



Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call

Wednesday, 3 August 2022
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FINAL MINUTES

PRFF Members

RD Nelle, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN
Clayton Buck, Wanapum
Jason McLellan, Bret Nine, CCT
Mike Clement, Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Marchelle Foster, BIA
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR

Meeting Attendees

Ralph Lampman, YN
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Jason McLellan, CCT
Tim Taylor, Grant PUD
Matt Young, CTCR
Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum/Grant PUD
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Clayton Buck, Wanapum/Grant PUD
Erin Harris, Grant PUD
Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

- Ralph Lampman will ask Nathan Patterson to provide a summary email on the 2022 White Sturgeon broodstock collection and rearing efforts and send it to Tracy Hillman, who will share it with the PRFF.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and identified all attendees.

II. Agenda Review

The PRFF reviewed and approved the August agenda. A discussion on Resident Fish Surveys was added to the agenda by Mike Clement.

III. Approve July Meeting Notes

The PRFF reviewed and approved the 6 July 2022 meeting minutes.

IV. Review Action Items

The PRFF reviewed the following action items from the July meeting:

- Ralph Lampman will ask Nathan Patterson to provide a summary email on the 2022 White Sturgeon broodstock collection and rearing efforts and send it to Tracy Hillman, who will share it with the PRFF. **In Progress.**

V. White Sturgeon

2022 White Sturgeon Spawning and Rearing – Ralph Lampman and Mike Clement indicated that they have received no update from YN on the status of sturgeon rearing at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. Ralph indicated he will try to get an update from Nathan Patterson and share it with the PRFF.

Other White Sturgeon Items – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD will begin their annual juvenile sturgeon indexing surveys on 12 September. The surveys will occur over a three-week period. As before, the Golder crew will work in Wanapum reservoir, while the Blue Leaf crew will work in Priest Rapids reservoir. Jason McLellan asked whether samples of pectoral fin rays will be collected from presumed wild sturgeon that are about one meter or less in length. These fin-ray sections can be analyzed to assess the age of the fish. Mike said he will check with the survey crews but it should not be a problem.

VI. Pacific Lamprey

Translocation Efforts in the Okanogan River Basin – Matt Young, CTCR, shared a presentation titled, “Using eDNA to provide a backwards looking analysis of kʷútwən (Pacific lamprey) in the Okanogan Watershed” (see Attachment 1). Matt began by describing the location of the Okanogan basin and the occurrence of lamprey in the basin historically. He noted that there is documentation as far back as 1889 demonstrating the presence of lamprey in the Similkameen River. He then noted that lamprey were presumed extirpated after 2010. CTCR began adult translocation efforts in 2017 with the release of adults into the Similkameen and Okanogan rivers. Beginning in 2018, CTCR began releasing adults into tributaries because water quality (temperature) was better in the tributaries than in the mainstem Okanogan River.

Matt noted that they are using environmental DNA (eDNA) analyses to determine the presence/absence (distribution) of lamprey in the basin. He added that eDNA is a useful technique to detect small lamprey populations, it can aid with fine- and coarse-scale distribution assessments, it can help answer questions about lamprey population biology, and it can inform identification of sites for lamprey reintroduction. Matt said, prior to translocation efforts, eDNA sampling revealed no lamprey in the Okanogan River, Similkameen River, Omak Creek, or Salmon Creek. Following translocation work in 2017, they detected eDNA in a couple locations in the Okanogan River. Sampling for eDNA in 2018 resulted in no positive hits. This was likely due to poor survival in 2018. Sampling in 2019 indicated several positive hits in Omak Creek, Salmon Creek, and the Okanogan River. In addition, they captured larvae during electrofishing surveys in 2019. Sampling in 2020 indicated more positive hits and electrofishing surveys captured multiple stages of larvae. Thus, the translocation efforts are producing larvae. Matt concluded by stating that more adults are moving into the Okanogan. He said 5 adult lamprey entered the Okanogan from the Columbia River in

2019, 20 in 2020, 13 in 2021, and 13 in 2022. He is hopeful that the presence of lamprey in the basin will attract more adults to the basin.

Mike Clement asked how long they will continue to translocate adult lamprey into the Okanogan basin. Matt responded they will continue translocation efforts until adult lamprey pass Wells Dam and enter the Okanogan River. Breean Zimmerman asked what water quality issues in the Okanogan River caused the CTCR to begin releasing adults into tributaries. Matt said water temperature was the major water quality issue. Ralph Lampman asked if they have observed any eyed juveniles during trapping and electrofishing surveys. Matt responded, yes, and they believe some of the fish beginning transforming at age 4. He added they are currently collecting genetic samples from the fish collected in traps on Omak and Salmon creeks. Ralph asked if they see juveniles emigrating in pulses or steadily throughout the migration period. Matt said the juveniles move throughout the migration period, but there are pulses during higher flows.

The PRFF thanked Matt for the presentation.

Adult Trapping at Priest Rapids Dam - Mike Clement reported that adult Pacific lamprey trapping began on 18 July. Captures of adults started slowly and then picked up substantially. During the first week of trapping, they captured 25 adults; all were PIT tagged and provided to Douglas PUD. As of recent, they have captured 174 adults that were provided to Douglas PUD. All were PIT tagged, some were also fitted with acoustic tags. Mike identified the number of adult lamprey counted at each dam. So far, 638 have passed Priest Rapids Dam, 238 passed Wanapum Dam, 52 passed Rock Island Dam, 13 passed Rocky Reach Dam, and 6 were detected at Wells Dam.

Other Pacific Lamprey Items – No other Pacific lamprey items were discussed.

VII. Resident Fish

Resident Fish Surveys – Mike Clement reported that WDFW will conduct nighttime electrofishing surveys in the project area this year. Surveys are scheduled to begin in late September or early October. The goal is to assess the current resident fish assemblage; these surveys are repeated every five years. This will allow evaluation of status and trends over time. WDFW will calculate the same indicators, metrics, and indices that they did in the past.

VIII. Adjourn

With no additional business to discuss, Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on 7 September 2022.

Attachment 1

Presentation by Matt Young on Pacific Lamprey Reintroduction in the Okanogan Basin

Using eDNA to provide a backwards looking analysis of k^wútwən (Pacific lamprey) in the Okanogan Watershed

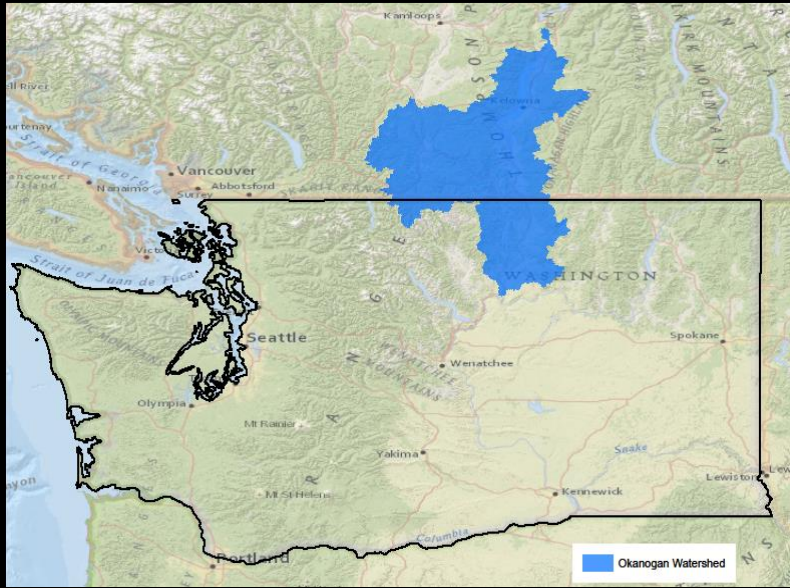


Matt Young

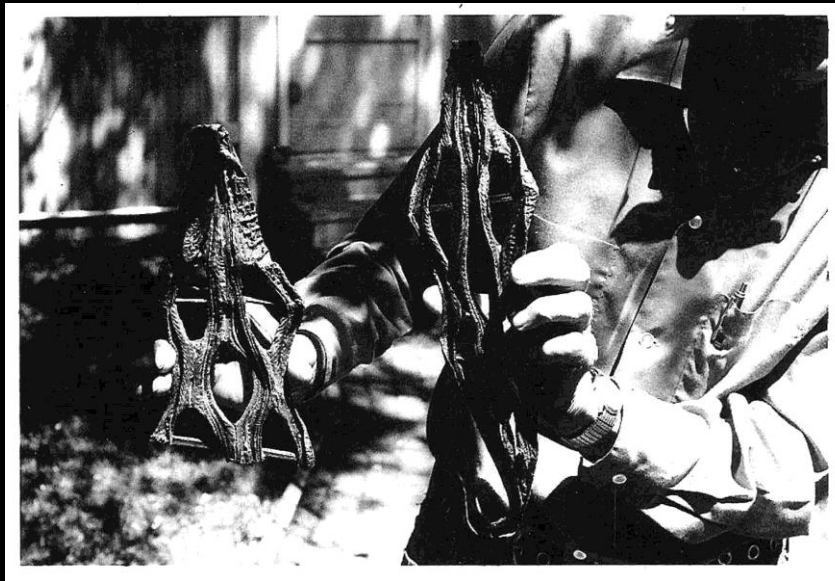
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation



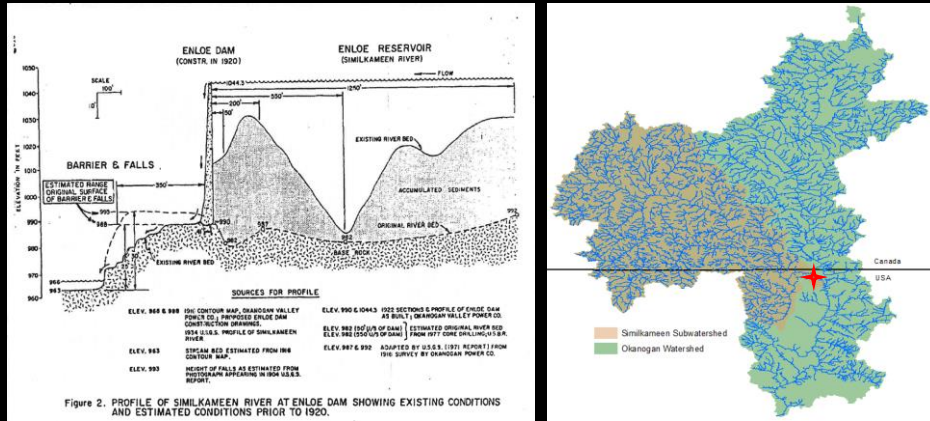
Where is the Okanogan?



Historic presence



Historic presence - Similkameen



Th 4 A.4th.e. *Judge and I spent most of the day at the Falls fishing. They are about a mile below Shanker Bend. Saw salmon and a good many large eels trying to get up over the falls which are 25 ft high. Billy worked on one of his prospects.

Benedict Gubser described seeing lamprey at Coyote Falls in the Similkameen River—the dominant tributary to the Okanogan—on the Fourth of July, 1889

Presumed extirpation after 2010



Adult translocation begins in 2017



Focusing translocations into suitable tributary habitat in 2018

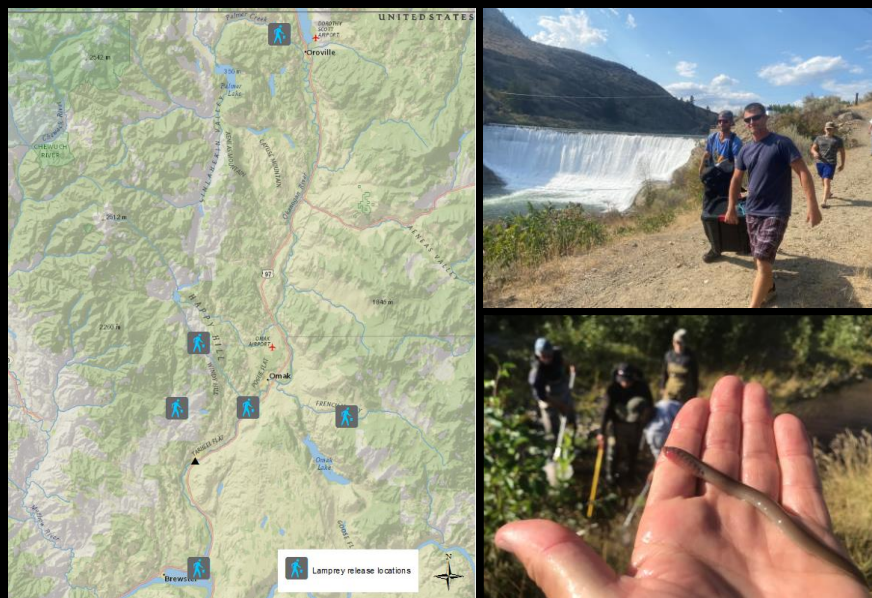


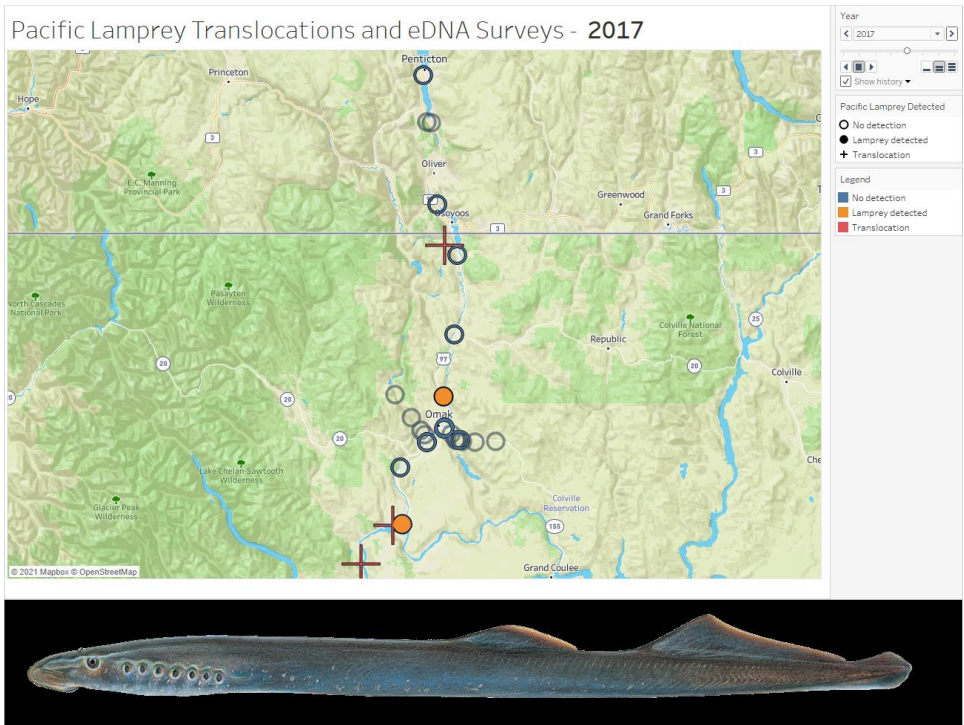
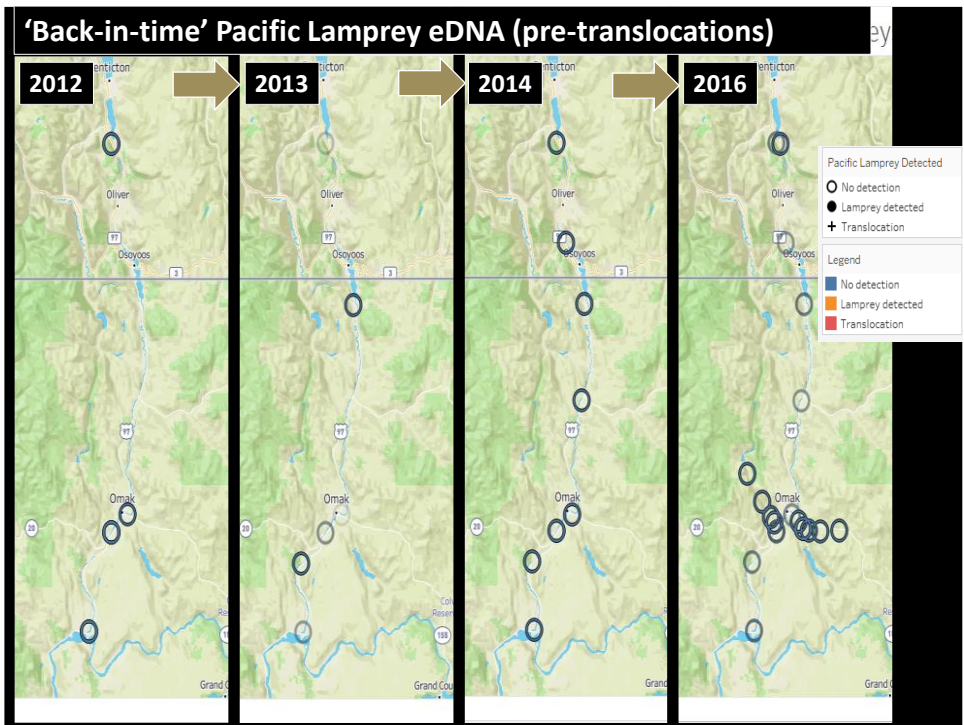
eDNA provides useful data on small populations that are difficult to detect

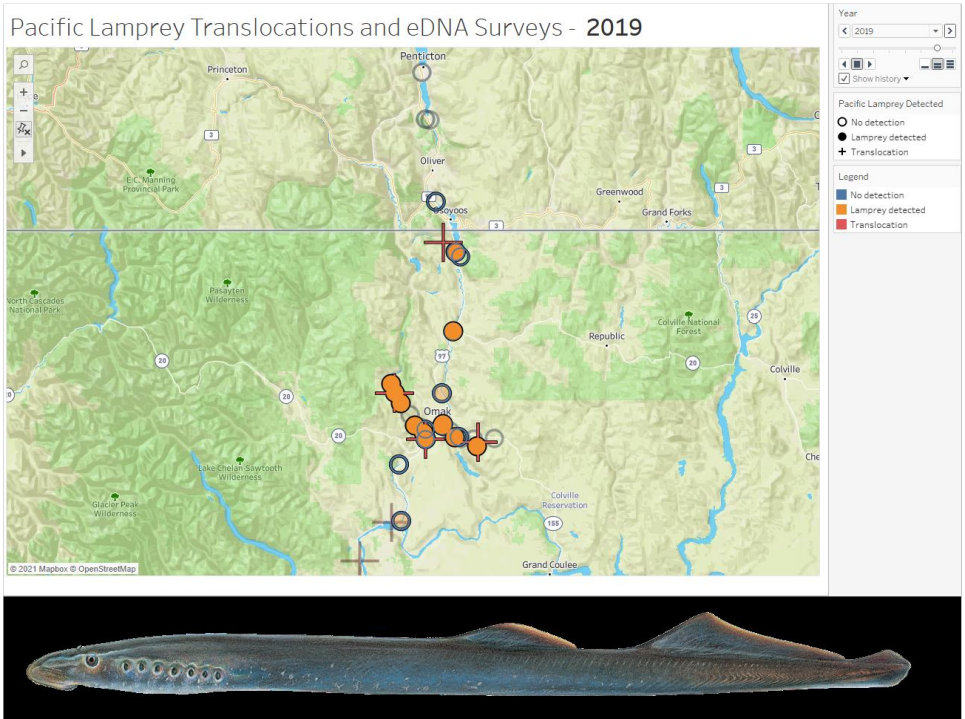
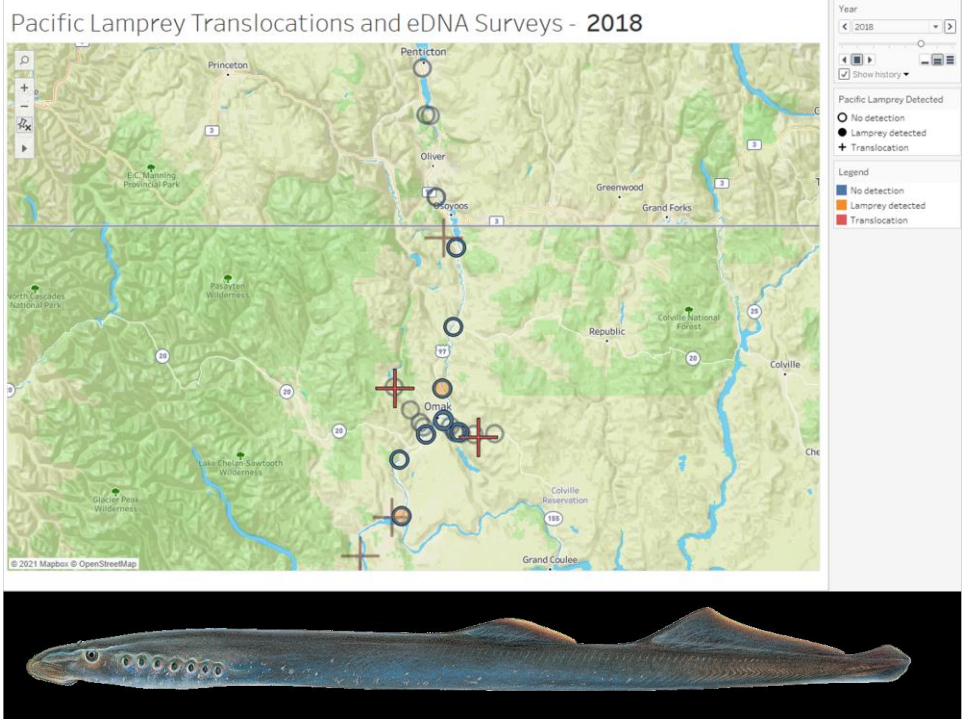
- eDNA can provide broad and fine-scale spatial distribution assessments
- Seasonal sampling can help answer population biology questions (e.g., migration timing, confirm spawning, identify juvenile rearing locations)
- Resource prioritization tool, helping to select sites for additional adult translocation

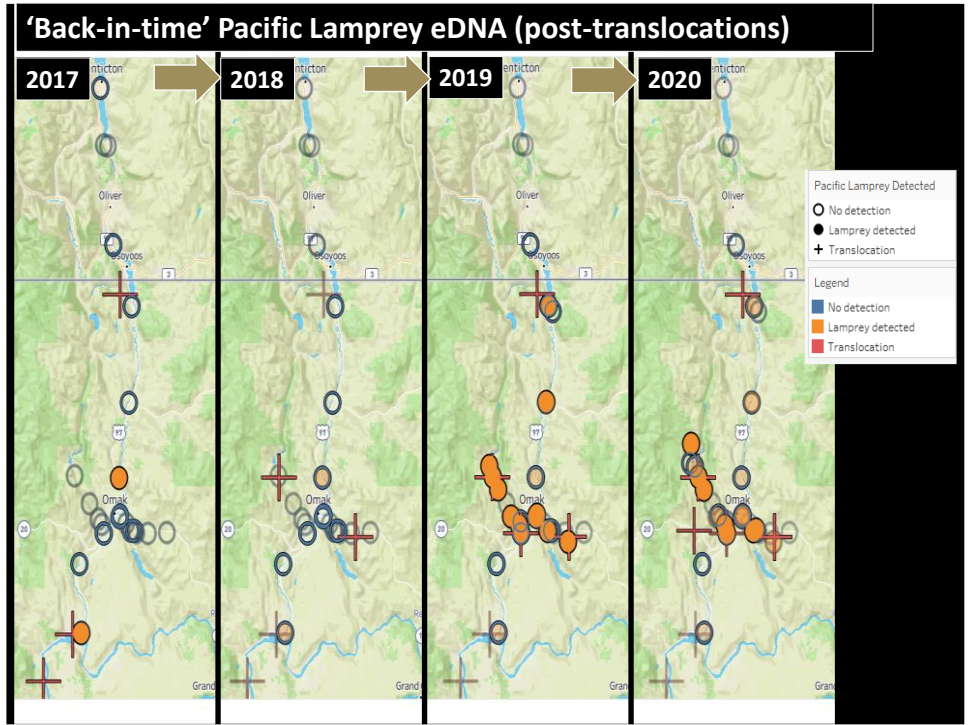
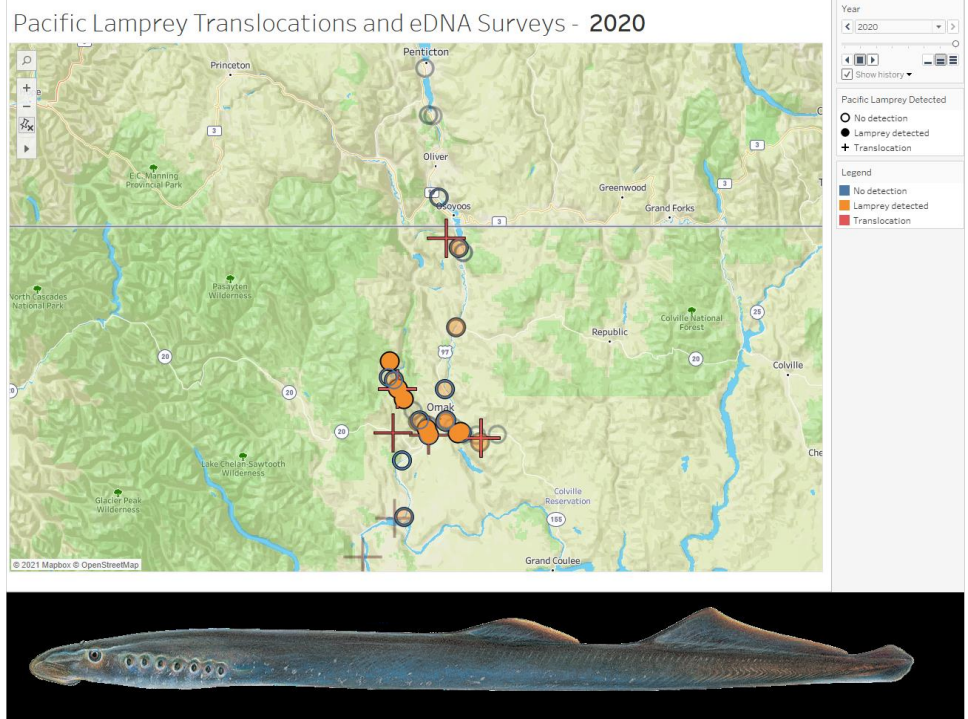


Using data to guide translocation









Acknowledgements

Funding provided by Bonneville Power Administration through the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative

Matthew B. Laramie; Ecologist & Laboratory Coordinator
Pacific Northwest Environmental DNA Laboratory, USGS

John Rohrback; Traveler on Spaceship Earth

Ann Grote; Lamprey Biologist Extraordinaire
Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Chief Joseph Hatchery Science Program
Okanogan Basin Monitoring & Evaluation Program

Syilx / Okanogan Nation Alliance

Yakama Nations Fisheries

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Douglas County Public Utility District

Grant County Public Utility District