

Beaver Management Meeting Oshkosh, September 22, 2011

Poster session from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. Thirteen (13) folks in attendance in addition to 6 presenters/facilitators.

Debbie Beyer opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and explained the background of the task force effort; the webinar; and the online survey. Passed out a news release on upcoming meetings. Also mentioned the 1990 Beaver Management Plan and that we're now beginning the process of public input into a new plan. Time line of plan writing (next spring). Panel introductions.

Dave MacFarland introduced himself and mentioned what research is doing. Monitoring such as surveys.

Jason Suckow. Described WS efforts. Described their involvement and a general background of WS.

Steve Ave. intro. Only one present that was on the 1990 plan committee. Fish and beaver are mutually exclusive. Referenced the Avery studies and what happened over time. Have used various tools such as subsidies, stream threads, and later, stream-specific WS contracts and with some LTE's and other groups. 2,000 miles of streams being managed at the present times. Where and how extensive will future beaver removal occur.

Shawn Rossler intro. From the WM side of things we're seeking "reasonable balance" in future beaver management. Talked of the long history of beaver in WI, the 1980's, the Plan, and the future. Olson deferred on talking!!!!

Debbie laid the ground work for our focus – looking for input.

Rick. Where and at what point does the total beaver population collapse? Mac. - High reproductive output unlike other wildlife. Drought did have an affect on available habitat. Jason – Large number of user groups out there. Some would like no beaver, others would like beaver everywhere. Shawn – beaver are an important part of the ecosystem especially with a huge loss of wetlands over time.

Tom. Looking at data and understand populations fluctuate and see a decline on our posters, but am not convinced that this decline is really out there. Do we really understand the direct cause of beaver on trout? Doesn't believe that fish management is the cause of the beaver decline. Mac. – Corrected, that we're not blaming trout management for the overall decline statewide. Jason – Identified that only a portion of their take is on trout streams, quite a bit of the take is on county contracts, wild rice, etc. Over 10,000 miles of trout streams in WI, but only 2,000 have management on them. Steve – In some counties up to 50% of the streams being managed, others much less. Mac. – Our data is statistically significant and it does show a decline in populations.

Bob. Two situations. Retention pond near here and northern WI with 2 lakes. Worked with neighbors and controlled numbers. 4 years ago beaver numbers just disappeared and not due to trapping. Suggested bears. Trout fisherman and has observed damage to Campground Creek. Thermometer above and below and found a 1 to 1.5 degree increase due to the blockage. On cold water streams need an increase in management to remove beaver and blockage. Also recognizes trapper interest and suggests warm water areas. Each stream and each location has separate problems.

Larry. Road damage preemptive work using bafflers. Jason – Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Lot depends on how the road and culverts were built and placed. Often times culverts are set too high causing the problem. Doesn't work on trout streams due to siltation and migration issues. # 2 – How far off the road does WS trap? The CNF is the concern. They give out maps and when they went in there was no beaver 2 miles away from the road. Jason – Sue Reinke is the biologist and if they identify as a trout stream they take care of the problem. Map should have been corrected. Strict policies on setting of traps when other trappers are present. Signs are placed at road sites and in both English and Spanish. Hundreds of 2' diameter cedar trees way back in – high value and need immediate protection.

Louis. Ashland & Iron. Bank beavers and pond beavers. Bank beavers are good. Is there a difference in species? Mac. – Related to site conditions.

Estimate of the beaver population pre-colonial? Friend of fathers' – from Canada, was flying beaver in. Why? Mac. – Reason was to reduce flooding in headwaters.

Meeting wrapped up at 7:50 PM.