

Personal Statements of Participants

Statement of Mr. Steven Fitzpatrick, owner of the licensed Glines Canyon Dam.

I have owned the Glines Canyon Dam for 28 years now and we have never come across a problem with relicensure. Our dam has run smoothly throughout the second part of this century and we have provided a valuable resource for the people of Port Angeles. The dams here assure the people that they have a clean drinking water supply which the government has to supply according to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. If the dams were to be dismantled, the government would somehow have to ensure an alternative source of clean drinking water, which may be quite costly.

These dams have also been an integral part of this community by providing power for the Daishowa of America Paper Mill, which is the largest employer in this district. 100% of the power produced here is used locally by that business. If these dams are dismantled, the government will have to come up with an alternative source of energy that is affordable for the people of Port Angeles.

Finally, there are the interests of private investors such as myself. If the dams are to be removed, then the dam owners will have to be compensated. This dam is my livelihood and I have been here my whole life. I do not want to see it destroyed.



For more information about how dams might benefit a region, watch the AFG video segment: "Snake River Dam Controversy."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Statement of Mr. Hishogi Daishowa, owner of Daishowa of America Paper Mill.

I have owned the Port Angeles Pulp Mill since 1987. This pulp mill directly provides employment for 12% of the citizens of Port Angeles and indirectly supports numerous others. At this point 70% of the power for this pulp mill comes from the Elwha River and Glines Canyon Dams. Because of it's local situation, these dams provide us power at a much cheaper rate than we would get from the Bonneville Power Administration which is the major energy provider in this area. This enables a small business owner such as myself to be able to be competitive in the larger market. If these dams were to be closed, I would have to start charging higher prices. Higher prices would mean that I would not be as competitive and I would have to lay off some of my employees. I believe that this would have a ripple effect in a community as small as Port Angeles and that it could cause an economic slump. I understand that the dams are inhibiting the migration of anadromous fish species, but we have to get our priorities straight.

In addition, my mill depends on water from the Elwha reservoirs. If these dams are removed the water supply to my mill will be lost.



For a similar perspective and more information, watch the AFG video segment "Snake River Water Management."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Statement of Dennis R. Gaithard, Consulting Engineer, Summit Technology, Inc.

I would like to testify regarding the engineering aspects of restoring the Elwha River ecosystem and fisheries in the State of Washington.

Artificial reservoirs on glacial streams trap large amounts of the sediment that the stream system is carrying from the mountains to the seashore. That is what has happened on the Elwha for more than 70 years. The feasibility of removing the dams without causing an uncontrolled release of stored sediments is the most critical issue involved with dam removal. In order to resolve that issue with a high degree of confidence, our engineering team deliberately explored very practical, conservative techniques of dam removal and sediment management. A conservative solution would then provide a backdrop against which to evaluate more innovative alternatives.

Although additional work is needed to specify the details of construction, we have identified reliable, orthodox methods for draining the reservoirs, reconfiguring and stabilizing the trapped sediments, taking down the dams, and protecting water supplies. This can be done without unacceptable environmental consequences and at a lower cost than predicted by the dam owners.

In order to return Elwha River to its natural pre-dam condition, three primary engineering tasks must be carried out.

1. Remove sediment trapped in the dam's reservoirs from the river's path, restore the river channel, and stabilize the removed sediment.
2. Remove the dam structures and power generating and transmission equipment, and
3. Protect structures and water supplies downriver from the effects of dam removal.

None of the proposed actions is based on speculation or unproven research. In some cases, additional information will need to be gathered to refine the details of construction. However, enough information exists to conclude that the approach is feasible.



For information about the effects of dam removal, watch the AFG video segment "Re-evaluating Dams: Pottstown Pennsylvania."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Statement of John Michael Hayden, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior

The Department supports the restoration of the Elwha River ecosystem and fisheries through the development and implementation of a fully cost-shared Elwha River ecosystem and fisheries restoration plan. This will permit the federal government to fulfill trust responsibility to Indian Tribes through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, commitment to preserve the resources of Olympic National Park through the National Park Service, mandate to conserve fish and wildlife resources and habitats through the Fish and Wildlife Service, and obligation to protect living marine resources and endangered marine species through the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service.

Olympic National Park is internationally important and is an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site. The Elwha River is the largest watershed within Olympic National Park. The Glines Canyon project is located on the Elwha River within Olympic National Park boundaries. The Elwha project is outside the park boundary, about 8 miles downstream of the Glines Canyon Dam.

Historically, large runs of anadromous fish, including all five species of Pacific salmon (Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye), steelhead and cutthroat trout, and Dolly Varden char returned from the ocean to spawn in the Elwha River. The runs of these fish have declined dramatically because the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams on the Elwha River block access to more than 65 miles or 90% of the spawning and rearing habitat formerly used by these fish, and prevent the replenishment of the needed spawning gravel to the habitat still accessible below the lower dam. The upper Elwha River habitat, all of which lies in Olympic National Park, is without salmon and steelhead. Lower Elwha River stocks of spring-run Chinook salmon and pink salmon are at risk of extinction, while Elwha sockeye salmon may already be extinct.

Wildlife populations within the Elwha River Basin and Olympic National Park have also been severely impacted by the loss of anadromous fish which are an important food source. The re-establishment of anadromous fish to their former habitat would greatly benefit at least 22 species of wildlife, including the black bear, river otter, and bald eagle, and would contribute to the recovery of these populations.



To learn more about the impact of dams on fish populations, watch AFG video segment "Grand Canyon Fish Study."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Statement of Jim Chee, S'Klallam tribal elder

The people of the S'Klallam tribe are here to demand that the government honor their agreement made in the Treaty of Point-no-Point here in the Olympic National Park in 1855. This agreement, made between the American Government and my people, gave our heritage, the land of Olympia, to the American people in exchange for unlimited fishing rights on the Elwha River Dam. This dam restricts the migration of salmon and other fish so that they are dwindling in number. There are now very few fish on the Elwha and my people have no land. They have been treated very badly, but now we see the opportunity to correct this egregious wrong by taking down the Elwha River and Glines Canyon Dams.

After the dams were built, and fishing became difficult, my people began to collect shellfish from the Elwha River Delta, the sandy area where the river meets the sea. However, in recent years, this delta has begun to subside or disappear. Our scientists say that the dams are responsible for this disappearance too. They say that sediment is trapped by the dams so that the beaches are not being replenished. Now the American Government is cheating us out of our right to collect mussels on the coast because they are stealing the sand behind the dams. Once again, removal of those dams is the only course of action that can correct this error.

Our tribe arose from the rocks on the Elwha River. The rocks that gave birth to our people lay along side the river and our people worshipped at them to thank the great being for giving us our lives and this wonderful land to live in. However, when the American government built the dams on the Elwha, they flooded this holy ground, so that now the S'Klallam people cannot worship at their holy sites. According to our scientist, the water in the dam has now deposited the sand that should be in the delta over the holy site. We want to see it removed completely so that S'Klallam people can once again thank the Great Being.



To understand more about the history and activities of Native Americans in this controversy, watch the AFG video clip "Returning Salmon to the Umatilla River."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Statement of Beatrice Charles, Tribal Elder, Lower Elwha S'kallam Tribe.

I grew up on a farm alongside the riverbanks of the Elwha River. The farm that I grew up on is now the State fish hatchery and the diversion pipe for the ITT Rayonier water runs through. When the dam was built some 20 years before, I was a young child then. My elder, Sam Almer, used to talk about the places that were the spiritual places for the Klallam people to go to. When the dam was built the water went over this spiritual ground where my ancestors used to go for spiritual guidance and help.

I also heard about the dam when it broke in 1912 and the damage and devastation that it had done to my grandmother's farm. To top it off the Indians weren't notified that there was danger. My late father was around 18 years old, and he was out washing his face out on the porch where we used to have our water for washing our faces and so forth and so on, and he heard the big roar. He knew right away what it was. So he told his mother and the rest of the family to run for higher ground.

I was young at the time that we lived on the farm, but I remember how the fish runs were because our family used to gather on the bank in front of the house and we used to have probably a family conference there because I was a child. I used to run around, but I saw the fish runs. It was just ripples of salmon going up and they were big salmon. I remember. I saw it and I know that it was there. We all felt it was always going to be there that it wasn't going to be depleted but I was wrong.

The dam used to open their gates and a lot of water would come down. The they would close it up. There were pools of water where the little fish were stranded and when the pools went dry, the fish were dead. That's what happened to the fish.

I feel we should remove the dam because I know the devastation that it had done to my people because I've seen it and I know it.

As the years went by, the fish depleted to the point where it's nothing. Our creator gave us this fish to live on, and it was rich and an abundance of fish. It was given to us and we cherished it and we respected it. We never got more than what we could use. We used it and every bit of it. We didn't waste it.

I feel again I would like to see the dam removed while I'm still alive. I may not see the abundance of fish come back in my lifetime, but I would like to see it come back for my grandchildren, my great grandchildren and for the rest of my people in the following generations to come. It was a gift from our creator; it was our culture and our heritage.



To learn more about Native Americans like Beatrice Charles, watch the AFG video clip "Nez Perce and Chinook Salmon."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Hon. Malcom Wallop U.S. Senator from Wyoming.

The bill pending before the committee would expose the Department of the Interior to spending hundreds of millions of taxpayers dollars to due the following: 1) to take over and tear down two privately-owned, operating hydroelectric dams. 2) to restore environmentally, the river on which the two dams are located. 3) to make up for the increased cost of cheap power the dams supply to a corporation; and 4) to provide "high quality" water to the city of Port Angeles and others.

A FERC draft environmental impact statement has placed the cost of removal of the two dams and hydroelectric projects at a \$245 million.

It should also be noted that although the Department would acquire the two dams and the associated hydroelectric projects, removal would still be dependent on the feasibility of actually tearing the dams down. It is entirely possible that the Department would just end up owning and operating these dams and hydroelectric projects for the foreseeable future.

Based on the cost estimates made by FERC, I question the cost-effectiveness of this bill- particularly when the actual costs of dam removal and river restoration could ultimately prove to be far higher than that estimated by FERC. Moreover, there are other costs not included in the FERC cost estimate. For example, the city of Port Angeles has shown that the capital cost of the facilities to provide high quality water is \$30 million, plus yearly operational expenses of \$2.5 million.

The question is: Do we look before we leap or do we leap before we look?

On a wholly unrelated matter, the bill also requires the Department of the Interior to transfer some land back to the Indian tribes. This is a very significant provision. As stated by the City of Port Angeles: "In a nut shell, Port Angeles would not be Port Angeles without this land". The city also states that it "would be unimaginable for our City to lose control of this land". Unfortunately, this is exactly what the legislation would require.



For more information about issues Senator Wallop might be interested in, watch the AFG video clip "Water Tug of War."

Note: You can access and view the video clips used in this lesson in the Teacher Resources section of the AFG Web site (www.pbs.org/americanfieldguide/teachers).

Statement of Hon, Al Swift, U.S. Representative from Washington

The eight historic fish runs on the Elwha River have often been described as legendary. Those who can remember a time before the Lower Elwha and Glines Canyon dams were built remind us that massive salmon, some as big as 100 pounds, once moved freely up the river. Tens of thousands of salmon returned one year to find a wall of concrete where a river had once been. Sadly, yet predictably, those legendary runs soon ceased to exist.

Those salmon were more than an ecological wonder. They were an economic resource for the people of Port Angeles. Our goal is to see those runs flourish again. It is unquestionably a worthwhile goal, but getting there means far more than simply contemplating the removal of two dams.

There are some interesting legal issues at stake here. These include the treaty of Point-No-Point of 1855 in which the federal government promised local Indians fishing rights on this river. Also included is the issue of whether it is legal for the Federal Energy Resource Council to license a dam in a National Park such as the Glines Canyon Dam. It is certainly illegal now to build a new dam in a national park, so the question is does the Glines Canyon Dam have precedence over the law since it was built before the park was created? At the same time, the Endangered Species Act requires that the federal government look after the interest of species that are in danger of becoming extinct. On the Elwha River, there is at least one species of salmon that is borderline and many other species are headed that way. On the other side of the coin, the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 requires that the federal government ensure its citizens clean water. If the dams are removed, we will have to find an alternative water source.

If we find that the Glines Canyon Dam is not to be relicensed, then we need to decide who will be responsible for the dam. It cannot be left unoccupied because over time that could lead to a dangerous situation for the people living downstream. If the dams are unlicensed, we need to ensure that some provision is made to dismantle them. Otherwise, the fish will not improve and the Daishowa Corporation will be without power. Therefore, we should not act hastily.

Finally I come to cost. Recent estimates say that the entire package, including dam removal and fish restoration, could cost between \$60 and \$80 million dollars. This is substantial I admit, but put it into the proper prospective when we look at far-larger sums being spent for fish restoration on other rivers in the Northwest.



For more information watch the AFG video clip 'Nez Perce and Chinook Salmon' (OID-SP-0013)

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