

Trial Budget



In this section you will find a teacher's introduction to the budgeting used in the Scottish Beaver Trial and activity sheets to help your students.

This work is based on the decisions which had to be made before the Scottish Beaver Trial could go ahead and will hopefully help your students to understand how budgets work and the costs involved in carrying out conservation work.

Trial Budget Teacher Introduction

Licence Conditions

Equipment Information

Staff and Equipment Costs

Proposal Sheet

The Trial Budget



An important part of running the Trial is managing the budget. There is lots of equipment and staffing needs which must be covered but there is only a limited amount of money. This is an opportunity for students to get a glimpse of the sort of decisions made with regards money and equipment in a work situation.

While most things on the budget sheet are per year, the 'Independent Monitoring' is for over the full 5 years, so students can break it down as much as they want.

Suggested session:

- Split the students into small 'budget teams' and give them the Trial staff and equipment sheets.
- The groups must look through everything and then work out a budget proposal, how they think the money would be best spent to get the most out of it.
- The proposal can be put forward as a written report or can be presented verbally with or without a powerpoint presentation.
- Allow the groups time to make their decisions and prepare a proposal to present to the head of finance (yourself or a member of the class).

The aim is to get the students thinking about what things are necessary to get things started and what can be sorted later. There is no right or wrong answer to this, as long as the groups stay within the budget!

Additional activities:

- Students can be given grid references from the satellite tag and they can find the beaver on the Trial map.
- This activity can be followed by the 'Science' activity to give the students an idea of the other decisions which had to be made.

Resources:

- Introduction presentation and film
- Staff and equipment cost list and information
- Licence conditions
- Proposal worksheet
- Trial map and satellite coordinates

The Trial Budget Licence Conditions



- The licence allows four families of beavers (each family to comprise not more than two adults and their kits) into the wild.
- The role of the field officer should include regular monitoring to ensure potential problems are avoided.
- A suite of tracking methodologies should be employed, rather than relying too heavily on radio-tracking techniques.
- Localised mink control should be considered during the initial establishment of the population to protect beaver kits.
- The length of the collection and quarantine element of the project is one year, and the fieldwork element of the project is five years.
- Consideration should be given as to whether all animals which move out with the proposed trial area should be removed, or just those where the land owners request it.
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to coordinate a monitoring programme in collaboration with the project partners through an appropriate group, and involving SNH's Scientific Advisory Committee.
- Arrangements must be put in place by the licence applicants to ensure that local businesses and properties have a clear route to pursue compensation claims for damage caused by the beavers during the period of the trial.

The Trial Budget

Equipment Information



Visual Tags

- Training:** Trapping mammals requires a licence which is gained after taking a short course. The tagging process also requires a short course. Animal restraint and handling training a definite must.
- Problems:** Can be dangerous for the animal if the tag is going through a body part. It may effect the behaviour of the animal or animals around it, eg. mates and predators. Can come off so recapture would be necessary. You have to be able to see the individual to see the tag.

Mammal Traps

- Training:** Can require special licence for trapping wild animals. Serious, in-depth training required.
- Problems:** Can cause a lot of stress for the animals. Individuals can become aware of traps and so avoid them. If there is food in the trap some individuals become reliant on this source. May trap non-target species. Can take a long time.

Radio Tracking

- Training:** Special training required for attachment of radio transmitter. Requires basic training for use of other equipment.
- Problems:** Interference can cause confusion. Tags can fall off. Surroundings can cause false results eg. signals can bounce off cliffs and trees. Equipment is bulky. Technical difficulties.

Satellite Tracking

- Training:** Application and removal of tracking device. How to use any data received.
- Problems:** Transmitters can fall off. Need to recapture every year. Can be technical problems. Could effect the animal with glue and how the animal looks. Transmitters don't work well through water.

The Trial Budget

Staff and Equipment



Item	Cost
Field Officer	£20000
Field Officer vehicle costs	£6000
Field Officer PC	£1000
Volunteers	£0
Trapping of Beavers (Norway)	£150000
Housing of beavers	£150000
Transport of beavers	£20000
Preparation work	£10000
Mink raft & trap	£90
Beaver trap	£200
Radio tracking tags	£150
Radio tracking receiver	£1200
Radio tracking antenna	£200
Satellite tags	£2500
Visual tags	£0.10
Tracking - canoe	£800
Tracking - boat motor	£200
Tracking - boat motor battery	£50
Education (incl. interpretation, teacher packs etc.)	£110000
Marketing (incl. leaflets, public liaison etc.)	£100000
Consumables (fuel etc.)	£2000
Independent monitoring	£500000
Contingency money	£any

