

Miller Lake lamprey (*Entosphenus minimus*)



OREGON
CONSERVATION



MILLER LAKE LAMPREY is the smallest landlocked parasitic lamprey in the world. It exists only in Miller Lake and its sub-drainage, and in the upper Williamson and Sycan rivers east of the Cascades.

In the 1950s, fishery managers mistakenly believed that Miller Lake lamprey were noxious and tried to eradicate the species, significantly reducing their numbers and distribution. A small population was found in the basin in the 1990s, and restoration and conservation efforts have since been ongoing.

Size: to about 6 inches long.

Weight: less than 1 pound.

Lifespan: approximately 3 – 4 years.

Diet: Larvae filter-feed on algae and micro-organisms; juveniles parasitize speckled dace and introduced trout species. Adults do not feed.

Habitat: Larval lamprey burrow into the soft sediment of slow-moving waters in the sub-basin. Juveniles and adults use the same waters.

Check out the story of the Miller Lake lamprey on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Oregon Field Guide", Season 32, Episode 3. The -8 minute story begins at about the episode's 16 minute, 25 second mark and can be found using the QR code or <https://www.pbs.org/video/season-32-episode-03-dyqcug/>



Limiting factors and threats:

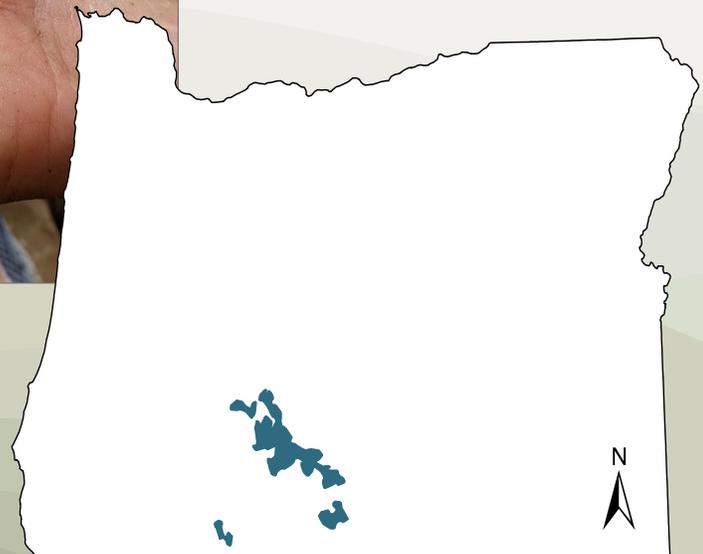
- Entrapment in unscreened irrigation diversions.
- Water quantity.
- Limited distribution.

Conservation actions:

- Conserve habitat.
- Establish connections within and between habitats.
- Address potential impacts from stocking streams with hatchery fish that could prey on this lamprey species.
- Screen water diversions.
- Provide minimum stream flows and slow dewatering during in-water work.
- Prohibited harvest.

Conservation plans:

- [The Miller Lake Lamprey Conservation Plan](#)
- [The Oregon Conservation Strategy](#)



Current distribution based on observation