



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

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July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

R. Craig Kohanek  
Hydroelectric Project Analyst  
Water Resources Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1279

RE: Jackson Cranberry Farms water storage right application: R-88578; associated with S-53455.

Dear Craig,

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff from the Charleston office traveled to the Jackson Cranberry farm storage reservoir on Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 near Bandon Oregon (Figure 1). I met with the reservoir owner Rick Jackson and we discussed the history of the need for the reservoir, engineering, and tactics to construct the reservoir dam in the mid-1990's. The reservoir, as Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is aware, has the capacity to store around 90 acre ft of water behind a dam that is over 70ft in height (Figure 2). Since the reservoir was constructed, wetland vegetation has established along the shoreline and this zone currently provides fair to good habitat for amphibian production and puddle ducks. The dam was constructed in a tributary to Bear Creek and is located near the upstream reaches of where fish are present (Figure 1). The dam was constructed with seepage drains to secure the stability of the fill in the dam core. These drains collect seepage through the dam from the reservoir upstream and deliver the seepage to the small stream downstream of the dam. When on site there was approximately 30gpm of flow that was 59°F when measured on 06/29/18, emanating from the seepage drains at the base of the dam and feeding into the stream below the dam.

The Department reviewed the site for the need for screening and determined that the screen that is in place is sufficient to prevent entry of amphibians into the intake and screening to prevent fish entry into the pump intake is not necessary (see separate Division 33 review). Often the Department is at issue with reservoir construction as it may block fish passage to critical habitats or eliminate flows during an important period of the year. For this site the wetland development on the margin of the reservoir is benefitting wildlife. The reservoir dam is near the end of the extent of fish use thus there is not a substantial obstruction of fish passage to critical habitats and the reservoir seepage provides coldwater input during summer months to this tributary to Bear Creek, which is considered of substantial benefit to fish downstream.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of Coquille River basin fish and wildlife resources. Feel free to contact Christopher Claire at (541) 888-5515 with any questions or comments.

Sincerely

Christopher W. Claire  
Habitat Protection Biologist  
Coos-Coquille-Tenmile Lakes Fish District



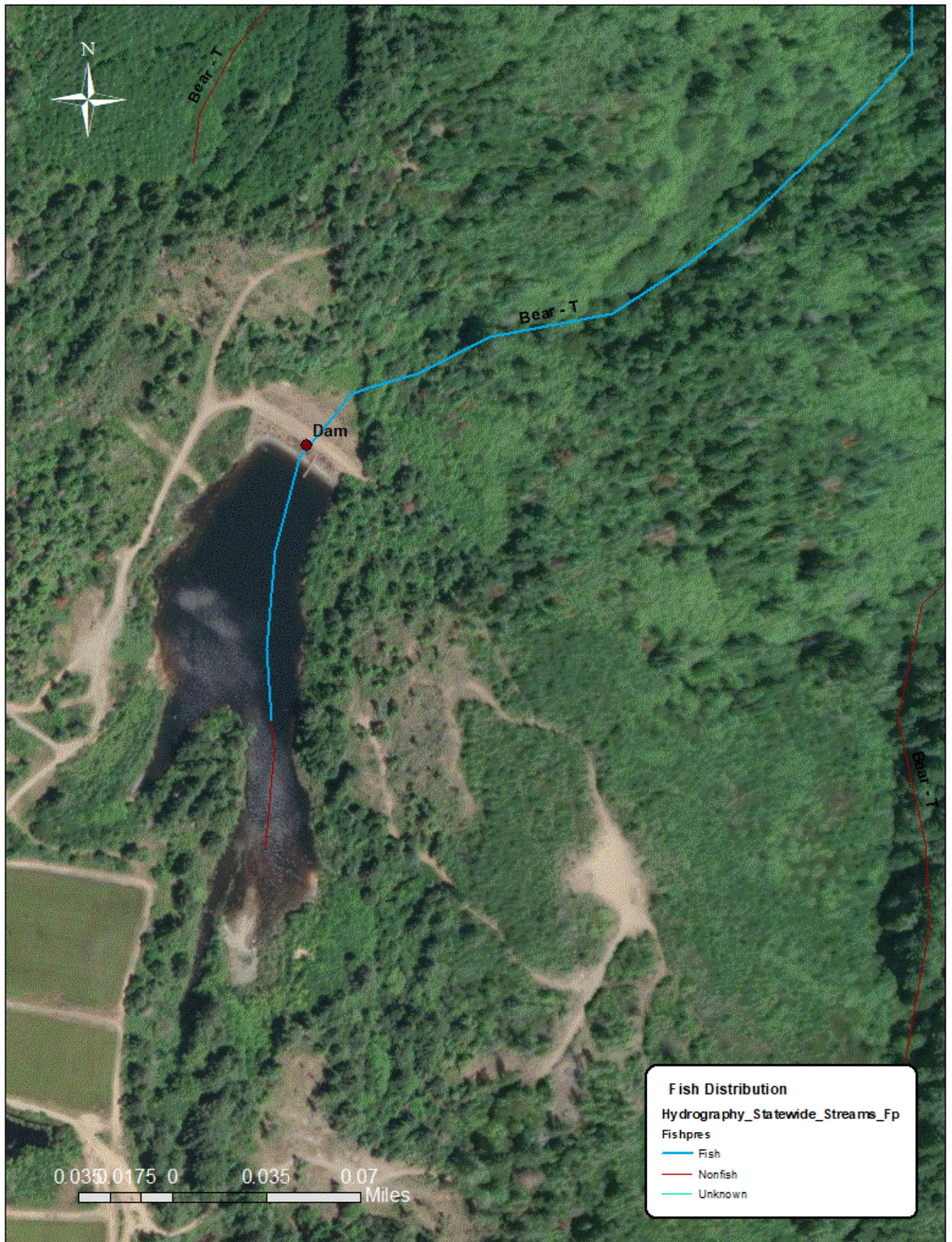




Figure 1. Aerial image of the Jackson Dam and Reservoir on a small tributary of Bear Creek.



Figure 2. Image of the center portion of Jackson dam and most of the reservoir.