



United States Department of the Interior



*Christina Wang
Exhibit 14*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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December 6, 2019

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon, 97302

To Members of the Commission:

By this letter, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides its support for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Conservation Plan for Lampreys (Conservation Plan). Service staff from my office as well as the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office of Ecological Services reviewed the draft Conservation Plan and found the document to be thoughtful, well written and thorough. Lamprey species are an ecologically important species and Pacific Lamprey in particular are a culturally significant species for Native American Tribes in the Pacific Northwest. For these reasons, the Service has been working with our partners, including ODFW, in lamprey conservation for many years under the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (Initiative), a multi-state strategy driven by voluntary collaboration among interested agencies, tribes and others to improve the status of Pacific Lamprey in California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Alaska. Over 175 groups are part of the Initiative, many of which are in Oregon.

The Service views the Conservation Plan as consistent with and complementary to the Initiative and its purpose and goals. The efforts identified in both the Initiative and Conservation Plan will help to address the needs of lampreys now and reduce the likelihood listing of lamprey species under the federal Endangered Species Act in the future. The Service commends ODFW's proactive approach to the conservation of lampreys. We support the Commission's adoption of the Conservation Plan, and we look forward to continuing our collective work on these unique and underappreciated species. Thank you for this effort.

Sincerely,

Janine M. Castro, Ph.D.
Project Leader

