



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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May 7, 2021

Operations Manager
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
The Dalles Lock and Dam
P.O. Box 564
The Dalles, OR 97058

RE: Request for Access to Federal Hydropower Projects (BON, TDA, JDA) for the Purposes of Adult Lamprey Collection

Dear Operations Manager:

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), in accordance with the Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan for the Columbia River Basin (TPLRP, CRITFC 2011), is supporting its member tribes' efforts to restore Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) to the Columbia Basin. This ongoing project is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and managed by CRITFC. As part of the project, we are requesting permission from the USACE for access to Bonneville Dam (BON), The Dalles Dam (TDA), and John Day Dam (JDA) to support adult lamprey collection for CRITFC member tribes' translocation efforts. Participating tribes are the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSO). The CTWSO is not expected to collect adults for translocation but may collect for ongoing monitoring and evaluation projects.

A key component to restoring lamprey to the Columbia Basin is collecting adults for translocation to upper systems (e.g., the Umatilla, Yakima, and Snake rivers). To this end, CRITFC requests permission to enter USACE projects in 2021 to support the collection of up to 4,512 adult Pacific lamprey (up to 1,128 per member tribe), which is equal to 8 percent of the adjusted two-year running average adult count past BON. Allocations at each dam are calculated using the Tribal Guidelines for Translocation contained in the TPLRP (updated June 2017). The total allocation of up to 1,128 adult Pacific lamprey per member tribe may be attained through a combination of up to 563 adults at BON, up to 411 adults at TDA, and up to 240 adults at JDA dams (Table 1). CRITFC and the member tribes will closely monitor adult collection numbers throughout the season to ensure allocations are not exceeded at each dam.

CRITFC's role in supporting member tribe lamprey collection at USACE projects will include, but not be limited to, setting and checking lamprey tube traps behind picket leads at BON Bradford Island AWS, Cascades Island AWS, and BON Washington Shore AWS, TDA East and TDA North Fish Ladders, and JDA North Fish Ladder. We likewise request access to the BON Adult Fish Facility (AFF) flume trap, the BON Cascades Island flume trap, the BON

Powerhouse 2 North Monolith Lamprey Flume System (LFS), the JDA South Fish Ladder mechanical trap, and the JDA North Fish Ladder flume trap. In addition, CRITFC and its member tribes may request access to adult lamprey from rest boxes at the Cascades Island Lamprey Passage Structure (LPS) downstream of the UMT, the Cascades Island AWS/ladder, and the Bradford Island LPS. Additional trapping locations may be considered in consultation with the USACE project staff and the CRITFC member tribes as deemed appropriate if necessary. In addition to trapping at BON, CRITFC personnel will be responsible for safely holding trapped adult lamprey at the mainstem dams, primarily at BON as well as transportation and holding at the JDA holding facility until retrieval by CRITFC member tribes.

Table 1. Total collection allocations per tribe per dam.

	Number of collected fish will not exceed:			
	BON	TDA	JDA	TOTAL
Yakama Nation	563	411	240	1,128
Umatilla	563	411	240	1,128
Warm Springs	563	411	240	1,128
Nez Perce	563	411	240	1,128
TOTAL	Up to 2,252	Up to 1,644	Up to 960	Up to 4,512

CRITFC will have all necessary permits for this activity. We will coordinate with Ms. Erin Kovalchuk, Mr. Nathan McClain, and Mr. Jeffrey Randall at The Dalles Dam. CRITFC will coordinate with all USACE and tribal staffs to ensure smooth and safe operation as in previous years. CRITFC has the current version of the Fisheries Research/Contractor Guide for The Dalles Dam project. CRITFC will supply all information requested in the guide prior to work beginning. CRITFC will apply for and obtain security badges and required safety training prior to the initiation of work.

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 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, CRITFC staff will align their behavior with recommendations of health authorities as they pertain to COVID-19, as well as CRITFC’s internal Coronavirus Interim Measures Policy and USACE COVID-19 policies while performing these essential duties at USACE projects.

CRITFC staff will adhere to best practice guidelines for social distancing at all USACE projects. No physical interaction between USACE staff and CRITFC or tribal staff is required to complete this work. The number of CRITFC staff will be minimized; lamprey collection will be made by two CRITFC staff (occasionally three), with the same staff accessing BON, TDA, and JDA projects each day. Time spent at each 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 CRITFC staff and tribal 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 tribal, CRITFC, or USACE regulations and guidance change going forward.

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 CRITFC staff Laurie Porter, Lamprey Project Leader, or Greg Silver, Lamprey Biologist at 503-238-0667.

Sincerely,



Aja K. DeCoteau
Interim Executive Director

CC: Ms. Erin Kovalchuk, Columbia River Coordinator, USACE
Mr. Nathan McLain, Columbia River Coordinator (temporary detail), USACE
Mr. Jeffrey Randall, The Dalles Fisheries Research Coordinator, USACE