



**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**

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503 238 0667

September 29, 2006

Mr. Steve Wright  
Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration  
905 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., A-7  
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. J. William McDonald  
Regional Director  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Pacific NW Region  
1150 N Curtis Rd., Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Brigadier General Gregg F. Martin  
Commander and Division Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Northwestern Division  
PO Box 2870  
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Messrs Wright, McDonald and General Martin:

As you may know, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council has issued a draft decision recommending severe cuts to lamprey evaluation and restoration projects sponsored by our member tribes as well as a major joint collaboration among our member tribes, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

In January of 2002, eleven conservation organizations in Oregon, California and Washington petitioned the US Fish & Wildlife Service, under the federal Endangered Species Act, to list four species of lampreys including Pacific lamprey as threatened or endangered.

In October of 2004, tribal members and staff as well as officials from both state and federal agencies including the Regional Director of BOR and the Commanding Officer of the Pacific Northwest Division of the Corps met for an entire day to discuss the proposed listing of Pacific lamprey. At that time, along with other participants, Bob Lohn of NOAA noted that immediate action was critical as a means to avoid ESA listing and the inflexibility that a listing would produce.

In December of 2004, the Fish and Wildlife Service declined to list Pacific lamprey. While the Service found that the petitioners had documented a reduction in the species' range and numbers, they had not provided information describing how the portion of the species' petitioned range

(California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington) or any smaller portion was appropriate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

As you certainly know from our previous communications, over 50% to 80% of adult lampreys do not successfully pass each mainstem FCRPS dam. In 2006, only thirty-seven lampreys passed Lower Granite Dam. Available population information indicates continuing declines in recent years.

Because of your interest in the status of Pacific lamprey, the effect that a listing could impose upon the mainstem dams, and to avoid management conflicts among our member tribes, Pacific Northwest States, and your offices, I would urge you to contact the NPCC and suggest that a recommendation to cut lamprey restoration and evaluation projects is imprudent at this time. Regardless of the Council's action, the Commission and its member tribes intend to seek funds from the Corps, BOR and BPA to continue this important work.

Sincerely,



Olney Patt, Jr.

Cc: Governor Ted Kulongoski  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Governor James Risch  
Governor Brian Schweitzer  
NPCC Melinda Eden  
NOAA Fisheries Bob Lohn  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Ren Lohofener, Acting Regional Director  
Fish and Wildlife Committees