

ROAD BUSINESS

A newsletter for municipal employees, public and private road-related organizations, and citizens.

On the Road in NH: Success with Beaver Deceivers in Andover

By Kathryn Myers, UNH T² Training Program Manager & Road Business Editor

Thanks to Victoria Miscon--Selectboard member in Andover, for providing this information.



Beavers can cause major damage to municipal and other infrastructure by building dams, which can create floods. The solution is to prevent beavers from doing any harm. Wildlife biologist, Skip Lisle, offers his “beaver deceivers” as a humane solution. Beaver deceivers prevent beavers from successfully blocking streams and culverts.

Skip Lisle’s devices have been installed throughout the United States, including one on Elbow Pond Road in Andover NH, and many claim the deceivers are very successful. Victoria Miscon, selectboard members in Andover, says “Skip installed two devices for us in October, and after a month of heavy beaver activity, with lots of trees knocked down, the culverts remain completely unblocked.”

One way to deceive beavers is to build a fence outward from a culvert. The fence can be made with cedar or pressure-treated wood posts and steel sheet fencing. The fence prevents beavers from entering the space from the top, sides, or bottom. This forces beavers to build so far away from the outlet that the animal will usually decide the effort to dam the stream is not worth it.

This fence does not plug the culvert and the fence panels are large enough to allow fish and other aquatic animals through.

Lisle has found that trapezoid-shaped fences are the most effective. However, beaver deceivers can take almost any form needed to fit in the space available.

If road managers need to lower the level of water that a beaver dam is holding, they can use a pipe system to deceive beavers. Place the inlet end of the pipe in the beaver-made pond at the desired water level, and the discharge end of the pipe on the other side of the dam. Surround the inlet end of the pipe with a Lisle-designed “round fence.” This will prevent the animal from blocking the drain. Then create a notch in the dam at the water level desired. Beavers may build where the notch was made, but once they are committed to maintaining an established dam they do not typically search downstream for leaks.

Beavers are important to our ecosystem and should never be harmed. Beaver activities create and sustain wetlands, help filter toxins out of watersheds, and provide habitat for both plants and animals.

For more information, Skip can be reached at Beaver Deceiver International, (802) 843-1017.

Spring 2009

Vol. 24 No. 1

Master Roads Scholars & Training Update.....	2
New Sign Retroreflectivity Requirements.....	3
Safety Countermeasures	4-5
Economic Recovery & NH Municipalities	6
Cracksealing Practices & Benefits Technical Note	
Too Busy to Train? Think Again	7
Road Business 4 Year Index	8
Crossword Puzzle, Dates & Milestones	9
Publications & Videos	10
Listservs, Advisory Board & T ² Info.....	11
Calendar	12

UNH Technology Transfer Center Mission: To provide technical and management information about roads and bridges to municipal officials and road-related organizations.