

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*) are a very important cultural and subsistence food item for the people of the Warm Springs Reservation. The decline in lamprey abundance has reduced harvest opportunities for members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO) at their traditional collection site in the Deschutes River, Oregon. The decline in the abundance of lampreys in the Deschutes River is mirrored by similar declines throughout the entire Columbia River Basin. Lampreys have been proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Unfortunately lamprey life-history information is limited in the Columbia Basin and particularly in the Deschutes sub-basin preventing an effective recovery plan from being formulated. The CTWSRO, Department of Natural Resources, began a life-history, distribution and abundance assessment of lampreys in the Deschutes sub-basin during 2002, to obtain baseline information and assess whether existing tribal land management plans are sufficiently protecting lamprey habitat. Baseline information gathered will also contribute to the development of a Columbia River Basin recovery plan involving tribal, state, and federal governments.

The proposed project will address major uncertainties surrounding the life-history of this fish: Where do they over-winter and spawn? We are proposing to implant radio tags into a 100 lampreys in the Deschutes River during the summer of 2005 and 2006 and track their movements through completion of spawning. This will allow the CTWSRO to identify critical over-wintering and spawning locations within the Reservation and adjoining waters within tribal ceded lands. Once these habitat areas are identified tribal managers can update the CTWSRO's Integrated Resource Management Plan to ensure protection and restoration of lamprey spawning and over-wintering areas. This project would begin in January 2005 and be completed with the issuance of a final technical report in September 2007.