

Learn More About Elwha River Restoration



1 Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Center
Walk the 0.7 mile Warrior Path loop to the Elwha River estuary.
Lower Elwha Road



2 Elwha River Bridge
Cross the Elwha River bridge to get a birds eye view of the river and connect to the Olympic Discovery Trail.
Elwha River Road



3 Elwha Dam Viewpoint
Stroll a short trail to an overlook to view ecosystem restoration at the former site of the Elwha Dam.
Lower Dam Road



4 Elwha River Viewpoint
Observe a changing landscape where the Elwha River flows through the site of the former Lake Aldwell reservoir.
Highway 101



5 Elwha Valley
Experience Elwha Valley, with its spectacular river views and easy access to Madison Falls and other trails.
Access from Olympic Hot Springs Road



6 Feiro Marine Life Center
Interact with Elwha exhibits that feature a hands-on model of Glines Canyon Dam and Lake Mills.
315 N. Lincoln Street



7 Museum at the Carnegie
Learn about the historic Elwha Valley, including Glines Canyon and Elwha dams, through informative exhibits.
207 South Lincoln Street



8 Port Angeles Library
Surround yourself with art created for the September 2011 ceremony celebrating the beginning of dam removal.
June - Labor Day 2012
2210 South Peabody



9 Olympic National Park Visitor Center
View exhibits and ask a ranger about Elwha River Restoration updates.
3002 Mount Angeles Road



10 Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center
Enjoy vistas of the Elwha Valley and surrounding mountains.
Hurricane Ridge, about 17 miles south of Port Angeles

Explore Safely

Use caution when exploring. Conditions are continually changing. Riverbanks are actively eroding and may be unstable. Stay at least 20 feet from the edge of riverbanks. Submerged logs and snags are common and can be hidden beneath the water.

River Closures

The Elwha River and its tributaries within Olympic National Park are closed to all fishing. Boating is prohibited from Goblin Gates downstream to the Highway 112 bridge, except for the stretch between Altair Campground and the Highway 101 bridge.

MILESTONES

September 2011 - June 2012

September 2011: Dam removal begins.

March 2012: Elwha Dam is removed and natural river flow is restored through the former Lake Aldwell.

Fall 2011: Over 600 adult coho are moved above the site of the former Elwha Dam. In the spring juvenile coho are observed upriver for the first time in 100 years.

Fall 2011 - Spring 2012: Over 30,000 seedlings are planted to help restore native vegetation at the sites of the dams and reservoirs.

Today: Sediment trapped in the reservoirs for 100 years is moving downstream and replenishing the river's banks, shores, bottom, and outlet estuary.



Reestablishing a Population

Dam removal will free the Elwha River after 100 years, allowing all five species of Pacific salmon to return to over 70 miles of habitat. Salmon populations will grow from 3,000 to nearly 400,000.

Restoring an Ecosystem

This project creates a living laboratory where people can watch and learn what happens as salmon return to a still wild and protected ecosystem. The return of fish will bring back to an ecosystem that has been deprived of a vital food source for 100 years.

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 restored access to sacred sites and cultural traditions can be reborn.

Creating Economic Opportunities

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

Replenishing a Coast

Natural sediment flow from the mountains to the coast is being restored, rebuilding wetlands, beaches and the estuary at the river's mouth.

WHAT'S NEXT

Summer 2013: Removal of Glines Canyon Dam will be complete and Lake Mills will return to its natural state as the free flowing Elwha River.

Fall 2012 - Winter 2017: Over 400,000 native seedlings will be planted at the sites of the dams and reservoirs.

Next 20-30 years: Salmon populations in the Elwha River will grow from 3,000 to nearly 400,000 fish. Critical habitats, including beaches, islands, and eddies will be created and renewed as sediment moves downstream from the old reservoirs.

Learn more about Elwha River Restoration
<http://tinyurl.com/Elwha-Restoration>



Elwha River Restoration

Olympic National Park

Freeing a River

The largest dam removal in United States history began September 2011. By summer 2013, both the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams will be gone. The Elwha River will flow freely from its headwaters in the Olympic Mountains to the Strait of Juan de Fuca for the first time in 100 years. As the dams come down, the salmon can return, bringing with them the promise of a restored ecosystem and a renewed culture.

Opportunities to experience Elwha River Restoration await your discovery.



Before

Elwha Dam
Constructed 1913



June 2012



Before

Glines Canyon Dam
Constructed 1927



June 2012

Photo by Ernest Keeley