

## Student Instructions for Elwha River Council

### Background

The Elwha River is the main river basin in Olympic National Park. 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 the largest Dam 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 from the Glines Canyon Dam.

Elwha Dam, located approximately 5 miles from the mouth of the river, is nearly 105 feet high. The 210 feet high Glines Canyon Dam is located at approximately 13.5 miles from the mouth of the river. Construction of the dams was completed in 1916 (Elwha) and 1927 (Glines) and reservoirs created by the dams inundate approximately 342 and 415 acres of land respectively.

For a number of reasons, it has been proposed that the Dams on the Elwha River be removed. The objective of this activity is to come to a consensus that a variety of different citizens will be happy with.

### Day 1: Preparation

1. Read through the personal statement provided (this may be assigned as homework). You will be asked to represent this person's viewpoint in the Elwha River Council meeting.
2. If possible, watch the related AFG Video Segment
  - Decide how that person feels about dam removal. Are they for, against, neutral or other?
  - Write a ½ page description of the person's perspective in your own words
  - Write an outline of the main points or arguments on the bottom half of the page
3. Work with your group to prepare a presentation for the council. Be sure to include the following:
  - State your background, what you know about the area, and what your recommendations are and why.
  - Make a visual aid to enhance your presentation

### Day 2: Elwha River Council Meeting

1. **Give your presentations to the Council.** You will be asked to answer additional questions about your perspective. This should lead to a discussion. Take notes during the other presentations, especially if they say something that you don't agree with or something that supports your position. Use your visual aid to show your point of view.
2. **Break into small groups to discuss a plan for the Elwha.** Your group will include people with very different perspectives. Your goal is to come to a consensus.
3. **Present your ideas to the Council.**
4. **The Council will then break to deliberate and make a final decision.**

### Extension Activity

**Use the Environmental Decision Making model** provided by your teacher to make a decision to the question "should the dams on the Elwha River be removed?" Use what you heard in the presentations as your background info. Each student must do this part on their own.