



Oregon Department
of Fish & Wildlife

Living with BEAVER



Beavers play a vital role in Oregon's ecosystems, but their activities can sometimes lead to challenges for landowners, such as flooding and plant damage. The following will help manage these issues in a humane and effective manner while providing practical, non-lethal methods to deter beavers and mitigate the impact of their natural behaviors to protect your property.

BEAVER DAM BENEFITS:

- Reduce bank erosion by slowing water flow and encouraging streamside plant growth
- Clean water by filtering sediment and organic material
- Improve salmon rearing and spawning habitat by creating pools where young fish can feed and hide from predators
- Create firebreaks and slow the spread of wildfire by keeping streambanks wet and vegetation green even when it's hot and dry
- Raise the water table bringing water to nearby plants and crops and reducing needs for irrigation

FLOODING DAMAGE

- When beavers build dams, the resulting rise in water level can cause damage to property and infrastructure. There are ways to control the water level without removing beavers. When installed correctly, flow devices like pond levelers move water through beaver dams and prevent beavers from being able to stop the release of impounded water above the dam
- Beavers may block or clog undersized culverts, but when installed correctly, fencing can be used to keep culverts clear of large debris.



Pond leveler



Tree fence

PLANT DAMAGE

- Beavers eat woody plants and use branches for damming material. There are several long-term solutions to prevent them from cutting down ornamental and crop plants, including fencing and odor repellents.

WHAT LANDOWNERS NEED TO KNOW

- With the passage of the "Beaver Bill" in 2023, beaver are solely classified as furbearers, rather than as predators in some situations.
- The bill encourages co-existence with beavers, rather than lethal take, wherever possible.
- Use of non-lethal deterrents can prevent recurring damage as new beavers often move in following removal of existing beavers.
- Contact ODFW for assistance with beaver-related damage. A permit from ODFW is required to remove beavers (except for licensed furtakers and situations noted below).
- A permit may not be required where beaver are imminently threatening infrastructure or agricultural crops, or to protect private forestlands. Contact ODFW for details and all removal must be reported.
- Scan the QR code to the right to view the ODFW Living with Beaver webpage which contains more information about the benefits of beaver dams, ways to co-exist with beaver, who to call if you are experiencing beaver damage, and more.

Learn More

To learn more about how to live with beaver including the benefits of beaver dams, who to contact, and more scan the QR code or visit



tinyurl.com/Living-with-Beaver