

NPS Denver Service Center News Release

>

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> For Immediate Release

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> National Park Service Announces Recovery Act Contract Award for Lower Elwha

> Tribe Fish Hatchery; Another Major Step Towards Elwha River Restoration

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> The National Park Service's Denver Service Center (DSC) today announced the

> award of a contract to construct a new fish hatchery on the Lower Elwha

> Klallam Tribe Reservation six miles west of Port Angeles, Washington. James

> W. Fowler Co. General Contractors of Dallas, Oregon will be the prime

> contractor for construction of this \$16,364,094 project funded by the

> American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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> The new hatchery will help maintain existing Elwha River fish stocks during

> removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams and will produce coho, pink, and

> chum salmon and steelhead vital to restoration of the Elwha ecosystem. The

> existing Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Rearing Channel

> will continue to support the river's Chinook salmon population. The fish

> hatchery must be completed and in place before dam removal can begin.

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> "At the heart of Elwha restoration is restoration of the river's native fish

> populations," said Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin. "This

> new hatchery will allow the Tribe to raise populations of salmon and

> steelhead that will be used in restoring the Elwha River after the dams are

> gone."

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> "The tribe has been working on Elwha River restoration for 30 years," said

> Robert Elofson, Elwha River Restoration Director for the Lower Elwha Klallam

> Tribe. "We are happy to begin the first of three large tribal projects that

> are part of restoring the river."

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> Construction of the Lower Elwha Tribe Fish Hatchery is scheduled to begin

> this fall and take 16 months to complete. The project will consist of:

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> . site and access road improvements,

> . water supply and drainage pipelines,

> . water supply wells,

> . two buildings,

> . fish culture facilities including raceways, ponds, and adult

> holding ponds,

> . a fish ladder, and

> . related mechanical and electrical systems.

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- > The fish hatchery project was designed by the Bellevue offices of MWH.
- > Construction management services will be provided by the PBS&J Corporation
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- > The Elwha River Ecosystem Restoration project is our nation's largest dam
- > removal to date and one of the largest construction projects in the history
- > of the National Park Service. Removing two aging dams on the Elwha River
- > will restore the river to its natural free-flowing state and allow all five
- > species of Pacific salmon and other anadromous fish to once again reach over
- > 70 miles of near-pristine freshwater habitat. In turn, the salmon will
- > return vital nutrients to the watershed, restoring the entire ecosystem,
- > from insects to eagles.
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- > "Elwha River restoration has been and will be a priority for the Lower Elwha
- > Klallam Tribe until the river is restored," added Elofson.
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- > This project is one of nearly 800 projects totaling \$750 million across the
- > National Park Service that will be completed with funding from the American
- > Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
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- > A full listing of National Park Service Recovery Act projects throughout the
- > country, along with progress reports for each project, are available at
- > <http://recovery.doi.gov/nps>.
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