

## **Pacific lamprey within Fifteenmile Creek and Hood River: Updates on distributions, abundance, and migrations.**

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Pacific lamprey are a culturally significant species to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO) and other indigenous peoples of the Columbia River. Declines in lamprey populations over the past several decades have motivated numerous Tribes, State and Federal agencies, and NGO's to take a proactive approach to lamprey research in an attempt to reverse this decline and return Pacific lamprey populations to sustainable and harvestable levels. In 2009 CTWSRO began research and monitoring of Pacific lamprey in the Hood River and Fifteenmile Creek systems. The intent of this presentation is to provide a broad overview of the lamprey research CTWSRO is currently working on in the Columbia Gorge. For example, the increasing distribution within Hood River has been monitored since the removal of Powerdale Dam. Harvest and escapement estimates at Cushing Falls have provided insight into the number of potential spawners per year, and PIT tagging has shown migration patterns and timing in Fifteenmile Creek. Our research and monitoring has expanded since the inception of the project and will continue to do so as methods are refined and new information is collected.