



CDFW Beaver Restoration Program

Release Site Suitability Assessment

Turn on Field Maps "My Tracks". Take photos!

Date: _____ Crew: _____ Site Name: _____

Sub Watershed: _____ Lat Long: _____

Elevation: _____ Description: _____

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Site Screening – If any of the following conditions occur, the site is likely not suitable for release:

<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy grazing impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe fire/flood (1 2 3 4 5) years ago
<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy infrastructure/Low social tolerance	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat unit (continuous length) is <50m long

Beaver Presence – Survey the site for current beaver activity. If already present, site disqualified:

	Beaver	Active Dam	Active den	Active lodge	Tracks	Cuttings/Chewings	Scent mounds	Other (specify)
<i>Mark if present</i>								

Comments: _____

Site Characteristics – Add site assessment polygon on Field Maps and take photos.

Length of contiguous beaver habitat:

☐ ≥1610m ☐ 1250-1609m ☐ 900-1249m ☐ 550-899m ☐ 200-549m ☐ 0-199m

Dominant woody food (non-conifer):

Choose type, proximity to water's edge, and amount:

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Aspen, willow	<input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood, alder	<input type="checkbox"/> Other species
Proximity (to water's edge)	<input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 10m	<input type="checkbox"/> 10m <--> 150m	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 150m
Amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Sparse	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant

Other species present (list common or scientific names): _____

Herbaceous food/Understory:

☐ Abundant grasses/forbs present ☐ Some grasses/forbs present ☐ No grasses/forbs

Species present (list common or scientific names): _____

Aquatic/semi-aquatic food:

☐ Abundant aquatic food ☐ Some aquatic food ☐ No aquatic food

Species present (list common or scientific names): _____

Aquatic Escape Cover:

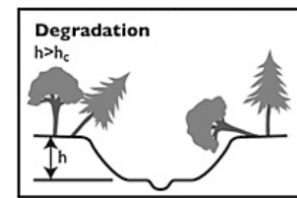
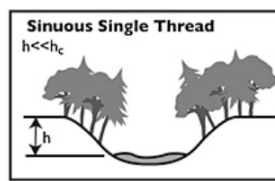
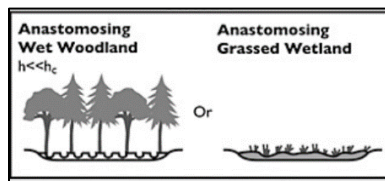
- ☐ Many pools > 1m deep and > 10m wide ☐ Some pools >1m deep and >5m wide ☐ No pools

Stream flow:

- ☐ Ephemeral flow ☐ Year-round flow, never destructive ☐ Destructive flow (inhibits damming)

Stream gradient:

- ☐ $\leq 1\%$ ☐ 1-3% ☐ 4-6% ☐ $\geq 7\%$

Floodplain connectivity (incision)*:

- ☐ Connected at low flows ☐ Connected at high flows ☐ Disconnected at high flows

**Graphics courtesy of 'Stream Evolution Model' (SEM) proposed by Cluer and Thorne (2013)*

Floodplain size (confinement):

- ☐ Unconfined floodplain ☐ Relatively confined floodplain ☐ Confined floodplain

Woody building material (instream woody debris and conifers):

- ☐ Abundant ~10cm diameter wood ☐ Some woody building material ☐ No building material

Dominant stream substrate:

- ☐ Silt/Clay/Mud ☐ Sand ☐ Gravel ☐ Cobble ☐ Boulders ☐ Bedrock

Grazing/Livestock impact:

- ☐ No grazing/livestock impact ☐ Some grazing/livestock impact

Historic beaver use:

- ☐ Recent (<5 years) beaver sign/presence ☐ Historic beaver sign/presence ☐ No beaver sign/presence

Notes:

Site suitable? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe (specify improvements or changes needed)
