



Removing Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams

The largest dam removal in U.S. history will free the Elwha River after 100 years. Salmon populations will swell from 3,000 to nearly 400,000 as all five species of Pacific salmon return to more than 70 miles of river and stream.

Renewing a Culture

Returning salmon and a restored river will renew the culture of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who have lived along the river since time immemorial. Tribal members will have access to sacred sites now inundated and cultural traditions can be reborn.

Restoring an Ecosystem

The return of salmon will bring bears, eagles and other animals back to a protected ecosystem that has been deprived of a vital food source for 100 years.

Economic Benefits

Just as the dams played a vital role in the history and development of the area, removing them will also create new opportunities for growth and regional vitality.

Restoring the Coast

Removing the dams will reestablish the natural flow of sediment from the mountains to the coast—rebuilding wetlands, beaches and the estuary at the river's mouth.



What's happening right now?

- The contract for removing Elwha and Glines Canyon dams was awarded to Barnard Construction last summer. Dam removal will begin in September 2011.
- A replacement fish hatchery on the Lower Elwha Klallam reservation is about 60 percent complete and is on schedule for completion in spring 2011.
- Modifications to levees are underway in order to provide continued flood protection to landowners and the reservation.
- Contractors excavated a pilot channel through the center of the Lake Mills delta to maximize the river's capacity to naturally erode accumulated sediment as dam removal begins.
- Other work includes plant propagation for revegetation, construction of engineered log jams and restoration of disturbed areas along the lower river by tribal restoration crews.
- Olympic National Park will provide as many opportunities as possible to view removal and restoration work as it happens. Details of visitor access have not yet been finalized.

For the latest Elwha news, including photos, project updates and 'countdown' events, visit nps.gov/olymp or interact with 'Elwha River Restoration' on Facebook.