

Culvert protection systems:

A beaver coexistence tool

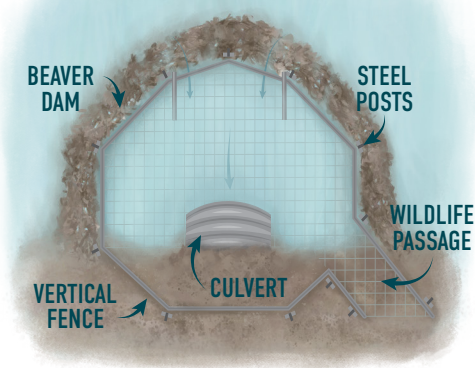
The many benefits of beaver ecosystems are harder to appreciate while their dams are flooding roads, crops, homes, or other infrastructure. With coexistence tools, human property can be protected while allowing beavers to remain on the landscape. Culvert protection systems are immediate and cost-effective solutions that can be used to prevent beavers from blocking culverts.

Beavers are attracted to culverts because they are easy to dam. Culvert protection systems can either physically exclude beavers from the culvert or make other damming locations more appealing. They allow beavers to still use the stream as habitat while ensuring the culvert can continue to function normally. Some common designs include the trapezoidal culvert fence, anchor fence, and anchor dam.

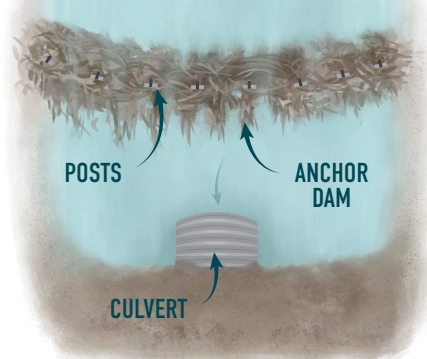
Why use a culvert protection system?

- ▣ **Cost:** Can save money over time compared to repeatedly cleaning blocked culverts and trapping beaver.
- ▣ **Ecosystem benefits:** Beavers and their dams improve watershed health and are important for numerous other species including many fish and birds.
- ▣ **Longevity:** Culvert protection systems can last 5-10 years or longer if properly maintained.

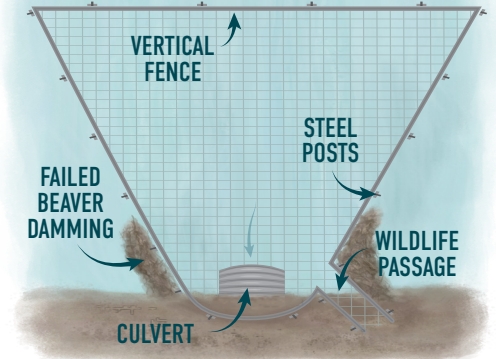
An anchor fence prevents beaver from damming the culvert directly but still allows them to dam along the fence.



An anchor dam involves starting a beaver dam at a controlled location, inviting beaver to continue building on it instead of at the culvert.



The trapezoidal culvert fence works by making the culvert a difficult place to dam, promoting beaver to choose a different location.



Will a culvert protection system work for you?

Every site with beaver activity is unique, and culvert protection designs can be adapted for many different situations. In situations where dam height also needs to be controlled, the anchor fence and anchor dam systems can be paired with pond levelers. Depending on the ecology of the location, designs may need modification to facilitate the safe passage of fish and wildlife. For more information, access the *Best Management Practices for Pond Levelers and Culvert Protection Systems: A guide for using flow devices to coexist with beavers* on the Project Beaver website.

For more information and references visit: projectbeaver.org

