

**Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Columbia River Basin Pacific Lamprey Summit II
May 15, 2008
Native American Student and Community Center
710 SW Jackson
Meeting Summary**

(produced by the facilitation team from the National Policy Consensus Center
of Portland State University)

Morning Session (9:30-12:00) General Audience

The summit began with an invocation by Fidelia Andy of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama).

Rebecca Miles, Chair, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), opened the summit and introduced the facilitator, Elaine Hallmark, from the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) of Portland State University. Elaine introduced other members of the team of facilitators present, who were Turner Odell, Vicky Ridge-Cooney and Rob Williams. The agenda for the day was to hear about the Tribal Lamprey Restoration Plan in the morning and to have a policy level discussion in small groups in the afternoon to address how to move forward collaboratively.

Keynote Speaker

Rebecca Miles of the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) gave the keynote talk. Ms. Miles emphasized the need to immediately halt the decline of lamprey. Actions needed include main stem passage improvements, habitat restoration, supplementation by translocation of adults, and research. Collaboration is vital if we are to restore lamprey.

Tribal Elders Panel

Fidelia Andy (Yakama), Viola Kalama of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), Jay Minthorn of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and Elmer Crow (NPT) each gave their perspective on the historical perspective and connection with lamprey, the impact the decline of lamprey is having on the Tribes, the need for immediate focused attention to the problems and the call to work together to restore the lamprey. The elders explained that their term for lamprey is “eels.” The elders emphasized the great value of eels for food and for sharing and teaching traditions to children. They described the abundance of eels in the past, the scarcity of eels now, and the importance of restoring the eels.

Background information on Lamprey Status

Two speakers presented information on the status of lamprey. Patrick Luke (Yakama) presented information on stock status. Bianca Streif of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) spoke on behalf of Director Renne Lohofener who could not attend until the afternoon. Ms. Streif discussed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) petition to list Pacific lamprey and the USFWS Pacific Lamprey Coastwide Conservation Initiative.

Mr. Luke's presentation included the life history and current status of lamprey. Lamprey return from the ocean to spawn in fine sediment. The eggs hatch and juveniles live four to six years in streams, then migrate back out to the ocean. Stream complexity is essential for the lamprey, and the streams need habitat improvements. Counts of lamprey at the dams were high in the 60's. No counts were taken from 1970-2000. Lamprey declined sharply in the 2000's. The low numbers of lamprey no longer support a tribal fishery and many rivers above federal dams have few to no lamprey. Tribes often are not able to get lamprey even for subsistence and ceremonial purposes.

Ms. Streif provided an update on the ESA petition to the USFWS to list lamprey. USFWS reviewed available information and observed a decline in abundance and distribution of lamprey. Because there are gaps in the information, USFWS did not list the lamprey as "threatened" or "endangered." The lamprey is considered a USFWS "species of concern."

Ms. Streif spoke about the USFWS Coastwide Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative. She emphasized that USFWS is committed to cooperating with tribes and others to conserve and restore lamprey throughout their historical range. The Columbia Basin plan is a part of that effort, and USFWS will integrate Columbia efforts into the Coastwide work. Ms Streif stressed the importance of increasing awareness which in turn increases funding opportunities. USFWS is now forming a steering committee of tribes and federal and state agencies. Invitations had been sent to all the tribes and agencies to suggest participants for the steering committee. USFWS is organizing a June meeting of the steering committee to plan an October workshop. They are expecting to have a plan in late 2009. USFWS supports taking certain actions now to conserve and restore lamprey rather than waiting until the USFWS plan is finished.

Presentation of Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan for the Columbia Basin

Tribal representatives summarized the Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan for the Columbia Basin. The full plan was distributed and is being posted on the CRITFC website.

Bob Rose (Yakama) presented the general goals/objectives/vision for restoration and the recommended actions. The plan presents four actions:

1. Improve mainstem passage.
2. Restore tributary passage, spawning, and rearing habitat.
3. Temporarily supplement lamprey numbers by introduction, re-introduction, or translocation where lamprey are depressed or extirpated.
4. Conduct research and monitoring.

Public education and outreach are very important elements throughout the plan. CRITFC plans to follow up today's summit with three workshops in different areas in July and August.

Bob Heinith (CRITFC) presented recommended adult and juvenile mainstem passage and habitat actions. Mr. Heinith described the structural and operational problems for adults and juveniles passing through the dams and the recommended solutions to these adult and juvenile passage problems.

Each of the tribes summarized the four above actions for their tributaries. The presenters included Jen Graham (CTWSRO) for Warm Springs, Gary James (CTUIR) for Umatilla, Dave Statler (NPT) for Nez Perce, and Patrick Luke (Yakama) for Yakima tributaries.

Afternoon Session (1:00-4:00)

Policy Group Discussion of How to Collaborate on Lamprey Restoration

The afternoon session was focused on conversations among primarily policy representatives of the tribes and agencies as to how they might all collaborate in moving forward. Elaine Hallmark, facilitator, discussed the opportunity for collaboration that is present, given the recent Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) between three of the CRITFC tribes and the federal action agencies and the work that has already begun to focus on lamprey restoration. She presented an overview of a collaboration model that could integrate policy decision-making with actual projects on the ground in an agreed structure for working together to implement the plan. She noted that developing consensus around the plan would also need to be part of it.

Small groups then discussed a set of questions about moving forward collaboratively. Highlights of the ideas from the groups follow.

Partnerships, Actions and Commitment to Implement Tribal Lamprey Restoration Plan Breakout Group Discussions:

The discussion questions included:

What, if anything, is needed in order to develop consensus on or support for the tribal restoration plan?

How might a collaborative effort be structured to take advantage of consensus and agency commitment to implement the plan?

What challenges or obstacles may exist to participation in a collaborative effort to implement the plan?

How can funding and resource needs to implement the plan be met?

How would accountability to implement plan actions be structured and realized in the collaborative effort?

Collaboration

There was widespread agreement that the parties should begin implementation of certain actions immediately. They should not wait until the plan is complete. There are areas of the plan in which there is agreement at this time and areas where there is not agreement or in which there is uncertainty. Parties want to move forward with the things upon which there is agreement while working out the other issues and while research is ongoing.

There was also agreement that collaboration is essential. It is appropriate for the tribes to take the lead in the next steps. Although no particular collaboration model was endorsed, most participants agreed that commitment by all to the collaborative effort is critical. The collaboration expertise at the National Policy Consensus Center at PSU was offered to assist in

developing a structure that works for collaboration and commitment. Participants indicated a commitment to participating in an ongoing collaborative process. It was suggested that each agency do its review, then get back together in a collaborative approach. Think about what is different now than in 2004, when the first summit was held: There is increased awareness of the importance of lamprey; more is known from work on US v. Oregon and the hydropower biop; sea lions are short on food and now feeding on salmon.

Supporting and Implementing the Plan

It is expected that developing consensus and support for the plan will be fairly straight forward. Individual agencies and tribes should review the plan. Technical groups and policy groups should meet to develop consensus on the final plan. There should be a schedule for implementation, both on the policy level and on the technical level. An honest discussion of areas of disagreement is important, while also focusing on moving forward on outcomes.

Various resources are available for plan implementation. Funds were allocated to lamprey conservation and restoration in the recent MOA relating to the Biological Opinion for operation of the Federal Hydropower System. Agencies and tribes are committing both technical and policy personnel for implementation, and should look at the existing and proposed projects in salmon to see the benefit or detriment for lamprey, i.e. fish screening and passage. Implementation of plans resulting from the FERC process at particular dams focus some PUD resources on lamprey. Parties should seek grant funding where appropriate.

Education about the need for restoration and about the plan is important. Education can facilitate getting resources. Take advantage of the existing resources on the ground for public outreach, such as watershed groups. Let people know that the tribes and agencies are working together, that they don't want to list lamprey, but need farmers and others to do actions to prevent it. Educate that lamprey are part of the ecosystem, and we won't get salmon recovery without lamprey recovery. Lamprey is a treaty resource and a consumptive use. It needs to be elevated to the level of other fish. Compare to the lessons learned on the burbit in Idaho that showed that cooperation worked.

Commitments of Participants and Follow Up

The last section of the meeting was devoted to hearing from the policy representatives of the agencies and tribes present in regard to their sense of the day, their interest and commitment in working together to implement lamprey restoration, and any next steps they might suggest. Following are the key points that were made.

- Umatilla Tribes - N. Kathryn Brigham – Asked who will take the lead for technical and policy decisions for moving forward? She would like to groups reconvene in July or as soon as possible, not to let the energy wane.
- USFWS - Ren Lohofener said the USFWS is ready to jump in. They intend to work collaboratively and to integrate the work initiated here on the Columbia Basin into their work on a Coastwide Conservation Initiative. All need to see if they agree on objectives, prioritize, give feedback to tribes on plan.

- Army Corps of Engineers - Witt Anderson, Colonel Miles and Colonel O'Donovan said the Corps will continue to be involved. It is involved in the MOA for passage improvement implementation, committed to work collaboratively to get things done, and to get additional funds.
- Bonneville Power Administration - Bill Maslen said that BPA will be present and active at technical and policy levels. It will focus on implementing the MOA, emphasizing on the ground projects.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - Charlie Corrarino committed ODF&W staff to technical and policy work in order to provide help to tribes in preserving lamprey. He stressed the importance of collaboration and coordination and suggested that work on addressing fish screens that are harming lamprey should begin immediately.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Guy Norman committed WDFW to technical and policy work, to channel the momentum of salmon recovery towards including lamprey and wants to use experience in salmon to be effective in lamprey.
- US Forest Service – Linda Ulmer said the USFS is committed to habitat restoration and discussions at the level of the 3 forest administrators.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Keith Hatch acknowledged that the BIA will be involved in whatever way it can assist.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries – Paul Wagner acknowledged that today is a good start, and NOAA Fisheries will stay involved.
- Bureau of Reclamation – Steve Grabowski said USBR is committed to looking at improving irrigation projects in regard to lamprey and to implementing the MOA.
- Grant County PUD – Mike Clement committed to continue the cooperation that has been shown in working on the management plan.
- Chelan County PUD – Thad Mosey committed to the actions and schedule that was developed in the Rocky Reach FERC proceedings.

Presentation to Colonel O'Donovan

Kat Brigham (CTUIR) and Fidelia Andy (Yakama) presented Colonel O'Donovan with a gift on behalf of the tribes and the CRITFC to acknowledge their appreciation of his work here on behalf of fish restoration in the Columbia Basin. Colonel O'Donovan is being deployed to Afghanistan, and Colonel Miles will be taking his place at the Portland District for the Corps..