

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pacific Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Phone: 503/231-6121
Fax: 503/231-2122
<http://pacific.fws.gov>



News Release

DATE: July 20, 2009

9-81

CONTACT: Amy Gaskill, APR, (503) 231-6874

Pacific Lamprey Conservation Meetings Scheduled for July Across the Pacific Northwest

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Columbia River Fisheries Program Office will sponsor three meetings of the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative this month in Yakima, Washington; Lewiston, Idaho; and La Grande, Oregon.

The Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative is an effort led by the Service to facilitate communication and coordination for the conservation of Pacific lamprey throughout their range. The goal of the initiative is to develop a Pacific Lamprey Conservation Plan (Plan) that will lead to restored Pacific lamprey populations and improvement of their habitat.

In 2009, the USFWS Conservation Initiative Team will host a set of regional work sessions to develop regional components of the Plan. These meetings will be held in California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

The Conservation Initiative Team requests your assistance to help make these meetings successful.

The purpose of these regional meetings is to collect information on:

1. Pacific lamprey current distribution
2. Pacific lamprey estimated abundance
3. Pacific lamprey trend in populations; and to
4. Identify and prioritize threats to Pacific lamprey
5. Identify Pacific lamprey conservation actions
6. Identify research, monitoring and evaluation activities related to Pacific lamprey.

We will document this information for 4th code Hydrologic Units (HUC) on maps and through a regional questionnaire. The information we collect will be used to develop the regional components of the Plan which includes identification of actions to be taken to improve Pacific lamprey abundance, distribution and habitat. We will also use a modified NatureServe method to assess the extirpation risk and relative ranking of Pacific lamprey by watershed throughout its range. The protocol involves analyzing Pacific lamprey using three categories: rarity (distribution and abundance), trends and threats. The NatureServe process is currently being used for bull trout.

In addition, we will present information on methods to develop a Yakima River lamprey identification key that will be presented at a Lamprey Identification Workshop in late 2009 or early 2010.

Attendees should register for these meetings by contacting the RSVP contacts below each meeting description. For additional information to prepare for the meetings please visit the Lamprey Conservation initiative Web site: http://www.fws.gov/pacific/fisheries/sp_habcon/lamprey/

The Pacific Northwest regional meetings are as follows:

Yakima River Basin:

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Office
1110 West Lincoln Avenue
Yakima, WA
RSVP to: RD Nelle 509-548-7573; rd_nelle@fws.gov

Clearwater, Salmon and Asotin river basins:

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Clearwater Region
3316 16th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
RSVP by July 21 to: Jody Brostrom 208-756-5162; jody_brostrom@fws.gov

Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Wallowa and Tucannon river basins

Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest La Grande Ranger District
3502 Hwy 30
La Grande, OR 97850
RSVP by July 23rd to: Jody Brostrom 208-756-5162; jody_brostrom@fws.gov

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

-- FWS --