

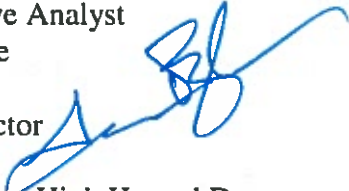


April 12, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

C: Matt Stayner, Legislative Analyst
Legislative Fiscal Office

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director 

SUBJECT: Follow-up Information on High Hazard Dams

Yesterday, during the public hearing on Senate Bill 5542, the Committee requested a map showing the high hazard dams throughout the state.

Dams Subject to the State's Dam Safety Program – Dams at least 10 feet high and storing at least 3 million gallons (9.2 acre-feet of water) are subject to Oregon's Dam Safety Program, administered by the Water Resources Department. The largest dams in the state, however, are regulated by federal agencies. Oregon's Dam Safety Program is the lead public authority responsible for the safety inspection of 969 non-federal dams that meet the size requirement referenced above.

Hazard Ratings – Like most states, Oregon rates dams by hazard. A dam's hazard rating is based on what could happen downstream if the dam fails, rather than on the physical condition of a dam. A high hazard dam, for example, means that failure would likely cause fatalities. There are currently 75 non-federal dams rated as high hazard. These dams are inspected annually by the Water Resources Department. See the accompanying table for hazard classifications for dams.

Hazard Classifications for Dams	
75	High Hazard Dams Failure will likely cause fatalities. These dams are inspected annually.
147	Significant Hazard Dams Failure will damage properties but loss of life is unlikely. These dams are inspected every 2 to 3 years.
747	Low Hazard Dams Failure is unlikely to cause major property damage or loss of life. These dams are inspected every 5 to 6 years.
969	Total Dams in the Program

Source: OWRD. March 31, 2017

