

Jump Creek Fish Passage Exemptions

January Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

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Fish Screens and Passage Coordinator

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Overview

- Silvies Valley Ranch has applied for fish passage exemptions for 10 artificial structures on Jump Creek, a tributary to the Silvies River, in Grant County
- ODFW District Staff, Fish Passage Program, and Fish Passage Task Force recommend approving the exemptions based on a finding of no appreciable benefit to Native Migratory Fish if passage was provided at the structures

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Fish Passage Triggers

- Between 2002 and 2013 Silvie's Valley Ranch built multiple channel-spanning structures in streams, resulting in un-permitted wetland impacts, and fill within DSL jurisdictional areas
- DSL and ODFW pursued investigation action on Silvie's Valley Ranch in 2013
- Consent Agreement (2014) signed by SVR and DSL
 - Remedial action plan that would address fish passage and mitigate for wetland impacts

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Exemption Rules:

- ODFW rules require owners or operators of artificial obstructions to address passage where native migratory fish *are currently* or *were historically present*, options for addressing passage include;
 - Providing passage
 - Waiver -Mitigation
 - Exemption
 - No appreciable benefits passage

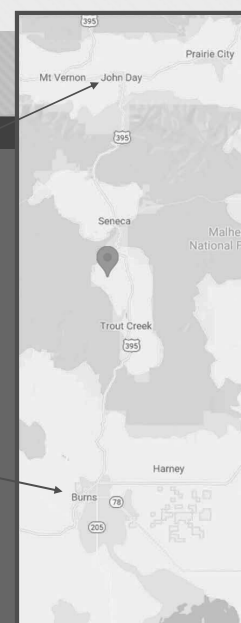
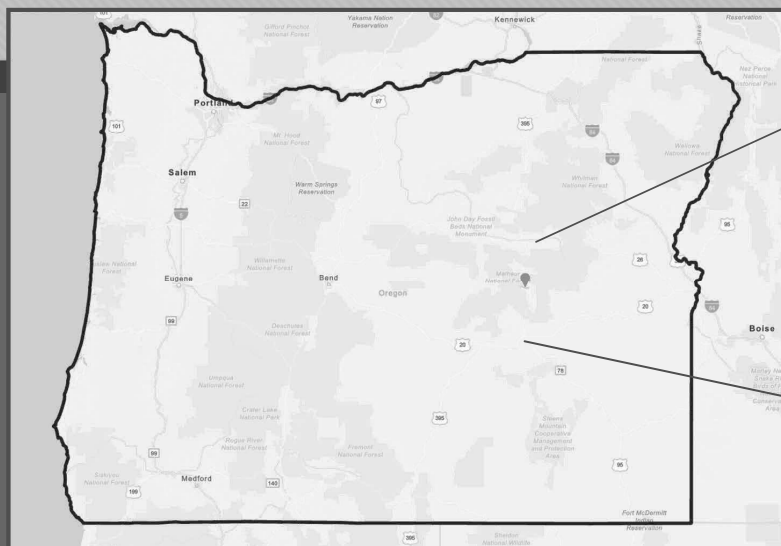
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Background on Jump Creek Requests

- The Fish Passage Task Force (FPTF) reviewed an exemption request for structures on four creeks in October of 2019
 - Jump Creek, Flat Creek, Paine Creek, and Jack Andy Creek historically contained redband trout
 - The FPTF did not recommend approving the exemption, asking for more information on the possible fish populations and each structure
- October 2021 – Returned to the FPTF for Jump Creek – FPTF Recommended approving the exemption request

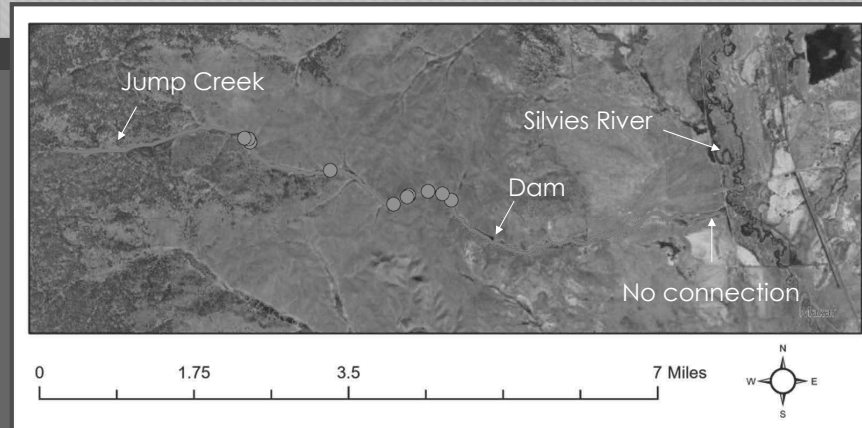
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Project Location



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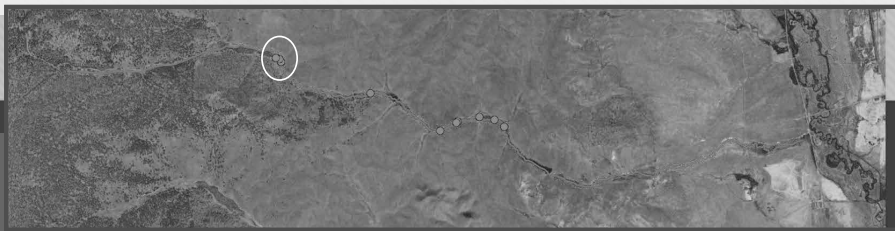
Exemption Requests on Jump Creek



- 10 Artificial Structures
- Historic native migratory fish habitat
 - No current native migratory fish
- Lack of connectivity between the Silvie's and Jump Creek due to land use

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Fish Passage Triggers



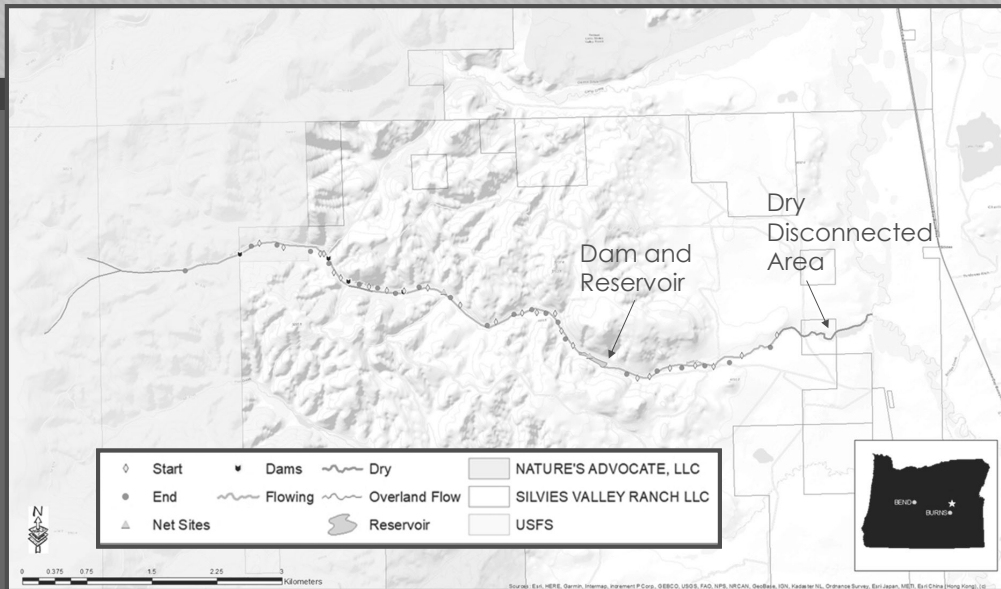
Before 2005



After 2016

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2021 Fish Sampling Overview – May 4-5 High Flows



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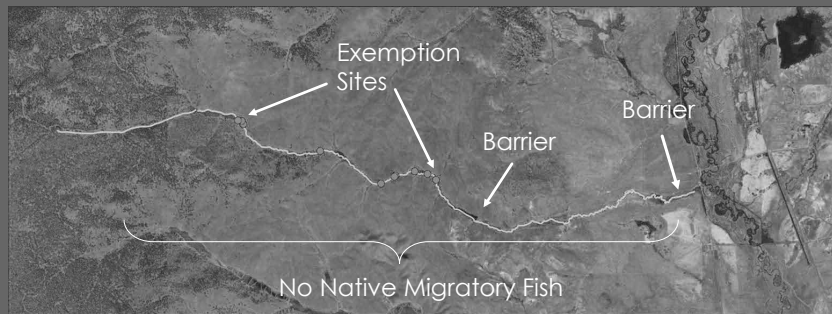
Sampling Results

- Approximately 7.6 miles over 24 locations on Jump Creek were sampled
- No native migratory fish were found
- 23 of the 24 sites were wetted for their entire length
- The lowest section, at the confluence with the Silvies River was dry
 - (May 4-5 were likely some of the highest flows of the year.)

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No Appreciable Benefit to Providing Passage

- No connection for native migratory fish
- Lack of upstream passage
- No native migratory fish in the system
- Providing passage at the 10 structures would not provide a benefit to native migratory fish



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Fish Passage Barrier 1 Confluence of Jump Creek



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Fish Passage Barrier 2 Diversion Dam



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Recommendation

- ODFW staff and the Fish Passage Task Force recommend granting the exemptions as requested by Silvie's Valley Ranch.

(Exemptions are reviewed every seven years and can be revoked if the conditions change such that passage at the structures would provide benefit to native migratory fish.)

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Draft Commission Motion

- I move to approve the fish passage exemption requests for 10 artificial structures on Jump Creek because the Commission finds that there would be no appreciable benefit to native migratory fish if passage was provided at these structures.