



What Are We Doing to Help Lamprey?

In order to determine how we can best recover or conserve lamprey populations, scientists must first understand them. The historical distribution and abundance of lampreys is being determined to understand which populations may be more at risk. At present, biologists are determining which habitat the different life stages prefer and learning more about their spawning behavior. Researchers are studying the effects of contaminants and rising temperatures on lampreys.

Migration timing by juveniles and adults and how it relates to stream conditions such as flow and temperature is being researched. Sampling techniques are being improved so that populations may be monitored more closely. Passage at dams, culverts, and other barriers for anadromous fish are being improved by retrofitting the salmon passage structures (such as fish ladders) to be more lamprey friendly or removing them altogether. After stream conditions have been improved, lampreys are also being reintroduced into those streams which no longer have lamprey populations.

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