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Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 10:16 AM

Subject: Clarification of Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement

Jann, Members and MAG

We have been working with our tribal, federal and state partners to clarify the intent of the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement. The Conservation Agreement is answering the tribes' call for action by bringing the parties together to help fill in the gaps for implementation in the Columbia basin and for developing implementation approaches in other regions. To place the Conservation Agreement in context, the following motivation for developing the wide ranging (from California to Alaska) Conservation Initiative and Agreement may be helpful.

Lamprey Summit I in 2004 was a wake-up call to the fact that Pacific lamprey, a species of major cultural importance to Native American Tribes, are in significant decline.

Lamprey Summit II in 2008 was a call to action by the Tribes for a swift and immediate response through cooperative conservation to address continued declines. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service set to work with tribal, federal and state partners to collaboratively develop a wide ranging Conservation Initiative. This included folding the Columbia River Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan, the USACE 10-yr Passage Plan, the BPA Fish and Wildlife Program, the CBFWA Lamprey Technical Workgroup's Critical Uncertainties and the USBR Lamprey Assessment into the wider ranging Conservation Initiative.

Lamprey Summit III in June 2012 will build upon the earlier summits and highlight co-managers' progress on the tribes' call to action. The broad commitment to conserving Pacific lamprey will be solidified by agreeing to work collaboratively to ensure long-term persistence and to support traditional tribal cultural use. We worked with tribes, states, and other federal agencies, over the past year, to draft the voluntary Conservation Agreement to serve as the mechanism to efficiently use limited resources and swiftly implement Pacific lamprey conservation actions.

The Conservation Agreement enhances opportunities for new funding to fill gaps in restoration actions, not already being addressed by USACE and BPA funding sources. It reinforces our shared commitment by encouraging investments in collaborative regional conservation actions, such as: lamprey passage structures on the Umatilla and Umpqua Rivers; sampling for larval lamprey in mainstem river systems; and the advancement of artificial propagation for lamprey.

We have received a lot of positive feedback and support from our partners for the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative and Agreement. Please let us know if it would be helpful to meet with the MAG to answer any questions.

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