



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH & WILDLIFE

March 11, 2019

In reply refer to: EC-4

### **To: People interested in the Pacific Lamprey Artificial Production and Release Research**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the effects of artificial production and out-planting of Pacific Lamprey larvae. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process and schedule, and invites you to comment on the proposal.

**Proposal** - BPA is proposing to fund artificial production and release of Pacific Lamprey larvae to further ongoing lamprey restoration research. BPA would help fund the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC) to evaluate the feasibility of using artificial production and out-planting techniques routinely used for hatchery-produced fish for rearing and releasing artificially-propagated lamprey.

Proposed actions would include:

1. Improvements to the existing Yakama Nation Prosser Fish Hatchery in Prosser, WA. The improvements would include the construction of a pole building to house eight additional 14-foot long trough tanks, eight additional 7-foot long shallow trough tanks, and four additional 6-foot circular tanks.
2. Improvements to the existing 32 foot × 36 foot Ozone building located at CTUIR's South Fork Walla Walla Fish Hatchery located near Milton-Freewater, Oregon. The Ozone building would be re-purposed with the addition of three 4-foot diameter circular tanks for adult holding and thirty-six 8-foot long troughs for larval rearing.
3. Improvements to the existing Yakama Nation Marion Drain Fish Hatchery in Toppenish, WA. The improvements would include construction of a pole building to house eight additional 14-foot long trough tanks, eight additional 7-foot deep shallow trough tanks, and four additional 6-foot diameter circular tanks and the construction of a simulated natural side channel (up to 1,000 feet long) that will run along the existing ditch channel.
4. Annual production and release of up to 300,000 early life stage larval lamprey in the Upper Yakima River, 150,000 in the Naches River, and 2000 juvenile (smolt) and late life stage larval lamprey in the Yakima and Columbia River Subbasins for assessment of migration and behavior.
5. Annual production and release of up to 500,000 larval lamprey in the Mid Walla Walla and 1,000,000 pro-larvae in the Upper Tucannon River.
6. Evaluation and monitoring of released lamprey survival and migration to help determine the most successful strategy for population supplementation and to inform development of restoration actions.

**Environmental Review:** To understand the potential environmental impacts of this proposal, BPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA will describe anticipated impacts to natural and human resources and may include mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts. During this process, the agencies will work with landowners, federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and Tribes. The proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	March 11, 2019 thru April 11, 2019
Draft EA available for public comment	Summer 2019
Final EA	Fall 2019
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Fall/Winter 2019
If decision to proceed, implementation begin	Early 2020

Please indicate on the enclosed postcard whether or how you would like to receive the EA when it is available.

**How to Comment:** Please send your comments by **April 11, 2019** and reference the **Pacific Lamprey Artificial Production and Release Research Program**. All comments will be available on the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/PacificLamprey](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/PacificLamprey). There are several ways to comment:

<b>Mail:</b> Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	<b>Toll-free:</b> 800-622-4519 <b>FAX:</b> 503-230-4019 <b>Online:</b> <a href="http://www.bpa.gov/comment">www.bpa.gov/comment</a>
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**For More Information:** If you have any questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5564 or email at [cjhamel@bpa.gov](mailto:cjhamel@bpa.gov), or Luca De Stefanis, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, Motus, at [ltdestefanis@bpa.gov](mailto:ltdestefanis@bpa.gov) or 503-230-5263.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:  
Project Map  
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