



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

May 11, 2020

To: Ron Twiner
Operations Manager
U. S. Army Corp of Engineers
The Dalles Lock and Dam
P. O. Box. 564
The Dalles Oregon, 97058

CC: Jeff Randall
The Dalles Dam Research Coordinator

CC: Erin Kovalchuk
Columbia River Coordinator

From: Ralph Lampman
Lamprey Research Biologist
Yakama Nation
Fisheries Resources Management Program

RE: US ACOE and YN Coordination for Lamprey Collection at The Dalles Dam

Dear Mr. Twiner, Mr. Randall, and Ms. Kovalchuk,

With this letter Yakama Nation Pacific Lamprey Project (YNPLP) staff requests access to The Dalles Dam for the purposes of collecting adult Pacific lamprey from existing traps in coordination with the U.S. ACOE. The adult lamprey collected from The Dalles Dam will be used for translocation and research on adult passage in the Yakima, Wenatchee, Methow and Klickitat subbasins, in accordance with the Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan for the Columbia River Basin (TPLRP, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission [CRITFC] 2011). This ongoing project is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Typically, we would like to start collection in May based on the timing of adult arrival at the Project; however, due to COVID-19 and the federal and state restrictions on travel, we are requesting access beginning approximately **June 1, 2020**. Personnel access would be limited to one to two individuals at a time and would focus primarily on picking up adults from AFF facility and CRITFC staff who is in charge of operating and managing the lamprey tube traps. Access would be periodic (but scheduled), likely only 1-3 days per week and for only an hour per day.

The objective for this access is to collect up to **671** Pacific lampreys throughout the migration season. Depending upon catch efficiency and other research needs, it is possible that we will want to continue our collection through end of August / early September.

The work to be done for this project is essential for continuity of lamprey collection and translocation actions during the annual Pacific lamprey migration season (May through September). Due to the current outbreak of COVID-19, YNPLP staff will align their behavior with recommendations of health authorities as they pertain to COVID-19, as well as YNPLP's internal Coronavirus Interim Measures Policy and US ACE COVID-19 policies while performing these essential duties at USACE projects.

YNPLP staff will adhere to best practice guidelines for social distancing at all USACE projects. No physical interaction between USACE staff and the YNPLP is required to complete this work. The number of YNPLP staff will be minimized; lamprey collection will be made by one YNPLP staff (occasionally two for training purposes only if restrictions are lifted), with the same staff accessing BON and other projects each day. Later in the season, CRITFC will be transporting the adults to John Day Dam for the YNPLP. Time spent at the project will be minimized and limited to that required to carry out the essential functions of the trapping and translocation program. Staff will immediately leave each project upon completion of required field duties. Physical interactions between YNPLP staff and CRITFC staff during lamprey collection, transfer, and transportation will be minimized and regulated according to the specific and unique COVID-19 guidelines of each tribe. These practices will be subject to review and revision as necessary as COVID-19 conditions evolve, or as YNPLP, CRITFC, or US ACOE regulations and guidance change going forward.

The YNPLP will have all necessary permits for this activity. We will coordinate with Ms. Erin Kovalchuk and Mr. Jeff Randall at The Dalles Dam. The YNPLP will coordinate with all US ACOE and tribal staffs to ensure smooth and safe operation as in previous years. The YNPLP has the current version of the 2019-2020 Guide for Researchers for the The Dalles Dam project. The YNPLP will supply all information requested in the guide prior to work beginning. The YNPLP will apply for and obtain security badges and required safety training prior to the initiation of work.

The FRMP plans to coordinate schedules with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), and CRITFC staff, and pick up adult lamprey until the target is met. Adult lamprey will be collected in a coordinated manner by the YNPLP, CTUIR, NPT, and CRITFC staffs and placed into a 300 gallon holding tank secured in a bed of a pickup truck with oxygen air plumbed for aeration. Once fish are transported safely and accounted for, then Tribal personnel would immediately leave the Project for the day. The work plan is to trap adult lamprey seven days a week in collaboration with the partnering tribes. A routine work schedule has not yet been developed between the tribes, but is expected to be developed within the first 10 days in **early June** such that a high level of consistency and continuity can be expected by US ACOE in timing for Project access and departure over the course of the summer months. Depending upon catch efficiency, it is possible that we will want to continue our collection through mid-September.

Project work plans are in the process of being completed and will be submitted to the Project Biologist as well as the Project Fisheries Research Coordinator for each project. Thank you for your consideration. If you have further concerns or questions, please contact Ralph Lampman, Lamprey Research Biologist, at 509-388-3871. With regards to continued coordination leading up to the field season, we are preparing and submitting to your offices required documents indicated in the Contractor Guide. Just a few comments, for your information, concerning each of these documents:

PROJECT WORK PLAN: There will not be any installations requiring electrical or mechanical devices. The Plan will likely focus on details associated with security and safety procedures while we are on site.

PROJECT IMPACT STATEMENT: I do not foresee any effects that this work may have on the normal project operations and maintenance.

ACTIVITY HAZARD ANALYSIS: Upon completion of our Work Plan, the Activity Hazard Analysis will be completed. I anticipate the focus of this discussion will be with maintaining crews in designated areas, wearing required protective clothing and gear and being on site for the purposes of the picking up collected lamprey and leaving the site immediately thereafter.

ZEBRA MUSSEL AWARENESS: As we will likely be using existing facilities and not adding any facilities of our own, it is likely this documentation will not be relevant to our purposes.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET – MSDS: We will not be carrying or using any hazardous chemicals / oils during this operation beyond that normally found in the operation of our vehicle to access the site and transport lamprey from the site.

PERMITS – ESA: The Yakama Nation is working with the State of Washington and BPA to ensure that appropriate coordination and permitting is in place prior to the field season and consistent with the Contractors Guide.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS: No US ACE or The Bonneville Project funding or any Project support beyond access to the work area is required to complete our adult Pacific lamprey collection.

SECURITY ACCESS: All personnel that will be involved with access and collection will be identified and will complete and submit a security access form. I will also send to you a complete list of vehicles that will be associated with this effort.

I will be contacting and coordinating with US ACE to ensure that our participation in this activity complies with project standards for security and safety.

I look forward to working with you to complete all necessary steps in a timely manner and thank you both in advance for your help in completing this important work.

Best Regards,



Ralph Lampman
YN - FRMP
509-388-3871