

WISCONSIN BEAVER DAMAGE MANAGEMENT



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

February 18, 2026

ABOUT US

The mission of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) is to provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist.



BEAVER CONFLICT MITIGATION PROCESS

Tolerance/Coexistence

Beaver Colonize Area

Beaver Induced
Flooding and Damage

Take Action / Request
Assistance

Nonlethal Methods

Wildlife Damage
Management

Lethal Control
Methods

Beaver are ecosystem engineers whose foraging and dam building activities provide a wide range of ecosystem services to the public and wildlife.

However, these same processes can result in damage to agricultural and natural resources, property, infrastructure, and threatened human health and safety.

OFTEN DETERMINED BY RESOURCE BEING AFFECTED

- Identify the beaver damage/conflict and consider how best to meet landowner/manager's objectives and tolerance.
 - Human safety, critical infrastructure, private property, agricultural, natural resources
- Chronic beaver issues at the site?

DAMAGE THRESHOLD AND LANDOWNER/MANAGER PREFERENCES

Am I allowed to remove a beaver dam on my land?

Yes, but only if the dam(s) are causing damage [NR12.10(1)(b)(3)].

Can I remove a dam causing damage from my neighbor's land?

Yes, recommended to seek consent/permission [s.88.90(3)].

See Beaver Control Guidelines for people with beaver damage problems, a WDNR publication.

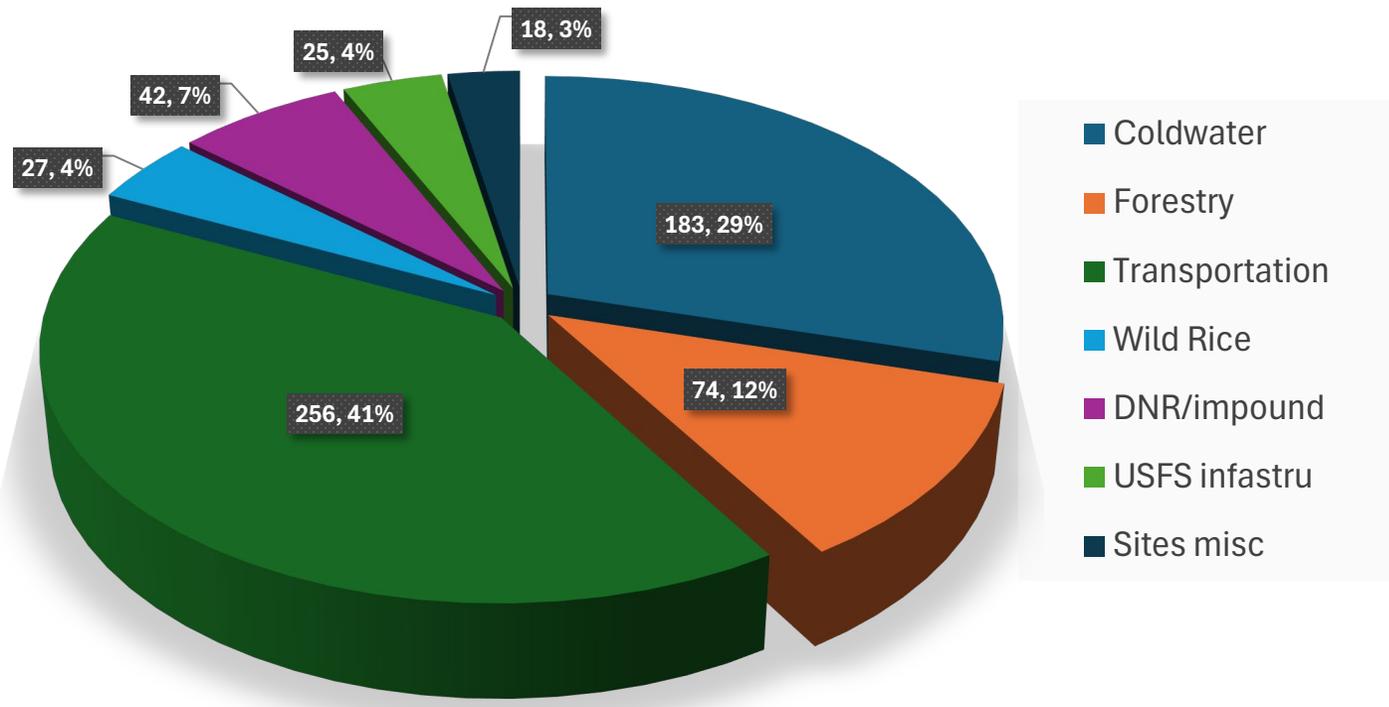


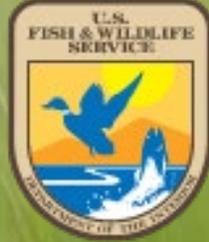


SITES MANAGED

CY 25 Number of Sites Managed by Resource

N = 625





**COOPERATING ENTITIES
OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

45 TOWNSHIPS/MUNICIPALITIES

12 COUNTY FORESTRY DEPTS

2 STATE FORESTS

16 COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPTS

35 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND TRIBAL ENTITIES

TOWNSHIPS, COUNTY HIGHWAY, MUNICIPALITIES, FORESTRY



CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES

There are 3,300 miles of rail lines in Wisconsin.



PROS –

Nonlethal, allows for coexistence.
Can be long-lasting and cost-effective.

CONS –

Permitting (check with WDNR Water Resources).
May not be suitable for all situations.
Initial upfront cost may be higher than lethal.
Require maintenance/upkeep.

FLOW DEVICES

Many designs and resources available



QUESTIONS?

Zac Venchus

Wildlife Specialist

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WDACP Contact for Columbia, Dane, Green, Iowa,
Jefferson, Lafayette, and Rock Counties



Submerged landline telephone distribution box at a rural residence