(919) 707-0010

**NORTH CAROLINA BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: SUMMARY FOR COUNTIES
Updated April 2019**

The North Carolina Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) provides beaver damage management services through a combination of fully-funded and cooperative cost-share services in which state and federal agencies, counties, and individual landholders work together to address problems caused by beaver. Each year counties have the opportunity to decide if and how they will participate. This guide provides information to help counties understand what they can expect if they enroll in BMAP. More information about the program can be found at the following link: www.ncwildlife.org/bmap.

ADMINISTRATION

The BMAP was authorized by the NC General Assembly in 1992 and is currently administered by USDA-Wildlife Services (WS), which operates in part under the direction of the Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC).

COOPERATIVE COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The BMAP Advisory Board specifically oversees the administration of the WRC funded portion of the BMAP which is laid out in NC Statute 113-291.10. This portion is funded through a cooperative cost-share structure with numerous entities that includes WRC, participating counties, individual landholders, and WS. The roles of each entity are as follows:

Wildlife Resources Commission

The WRC is required to provide \$385,000 in funding for the 2019-2020 state fiscal year to be distributed as needed for beaver damage management services among the BMAP participating counties. An expected 43 counties will participate in the BMAP, so each county can expect to receive approximately \$8,950 in WRC funds to support beaver damage management activities.

Participating Counties

Counties that opt in to the BMAP can expect to receive services based on the number of participating counties that fiscal year and the total amount of funding the program receives. The \$4,000 a county contributes is a participation fee which allows private landholders limited opportunity to receive services at the reduced BMAP cost share rate. State highways, roads, and bridges receive BMAP services through a separate agreement with NC DOT. Together, services are provided on both public (DOT) and private lands in the county, with an expected total of 11 to 15 agreements (5-7 non-DOT and 6-8 DOT) being completed per county in a given fiscal year. The number of agreements is based on historical demand, the number of participating counties, current funding level, and the program's ability to meet increased demand for services. Due to health and safety concerns related to flooding on public roads, DOT agreements receive priority, but this is balanced against any backlogged requests to ensure equity of services that are provided. 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. Due to personnel constraints, some counties may receive varying amounts of services depending on the demand in that county.

All 100 counties are notified annually in January of their eligibility to participate in the BMAP. If a county decides to participate in the coming state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30), they must:

- Provide written notification of their wish to participate no later than May 1 of each year.
- Establish Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) with WS no later than July 1 of each year.
- Submit payment to WS for the \$4,000 participation fee no later than July 31 of each year.
- Identify an individual to collaborate with WS personnel throughout the year to prioritize requests and facilitate implementation of the program throughout the county.

Landholders

In counties that choose to participate in the BMAP, landholders will:

- Request assistance with beaver damage management through the county representative or directly through WS personnel assigned to that area.
- Sign a CSA with WS 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 will be \$25 per visit (up to 15 visits per year) and \$125 per dam removed, as established by the Beaver Damage Control Advisory Board. An initial consultation is provided free of charge.

USDA Wildlife Services

As the agency appointed to implement the BMAP in NC, WS:

- Notifies counties of their eligibility to participate no later than January 31 of each year.
- Hires and supervises professional wildlife specialists as needed and funded to conduct beaver damage management activities throughout the state.
- Maintains records of appropriate information, data and expenses throughout the year.
- Reports annually on activities to the WRC no later than December 1 of each year.
- Provides technical assistance pertaining to beaver damage management and advice on non-lethal options for beaver damage control at no cost.

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. 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) Landholders in participating counties
- 4) Cities/municipalities in participating counties
- 5) Other lands (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.