



Living with BEAVERS



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 are suggestions of 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.



Pond leveler

When installed and maintained 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 and maintained correctly, fencing or decoy dams can be used to keep culverts clear of large debris.



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, strategic plantings, and other deterrents.

WHAT LANDOWNERS NEED TO KNOW

- With the passage of the 2023 “Beaver Bill”, beavers are no longer predatory animals and solely classified as furbearers in Oregon.
- 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. ODFW fish passage approval may be required for flow device or culvert fencing installation.
- An ODFW permit is required to remove beavers causing damage, except for licensed furtakers within established regulations, permitted Wildlife Control Operators (WCOs), and situations where beaver on private forestlands are damaging or “imminently threatening” infrastructure or agricultural crops or forestland. Contact ODFW for details.
- All beaver removal, permitted and exempted, must be reported to ODFW.

Learn More

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



go.MyODFW.com/LivingWithBeaver

