

**Aquatic Settlement Agreement  
Wells Aquatic Settlement Work Group  
Statement of Agreement**

**To translocate adult Pacific Lamprey from Priest Rapids Dam to areas within or upstream of  
the Wells Project 2023-2024**

**Date of Approval: June 14, 2023**

**Statement**

The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (Aquatic SWG) agrees that Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas PUD) will translocate to areas within or upstream of the Wells Project, adult Pacific Lamprey captured at Priest Rapids Dam in 2023 and 2024. Douglas PUD will fund 12 nights of trapping at Priest Rapids Dam each year in a continuous, four-week block. In addition, Douglas PUD will translocate Pacific Lamprey delivered to Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park by Grant PUD for up to four more weeks after the Douglas PUD-funded four-week trapping period, or until 1000 Pacific Lamprey have been translocated within a single year, whichever occurs first. Within each year's overall translocation period (four weeks of Douglas PUD-funded trapping and up to four additional weeks of translocated Pacific Lamprey that have been delivered to Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park) Douglas PUD will endeavor to translocate no fewer than 500 Pacific Lamprey per year. Douglas PUD will PIT tag and collect a fin clip from all translocated Pacific Lamprey.

This translocation activity 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). Apart from the ongoing acoustic telemetry study beginning in 2022, no new telemetry or passage study will be completed at Wells Dam in 2023 or 2024. The Aquatic SWG will determine the objectives and methods of a 2025 approach or passage evaluation at Wells Dam in 2024 and/or early 2025.

During the period of Pacific Lamprey translocation, Douglas PUD, in consultation with the Aquatic SWG, will continue to implement measures prescribed by the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP) that are not reliant on data collected from upstream passage evaluations. These measures shall include: developing study plans for future passage evaluations; gathering information on lamprey passage modifications at other hydroelectric projects, identifying and prioritizing fishway modifications, designing and engineering fishway modifications, continuing fishway counts, passively monitoring PIT tagged Pacific Lamprey that interact with Wells Dam, and developing a Pacific Lamprey passage literature review. In the event a passage impediment is identified during implementation of this SOA, based upon monitoring data, the Aquatic SWG will make a good faith effort to resolve the issue within the time period of this SOA.

**Background**

Douglas PUD is currently implementing the Wells Dam 2022 Adult Lamprey Approach and Passage Study (2022 Study), which is designed to determine if the approach rate to Wells Dam of Pacific Lamprey in 2022 differs from what was observed in 2016, following four years of Pacific Lamprey

translocation from Priest Rapids to locations upstream of Wells Dam. Additionally, the 2022 Study is intended to produce an overall Wells Dam passage rate for adult Pacific Lamprey.

Following the completion of the 2022 Study and the approval by the Aquatic SWG of an associated report, the Aquatic SWG will consider designing and implementing a study that is designed to make steady progress towards meeting one or more of the objectives found in the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP). To ensure sufficient time to design and prepare for such a study, implementation would begin no earlier than 2025. During the interim and between studies, the Aquatic SWG feels that translocation of adult Pacific Lamprey to locations upstream of Wells Dam is an appropriate action to take and represents reasonable progress towards achieving objectives in Sections 4.1.5-7 of the PLMP. This is because recent dam counts at Wells Dam and the observation of juveniles upstream in the Okanogan basin in locations not previously detected suggest that translocation is supporting lamprey conservation and passage success at Wells Dam. In addition, these observations may support the goal of adult Pacific Lamprey volitionally approaching and ascending Wells Dam commensurate with passage performance at other mainstem hydroelectric projects.