

From: Lewis, Lindsey [mailto:lindsey_lewis@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 1:21 PM
To: Curtis Warner
Subject: Re: Pallid sturgeon project

Thanks Curtis, I'll let you know.

Lindsey Lewis
Biologist

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On Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 10:17 AM, Curtis Warner <CWarner@aecc.com> wrote:

Lindsey,

We do have some 120 VAC outlets on the powerhouse roof that would be available.

Checking with the plant guys, the nearest outlets are on the downstream side - our "low roof" area - but they are behind a locked fence.

Since the plant usually operates at night unmanned, what we could do is run a good heavy duty extension cord from the outlet to a point just outside the fence where you guys could have access to it even if we weren't there – and you wouldn't even need a key to get through the gate. You could then just plug into the end of our extension cord and do whatever you needed from there.

But it is still a bit of a distance from there to the water so my guess is you'd probably need at least 200 feet of extension cord to get from the outlet to the water to be safe.

I need to check on the distance.

But that would probably be your best bet. A generator left overnight might disappear unless you had some way to secure it.

Especially this time of year; lots of people come down to fish.

Let us know when you plan to be there.

We might even send a summer intern there just to watch since it's sort of interesting.
Curtis

FYI, my cell number is 501-590-0217 just in case.

From: Lewis, Lindsey [mailto:lindsey_lewis@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 8:47 AM

To: Curtis Warner
Subject: Re: Pallid sturgeon project

Curtis,

The American Eel is not federally listed, but it has been petitioned along with a great number of other species. Their status is currently under review.

In Arkansas we still don't have a good grasp on what their status is or how many are here. We have been surveying for them using traditional techniques below WDM, on the White River, and at Locks 1 & 2, but have had very little success. We have had a lot of success on the Ouachita and Caddo Rivers. We believe this is primarily due to the water clarity allowing us to see the eels while electrofishing. Unfortunately the water clarity on the Arkansas and lower White Rivers will never allow us to see the eels and sample them as efficiently. Therefore, we are considering other techniques such as eel ladder traps. Initially we would like to construct some portable ladder traps to try and assess whether larger, more permanent ladders and traps are needed.

I have found out that we have a source for funding to support construction of eel ladders. We might could even get \$150k right now if we wanted to move fast, but it may be too soon to act and it requires a 50/50 match. We hope to come down sometime in the next month, maybe next week even and experiment on the bank just below the powerhouse. Nothing all that complicated, just a water pump and hose creating some flow over the rocks to try and attract some eels. One way you all could help us out would be to allow us to plug and extension cord in to run the pump. This would just be overnight on occasions when we could sample and probably only in the spring and early summer. If not, we can use a generator.

Thanks,

Lindsey Lewis

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On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 3:37 PM, Curtis Warner <CWarner@aecc.com> wrote:

Lindsey,

Interesting you brought up the eel. I've seen some presentations on at some of our EPRI meetings too – some had some pretty interesting videos. (EPRI = Electric Power Research institute – I'm an advisor on a few programs.) It looks like eel ladders are a lot less complicated than other types of ladders.

Also, I have been looking back at our application with the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) and we had included a letter from you about the project at Dam 2. Your letter stated that the American eel was not a federally listed species “at that time” – that was April of 2019. Has it been listed since?

The reason I'm asking, is that every 5 years we have to reapply for LIHI certification (I'm working on the first renewal now) and address anything that's changed. Our plant hasn't changed at all during the last 5 years of course, but conditions could have changed; so we have to address things such as water quality, endangered species, etc. You had a paragraph on the eel back in 2009. Has there been any change regarding the eel's status that would impact the plant?

Curtis

From: Lewis, Lindsey [mailto:lindsey_lewis@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 11:05 AM

To: Curtis Warner

Subject: Re: Pallid sturgeon project

Curtis,

Good to hear from you. We did have some detections at the dam. I believe two Pallids and one Silver Carp from Kentucky. We were lucky to get those, since due to the low water conditions the sensors were out of the water most of the time and the low flow likely discouraged spawning movements as well. Additionally we have learned that our pipe set up may have caused our sensor to have a low efficiency. We also lost some sensors due to theft at Yancopin. Rough year.

We now have had three sensors out over the last year. One at downstream at Melinda on the Ark, one on the White at Benzal, and one on the St. Francis.

We are still learning a lot and trying to improve our detection efficiency, but have had lots of complications. We hope to start doing more net and trot line surveys in the next year.

We have several other projects down there as well. The main one that might involve you all in the future is eel passage. We are having difficulty catching them though with traditional gear. We might be calling you sometime this year about setting up a small eel ladder/trap below the power house.

Gotta run.

Lindsey

On Friday, May 30, 2014, Curtis Warner <CWarner@aecc.com> wrote:

Lindsey,

We talked about your pallid sturgeon project a few years ago when you guys installed the receiver on our powerhouse. I was at an EPRI meeting recently and found out that some utilities on the Missouri River are part of a pallid sturgeon interest group. That reminded me of your project.

I was wondering if you've had any hits from the sensor at Dam 2?

As I remember at that time, you told me that there was indication that one (or more?) individual fish had made it a few miles up the Arkansas River - at least to the Yancopin bridge but no indication any might have made it all the way to the dam.

Curtis

Curtis Q. Warner

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