

Project ID: 200002900
Title: Identification and thermal requirements of larval Pacific, river, and western brook lampreys
Sponsor: USGS, Columbia River Research Laboratory (CRRL)
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Response to ISRP Review

The ISRP expressed two concerns with this proposal: 1) project sponsors overlooked the need for other biological information (in addition to temperature) on limiting factors for early life history stages of lamprey; and 2) monitoring and evaluation aspects for this project were not well described.

(1) Regarding the first item, the ISRP's concern that temperature may not be the only limiting habitat factor for lamprey production is valid and well taken by the project sponsors. However, the proposed research is designed to provide resource managers with tools to accurately identify lamprey species in areas where distributions are sympatric and to provide information necessary to determine if potential spawning and rearing sites meet the thermal requirements of Columbia River Basin lampreys. We too feel that future research should focus on other components of the environment that may be limiting, such as water quality issues, habitat availability, and migratory corridors; however, these issues are outside the scope of the proposed research and would be better dealt with under a large-scale project designed to evaluate habitat quality throughout the Columbia River Basin. We would appreciate the opportunity to undertake this research in the future.

(2) The project sponsors regret the lack of clarity regarding our plan to evaluate the techniques expected as the result of this work. In the second component of the proposal, which focuses on providing molecular techniques for species identification in field situations, we describe our plan to evaluate these molecular techniques by conducting field surveys of lampreys throughout the Columbia River Basin. We neglected to describe a similar plan to test morphometric identification methods. We propose to attempt to conduct these evaluation procedures simultaneously in the second year of the work. However, this may not be a realistic timeline and we feel the ISRP's suggestion of extending the work to a third year may be helpful.