

Olympic National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

Barb Maynes 360-565-3005

## National Park Service Announces Recovery Act Projects; \$57.8 Million for Projects in Olympic National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) today announced nearly 800 projects totaling \$750 million that can be completed across the country with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This major effort includes 14 projects in Olympic National Park.

"These projects are an investment in America's future that will create jobs, stimulate the economies of local communities, and get our country moving again," Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said. "They are also an investment in telling the story of America to future generations through our national parks by conserving our awe-inspiring landscapes, our rich culture, and our great heritage."

"Recovery Act funding gives us the exciting opportunity to move forward more quickly with one of this country's largest and most significant conservation projects - restoring the Elwha River and ecosystem," said Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin. "Not only will over 200 jobs be created in the next year, but dam removal will begin in 2011, one year earlier than projected."

Projects within Olympic National Park are:

\$54.7 million to complete nine mitigation projects in preparation for removal of two dams on the Elwha River, the nation's largest dam removal to date, and restoration of the Elwha River ecosystem. These mitigation projects will provide water quality protection, flood and wastewater system protection and a fish hatchery to protect fish stocks during dam removal and aid in fish restoration.