

## SCORING BEAVER OCCUPANCY INTENT

Best for use on Wadeable, eastern Oregon streams, stream orders 1-4.

For use with the Beaver Occupancy Intent (and Forage Availability) Survey123 form

Form published at: <https://arcg.is/1jiCmv0> More info at [westernbeavers.org/beaverstrongholds](https://westernbeavers.org/beaverstrongholds)

Each recorded observation (waypoint/event) is scored with points assigned based on the type and condition of each observed sign. These scores reflect the level of investment and maintenance activity within each survey reach. Beavers express territorial investment through their engineering and upkeep efforts: some signs are ephemeral (for example, a fresh chew pile), while others—like a maintained dam or lodge—indicate sustained occupancy over months or years.

2.0 SCORING AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2025

Added Score for Quality of Activity	KEY ACTIVITY	Points	Potential Total Score for each Observation/ Waypoint	Activity Description / What to Observe
*	<b>1) DAM/S</b> ( <u>Scout weir, Nascent, Established, Remnant</u> )			Small Wadeable streams are usually dammed by beavers in order to create pooling habitat (for predator escape) and help irrigate streambanks laterally. Newer, less established homesteads may have 1-4 dams while larger, more mature site occupancy might have 10-15 dams of varying sizes within a territorial reach (approx. 1/2 mile). <b>NOTE: Classify dam age/condition as one of 4 categories: <i>Scout weir, Nascent, Established, Remnant</i></b>
	Dam (of first 3 categories, above)	1	2	
	IF Fresh Maintenance, add Bonus Point	1		
*	<b>2) DEN/S</b>			A primary living space for full family living. There may be more than one present within a 300M reach. Typically one den is actively maintained, the 2nd den/lodge is occupied as needed, and 'rotationally' in response to vegetative forage establishment and regeneration. Dens will generally grow in size over a period of years as beaver families grow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure at the base from the streamside, to laterally out</li> <li>• Maintenance: look for fresh, bright chew sticks stacked above, possibly still with fresh leaves. Fresh mudding with a fresh, often wet trail from the pond.</li> </ul>
	Bank Den or Lodge ( <u>Any size</u> )	1	4	
	Bonus point/s for <u>Med Size: 10-15'</u>	1		
	<u>OR</u> , Bonus point/s for <u>Large Size: 15'+</u>	2		
	Bonus point/s for <u>Fresh Maintenance / Sticks</u>	1		
*	<b>3) FORAGE OBSERVATIONS</b>			Observe a discreet, individual current forage/feeding 'event' as: - A felled tree (partial or whole), OR - 3 or more fresh chews on a single shrub or felled tree canopy, OR - A distinct grouping of 3 or more chewed sticks instream or out, OR - A distinct grouping of beaver chewed grasses or cattails, instream or out.
	Any discreet "forage event"	0.33	0.33	
*	<b>4) FOOD CACHE/S</b>			Look for 'clean' (not covered in debris or algae) stick/cuttings secured as a mass in the water emanating out from one origin point and usually close to the primary residence/den site for easy access. Log all current food caches that you see and note the size (ie. number of stored sticks).
	Current Food Cache (Any size)	1	3	
	Bonus point/s - Med Size: 30 - 75 Cuttings <u>or</u> Bonus point/s - Large Size: 75+ Cuttings	2		
*	<b>5) SCENT MOUND/S</b>			
	Current Mound (Any size)	1	3	
	Bonus point/s - Md Size: 11" - 15" wide, 2"-5" height <u>or</u> Bonus point/s - Lg Size >15" wide, >5" height	2		
	<b>6) FEEDING BENCH/ES</b>			
	Current Bench (Any size)	1	1	