



THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
The Dalles Field Office
3430 W. 10th. The Dalles, Oregon
Phone (541) 296-1041
Fax (541) 296-8886

September 16, 2003

Deborah Docherty
Bonneville Power Administration
Contracting Department
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621

We were recently informed that funding for Project # 2000-02900 (Larval Lamprey Species Identification) is in jeopardy. We are very concerned that denying the USGS CRRL funding to conduct this project will result in the inability to complete one of the objectives in our BPA funded project (25007-Determine lamprey species composition, larval distribution and adult abundance in the Deschutes sub-basin). The successful completion of objective 2 in our project hinges on the ability of the USGS-CRRL to identify the species of larval lamprey specimens that we collect and send to them. Without funding for project 2000-02900 they will be unable to complete this task.

When our proposal was funded after ISRP review and NWPPC and CBFWA recommendation we assumed that project 2000-02900, after receiving the same favorable review and recommendations, was fully funded otherwise we would not have solicited their cooperation with this objective.

As you know the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs fully support any research that will lead to management actions that will restore lamprey populations to harvestable numbers throughout the Columbia Basin. Project 2000-02900 was developed with full knowledge and support of the Tribes. We hope your agency will fund this important project. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

CHRIS BRUN
Fisheries Biologist

To: "Docherty, Deborah - KEWU-4" <dldocherty@bpa.gov>
cc: Jennifer_M_Bayer@USGS@FWS.GOV
Subject: Lamprey Project 200002900
:

Debbie Docherty

It has been brought to my attention that Bonneville Power Administration is considering not funding the Lamprey project 200002900. I understand that USGS-BRD has been approved to conduct this work by the ISRP, CBFWA, and the NPPC, but BPA is considering not funding it due to fiscal constraints. I believe this work is extremely important relative to other lamprey-related research in the Columbia River Basin and that it will provide the means to positively identify lamprey species through the use of morphometric (Objective 1), meristic (Objective 1), and molecular techniques (Objective2). This work will be essential to the region and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for proper assessment and monitoring of lamprey populations and communities. This basic information is critical to determine the status of lamprey populations, determine their habitat requirements, identify limiting factors and ultimately develop restoration strategies. I believe that eliminating funding for this project will be a major set back for evaluating lamprey populations in the Columbia River basin. Lamprey is a species that plays a key ecological role in the Columbia River basin, and is a species of concern due to the lack of information and apparent depressed status. I hope you will reconsider and fund this project.

Thank you. Any you can contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Howard Schaller, Ph.D.
Project Leader
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Columbia River Fisheries Program Office
9317 NE Highway 99, Suite I
Vancouver, Washington 98665
Phone: (360) 696-7605
Fax: (360) 696-7968
www.columbiariver.fws.gov

8 September, 2003

Debbie Docherty
Bonneville Power Administration
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Debbie:

I support the proposal by Jennifer Bayer and Russell Rodriguez to conduct studies on lamprey taxonomy and biology. The study, *Identification and thermal requirements of larval Pacific, river, and western brook lampreys*, focuses on research recommended in the status review of lamprey in the Columbia River Basin (Kostow 2002). Currently the research community is unable to identify larval lamprey at a species level, yet identification is necessary to accurately assess population distribution and abundance and to adequately monitor populations within the Columbia River Basin. In addition, our understanding of basic ecology, habitat use and limiting factors is minimal. Management biologists need this information to better protect and restore habitat for all species and life stages of lamprey.

Research proposed by Bayer and Rodriguez specifically addresses these research needs. The proposed research will accomplish three major objectives: 1) development of molecular techniques to distinguish Columbia River Basin lamprey species, 2) completion and reporting of the meristic and morphometric analyses for larval stage lampreys, and 3) determine the affects of temperature on development and survival of Columbia River Basin lampreys. Bayer and Rodriguez's work continues to yield new findings. Their research is the first to evaluate the role of temperature on the survival and early development of lampreys in the Columbia River Basin and is the only project currently attempting to determine the diagnostic characteristics of larval stages of lamprey.

In addition to enhancing the body of knowledge on Columbia River Basin lampreys, the work will complement ongoing research by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University in coastal and Great Basin drainages. Based on their previous findings, established methods, and laboratory facilities Bayer and Rodriguez's lab is the most appropriate group to adequately, effectively, and economically address these important questions in the Columbia River basin. I encourage you to fund their research for the benefit of lamprey and the scientific community.

Sincerely,

Stephanie L. Gunckel
Research Project Leader
Oregon Lamprey Investigations

September 8, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the U.S. Geological Survey's lamprey research proposal. The proposed study would (1) determine diagnostic characteristics of egg and larval stages of lampreys, and (2) evaluate the affect of temperature on the survival and early development of lampreys. These evaluations are key to making good management decisions regarding these at-risk species.

Pacific lamprey are an important ecological and cultural anadromous species in the Columbia River Basin. While data are limited, the data indicate Pacific lamprey populations throughout the Columbia River Basin have experienced large declines (Close et al. 1995). Pacific lamprey were listed by the State of Oregon as a sensitive species in 1993, and granted further protection by the State in 1997 (Kostow 2002). In 2003, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list Pacific lamprey and two other species of lamprey (western brook lamprey and river lamprey) under the ESA, all which occur in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Given these concerns, lamprey populations are receiving increasing attention from resource managers and the public. However, data on lamprey is difficult to obtain, in part due to our lack of understanding of much of their biology and our inability to positively identify larval lamprey in the field. In order to make well informed decisions regarding populations of lamprey, our ability to understand these fish and positively distinguish between the various species is critical.

The larval stage is the most encountered life stage of all species of lamprey and the easiest to sample in areas where different lamprey species overlap. However, information gained from this type of sampling is limited by the inability to distinguish these various lamprey species. Hence, the research proposed by U.S. Geological Survey is very important and extremely relevant to the needs of natural resource managers in the Columbia River Basin, as well as the coastal rivers in northern California, Oregon and Washington.

Sincerely



Ann E. Gray
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2600 SE 98th Ave, # 100
Portland OR 97266

REFERENCES CITED:

- Close, D. A., M. Fitzpatrick, H. Li, B. Parker, D. Hatch, and G. James. 1995. Status report of the Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*) in the Columbia Basin. Report (Contract 95BI39067) to Bonneville Power Administration, Portland Oregon.
- Kostow, Kathryn. 2002. Oregon lampreys: Natural history status and analysis of management issues. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, February 25, 2002.

To: "Docherty, Deborah - KEWU-4" <dldocherty@bpa.gov>

cc: Ross Fuller <FULLERKF@dfw.wa.gov>, David Johnson <JOHNSDHJ@dfw.wa.gov>, jennifer_bayer@usgs.gov

Subject: Proposed project ID 200002900 -lamprey ID and thermal requirements

Ms Docherty;

Jennifer Bayer of USGS has informed me that funding for proposed lamprey project 200002900, "Identification and thermal requirements of larval Pacific, river and western brook lampreys" may be cut.

We feel this project is important. The Columbia River Basin lamprey, in particular, are in need of status assessment. Juvenile lamprey identification is extremely difficult, and developing a method to distinguish the different species is sorely needed. We cannot ascertain species status until we can confidently identify the species in the juvenile stage. Establishing thermal requirements for juvenile lamprey will be key habitat information for aiding lamprey recovery. It is in everyone's interest to obtain this identification and habitat knowledge so we can hopefully make correct management decisions.

We hope you will consider continued funding for this lamprey project.

Thank you,

Molly Hallock
WDFW Fish Biologist
600 Capital Way North
Olympia WA 98501
(360)902-2818
hallomh@dfw.wa.gov <mailto:hallomh@dfw.wa.gov>

To: "Docherty, Deborah - KEWU-4" <dldocherty@bpa.gov>
cc: jennifer_bayer@usgs.gov
Subject: Support for project proposal 200002900 BPA lamprey studies
:

Debbie:

I am writing to let you know I hope you can support the work proposed by the USGS (Jen. Bayer) regarding larval lamprey ID methods as well as the genetics work. We at the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians have been studying larval and adult lamprey for the past six years. The issue of accurate larval ID methods has plagued us since the beginning. It would be very useful to develop some broadly accepted methods. As far as genetics there are some obvious questions that we need answered and the sooner we begin work on these the better we will be able to understand how to recover our depleted coastal lamprey populations. Lastly, the temperature work that has been completed needs to be published. It would be of great use to us. We are in the process of developing stream temperature recovery models for the Siletz Basin and these sorts of data are just what we need. Again I hope BPA will support those tasks proposed in the 200002900 project proposal.

Thank you for your time,

Stan van de Wetering
Tribal Biologist
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
Siletz OR 97330
541 444 8294

To: "Docherty, Deborah - KEWU-4" <dldocherty@bpa.gov>
cc: [Jennifer Bayer@usgs.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Bayer@usgs.gov)
Subject: Lamprey genetics project
:

Debbie,

I am writing to express support for the BPA Proposal, #200002900, "Identification and thermal requirements of larval Pacific, river, and western brook lampreys".

I worked on a project several years ago when we re-discovered the "extinct" Miller Lake lamprey and it would have been difficult to convince people of our findings if we had not had both genetic and morphological data. One of my students is now working on coastal lamprey in southern Oregon and, again, we find that the type of genetic/morphological work being proposed in the above BPA proposal is essential to making progress on ecological and population demographic questions. I am a member of the research community who has a clear bias in wanting to see this research carried out, but I think it is fundamental that biologists know what organisms they are talking about and this work should carry us in that direction.

Doug

Douglas F. Markle, Professor of Fisheries
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
104 Nash Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3803
voice 541-737-1970
fax 541-737-3590
douglas.markle@oregonstate.edu