



**NS Habitat Conservation Fund – 2007 – Final Report  
Beaver Pond Management in Northern Nova Scotia**



**February 20, 2008**

**Submitted by Rob Fraser**

## **1. Project Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the project was to secure four sites in Cumberland County and maintain or improve some of the benefits derived from beaver ponds and associated plant communities while preventing extensive flood damage. DUC's objective was to enhance habitat conditions (wetland value) for aquatic wildlife and to improve the ability of these wetlands to benefit wildlife and people (wetland function).

## **2. Outline of work completed**

There were several approaches used to secure the habitat associated with these habitats. The most important one being the use of the Clemson Beaver Pond Leveler. This device was installed in each of the 4 areas and will prevent the beavers from raising water levels in the ponds to problem levels. The 4 situations were unique and needed to be dealt with on an individual basis. The activity in the first pond was to remove an existing high head natural beaver dam over a period of several days to lower the water level then place the leveler through the dam. DUC staff partially reconstructed the dam to give the beavers a helping hand but they were not long finishing the job. The technique in the second situation was to excavate a series of channels and construct nesting islands. This was possible because this area had been abandoned by the beavers and has been dry for several years. At the third area the beavers had blocked a road culvert as well as constructed a dam downstream of the road. An excavator was used to dig a trench and a leveler was installed through the road. A leveler was then installed through the downstream dam using the same technique as the first pond. At the fourth site the beavers again were blocking the road culvert with debris, causing the water level to be high. In this situation DUC was able to remove the debris and install the leveler with its outlet pipe going through the existing road culvert. This was done without any heavy machinery. All work was done in late summer and early fall with NSDEL approval.

## **3. Results**

With funds provided by the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund, DUC enhanced and secured 26.4 acres as waterfowl and other wildlife habitat on four projects in the Cumberland County area. While this project is great habitat for fresh water aquatic wildlife, it will also provide benefits to society by filtering and purifying surface water that travels through it. Also it will add aesthetic value to the property and provide recreational opportunities for the landowner such as nature (bird) watching or ice skating.

## **4. Assessing the achievements**

Each landowner signed a 30 year Conservation Agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

## **5. Financial Statement**

The entire project cost was \$15,729 The NSHCF grant amount was \$6,000. Therefore, the NSHCF grant accounted for 38% of the total cost of the project and was instrumental in insuring that 26.4 acres of excellent quality wildlife habitat was enhanced and secured in Cumberland County. Itemized expenditures, paid in full, for the direct costs only (contractors charges, materials etc.) for each project are attached as appendix 1.

## **6. Communications**

Ducks Unlimited Canada highlights its accomplishments at regional meeting which are held in various parts of the province with supporters and volunteers. NSHCF was identified as the funding source for the Beaver Pond Management program of 2008.

## 7. Images

David Jackson's Project:



Ripley's Project:



Appendix 1

**Expenses:**

Contractors Charges	\$11153.12
Ducks Unlimited Staff	1590.30
Beaver Levellers	1388.90
Materials	1597.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,729.79</b>

**Revenue:**

NSHCF	\$6,000.00
Landowners	6,000.00
DUC	3,729.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,729.79</b>

**Expenses by Project:**

**Steve Thompson**

Materials	\$127.32
Contractor's Charges	193.38
Beaver Leveller	277.78
DUC Staff Time	513.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,111.48</b>

**Ian Ripley**

Materials	\$942.39
Contractor's Charges	10040.50
Beaver Leveller	277.78
DUC Staff Time	513.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,773.67</b>

**David Jackson**

Materials	\$527.76
Contractor's Charges	775.24
Beaver Levellers	555.56
DUC Staff Time	564.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,422.86</b>

**Vic Matheson**

Contractor's Charges	\$144.00
Beaver Leveller	277.78
DUC Staff Time	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$421.78</b>

<b>Grand Total Cost</b>	<b>\$15,729.79</b>
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