



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Water Resources Department

Commerce Building
158 12th Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-0210
(503) 378-3739
FAX (503) 378-8130

December 19, 1997

Waterwatch
213 SW Ash #208
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Waterwatch:

You submitted comments on ponds filed under ORS 537.407 (HB 2153) or under ORS 537.405 (HB 2376). These laws provided an opportunity for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to comment on how a specific reservoir(s) will cause significant detrimental impacts to an existing fishery resource and allowed members of the public to comment on how the reservoir(s) will cause an injury to an existing water right(s). Based upon review of your comments, the Department prepared notices of proposed mitigation conditions. A notice was mailed to each of the registrants along with a copy of your comments. The registrants were provided an opportunity to submit additional information to the Department explaining how your comments were in error.

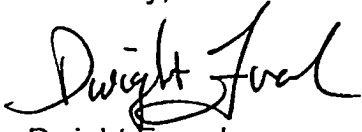
The Department received the attached rebuttals to your comments. If you do not agree with a rebuttal and believe that your comments are still valid, please send a written response to the Department identifying why you disagree with the rebuttal and affirming your position. However, if you agree with the rebuttal you need not respond, unless you determine that it is necessary. In order for us to issue a mitigation order within 180 days of receiving your comments, we need to have your response(s) received by the Department no later than January 7, 1998. If you need an additional day or two to look further at a couple of ponds, please send a request, attention to the appropriate file number.

If you choose to respond, the Department will determine whether a Mitigation Order is required based upon your response and the rebuttal submitted by the registrant. The Mitigation Order, if required, will identify any conditions that must be met in order to protect the fishery resource and/or existing water rights and for the reservoir to be authorized.

If no response to a rebuttal is received, the Department will conclude that you agree with the rebuttal and that a Mitigation Order is not necessary.

If you have any questions, please me at (503) 378-8455, extension 268, or toll free within Oregon at 1 (800) 624-3199.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwight French". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "F".

Dwight French
Water Rights Manager

Enclosures: Your Comments
Proposed Mitigation Conditions
Rebuttal from Registrant
Copy of Notice of Exempt Pond or Certificate and Map



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November 20, 1997

ROY D WILTSE.
6676 BIONEER RD
MEDFORD, OR 97501

REFERENCE: FILE#: P 83089

Dear Mr. Wiltse,

I want to apologize for any confusion which may have resulted from the letter we sent to you about a week ago. I hope this follow-up letter will better explain our "ponds" program, and give you a clearer picture of what is happening with your pond.

In 1995, the legislature adopted a new law intended to help address a legal problem with many existing ponds throughout the state. These ponds had been developed over the years by land owners who were not aware that water rights may have been required. In order to make sure that all the ponds were "legal" the legislature approved HB 2376 in 1995, which set out a process for filing a notice of the pond with our department. Under the law, such notices could be filed until January 31, 1997. Our job was then to determine whether any of the ponds resulted in injury to other existing water rights, or created a detrimental impact on fish.

This simplified review process was intended to make it easier for the owners of existing ponds to receive final water right certificates. The 1995 law also required that we provide a comment period, which ended on August 1, 1997. During this time, we were required to accept comments as to whether a pond may in fact be resulting in injury to other water rights or creating a detrimental impact to fish. After the close of that comment period, our department was given 180 days in which to evaluate the comments, give notice to the pond owners, and identify whether mitigation measures would be required to alleviate the injury to other water rights or impacts to fish.

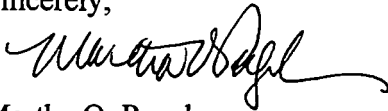
This is why you received a letter from us last week. For more than 16,000 ponds on which notices were filed under HB 2376, about 960 comments were received. From those comments, we determined that about half would appear to require mitigation measures. A total of 450 letters were sent out last week to pond owners like you.

The purpose of these letters was to advise you that the comments had been received, and to provide you with an opportunity to get back to us with any information you might have to show that the mitigation should not be required — either because you disagree with the comment that we received, or because you have a better idea of how to remedy the situation.

The letter you received included a copy of the comments we received about your pond, along with our proposed mitigation plan. We need to hear from you by December 10, 1997, as to whether you disagree with the underlying comment or with our proposed mitigation. We do encourage you to get back to us by the deadline, and we will make every effort to accommodate your suggestions.

Again, I offer my sincere apology for any confusion or irritation caused by our earlier letter. I hope this letter provides additional background information that will help you respond to the questions about your pond. If you have questions about this process, please let us know. I urge you to call our Water Rights Information staff at 1-800-624-3199 extension 499. In some circumstances they may also involve your local Watermaster for additional help. We will try our best to work through this with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha O. Pagel".

Martha O. Pagel
Director

m:955



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Water Resources Department

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158 12th Street NE
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November 12, 1997

FILE#: P 83089

ROY D WILTSE
6676 BIONEER RD
MEDFORD, OR 97501

Dear Reservoir Owner,

You submitted a Notice of Exempt Reservoir under *ORS 537.405 (HB 2376)*. HB 2376 provided an opportunity for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to comment on how a specific reservoir(s) caused injury to an existing fishery resource. In addition the same law allowed members of the public to comment on how the storage or use of the water caused an injury to an existing water right. This comment period ended on August 1, 1997.

The Department received the attached injury allegation(s) related to your reservoir(s), as provided for in *ORS 537.405*. If you do not agree with the allegation of injury, please submit detailed information to the Department explaining why or how the allegation is in error. Your response must be postmarked no later than *December 10, 1997*.

The Department will review any submission you may make and determine if a Mitigation Order is required. If the Department finds that the allegation is factual and verifiable, the Department will issue a Mitigation Order requiring that the attached conditions, or other conditions that prove to be necessary after reviewing any information that is submitted, be met in order for the reservoir to maintain an exempt status.

If you receive a Mitigation Order, you may request a Contested Case Hearing to contest the findings of the Department and the allegation of injury. Information on how to request a Contested Case Hearing will be provided with the mitigation order, if issued.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Rights Information Group at (503) 378-3739 extension. 499.

Water Right Section