

# *Columbia River Basin Lamprey Technical Workgroup*

*Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority*

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*[columbiariver.fws.gov/lamprey.htm](http://columbiariver.fws.gov/lamprey.htm)*



September 1, 2004

*Minutes*

Attendees were as follows: Jen Stone, Abel Brumo, Dave Ward, Sam Lohr, Doug Hatch, Chris Claire, April Farmer, Jen Graham, Debbie Docherty, Molly Hallock, Mike Gray\*, Mary Moser\*, Tom Iverson\*, David Clugston\*, Russ Moursund\*, Chris Caudill\*, and Matt Mesa\*. \* indicates on conference call. Mike Matylavitch attended for several minutes to update the Workgroup on the Lamprey Summit.

Jen Stone opened the meeting by initiating introductions from attendees and asked for any additions to the agenda.

New membership requests: Biologists from Chelan County and Grant County PUDs are interested in becoming Workgroup members. Discussions centered on their goals for wanting to join the workgroup and whether they are currently working with lamprey and can provide technical expertise to the group. A motion was passed to invite Chuck Peven and X onto the workgroup. Jen Stone will provide them with the Statement of Purpose and stress that the nature of this group is technical and not political.

Passage Criteria: Mary Moser reviewed the purpose of the passage document that she and Matt Mesa developed for the Workgroup in response to a request made by the USFWS. This report is a review of existing literature and a suggestion for new research and she cautions that it should not be used as design criteria. This “white paper” is currently being reviewed by the Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC) of CBFWA, and will be discussed at the 10:20am conference call that we will join into. Jen Stone mentioned a graduate student (Gena Sagar from OSU) who was evaluating salamander passage through culverts and might be able to provide study design information.

Potential for Prioritization: Jen informed the group that the USFWS has requested CBFWA to have the Workgroup prioritize the list of critical needs and uncertainties. The Workgroup discussed the potential for prioritization. The Workgroup would like to know how this list will be used, that it should be species specific, and potentially geographically specific (i.e. different priorities in tributaries of the Clearwater River versus those downstream of Bonneville Dam). The group discussed the format of the prioritization: 1. 2. 3. versus Urgent, High Priority, Recommended action and felt that

the later was a better approach. Doug Hatch reminded the group as to the lack of data available to be making these decisions and that we might want to include a “no data available” grouping or sub-grouping as well. This topic warrants further discussion and was continued after the AFC conference call.

AFC Conference Call: The Workgroup joined the AFC conference call at 10:20. The AFC offered comments on the passage paper, including: 1. In the purpose of the document, add a section that states design criteria could not be recommended due to the overall lack of information, and that these data gaps are described in detail, 2. Rewrite the sentence about lamprey moving through “long” sections of culvert without attachment sites so the emphasis is on the necessity of attachment sites, regardless of culvert length, 3. Rewrite the last two paragraphs to sound less like a project proposal and more like a list of data needs. Dave Ward suggested removing the last paragraph in its entirety. Mary will work with Matt Mesa on making these changes and will get the revised version to Jen Stone no later than September 27<sup>th</sup>. Jen will then send the document to Tom Iverson, who will forward it to the AFC. If the AFC endorses the document, it will be sent to the Members Management Group, and then out to the members. The potential is for it to become a document endorsed by CBFWA.

The AFC reported on the USFWS’s request to the Workgroup to prioritize the critical needs and uncertainties. A deadline was not given, though the request suggested that it would be useful to have by the Lamprey Summit (October 22). The Workgroup requested the AFC to provide them with more detailed information including deadline, purpose of the list, format (by species, by geographic area, etc). The AFC will follow up with the USFWS and will include Jen Stone if any further conference calls are required for clarification.

Potential for Prioritization: This is a continuation of the discussion on prioritization that occurred prior to the AFC conference call. In general, the group does not want to prioritize the list of critical needs and uncertainties. Using a general process, the Workgroup feels that there is no accurate way to assign the critical needs and uncertainties to categories. Sam Lohr suggested that if we might include a narrative portion to the list, discussing under what circumstances the individual critical needs/uncertainties would be considered Urgent/High Priority/Recommended Action. If directed to prioritize, the Workgroup would be more comfortable with a very specific prioritized list that separated out species and geographic areas (sub-basins, in lieu of a defined population structure), recognizing that this would be extremely labor-intensive and dependent upon making decisions with limited data available.

General Discussion:

- Workshop schedule: The workgroup decided that workshops should be held every 2 years, with the next occurring in 2006.
- Coastal Lamprey Group Report: This group has met several times, most recently in May 2004 in the Powers Ranger District on the S. F. Coquille. ½ day focused on presentations/project updates and ½ day focused on field activities. In the morning, Craig Tuss (USFWS) reviewed the status of the lamprey petition and

- encouraged partnerships. Damon Goodman (OSU) reviewed his thesis project, a genetics study including 40 drainages, sampling adults and juveniles (Margaret Docker is doing the genetics work) and the purpose of this work is to assess the possibility of separating species, and looking for differences in species by geography, using genetic techniques. Abel Brumo (OSU) reviewed the work he, Leo Grandmontagne (Wild Fish for Oregon), and Steve Namitz (USFS--Powers District) conducted in spring 2004 with lamprey, including: floy tag retention, Pacific lamprey movement among spawning sites, and sex ratios of live and dead Pacific lamprey (ratio was 1:1 for live, skewed towards males for dead). His thesis work, also on the S. Fork Coquille, is on the timing of spawning/hatching/emergence of Pacific lamprey. During the field portion of this meeting the group observed Pacific lamprey adults and 1 western brook. A participant demonstrated the deployment of a tribal lamprey trap. Ammocoetes were captured using clam and shrimp guns and genetic samples were collected for Dammon Goodman. Their next meeting will be held in November.
- U. S. Army Corps Passage Paper: David Clugston developed a draft white paper summarizing activities at mainstem dams that assess or improve Pacific lamprey passage. The purpose of the document is to focus the Corps and the Studies Review Workgroup (SRWG). David encouraged members of the Workgroup to contact their SRWG representative to learn more about the Corps process.
  - Lamprey Summit: Mike Matylavitch reviewed the purpose of, and the progress made on the Lamprey Summit. The meeting is organized by CRITFC and the USFWS Regional Office. It will be held on October 22, 2004 at Portland State University and is invitation only. The purpose is to develop a comprehensive management strategy for lamprey in the Columbia River basin, perhaps expanding to the coast. The focus of the meeting is on lamprey passage, but other topics will be discussed. Invitees will be high ranking policy-level officials from federal, state, and tribal governments.
  - Idaho AFS Workshop: The Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is holding a workshop for Pacific lamprey on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The morning will be devoted to technical presentations and afternoon activities will be focused on field methodologies. There is room for 40 people, though largely reserved for Idaho AFS members.
  - Oregon AFS Committee/Science Team: Jen Stone informed the group that there may be a new subcommittee formed under the Natural Production Committee of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The purpose of this committee is to work with AFS membership to collect as much information as possible about lamprey in the state, to support the USFWS eventual status review process. Jen encouraged anyone interested to get in touch with Tom Friesen (ODFW), the new External Director for Oregon AFS. Additionally, the USFWS Region 1 has invoked their Science Team to answer specific questions that address population structure of Pacific lamprey. The Science Team is composed of USFWS biologists experienced with population-level management concerns.

Workgroup Member Reports:

- Molly Hallock: Currently working with FERC relicensing issues, making headway. Grant County PUD is contracting their lamprey work out to Golder Associates and Chelan County PUD is contracting with BioAnalysts. One issue that has arisen relates to assessing lamprey's use of the reservoirs. There currently is no methodology established to do this type of work. Abel suggested using a clam gun in shallow water, a gold dredge in deeper water for presence/absence. Jen Stone will pass along a paper where a deep-water efisher was used in the Great Lakes to sample ammocoetes. Stan VanWetering with the Siletz has sampled deep water.
- Christopher Claire: Attempted redd counts but water is too high that time of year to have much success. Currently monitoring lamprey abundance in the Clearwater by resampling stable habitats. Is also assessing distribution in the Salmon River—currently no lamprey found.
- Jen Graham: Assessing larval lamprey distribution in the non-reservation streams, no lamprey found in east-side tribs. Two rotary screw traps deployed (Warm Springs and Shitike Creek), having trouble keeping larvae in the collection box. Currently mark/recapturing adults, determining harvest rate at Shearar's Falls, and will continue e-shocking. Using floy tags on adults (through musculature under dorsal fin, end of tag left in the fish) with 77% retention. Captured one Pacific adult with Mary Moser's brand (from Columbia River study) (as an aside another one of Mary's tagged fish was recaptured in Chelan County). Received a Tribal Wildlife Grant to study adult Pacific lamprey movement/overwintering habitat/etc using radio telemetry (2 year project, 50 lamprey per year).
- Debbie Docherty: BPA finalized the FY05 budget, adopted what the Council recommended, though it exceeded the BPA budget. Will wait to see what the outcome of FY04 is to correct FY05 projections. There is the possibility of scaling projects back, but currently all ongoing projects are funded, no new lamprey projects funded, and funding was held at the FY04 level. Currently there is no process established for the FY06, but will likely use sub-basin plans.
- Abel Brumo: Leo Grandmontagne assisted tremendously in the field work. Using drift nets to capture young-of-the-year lamprey, but is also capturing older size classes. All movement is at night. Net is 0.5mm mesh. There is a new graduate student at OSU that may be working with lamprey issues, specifically larval ID (similar to USGS work).
- Dave Ward: His crew tagged 40 adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls to monitor movement over the falls/through the dam. Tags were donated by Portland General Electric. Receivers are downloaded weekly and the crew mobile tracks upstream when fish pass the barrier. Also sits on a Willamette Falls FERC relicensing committee, a group that is designing a studies and choosing contractors. Also working on a committee to determine what work is conducted at the lower Willamette superfund site; currently in negotiations. Updating the lamprey status review for ODFW.
- Sam Lohr: Crew conducted spawning ground surveys in the spring, this time using use/non-use designs to establish spawning suitability curves. Adult traps deployed with modifications (double fyke, trap-line set). Continuing e-fishing

efficiency study with lower densities to determine capture efficiency and probability of detection (similar to bull trout work conducted at the Rocky Mountain Research Station).

- Doug Hatch: Working a little on the Lamprey Summit. Works on Chinook in the Methow—for the first time they are seeing larval lamprey in their smolt traps.

Workgroup meeting schedule: Next meeting will be held at the ODFW Field Office in Clackamas on March 1, 2005.

Meeting Adjourned