Join us for a free public symposium

Thursday
February 22, 2024
4:00 pm

Fishery Sciences Building Room 102

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?

The long-game: ecosystem restoration and cultural renewal in the Elwha Valley

Kim Sager-Fradkin
Wildlife Program Manager

Vanessa Castle
Natural Resources Technician
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is standing at a unique place in history. For over 100 years, two dams on Washington's Elwha River blocked the return of 10 species of native anadromous salmon and trout and inundated nearly 800 acres of land, including 534 acres of low elevation riparian forest. After years of advocacy by the Tribe, federal and state government, non-profits, and an act of Congress, between 2011 and 2016 the Tribe witnessed and contributed to the largest dam removal project in history. The removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams sparked one of the largest ecosystem restoration projects ever undertaken in the United States. Dam removal has been the single most important project for generations of Lower Elwha Klallam tribal members for whom the river and its fish is the heart of cultural, ceremonial, and spiritual well-being.

Kim Sager-Fradkin has participated in research on the Elwha River for over 20 years. Since dam removal, the restoration of salmon, floodplain vegetation, and wildlife has been ongoing. Kim will share restoration success stories, from the return of salmon and trout to the positive impacts of dam removal on wildlife species as varied as American dippers and cougars.

Vanessa Castle is an Elwha tribal member and tribal fisherwoman. She will share her unique perspective on the resumption of the subsistence coho fishery on the Elwha River and what that renewed opportunity has meant for her people.

For more information contact:
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Funding for the Series is generously provided by Tanya Bevan, friends of Don Bevan, the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, and NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

To request disability accommodations contact the University of Washington Disability Services Office at least 10 days in advance of the event: 206-543-6450; 206-685-7264 (fax); 206-543-6452 (TTY); or dso@u.washington.edu (email)

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