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Chief, Operations Division, Portland District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2946 Portland OR 97208-2946

Personnel of the University of Idaho aspire to conduct studies of Pacific lamprey migrations at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams in late 2018 through 2019. These studies are a continuation of those funded by the Corps of Engineers and are part of the Portland District's program of studies to improve fish passage at dams. This letter is to request permission to gain access to Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams, as needed, to conduct the studies and to perform winter maintenance on antennas within fishways.

A study plan is available from Ricardo Walker of the Portland District office. Mr. Tim Blubaugh, who worked at the Portland District projects in 2018, will be the field supervisor for the 2019 studies. We will meet with Project personnel from all three Lower Columbia River dams sometime during the winter of 2018-2019 to conduct a pre-work meeting and discuss project operations and safety issues. We have provided a hazard analysis and work plan (i.e., a 'research packet') with operations staff at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams. We will provide them with copies of all appropriate state scientific permits before the capture and handling of research animals begins.

The proposed work is comprised of five main activities: (1) performing maintenance on the half-duplex and radio-antenna arrays deployed in 2018, (2) trapping, radio- and PIT-tagging adult Pacific lampreys in 2019, and releasing them downstream from the dam to evaluate newly-installed lamprey passage structures within the fishways and to evaluate their general migration patterns through the lower Columbia River, (3) evaluating the response of adult lamprey to reduced nighttime entrance velocities at the Bonneville Dam Bradford Island fishway entrances (4) conducting swimming performance trials with lampreys in the experimental flume housed in the AFF, (5) downloading and maintaining radio and HD PIT receivers. At The Dalles and John Day dams, we propose to perform winter maintenance checks on the antennas deployed there in 2018. Later in 2019, we plan to monitor any passage events by PIT-and/or radio-tagged lamprey released downstream from Bonneville Dam (i.e., downloading and maintaining receivers). We will coordinate with Corps personnel on the placement and maintenance of telemetry/HD PIT equipment on Corps property.

We appreciate the opportunity to work at the Corps projects and the support and cooperation that has been provided for this study. Please call me (208 885-7614 or 208 301-0809) if you have questions regarding our activities or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Jepson: _____ for: Christopher Caudill (e-signature above)