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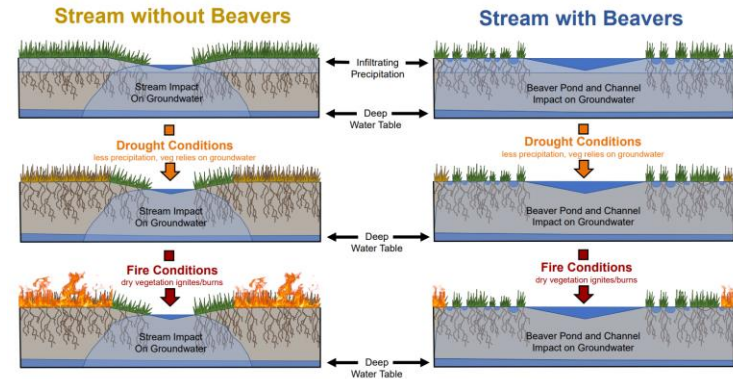


Beaver in PPWSAs



Beaver benefits

- Raise water table levels reducing drought and mitigating forest fire impacts which also provides refuge for wildlife
- Reduce sedimentation and improve water quality in downstream flow
- Net positive benefit to fish (including salmon):
 - increase stream complexity
 - improve survival of parr
 - reduce downstream sedimentation
- Wetland creation benefits many wildlife species, including waterfowl and species at risk



Beaver trapping in NL

- Historically a valued furbearer for the fur industry
- Managed through:
 - Trapline system on Island
 - General trapping licence in Labrador
- 653 beaver traplines delineated on the Island
- Trapping season:
 - Island: October 20 to April 15
 - Labrador: October 15 to May 31



Giardia

- *'Human giardiasis (Giardia duodenalis) is commonly called beaver fever, on the (mistaken) assumption that people most commonly acquire the parasite from consuming untreated surface water contaminated with feces from beavers (when instead it is more commonly acquired from human fecal contamination of water)' -Western College of Veterinary Medicine*
- Many species can carry it, beaver not always the source but could act as a reservoir when present
- From studies: 13-30% of beaver found with giardia parasite



Beaver life cycle

- Mating January to February
- Kits born from late April to June
- Second year beaver establish new territory
- Spring and fall are primary dam maintenance periods
- Fall food caching for winter survival



Wildlife Division position



Indiscriminate trapping of beaver in town watersheds is not permitted for the following reasons:

- a) Beaver are a valued ecosystem component supporting many wildlife species, mitigating against environmental concerns, and providing a renewable resource for trappers
- b) Giardiasis can be caused by sources other than beaver and the Giardia parasite is not always present in beaver.
- c) Beaver occupy most town watersheds.
- d) Some watersheds are quite extensive, eg. Gander Lake (two major rivers feed this system).

When trapping is permitted

- a) Where Giardia has been confirmed, any beaver in close proximity of the water supply intake (<1km) can be removed.
- b) Where Giardia is suspected - a sample of beaver or other wildlife, eg. muskrat, can be removed for testing purposes only, if found within 1km of a water supply intake. Carcasses are to be submitted to Provincial Animal Health (709-729-0388) accompanied by a submission form.

Who can trap?

- Conservation Officer with Trapper Education Certification
- Registered trapper
 - Coordinated and permitted by District Forestry and Wildlife office

Other considerations

DFO Beaver Dam Breaching and Removal Code of Practice (<https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41113111.pdf>)

- Addresses harm to fish and fish habitat

