



# Pacific Lamprey

August 2016

## Conservation Initiative



Credit: USFWS

Adult Pacific Lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*)

### Pacific Lamprey in Decline

Pacific Lamprey are a native anadromous species that, like salmon, historically returned to spawn in large numbers into watersheds along the West Coast of the United States, but populations have declined in abundance and become restricted in distribution throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. Threats to Pacific Lamprey occur in much of the range of the species and include restricted mainstem and tributary passage, reduced flows and dewatering of streams, stream and floodplain degradation, degraded water quality, and changing marine and climate conditions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes the need for a comprehensive plan to conserve and restore Pacific Lamprey in collaboration with Native American tribes; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other entities. The Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partners' strategy to improve the status of Pacific Lamprey throughout their range by helping implement research and conservation actions.

### Conservation Initiative Approach

The approach of the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative is a three part process: an Assessment and Template for Conservation Measures (Assessment); a Conservation Agreement; and Regional Implementation Plans. The Assessment was completed in October 2011 and the Conservation Agreement signed in June 2012. The next steps in the Conservation Initiative are to work with partners to develop regional plans for implementing conservation actions.

### Assessment

The Assessment tracks the current knowledge of Pacific Lamprey habitat requirements; abundance; historic and current distribution; describes threats and factors for decline; and identifies conservation actions and research, monitoring, and evaluation needs. To systematically characterize the conservation risk of Pacific Lamprey across its range, an assessment was conducted with a diagnostic tool adapted from NatureServe by using existing demographic and threat information. This information was collected through a series of regional meetings attended by our partners. Individual watersheds were analyzed to rank the relative risk of extirpation, and these risks were summarized by region. Pacific Lamprey populations are declining in abundance and becoming restricted in distribution throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California due to key threats such as mainstem and tributary obstacles to passage, reduced flows and dewatering, stream and floodplain degradation, and water quality. The majority of watersheds are at relatively high risk, with very few that are relatively secure.

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Or Visit: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/sphabcon/Lamprey/lampreyCI.html>

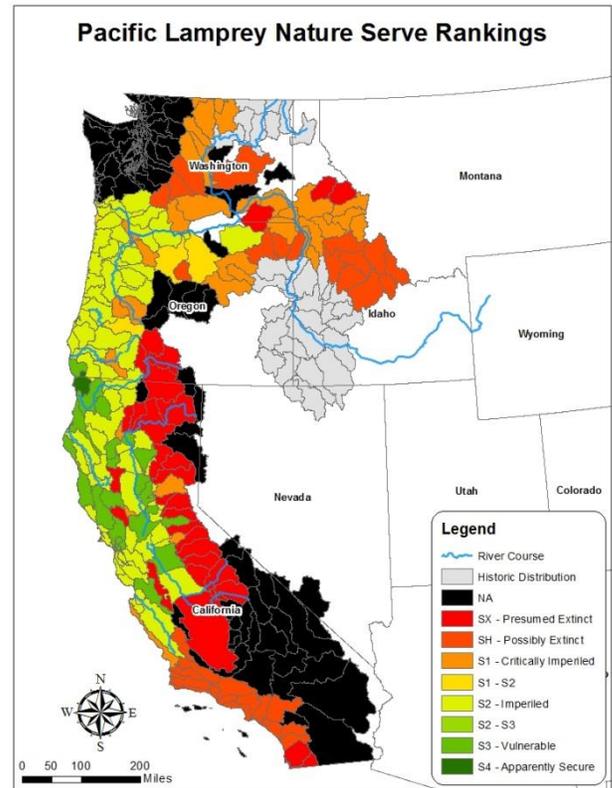


## Conservation Agreement

The Conservation Agreement (Agreement) is a voluntary commitment by the interested parties to collaborate on efforts that reduce or eliminate threats to Pacific Lamprey to the greatest extent possible. The goal of this Agreement is to achieve long term persistence and support traditional tribal cultural use of Pacific Lamprey throughout their range. This Agreement provides a mechanism for interested parties to collaborate and pool available resources to expeditiously and effectively implement conservation actions.

## Regional Implementation Plans

Through the Agreement conservation will be advanced by the development of Regional Implementation Plans, which will prioritize implementation of conservation actions and evaluate action effectiveness. The Regional Implementation Plans will build upon existing restoration plans that include conservation actions such as: modifying fish ladders and entranceways at dams, constructing lamprey passage structures at tributary barriers, restoring lamprey habitat, and consideration of lamprey during in-stream work. However, gaps in addressing threats to Pacific Lamprey remain. The Regional Implementation plans will identify additional conservation actions needed at the watershed scale to address threats and issues identified by local experts.



Relative risk ranks for Pacific Lamprey. SX and SH = highest risk; S1 –S2 = medium risk; S3 and S4 = lowest risk.

## Pacific Lamprey Summit III & IV

The Pacific Lamprey Summit III built upon the progress made at the first two Summits, which identified the importance of Pacific Lamprey and called for implementing conservation actions. The Summit held in Portland, Oregon on June 20th and 21st, 2012, was attended by over 200 partners. At Summit III the partners solidified their commitment to Pacific Lamprey by signing the Conservation Agreement and answering the call for restoration actions through the development of Regional Implementation Plans. A Pacific Lamprey Summit is being planned for December of 2017 in Portland Oregon; to assess progress on the initiative and update the Lamprey status assessment.



Juvenile Pacific Lamprey

Credit: USFWS

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