

Methow Beaver Project RELEASE SITE SCORE CARD (2018)

Date: _____ Crew: _____ Site Name: _____

Sub watershed: _____ Waypoint: _____

Site screening- If any of the following conditions occur, site is probably not suitable for release:

1. Heavy grazing impact 2. Recent fire/flood has eliminated vegetation	3. Heavy human infrastructure/presence 4. Habitat unit size is <50 m long
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_____ **Dominant woody food [0-24]**

Choose type, proximity, and amount. Then multiply corresponding points for score.

Type: _____ pts	Aspen, willow 4 pts	Cottonwood, alder 3 pts	Other deciduous species 1 pt
Proximity (to water's edge): [Scale: 2 to 0] _____ pts	2. < 10 m	0. > 150 m	
Amount: [Scale: 3 to 1] _____ pts	3. large stand		1. very few

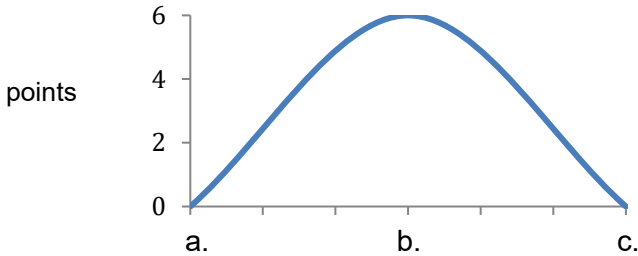
_____ **Herbaceous food [0-10]**

10. abundant grasses/forbs present **0.** no grass/forbs

_____ **Water cover [0-20]**

20. multiple pools > 1 m deep and > 10 m wide **0.** no pools

_____ **Stream discharge [0-6]**



- a. ephemeral flow (no flow or <garden hose)
- b. year round flow, but never destructive (10" culvert – 30" culvert)
- c. destructive flow that would inhibit damming (too high to wade)

_____ **Stream gradient [0-6]**

6. ≤1% **0.** ≥9%

_____ **Floodplain structure [1-5]**

5. wide and flat, adjacent floodplain **1.** narrow and steep, 'V' shaped channel

_____ **Woody building material [0-10]**

10. abundant ~10 cm diameter wood **0.** no building material

_____ **Muddy substrate available [1-5]**

5. abundant mud for building and digging **1.** no mud or fine substrate

_____ **Grazing [0-10]**

10. no grazing impact **0.** heavy grazing impact

_____ **Historic beaver use [0-4]**

4. old structures present **0.** no sign of previous use

_____ **Total [0-100]**

Instructions:

This score card is a guide to help select potential sites at which to release beavers for restoration purposes.

For each category, any number within the given range listed may be chosen. Examples of the extremes of the ranges are given to aid the selection of scores. It is up to the observer to take in to account unique or distinct attributes of each site and region in selecting the appropriate score for each category.

The sum of the scores for each category will provide the total score, which will fall into one of four categories:

Poor: score \leq 25 Fair: $25 <$ score \leq 50 Good: $50 <$ score \leq 75 Excellent: $75 <$ score

It is recommended to avoid releasing beavers at poor or fair sites.

This score card is intended to aid the observer in site selection, not as a strict protocol that determines absolutely where beavers should be released.