



Beaver Habitat Landowner Compensation Program

The beaver habitat lease program is a privately funded pilot program designed to provide financial compensation to landowners who have areas of their property impounded by beaver ponds. The program will provide an annual payment to landowners based on the size of the impounded area. Annual payments will be made for up to three (3) years and can be extended based on available funding. The area(s) impounded by beaver ponds will be verified on an annual basis and compensation will increase or decrease based on the area impounded. The payment will be based on the acreage impounded plus a 35' buffer surrounding the ponded area if agreed to by the landowner. Verification will occur November-January, when beaver typically focus on enhancing their dams and habitat for the winter months.

The landowner maintains the right to sell the property and pay taxes, as the agreement transfers with the property. No public access is required. The owner maintains the right to enjoyment and recreational use including hunting, fishing, and other quiet recreational uses, including the right to lease out the overall property for hunting.

Beaver and their ability to alter the landscape to pond water and create wetlands provide a multitude of benefits including:

- Water quality improvements including reductions in Nitrogen and Phosphorus
- Sediment retention
- Creating and maintaining ecologically significant wetland habitat for wildlife including those that are declining, threatened, or endangered (i.e. waterfowl species, bats, and bivalves, and more)
- Reduction of peak flood flows
- Increased elevation of the water table and enhanced groundwater recharge



Requirements

- Beaver altered habitat and ponding of water created via beaver dams must presently exist on the property.
- Ponded area that qualifies for the lease must be on the applicant's property.
- Landowner agrees not to negatively alter the beaver habitat during the time the lease is in place.
- Beaver trapping and/or hunting is not allowed on the property during the lease period. Hunting for other species such as deer and waterfowl are permitted.
- The landowner must allow reasonable access to the property for verification purposes.
- Any water quality or flood resiliency credits resulting from the lease will accrue to the Grantmaker.
- At this time the program is limited to Virginia and Maryland.

Qualifications

- Farmers and landowners who are responsible for the management of eligible lands may apply.
- Farmers who lease land must certify an active lease for the term of the buffer, or provide an agreement from the landowner.
- Farmers and landowners must be in good standing with USDA and state cost-share programs.
- Additional restrictions may apply.



Apply at coexistwithbeavers.org