

FEASIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR BEAVER MANAGEMENT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

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1986*

Goal: Maintain beaver populations at current level (near carrying capacity) and increase harvest.

Abundance Objective: Maintain beaver populations at 1985 levels (estimated at 44,000 – 67,000 or near carrying capacity) through 1990.

Harvest Objective: Increase average harvest of beaver to 15,000 statewide per year (or whatever level needed to maintain population near carrying capacity) and maintain at that level through 1990 and minimize the mortality of beaver due to nuisance control.

Desirability: This is the optimum in beaver management desirability.

Feasibility: The feasibility is subject to the demand for beaver pelts. It is feasible under conditions of high demand statewide. It is feasible under present demand levels only in the more accessible parts of the State. It would be unfeasible statewide if demand for pelts decreases from current levels. Will require a higher level and therefore more expensive level of local habitat information than is currently being collected.

Capability of Habitat: The habitat will support the proposed population level if the population is locally proportional to the habitat capability.

Possible Consequences: Maintaining populations may require maintaining habitat by initiating increased harvest removals in some areas. In the absence of locally balanced harvests, some habitat damage by excessive beaver populations can be expected. Some population controls in the form of nuisance removals can be expected to continue at high levels or at increased levels if harvest demands do not increase.