

**Aquatic Settlement Agreement  
Wells Aquatic Settlement Work Group  
Statement of Agreement Regarding the Implementation of the  
Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study Plan**

**Date of Approval: March 9, 2022**

**Statement**

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (Aquatic SWG) agrees that Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas PUD) will move forward with the implementation of the Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study, as characterized in the Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study Plan.

Pacific Lamprey selected for inclusion in the study will be captured at Priest Rapids Dam over a four-week trapping period funded by Douglas PUD. Following the four-week trapping period, at the unanimous direction of the members of the Aquatic SWG, additional Pacific Lamprey trapped by Grant PUD at Priest Rapids Dam may also be included as study fish.

Implementation of this study will represent steady progress towards identifying and addressing any Project related impacts on Pacific Lamprey passage consistent with Objective 1 of the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP; Sections 4.1.5-7).

**Background**

The most recent lamprey passage evaluations at Wells Dam have failed to provide adequate data to identify potential lamprey passage problems or inform fishway modifications to improve lamprey passage. These passage evaluations have been hampered by low sample sizes and confounded by an inability to capture sufficient numbers of migrating Pacific Lamprey at Wells Dam and using translocated Pacific Lamprey under the assumption that translocated and tagged lamprey released downstream of Wells Dam will approach the dam and actively seek upstream passage.

Data collected on acoustic tagged lamprey from 2015-2017 suggest that only 25% of lamprey passing Rocky Reach Dam approach the tailrace of Wells Dam. The Aquatic SWG has developed several hypotheses to explain the low proportion of lamprey approaching Wells Dam. One hypothesis is that olfactory/pheromone cues produced by larval/juvenile lamprey that can influence upstream migration of adults have declined as a result of the low numbers of adult lamprey passing Wells Dam and spawning upstream of Wells Dam. As such, between 2018 and 2021, Douglas PUD translocated 1635 adult lamprey above Wells Dam (409/yr. mean). Translocating adult lamprey and allowing them to spawn in areas upstream of Wells Dam may result in an increase in juvenile lamprey abundance and thereby strengthen these olfactory/pheromone migratory cues, thus encouraging greater numbers of adult lamprey to approach and pass Wells Dam in the future.

In 2022, the Aquatic SWG plans to re-examine the approach and passage rates of Pacific Lamprey in accordance with the Study Plan dated March 9, 2022. Pacific Lamprey collected in 2022 will be released in locations identified and prioritized in Table 2 of the Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study Plan.