

PROJECT DESCRIPTION  
JACKS CREEK RESERVOIR MAINTENANCE – T 11S, R 03E, SEC 30 (#0172)

**WHO**

Dickshooter Cattle Co. (permittee) retains a grazing permit in the Northwest Allotment of the Bruneau Field Office, BLM. The permittee proposes to clean accumulated sediment from the storage area outside of the Big Jacks Creek Reservoir Enclosure to improve the reservoir's water-holding capacity while the reservoir is completely dry and is amenable to completion of the work. The last maintenance of record was planned for 2001 or 2002 to address safety considerations should larger dams on Boise District such as this one fail. The permittee has been assigned maintenance of this reservoir in 1995 as a condition of the permit transfer and will cooperate with BLM in performance of required maintenance activities. While EA ID-100-2001-EA-069 from 2001 addresses inspection and maintenance of large reservoirs including this one for safety of downstream life and property; the project predates FLPMA, and no clearances or other environmental documentation are available for the Reservoir itself.

**WHAT**

Maintenance activities would include removing sediment from the reservoir backwater using a bulldozer to displace the sediment. The sediment would be pushed out of the ponding area at the base of the dam and spread out and leveled over the backwater. All earth work would occur in areas previously disturbed by impoundment construction. Care would be taken to avoid breaking the seal in the excavation area, in particular, to avoid the need to use bentonite to reestablish the seal. Bentonite is absorbent clay consisting mostly of Montmorillonite. The extent of the disturbed area would not exceed 20 acres.

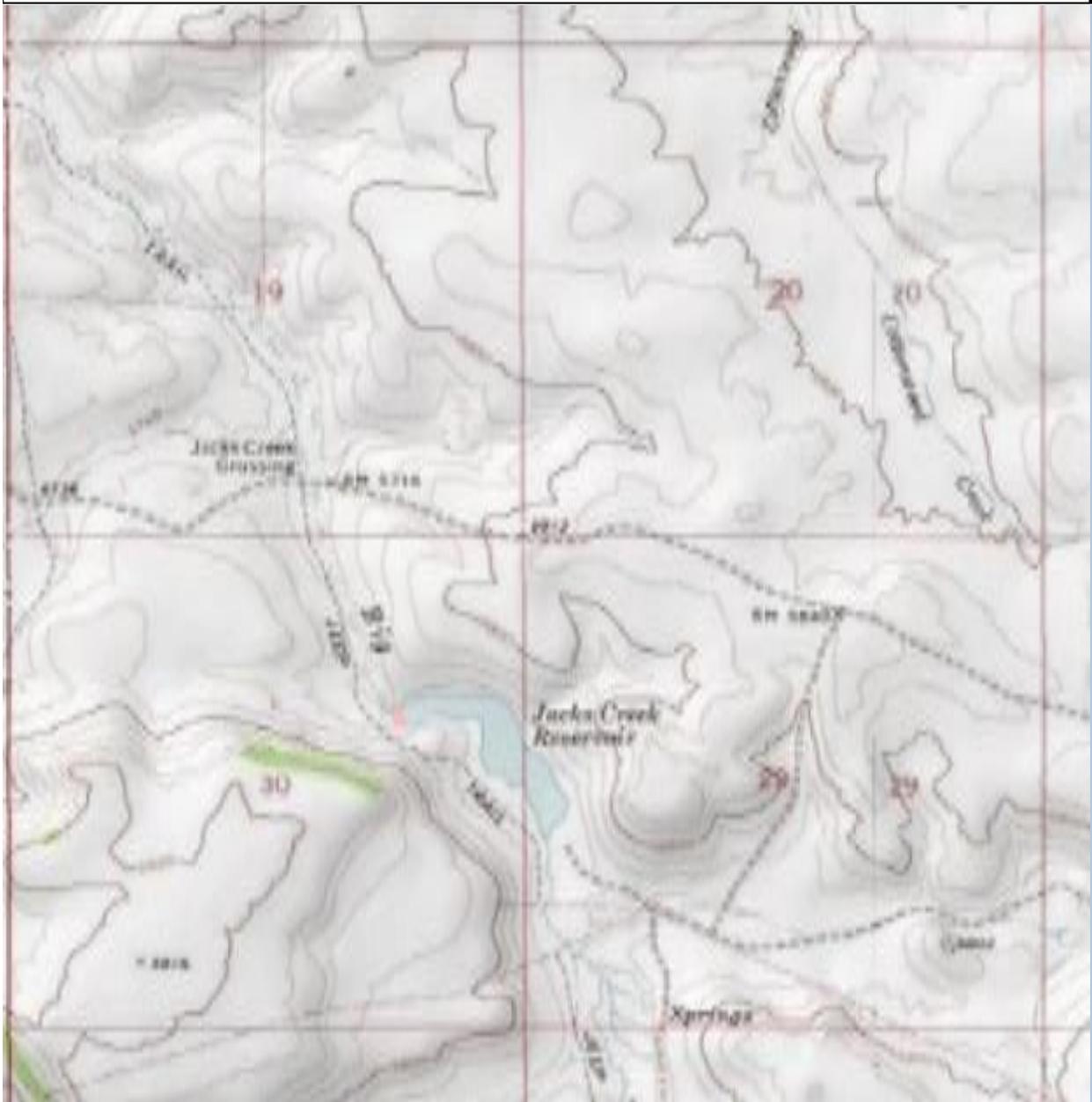
**WHEN**

Prior to September 15, 2014. The timing will be constrained by a combination of factors, but especially by continuing dryness of the proposed treatment area, equipment and operator availability, and completion of BLM clearances and/or availability of BLM staff. Wet conditions would create unacceptable risk of delay in completion or even of equipment loss.

**WHERE**

Maintenance work would be done at the existing reservoir located in the Southwest and Southeast quarters of the Northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 11 South, Range 3 East. The project map depicts the location of the reservoir and access routes. The equipment operator could access the reservoir from either the eastern or western routes, and walk the dozer in from an unloading point near the main road.

Figure 3. Reservoir Maintenance Location and Access Overview





**Figure 2.** Jacks Creek Reservoir on June 24, 2014. Exclosure on L



**Figure 3.** Jacks Creek Reservoir on Sept. 13, 2013. Focus of cleanout behind dam.



**Figure 4.** Jacks Creek Reservoir on Sept. 13, 2013. Ponding area inundated in typical years. Had water prior to July 1 in 2013, drying forced pasture move.

## **HOW**

Work would be performed with a bulldozer (Figure 5). Equipment would access the reservoir from either a western or eastern (Figure 1) route. In either case, the bulldozer would be transported on a low boy trailer to a staging area along the Wickahoney Road. The operator would then drive the bulldozer along the remainder of the route to the reservoir. The probable area of surface disturbance at the reservoir maintenance site at the base of the dam would total approximately 3 acres, but could extend farther into the backwater outside of the enclosure not to exceed 20 acres. The dimensions of the finished project would retain up to -- acre feet per year of surface water, per the terms of the associated water right (water right has to be retrieved from Idaho DWR because RIPS and project files have been deleted for the reservoir itself).

The following maintenance stipulations would be in effect:

1. All earth work will occur within the original area of disturbance.
2. Excavation will avoid a depth that will break seal in pit behind dam. Bentonite may be necessary to restore seal if broken.
3. Disturbed areas will be graded to resemble existing landscape contours to minimize visual contrast.
4. Maintenance work will be restricted to periods when the soil is dry and firm enough to support vehicles without creating ruts.
5. No new roads or blading will be allowed in moving equipment to the reservoir site.



**Figure 5.** Example of Bulldozer (D8)