

For information, support, and assistance managing beaver conflicts:

NOAA Beaver Hotline
beavers.wcr@noaa.gov

Living with Wildlife: American Beaver, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/docs/beaver.pdf

The Beaver Coalition
www.beavercoalition.org
info@beavercoalition.com

Working with Beaver to Restore Salmon Habitat, Northwest Fisheries Science Center
www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fe/wpg/beaver-assist-stld.cfm

Beaver Restoration Guidebook, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/promo.cfm?id=177175812



West Coast Region
Oregon Coast Branch
2900 NW Stewart Parkway
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
541-957-3385
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/west-coast-region

Beaver Facts

- Beavers are usually most active at night, but can also work during the day.
- They use their heavy, flat tails for swimming, balance, and slapping the water to warn other beavers.
- Adult beavers are about three feet in length, weighing between 35 and 50 pounds.
- Beavers use a wide variety of trees, shrubs, rocks, and mud as construction material.
- In warmer months, beavers eat softer foods such as grasses, new woody shoots, clover, water lilies, and roots.
- In colder months, when there is little new growth on plants, beavers eat woody parts of many trees and shrubs.
- Beavers build dams to back water up, the water improves their food resources and provides them protection.
- Some beavers don't build dams because their streams already provide adequate food and shelter.

Beaver Myth Busting

- “They eat fish” - Beavers are strict vegetarians.
- “They contaminate water” - Sometimes called “beaver fever,” the sickness giardia is most typically spread by humans, but is also spread by many animals including cows, sheep, beavers, and other rodents.
- “They are taking over” - Approximately 200 million beavers lived in North America before trapping pushed them near extinction. Today, beaver populations are a fraction of their previous size at 10 million throughout North America.
- “They warm stream temperatures” - Ponds receive more sun and may have a thin layer of warm water on the surface. However, water will be colder in the pond depths and downstream of the dam.



Putting Beavers to Work for You

Beavers are second only to humans in their ability to engineer the landscape. While their instinct to gnaw trees and construct dams can create conflicts, farmers, ranchers, and other landowners can harness their work to improve their property while minimizing damage.

What Beavers Can Do

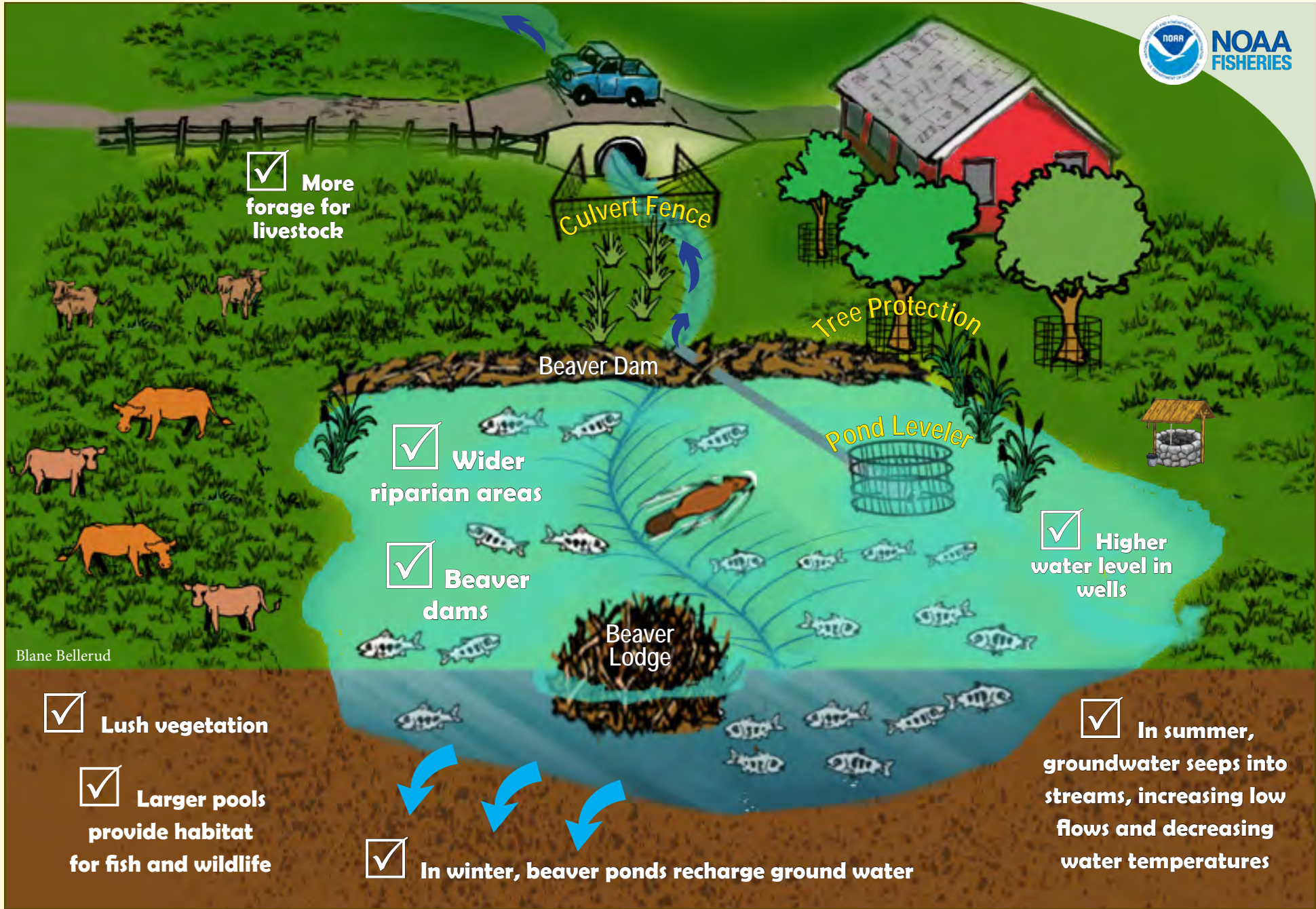
Clean water by filtering and processing fine sediment, organic material, and other contaminants

Reduce bank erosion by slowing water velocity and improving stream side vegetation

Elevate the water table for wells and irrigation

Reduce flooding by storing water

Potential Benefits With Beavers

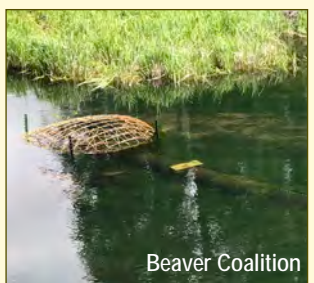


Other Likely Benefits of Beaver Dams

- Raise water tables and saturate adjacent soils, resulting in lush vegetation with reduced irrigation.
- Trap sediment, removing it from streams and leveling incised channels.
- Improve the stream and stream side vegetation to support abundant fish and wildlife.
- Transform intermittent streams back to perennial streams, in some cases.
- Reduce summer stream temperatures with their ponds, improving stream habitat for salmon and steelhead and create deep pools for these fish to rear.
- Help support healthy streams, riparian vegetation, grazing land, and meadows.

Managing Beavers

Proven strategies to help manage beaver conflicts while taking advantage of the benefits they provide.



Pond levelers*
Piping system used to lower pond elevation when it threatens landowner property, structures, or safety.



Culvert fencing*
Heavy wire fences placed around culvert entrances to keep beavers from damming them.



Tree protection
Wire cylinders or sand-infused paint used around the base of tree trunks to keep beavers from gnawing them.

*May require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Department of State Lands, and/or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.