

11 April 2013

Chief, Operations Division, Portland District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Personnel of the University of Idaho and NOAA Fisheries aspire to continue studies of fish migrations at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams in 2013. These studies are to be 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 the three dams, as needed, to conduct the studies.

Study plans are available from Sean Tackley and Derek Fryer of the Portland and Walla Walla District offices, respectively. Mary Moser, Eric Johnson, and Steve Lee, all who have worked at the projects in the past, will be supervisors for the 2013 studies. We will meet with Bonneville Project personnel sometime in spring 2013 to conduct a pre-work meeting and discuss project operations and safety issues. We have enclosed a hazard analysis and work plan with Bonneville operation staff. Appropriate state and federal scientific permits have or will be presented to project personnel (Tammy Mackey and Andy Traylor) prior to initiating studies.

At Bonneville Dam, there will be six main activities: (1) trapping, radio-tagging adult salmonids and steelhead, and releasing them downstream from the dam, (2) trapping and half-duplex PIT-tagging and JSATS-tagging lamprey to evaluate newly-installed lamprey passage structures within the fishways and to evaluate their general migration patterns through the lower Columbia River, (3) conducting swimming performance trials with lampreys in the experimental flume housed in the AFF, (4) downloading and maintaining radio and HD PIT receivers, (5) operating DIDSON cameras to evaluate lamprey behavior near fishway openings (6) collecting and transporting adult lamprey collected at the terminus of the new lamprey flume system at the NDE of Powerhouse 2. At The Dalles and John Day dams, we plan to monitor any passage events by PIT- and/or radio-tagged lamprey and salmonids released downstream from Bonneville Dam (i.e., downloading and maintaining receivers). At John Day Dam, we also propose to collect and HD-PIT tag adult lamprey collected at the terminus of the newly-installed lamprey passage system, which like the Bonneville lamprey flume system, has no exit. They will be released into the John Day forebay approximately 2 kilometers upstream from the dam. 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,



Christopher C. Caudill