

Canyon Lake Survey
(Draft 08/26/03)
Bitterroot National Forest
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Fish Spawning/Migration Observations

Canyon Lake has very limited options for spawning habitat around the lake. There is an area in the inlet stream which provided ~70 meters of cutthroat trout spawning habitat. There were two separate occasions (7/3/02 and 7/7/03) when fish were present and constructing redds. On 8/25/03 fry were present throughout this spawning area. Above this short spawning area the stream becomes steep and unusable to the trout.

Downstream from the dam there is a short section of Canyon Creek that is a possible spawning area for trout. No fish have been seen constructing redds in this area to date.

Approximately 500 yards downstream of the dam the stream travels down several hundred feet of slick-rock falls and talus. Upstream migration through this falls and talus barrier is impossible, and downstream migration is very unlikely. There is more information on spawning and migration in the 7/3/02 spawning observation paper.

Mid-project Dam Observations (8/25/03)

The dam repair has caused minimal disturbance to the portion of Canyon Creek downstream of the dam. There was not any visual sediment loading or indication of any increase in sediment at all. Water flow was low, but appears to be the natural flow amount for late August.

Cross-Section (7/2/03 Data)

Three cross-sections were carried out in the meadow below the outflow of the lake to study the effects of the removal of the dam and possible increased flow during the high water period. The cross-sections done on 7/2/03 were flagged with pink flagging.

Cross-Section #1(Western side of meadow)

Distance	Rod Ht.	Distance	Rod Ht.	Distance	Rod Ht.
0.7 LEW	1.05	7	1.31	16	1.35
1.9	1.21	8	1.23	17	1.35
2.2	1.76	9	1.19	18	1.35
2.6	1.67	10	1.2	19	1.37
2.7	1.34	11	1.25	20	1.23 REW
3.4	1.27	12	1.27	20.3	1.06 RBF
4	1.79	13	1.29		
4.5	1.8	14	1.25		
5.6	1.25	15	1.37		

GPS Point- N 46 14 42.7 W 114 19 36.1

Waypoint- CNY01

Cross-Section #2(Center of meadow)

Distance	Rod Ht.	Distance	Rod Ht.	Distance	Rod Ht.
.5 LEW/LBF	.92	7	1.08	16	1.16
1.8	1.08	8	1.06	17	1.11
2.5	1.09	9	1.12	18	1.09
2.73	1.55	10	1.11	19	1.10
3.	1.54	11	1.13	20	1.12
3.3	1.05	12	1.1	20.9 REW/RBF	1.08
4.	1.06	13	1.09		
5.	1.06	14	1.1		
6.	1.07	15	1.1		

Cross-Section #3(Eastern side of meadow before riffle)

Distance	Rod Ht.	Distance	Rod Ht.
2.6 LEW/LBF	1.3	8	1.32
2.85	1.74	9	1.33
3.5	1.83	10	1.33
4	1.97	11	1.41
4.5	1.99	12	1.4
5	2.01	13	1.49
5.5	1.99	14	1.41
5.75	1.35	15.1 REW	1.3
7	1.28	15.3 RBF	1.10



Cross-Section location



Canyon dam removal (8/25/03)