



# PACIFIC LAMPREY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

## Pacific Lamprey in Decline

Pacific Lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) are part of an ancient group of fishes that have been around for ~400 million years. Like salmon, this resilient native species historically returned to Pacific rivers and streams to spawn in large numbers. Currently, Pacific Lamprey populations are a fraction of what they once were.

## Threats to Pacific Lamprey

- Barriers to ocean migration and upstream spawning
- Reduced stream flow & stream degradation
- Predation by invasive species
- Degraded water quality
- Changing marine and climate conditions
- Lack of awareness

## Cultural Significance

Pacific Lamprey are vitally important to Indigenous people throughout their range and play key cultural and ecological roles in these communities and ecosystems.

Considered an important first food for many tribal communities, Pacific Lamprey are prized for their rich, fatty meat and appreciated as a medicinal and nourishing resource.

## Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative

The Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) is a collaboration of Native American tribes, federal, state, municipal agencies and non-profits working together to achieve long-term persistence of Pacific Lamprey, their habitats, and their tribal uses across their historical range.



### 5 STATES

in the historic range of Pacific Lamprey (WA, OR, ID, CA and AK) are covered in the Lamprey Assessment.



### 38 SIGNATORIES

and 16 supporting partners support the 2022 Lamprey Conservation Agreement, originally signed in 2012 and updated every 5 years.



### 18 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT UNITS

produce Regional Implementation Plans to advance goals in alignment with the Lamprey Conservation Agreement.



PLCI is one of 20 nationally recognized fish habitat partnerships in the United States in the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). Learn more about PLCI and the work of NFHP and the other Fish Habitat Partnerships at [www.pacificlamprey.org](http://www.pacificlamprey.org)



# Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative

## Our Ancient Friend

### Older than Trees...

Pacific Lamprey is the largest of the species of lamprey described in North America. These resilient jawless fish play an important role for ecosystems, animals and people of the West Coast. Many tribes hail Pacific Lamprey as one of the traditional 'first foods' along with salmon that are honored and revered at tribal ceremonies.

Tribes have been leaders in sounding the alarm as the abundance and range of Pacific Lamprey have dwindled and have collaborated in the efforts to restore Pacific Lamprey populations and educate the public of their importance. Now in addition to being a species of immense cultural significance for Native American tribes, Pacific Lamprey are a tribal trust species for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and a species of concern for many states.



### Pacific Lamprey Facts

*Like salmon, Pacific Lamprey are anadromous, meaning they hatch in freshwater, migrate to the ocean and return to freshwater to spawn.*

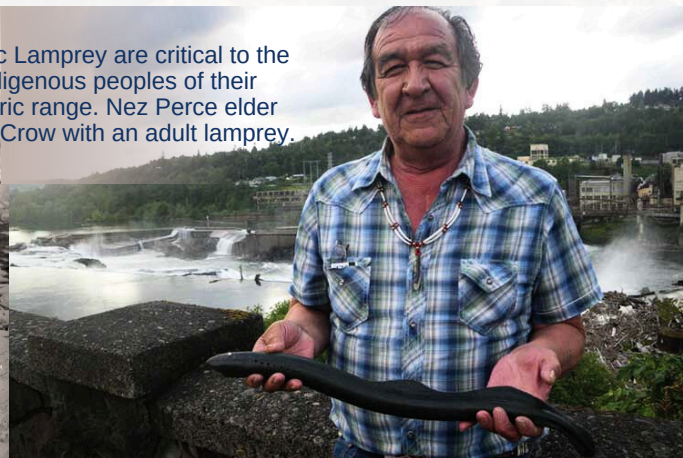
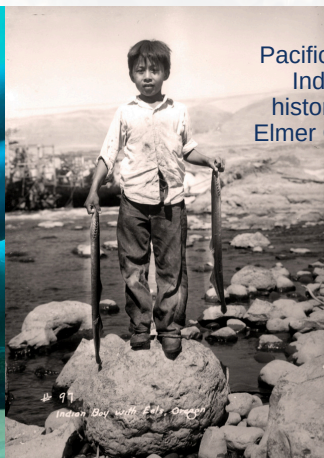
*Pacific Lamprey improve water quality by filter feeding in rivers and lakes as larvae.*

*Pacific Lamprey reduce predation pressure on salmon by acting as prey for fish, birds, mammals and other salmon predators.*

Pacific Lamprey in the viewing window at Bonneville Dam as they migrate up the Columbia River. Photo by Brent Lawrence



Pacific Lamprey are critical to the Indigenous peoples of their historic range. Nez Perce elder Elmer Crow with an adult lamprey.



PLCI funds lamprey restoration and research work every year! Learn more at [www.pacificlamprey.org](http://www.pacificlamprey.org)