



Beaver Management

Erik Thorson – Area Wildlife Supervisor

Wildlife Management

Healthy and diverse wildlife populations and associated habitats that provide recreational opportunities with minimal conflicts.

- Biology and Ecology
- Seasons and Harvest Regulation
- Damage and Nuisance Issues
- Exclusion, Control, and Removal
- Laws and Permits

Biology and Ecology

- Important aquatic furbearers weighing up to 90 pounds
- Herbivores, feed on grasses, green vegetation, and bark
- Live in colonies consisting of adult pair, young of year, and often yearlings
- Kits are born in May or June, litter of 3 to 4



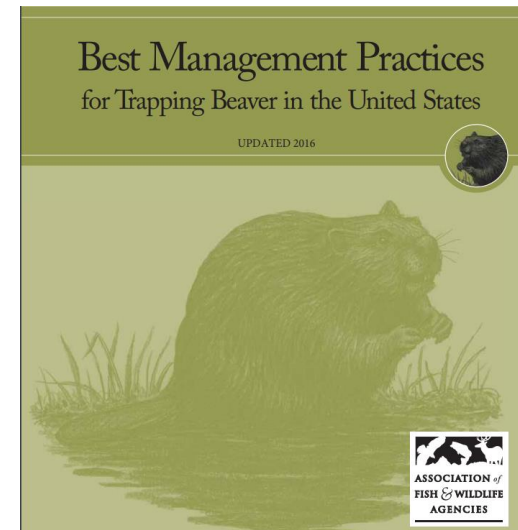
Biology and Ecology

- Lodges (protected), dams, and feed piles
- Ecosystem engineers, prey species
- Beaver ponds, fish barriers, & wild rice



Seasons and Harvest Regulation

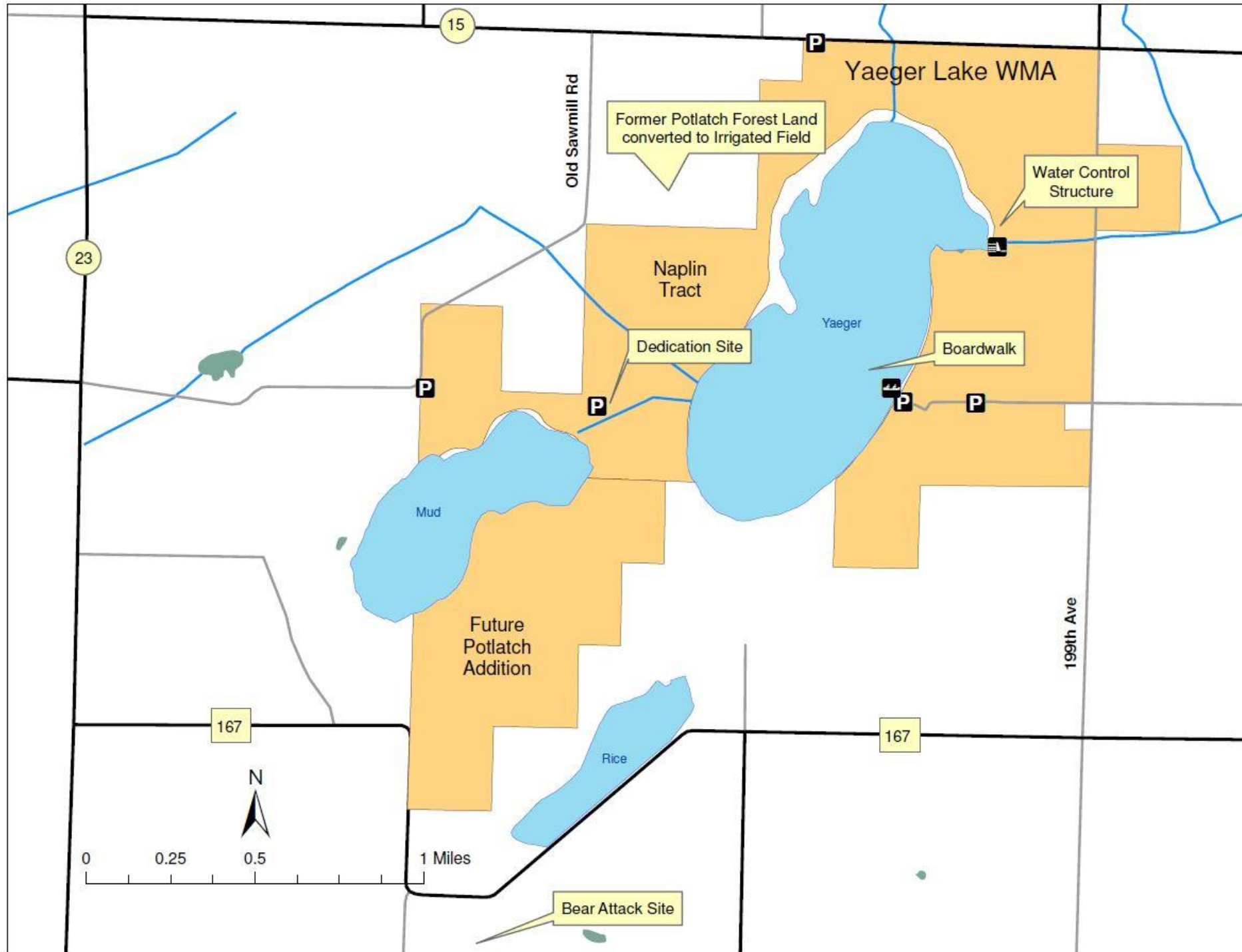
- Trapping season, end of Oct. through mid-May
- No limit, but low fur prices has limited harvest
- Trapping regulations, trapper education, and BMPs



Damage and Nuisance Issues

- Individual trees
- Flooding
- Water control structures
- Roads and culverts
- Nuisance behavior





Exclusion, Control, and Removal

- Hardware mesh around tree trunk at least 30" high
- Dam or debris removal
- Clemson beaver leveler
- Beaver trapping during season, bounties
- Shoot or trap beaver causing damage




- Landowners with beaver damage, see Minnesota Statute 97B.655 and ask DNR wildlife for nuisance trapper list
- Road authorities have broader authorities within 300 feet of the road
- Contact DNR area wildlife or hydrologist for more complex situations: work by lake associations, on other ownerships, in public waters, with equipment, on old dams, etc.

No Permit is Required Minnesota Statute

97B.655 which allows a landowner or legal occupant (e.g., authorized renter), or their authorized agent, to shoot or trap beaver that are causing damage. No license or permit is required if all four of these conditions are met:

- 1.The landowner/occupant must have beaver damage to their property.
- 2.The landowner/occupant must authorize the removal.
- 3.The animal must be on that landowner's/occupant's property, where it is causing damage, at the time it is shot or trapped.
- 4.The person taking the beaver must notify the DNR within 24 hours, by following the Reporting Requirements

Do I need a permit?

Select a topic for answers to questions about water and shoreland-related permits. If you have further questions, send them to info.dnr@state.mn.us 

Important: Other approvals may be required from federal, state, and local units of government, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, watershed districts, water management organizations, counties, townships, and cities.

Expand all sections

+ Aeration systems

+ Aquatic vegetation

+ Beach sand blanket


— Beaver dams

Is a DNR public waters work permit required to remove the beaver dam from my property?

Beavers are protected animals under the game and fish laws, and their dams have protection under those laws. Landowners have the right to remove beaver dams from their property but DNR permits may be required:

A DNR public waters work permit (on-line application [here](#)) may be required to remove a beaver dam if the bed of the lake or stream is excavated (i.e., by dragline, backhoe) in conjunction with the dam's removal. If a beaver dam has been in place for many years and affects other properties than your own, the other property owners should be contacted. In some cases, lakeshore has been developed in conformance with water levels resulting from a beaver dam controlling the outlet for many years. Before removing a beaver dam in that situation, it is recommended you contact the [DNR area hydrologist \(PDF\)](#).

In addition to a public waters work permit:

- Please see "[Living with Wildlife – Beavers](#) " for additional information regarding removal of beaver or beaver dams under game and fish law provisions.
- **Trapping or killing beaver** may require a special beaver permit from a Conservation Officer. Questions regarding trapping or killing beaver should be directed to the [local DNR conservation officer](#).

The DNR does not participate in the control of beaver populations or problem beavers.

Questions?

Park Rapids Wildlife

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