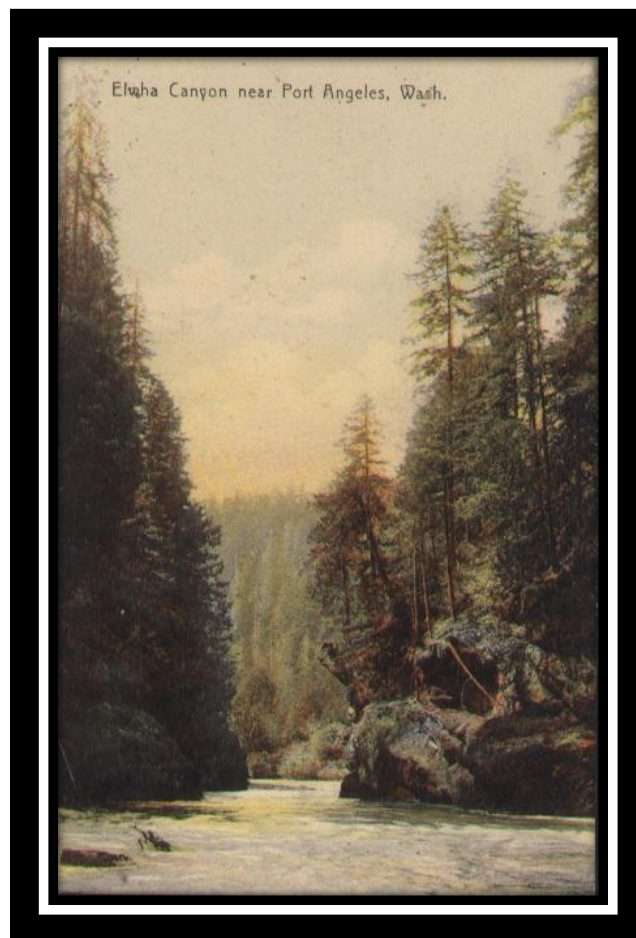


**August 6, 2010**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES  
OF  
THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY  
ELWHA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT  
HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT  
OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON**

**by  
Gretchen Luxenberg and Jacilee Wray**



**National Park Service, courtesy of Polly Polhamus  
(OLYM-POL.003.015)**



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## INTRODUCTION

In the early 1900s, the free-flowing Elwha River on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State was blocked with two hydroelectric dams. The hydroelectric projects were major power suppliers to the paper and pulp industry in Port Angeles and other residential and commercial power users on the peninsula in the 1920s.

Construction of the lower Elwha Dam began in 1910 and was completed in 1913. Despite an 1890 state law which required fish passage, the Elwha Dam was built without such provisions and therefore blocked the upstream migration path for all ten stocks of anadromous fish.

The upper Glines Canyon Dam, built between 1926 and 1927, and its associated reservoir (Lake Mills), was located within the boundaries of Olympic National Forest. When Olympic National Park was established in 1938, its boundaries did not contain the Glines Canyon Dam and reservoir; however, the park's enabling legislation authorized the President to enlarge the park and in 1940 the Glines Canyon hydroelectric project was included within its expanded boundary. Although the dam itself was located on private property within the park, 90% of the reservoir inundated federal park land.

The Elwha Dam was constructed before the Federal Water Power Act was in place and has never had a license. The Glines Canyon Dam was licensed for 50 years, beginning in 1926. The dam has operated on an annual license since expiration of this license in 1976. The Elwha River ecosystem and native anadromous fisheries have been severely degraded as a result of these two hydroelectric projects and Congress has mandated the full restoration of the river. The Department of Interior proposes to restore the river through the decommissioning of both dams and removal of all structures if necessary. The National Park Service (NPS) is the lead agency for this proposal and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies. Removal and restoration will honor the treaty commitments made in 1855 and be faithful to the Federal Government's trust responsibility for affected tribes, in this case the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who base much of their culture and economy on the Elwha River and its resources.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NPS as the lead agency prepared two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the proposed removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams. This proposed action requires that the NPS comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties. For this project, the Section 106 process is lead by the NPS and has been coordinated and integrated with the studies and documents prepared for the EIS. The EIS considers the action's potential impact on cultural resources, including structures (cabins, ranger stations), cultural landscapes (campgrounds, farmsteads), traditional cultural properties (Klallam places or resources

that are important in “historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices” (per National Register Bulletin #38), archeological sites (homestead sites, CCC camp, artifacts), and the hydroelectric complexes themselves.

### **Organization of Study**

To assist in completing the cultural resource compliance requirements of the NHPA, this Historic Context Study provides a framework for evaluating the significance of all cultural resources located within the defined Area of Potential Effect (APE) in the Elwha River Valley in Olympic National Park. The evaluation is based on established National Register of Historic Places criteria. This study discusses the major historic contexts or themes identified in the 1983 Historic Resource Study for Olympic National Park that are relevant to the Elwha River Valley, as well as additional historic contexts and themes for Klallam occupation and use sites,<sup>1</sup> archeological sites, and cultural landscapes. Each narrative begins with an overview of the relevant historical themes for the peninsula and the park before addressing the Elwha River Valley specifically. This study also identifies the property types, a grouping of properties or resources, associated with these themes. The primary historical themes are pre-treaty and post-treaty Klallam use and occupation, exploration, settlement, industry, recreation and tourism, government/politics, and architecture.

Klallam territory extended all along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and into Hood Canal, but for the purpose of this Historic Context Study, the area covered herein is limited by the project APE. Zone One of the APE extends from the mouth of the Elwha River to the south end of Lake Mills, and includes both reservoirs and the floodplain and area's that might be affected by river erosion that is above the floodplain. The groups associated with this drainage are the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and the non-Indian community. This tribe will be referred to as the Elwha Klallam. Klallam will be used when referring to all three tribes or the Klallam language. Zones Two and Three of the APE include staging areas and access roads that might be affected by dam removal, and the shoreline along Freshwater Bay to Ediz Hook, where the Klallam traditionally harvested from the nearshore. The effect of the dams on Elwha Klallam fisheries and treaty rights were the impetus for the crusade to remove the dams, and the focus of this restoration project is the land within the APE that will be restored to reintroduce these significant fisheries.

Some of the properties in the Elwha River Valley possess a high degree of integrity of fabric and setting that serve as excellent representative examples of the identified historical themes. Some properties may derive additional historical significance from their association with persons of local, regional, and national importance. A number of properties, in addition to their historical significance, embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and/or possess a high degree of artistic value. Still others may derive their significance from their potential to yield information important to understanding how humans have shaped or impacted this area. While some themes may not have any cultural resources associated with them, they are

included in this study in the event future fieldwork results in the identification of cultural resources within the APE during the implementation of the Elwha River Ecosystem Restoration Project. When appropriate, individual National Register nomination forms will be prepared for each cultural resource property evaluated against National Register criteria and determined significant and eligible for listing.

### **Environmental Setting/Background Data**

The Elwha River flows from the Olympic Mountains and passes through foothills on its way to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Alpine glaciers that originated in the Olympic Mountains and flowed north along the Elwha Valley reached their maximum northern extent between 22,000 and 18,000 B.P. When they began to retreat between 18,000 and 14,500 B.P. the Cordilleran ice sheet expanded south from Canada, eventually covering the Puget Lowland and much of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. At its maximum extent, the ice sheet extended into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, reached the northern foothills of the Olympic Mountains and may have been up to 1.5 km. thick. (Waitt, R.B. and R.M. Thorson 1983:7)

By 14,500 B.P. the Cordilleran ice sheet retreated from the Strait to an elevation of 3,500 feet (Tabor 1987). It is unknown at what date anadromous fish began utilizing the river systems, but there is archeological evidence of fishing on the Fraser River by 6,000 B.C. (Burley 1980).

In looking at the cultural resources and associated land use on the Elwha River, significant attributes of the area's geology and history make these properties important today. How will we identify locations of occupation, where were the places they lived, and what were the events that form the historic context of the Elwha River Valley? The Elwha Klallam relates how they were created on the Elwha River near the site of the lower dam. They also have oral traditions that recount a great flood and other geologic events that happened many generations ago, which place them here since time immemorial. Although the 1889 Press Expedition and others were not aware of the use and occupation of the upper reaches of the Elwha River by the Klallam, there is knowledge of the Klallam having traveled extensively up this drainage and across the mountains to visit other villages and to stay for periods of time to hunt and gather plants for food, medicine, and materials (Suttles 1952-1953; Lane and James Draft 2005; and Wray 1997). They also had year-round residences upriver, including a village at the confluence of Indian Creek and the Elwha River, and perhaps other settlement sites at the mouth of Boulder Creek and one at Little River. The Klallam still occupied the when the Elwha Dam was being built in 1910, at least on a seasonal basis. Seasonal use of the sub-alpine meadows above the Elwha was common, and some families stayed in these areas year-round (Wray 1997).

The spread of European diseases greatly reduced the population of Native Americans on the Olympic Peninsula, and after the ravages of disease came changes in settlement composition. In 1854-1855 the United States entered into land cession treaties with tribes in Washington Territory in order for the government to extinguish title to their land so it could be freed up for homesteading. The Klallam were a party to the Treaty of Point No Point signed by the three Klallam tribes (Port Gamble S'Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam, and Lower Elwha Klallam), as well as the Twana (Skokomish today), and Chemakum (now extinct) on January 22, 1855. The Klallam and Chemakum were directed to leave their homelands to live on the Skokomish Reservation on Hood Canal; however, most of the Klallam remained in their own territory, struggling to maintain their lifeways within their traditional homeland and near their deceased ancestors.

The Treaty of Point No Point preserved to all of the Klallam their aboriginal fishing rights. After 1855, the Klallam continued to rely on fishing, even as they began other occupations. Before the Elwha dams were constructed, the Elwha River was the major fishing source for the Elwha Klallam, providing a stable food supply for the large Elwha Klallam community residing here. The Elwha Klallam continued to utilize some of the older methods of fishing such as weirs, traps, nets, gaffs, and spears well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Soon after 1860, small numbers of settlers began homesteading in the lower part of the Elwha Valley. They claimed land on the broad flood plain near the river's mouth. Then the progression of settlement upriver was steady until 1898. When Elwha Valley pioneer Grant Humes arrived in that year, there was not one piece of land along the river between his claim and the river mouth available for homesteading. The Klallam were not permitted to homestead under the General Homestead Act of 1862 because a homesteader had to be a citizen of the United States, or declare their intention to become a citizen. Until 1924, Native Americans were barred from the ordinary processes of naturalization open to foreigners, unless they gave up their tribal affiliation. They continued to live in their early villages until these sites and seasonal camps were acquired by settlers who filed for homesteads, or purchased land by a cash entry. The Elwha Klallam became "squatters" in their traditional territory until the first Indian homestead law was enacted in 1875, allowing Klallam families to acquire legal title to land in the Elwha Valley.

Living in this remote area was challenging for the settlers. Although the dams provided power to Port Angeles by 1914, the Elwha River residents did not receive power until 1948 (Payne 1995). The construction of a good road to Port Angeles in 1927-28 (Alexander 2009) was probably the most appreciated development for this community, for it made education, trade, transportation, and income easier.

The construction of the dams was something most residents of the valley probably felt was important for the economy, although it resulted in changes in their lifestyle. A 1911 newspaper talks about events on the Elwha:

Several Elwha [River Valley] families visited the canyon Sunday, but failed to find familiar picnic grounds, in the many changes made by the Olympic Power Co. Since we have many such beauty spots we relinquish without regrets to the commercial progress of this great enterprise. (PAOL 1911a)

Federal management of the land, which the National Park Service now oversees, began in 1897 when President Grover Cleveland created the Olympic Forest Reserve. In 1907, Olympic National Forest was formed from the Olympic Forest Reserve. In 1909, Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Mount Olympus National Monument within the Olympic National Forest. Then, in 1915, President Woodrow Wilson reduced the size of the monument by half, returning the lands to the National Forest. In 1929, Calvin Coolidge deleted another 640 acres along the Elwha near Rica Canyon for future power development. Olympic National Park was established on June 29, 1938, and park additions occurred in 1940, 1943, and 1953, including the 1940 land additions encompassing the Glines Canyon hydroelectric project on the Elwha and the 1980 purchase of the Rica Canyon site.

The establishment of Olympic National Park was the culmination of nearly forty years of protracted efforts by conservationists to set aside an area of breathtaking beauty and diverse ecosystems. The Elwha River is one of many rivers with origins in the Olympics. It drains the glacier-covered mountains of the northern Olympic Peninsula. The 44.8 mile long river is fed by glacier runoff and abundant rainfall, and its 441 miles of tributaries, flows into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, near Port Angeles, Washington.

Vignettes of the human history of the Elwha River Valley reveal the relationship of land use against this backdrop of a rugged and newly settled area and shifting federal land management boundaries. Land use presented conflicts between preserving the Elwha's natural grandeur and seeking to fulfill its development potential.

Although beginning late and compressed into little more than a century, the patterns of historical development are similar to those in other parts of the Pacific Northwest. Native Americans have occupied and used the area's rich resources for thousands of years. Exploration was soon followed by increased settlement and natural resource exploitation, and commercial development followed close on its heels. Both public and private interests sought to open the area to industry and recreational activity in the late 1900s to the 1920s; and the 1930s and 1940s ushered in intense federal work relief and wartime activities. While some themes of historical development have an identifiable beginning and ending, many are overlapping.

The Elwha River Valley's wide array of cultural resources attests to the various themes of human interaction within the region. Some property types associated with these themes are places used and occupied by or important to the Elwha Klallam, early Euro-American

homesteaders, private recreational developers, or to those who extracted and used the natural resources, and those involved with construction associated the dams with federal management and military activity.

The Olympic Peninsula's remoteness and isolation combined with its wet climate and rugged topography greatly influenced land use, and continues to affect the associated cultural resources, particularly building features. Buildings and structures were constructed of local, native materials by many local craftsmen, including the CCC. Changes to these cultural resource properties over time have primarily been the result of deterioration and alteration. Some cultural resources were inundated by the hydroelectric-related reservoirs, and others have been affected by associated development. This Historic Context Study will provide the framework for understanding the importance of these cultural resources today.

## HISTORIC CONTEXTS

### **I. PRE-TREATY ELWHA KLALLAM USE AND OCCUPATION (PRE-1855)<sup>ii</sup>**

#### **Introduction**

Klallam territory was large, with village locations from Hoko River to Port Discovery, but it was the Elwha River Valley that held the largest Klallam population (Lane and James Draft 2005). The relationship between the Elwha Klallam people and the Elwha River system is inextricable. The river is the heart of their traditional territory, and the site of their creation.

Interviews conducted over the years with tribal members whose parent's and grandparent's lifetimes extend back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century help us understand the use of the Elwha River Valley before 1855. More recent oral histories, ethnographic studies, archeological investigations, and research provide an understanding of where and what types of archeological sites might be encountered within the Elwha River Valley related to the pre-treaty period. All of this information enhances our knowledge of Elwha Klallam sustenance and how they adapted over time in this region.

#### **Historic Context Statement: Pre-treaty Elwha Klallam Use and Occupation**

People have been present on the coast of western Washington since the retreat of the Cordilleran ice sheet about 12,000 years ago (Matson and Coupland 1995; NWAA 2008) [See fig. 2]. The earliest hunting and gathering activities on the peninsula are commonly referred to as "Early Prehistoric" (10,000-6,000 years Before Present [B.P.]). The people at this time were highly mobile hunters and gatherers who traveled in small groups and moved into the area after the glaciers receded. Artifacts of this period include spear points and butchering tools for hunting large game. The earliest evidence of people on the Olympic Peninsula dates to 12,000 B.P. at a site near Sequim where the remains of an extinct mastodon were discovered in association with stone tools. While sites of this age are typically denoted by large fluted spear points (i.e. Clovis Points), only a few cobble tools and a bone point lodged in the animal's rib were found. Numerous small sites in the mountainous interior of Olympic National Park are also thought to be from this time period. Even though no radiocarbon dates confirm this, the style of the stone tools, referred to as Olcott, suggest an age of 8,000 to 5,000 years B.P.

The Middle Prehistoric (6,000-3,000 B.P.) was a period when groups traveled lesser distances for food, as the environment became similar to that of today (forests became dense and sea levels reached modern levels). Populations began to grow as groups began to shift from hunting of land mammals to collecting marine resources (Croes and Hackenburger 1988). The beginnings of social complexity developed late in this period. Food sources available at predictable times (e.g. salmon) led to mass harvesting and food preservation, and by the end of this period a more settled lifestyle. The Elwha Klallam

hunted elk, deer, and birds, as well as gathered plants for both food and medicinal purposes. Marine resources included shellfish, flatfish, and salmon.

Sites of this period likely represent both small lithic scatters in the mountains and coastal shell middens. People lived in small groups along the coast subsisting on stored foods in winter and dispersed in the summer months to gather seasonal foods. Archeological sites found in the park's highcountry were likely camps for pursuing game and for gathering plant materials (Bergland and Marr 1988:27-29). Recent archeological research on Hurricane Ridge suggests human use as early as 8,000 B.P. (Kwarsick 2010:111). Controlled burning likely occurred to enhance resources, such as berries and camas, or to create open areas for deer and elk to aggregate (Schalk 1988). The artifacts have greater diversity in this period including stone tools, primarily for hunting and the introduction of woodworking and plant processing tools. The oldest known processing and storage localities on the peninsula are the shoreline midden sites on the inland terraces of the Makah Reservation dating between approximately 1700 to 4500 years old (Wessen 2008).

According to archeologist Eric Bergland, western redcedar was well established on the peninsula about 5,500 years ago (Bergland and Marr 1988:38). Since that time cedar has been an important item for the Northwest tribes. Its soft and absorbent character is ideal for manufacturing clothing, diapers, towels, and woven objects, such as hats, basketry, containers, and mats. House planks were removed from the cedar tree and canoes were hewn from the huge trunks. To fall them without saws, a fire was burned into the base [see fig. 3]. Stripped cedars have been reported during archeological surveys in the upper Elwha Valley in the 1980s (Schalk 1988: Appendix A) and may be relatively common where old-growth forests are preserved in lowland areas.

The Late Prehistoric spans the remaining time from 3,000 B.P. until 1855 A.D. During this time groups began living in year round villages made of several large multi-family long houses. Group dynamics were very complex included social inequality, art specialization, ownership of resources, and reliance on food resources which were stored. Artifacts of this time are largely made from perishable items, such as bone, antler, and wood.

Shell midden sites are extremely common along the coast and strait from this time period. The *čix'ycən* Village, located at the base of Ediz Hook, has evidence of several long houses and was occupied from 2,000 B.P. until after European contact [see fig. 4]. A very old site was discovered near the mouth of the Hoko River on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and dates to 2700 B.P. (Schalk 1988:107). The west side of the Hoko River was occupied by the Makah and the east side by the Klallam. Evidence of food storage at Hoko includes ground slate knives "for efficient processing of fish for storage" as well as 2200 to 2700 year old basket fragments (Schalk 1988:108). Rivers like the Elwha provided salmon for many months of the year and easy access to hunting and gathering winter provisions. Highly dynamic rivers in the Late Prehistoric, including the Elwha River,

may have wiped away much evidence of upriver village settlements and hunting camps. From these villages and seasonal camps the Elwha Klallam hunted elk, deer, and other land game, and gathered food and medicinal plants both along the bottom lands of the Elwha Valley and in the backcountry.

The Elwha Klallam had year-round fisheries along the Elwha River and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Elwha Klallam fishermen relied on salmon and steelhead for the greater part of their diet, as well as shellfish along the strait. They used fishing gear and techniques suitable for catching different kinds of fish in a wide range of environmental conditions. In the Elwha River and its tributaries, salmon and steelhead were taken with weirs and traps, nets, and by gaffing and spearing. There is a high likelihood of finding evidence for fishing camps at the mouth of creeks. Many of these will probably be located on what is now a third terrace near good fishing locations such as places overlooking eddies, and where the river is constricted to a small channel (Schalk et al. 1996:4.4-4.5).

Prior to the treaties of 1855, the Klallam held 14 village locations along the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Hoko River west of Clallam Bay, to Port Discovery east of Sequim, and north across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Beecher Bay on Vancouver Island. Anthropologist Erna Gunther reported that the winter villages were situated near fishing locations. The Klallam also occupied a series of seasonal camps upriver following various runs of salmon, while they stayed in hunting camps, the family assisted by drying and packing meat and gathering plants (Gunther 1927:195,204). During the pre-treaty period the Elwha Klallam likely lived in longhouses constructed of vertical cedar planks tied to a framework of logs with a gabled roof, ranging in size from 20 feet to 200 feet long (Gunther 1927). As recorded by Swindell (1942) and Eells (1880), there had once been two villages at the mouth of the Elwha River, one village was on the west bank and the other on the east bank; however, when settlers arrived on the east side the Elwha Klallam were forced to move to the west side of the river. There were once a number of houses and a population of about 70 in each of these two area villages [see fig. 5].

The Elwha Klallam traveled in canoes, poling upriver and portaging around obstacles. The trails were probably some of the same routes park visitors follow today. Klallam oral history describes trails along both banks of the Elwha River that linked upriver villages and camps with fishing stations. Trails led into the mountains across Hurricane Hill and the High Divide for hunting, berry picking, and collecting roots and plants. Elwha Klallam travel across the mountains is remembered in oral history. One Elwha Klallam grandmother would walk from the Elwha to Taholah every summer with her grandchildren to visit relatives. At times the Elwha Klallam likely met other peninsula tribes in the high country while on hunting and berry harvesting expeditions.

The Elwha Klallam began to clear farmland prior to the treaties, as there are reports that they grew potatoes at Port Discovery in 1841 and in 1854 the potatoes grown by natives in the Elwha were noted as perhaps the finest in the northwest (Grant [1854] 1857:319 *in* Lane and James Draft 2005). By the 1850s the Elwha Klallam were producing potatoes

for sale to settlers (Lane and James Draft 2005). The entire Klallam population in the 1840s ranged from 800 to 1500<sup>iii</sup> (Schalk 1988:59). They are linguistically related to other Salishan speaking groups throughout western Washington, yet they are linguistically quite distinct from their immediate western neighbours the Makah and the Quileute whose languages are in the Wakashan and Chemakuan language families respectively.

The Elwha Klallam have place names for significant sites along the Elwha River. Among these sites are some which are sacred, such as the location of the tribe's creation. The Elwha Klallam relate how they were created on the Elwha River near the site of the lower Elwha dam, and there are several ethnographic accounts that suggest the creation site was inundated by the construction of the dam. They also have oral traditions that recount a great flood and other geologic events that happened many generations ago. The Elwha Klallam maintain knowledge of several spiritual sites in this watershed, but this information is sensitive, not openly discussed or shared, and needs to be protected and kept confidential in order to keep these sites sacred.

#### **Associated Property Types**

There are a number of documented pre-treaty Elwha Klallam sites within the Elwha River project APE. They include shell midden sites, burial sites, habitation sites, fishing, hunting, and other procurement sites.

#### **Name of property type: Settlements, villages, hunting camps or procurement sites**

**Description:** the documented Elwha Klallam pre-treaty sites within the APE include: numerous debris and lithic scatters of dacite, a few chert and obsidian flakes have been found, located at the upper and lower dam sites and adjacent areas where important fishing settlements were probably located. No dates have been found at these sites. The mouths of tributaries to the Elwha River such as Indian Creek, Little River, and Boulder Creek have significant potential for the presence of archeological remains associated with resource collection camps or fishing settlements. Archeological sites are found in high frequencies at stream confluences throughout the northwest, and occupation or usage of these places is documented in ethnographic accounts. The sockeye salmon runs up Indian Creek to Lake Sutherland and other environmental characteristics of the Indian Creek-Elwha River confluence contribute significantly to its archeological potential. Materials anticipated to be found in this habitation and procurement area would include artifacts such as chipped or flaked stone and points, but it is unlikely that there would be any organic preservation, such as shell and bone. These materials can be both grouped or scattered about depending upon the intactness of the site, but most materials would be found subsurface. Midden sites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca were discovered by an early archeologist in the 1940s at Freshwater Bay and Elwha, which contained mussel shell and sea urchin.

The archeological record on the peninsula now includes sites from sea level to over 6,000 feet. The interior mountain sites have contained mostly lithic scatters, but there is the

potential to find points, animal bone, charcoal, fire-cracked rock, middens, and even basketry, as at Obstruction Point where a basket fragment was found and dated to be nearly 3,000 years old. Over the last few years several lithic scatters have been found on raised terraces, benches, and other flat areas along the valley walls within the Elwha drainage.

As mentioned earlier, during the pre-treaty period the Elwha Klallam likely lived in longhouses of vertical cedar planks with a gabled roof (Gunther 1927). More recent homesites that still pre-date the treaties may be found and could be log structures or wood frame houses. Temporary camps of rush mats over a framework of poles were used prior to the availability of canvas (Lane and James Draft 2005:16). At some sites we might even find remains of cedar planks, carved logs, house posts, and other wooden debris; caves may have been used for occupation and have evidence of fire scars, fire-cracked rock, and associated debitage. Sites found on the coast could be associated with sea mammal hunting and shellfish harvest, represented by bone and antler tools, toggling harpoons, and bone and shell midden materials.

**Significance:** Archeological research on the Olympic Peninsula began with a coastal focus; excavating large, stratified coastal shell midden deposits. Elwha Klallam use extended into the mountains and by the early 1980s archeologists began to conduct research and surveys in the interior of the Olympic Peninsula. These surveys have provided a more extensive understanding of native land use and site distribution. For decades, the general public didn't believe that native peoples visited or used areas in the higher reaches of mountainous terrain; new research and discoveries have discounted the old theories and opened up new ways of understanding how native peoples used these lands. Any archeological information that supports the knowledge we have about Indian occupation and use of the Elwha Valley will provide new archeological insights and a greater understanding of early Elwha Klallam lifeways.

**Registration Requirements:** In order to qualify for listing, the pre-treaty Elwha Klallam resources must have been created and used by the Elwha Klallam people, be within the Elwha River Area of Potential Effect (APE) and date from before 1855. The site must be intact or have enough associated materials in place to understand how the site was used, and the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district, site, or excavated assemblage must be high and relatively complete, with later cultural activities or natural processes not severely impacting the archeological record at the property. These properties would qualify under Criterion D, and have the potential to yield information and answer research questions that would enhance our understanding of how the Elwha Klallam people lived and used these lands and resources. Late Prehistoric residential and subsistence sites are almost always composed of lithic tools or scatters of debitage predominately dacite. Although accurate dating of these sites is infrequently possible, many may be more than 6,000 years old and date to the Early Prehistoric (Schalk et al. 1996:4.3).

**Name of Property Type: Fishing sites**

**Description:** Fishing sites may span many thousands of years. Potential sites that may be 5,000-6,000 years old are more likely to be found on high terraces and other landforms where sediments are more likely preserved. Although fishing is by necessity an activity that occurs in a dynamic portion of the landscape, a condition that is unfavorable for preservation of archeological remains, the potential for discovering properties exists. Archeological objects associated with fishing sites might include weirs, traps, dip nets, gaffing hooks, weights, and streambed lithic isolates, such as net weights, mauls, and stone wedges.

The mouths of Elwha River tributaries, such as Indian Creek, Little River, Boulder Creek, and Wolf Creek have significant potential for the presence of archeological remains. Inundation by Lake Aldwell may have contributed to archeological preservation. Whereas river channel migration may remove fine-grained sediments and erode archeological sites, leaving behind lag deposits of heavy artifacts such as fire-altered rocks and large stone tools (Cleveland et al. 1976). Certain large stone artifacts (e.g. net weights and mauls) may occur in streambeds, not because they have eroded out of an archeological deposit, but because they are associated with activities such as fishing that occurred in the stream itself.

**Significance:** The project area provides an opportunity to gather archeological data spanning a broad period of time regarding this important subsistence activity. The distribution of artifacts along a stream course can provide information on the importance of fishing locations in relation to habitation sites and fishing techniques used along the Elwha River.

**Registration Requirements:** In order to qualify for listing, the pre-treaty Elwha Klallam fishing sites must be able to be documented as having been used by the Elwha Klallam people, be within the Elwha River project Area of Potential Effect, and date from before 1855. They must be intact or have enough associated materials in place to understand how the site was used, and the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district or site must be high and relatively complete, with later cultural activities or natural processes not severely impacting the archeological record at the property. These properties would qualify under Criterion D, and have the potential to yield information and answer research questions that would enhance our understanding of how the Elwha Klallam people lived and used these lands and resources. Certain fishing techniques widely employed by the Elwha Klallam took place in fishing eddies commonly associated with river channels and creek beds tethered by bedrock, and therefore are geologically stable for archeological site formation (Schalk et al. 1996:4.8). The location of a site with such defining characteristics would probably be along the Elwha River or a tributary. Archeological objects associated with these sites might include weirs, traps, dip nets, gaffing hooks, weights, and streambed lithic isolates, such as net weights, mauls, and stone wedges. There is also the potential of discovering remains of smokehouses or settlement sites in proximity to these fishing sites.

**Name of Property Type: Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs)**

**Description:** Under this historic context, CMTs in the Elwha River Valley were made by the Klallam to extract bark for basketry and clothing and the wood for making planks, and the trees for canoes. The British Columbia (BC) Ministry has published an in-depth publication on documenting CMTs. The BC report classified the types of tree modification into three types: bark-stripped, aboriginally logged, and other (BC Ministry 2001). In areas where older forest vegetation is preserved or where old-growth stumps are still intact, CMTs may occur. Examples include bark-stripped cedar trees, stumps from which house planks have been split, or burned-out stumps that may have been fallen for canoe manufacture. Even cedar logs that have been felled and partially shaped during early stages of canoe manufacture have been found preserved in forests on the peninsula.

Only one culturally modified tree (ONP-95-I-3) has been documented as an archeological site within the Elwha River project APE. It is a tree that is 23 feet in circumference and is leaning toward the Elwha River. This is within a group of large cedars near the Elwha's park entrance station. Known as the Roosevelt Cedar, the tree has a square cut-out mark on its south side. The blaze may be associated with the historic Press Expedition route so does not fall under the context of Klallam pre-treaty, but early exploration. There is also a CMT with a bark peeled scar near an archeological site on the Lillian River, outside of the Elwha River project APE (Schalk et. al. 1996), however there are quite a few other CMT's that we know of that have not yet been recorded as sites

**Significance:** The distribution of CMTs may provide information on patterns of land and resource use. CMTs are significant for understanding manufacturing, and the preservation of bark stripped cedar trees represents knowledge of environmental activity and stewardship. CMTs can tell us about the technological innovations of the Klallam. In dating the trees, it is possible to learn when an area was occupied and the period of time in which the tree was being modified, as well as what it was used for. The trees can provide a glimpse at the history and nature of Elwha Klallam forest use, and help us identify where trails and traditional use areas were located. These sites may be significant as a Traditional Cultural Property, as well as an archeological site.

**Registration requirements:** In order to qualify for listing, the pre-treaty Elwha Klallam CMTs must be able to be documented as having been used by the Elwha Klallam people and be within the Elwha River project APE. The markings on the trees must be human-made and not due to a natural process. They must be determined to pre-date 1855, (but could also be found in the post-treaty context) and the markings made by stone adz, fire, shell, bone, or in more recent times, iron chisel. CMTs can be found either alone or in groupings.

**Name of Property Type: Elwha Klallam Sacred Sites**

**Description:** This property type encompasses sites sacred of the Elwha Klallam people, and includes creation sites, burial sites, and cemeteries. The Klallam belief that their first ancestors were created here on the Elwha River gives the creation site its significance and is central in Klallam traditional spiritual beliefs and practices (Lane and James Draft 2005). There are other locations where spiritual beings were encountered that have been identified by the Klallam, but only the creation site, *spčú?*, will be mentioned because it has already been identified in the EIS and other public documents.

The creation site of the Elwha people, near the Elwha Dam, contained pits or depressions in the rock where people were formed. Such pits could also be used to tell your future. The exact location has not been ascertained, but has been described as

...a place on the Elwha River where there were two big holes in the rock. The place is above the present power plant and now under water.... In the past this place always escaped flooding.... The two holes in the rock are called *spipacu* [*spčú?*], “[coiled] baskets.” (Lane and James Draft 2005)

Anthropologist T.T. Waterman places the location a little over one half mile above (south) of the power plant. He said that there is a “place in the bed of the river where there are pits or excavations in the rock, containing water.” The Klallam word for this site means “resembling a basket” (Waterman 1920:#48). The literal translation according to linguist Tim Montler is a “water-proof berry basket” or a coiled waterproof basket (Montler n.d.).

This is the spot where human beings were created.... Sometimes people go to these pits to get information about their future life. If a man thrusts his hand into this water, and brings out deer hair for example, he knows he will be a good hunter. (Waterman 1920)

An Elwha Klallam elder stated that the spot is near the lower dam where there is a big flat rock with a lot of holes in it. One belief held by some tribal members is that if you place your hand in a hole and pull something out, like a certain kind of shell, that means wealth will come to you; if you pull out a snake, it is a sign of evil (Hagaman 2009).

The exact location of the creation site may or may not be revealed when the dams are removed, depending on the amount of blasting that was done on the bedrock prior to dam construction. Regardless, it is likely that the area will maintain its importance as a spiritual place and should be treated with the utmost sensitivity.

Burial sites and cemeteries dating from the pre-treaty period will not contain above-ground evidence, though they are likely to exist and tribal members are likely knowledgeable about their locations. Due to the sensitive nature of these and other sacred sites, no other sacred sites including burial/cemetery sites will be discussed in this report; the tribe has developed a separate ethnographic report (Lane and James Draft 2005).

**Significance:** The significance of these sites lies in their potential to help us better understand the customs, lifeways, and traditions of an early people who inhabited the Elwha River Valley for millennia prior to the coming of white explorers and settlers. While these properties have the potential to be identified within the Elwha River project APE, no documentation, evaluation or preservation of these sites will be pursued by the NPS without the explicit agreement of the Elwha Klallam tribe and in full consultation with them.

**Registration Requirements:** No registration requirements will be identified here for either traditional cultural properties (the creation site) or for burial/cemetery sites for the purposes of evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places. No nominations will be prepared by the NPS unless so requested by the Elwha Klallam Tribe. An Archeological Treatment Plan for the treatment of human remains under NAGPRA has been completed and will be implemented should any human remains be identified; this requires full consultation with the Elwha Klallam Tribe.



**Figure 2**  
**Cordilleran Ice Sheet about 12,000 years ago**  
**(Clague 1994)**

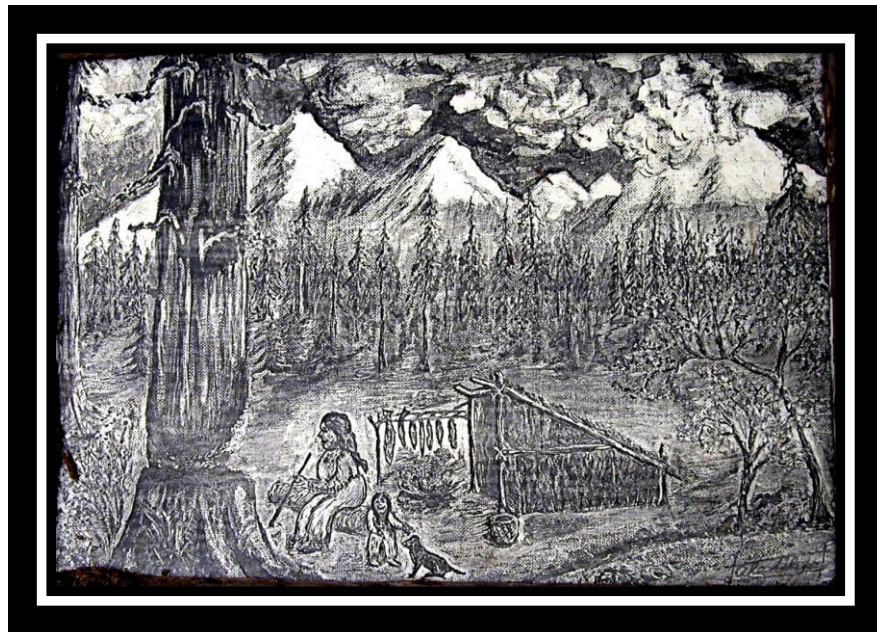


**Figure 3**  
**Traditional method of burning down a cedar tree**  
 Courtesy of Elsa Schmidt (aka Aha Blip)



**Figure 4**  
**Village of Ennis, painting by Paul Kane**  
 Four miles east of the *čixʷcən* Village

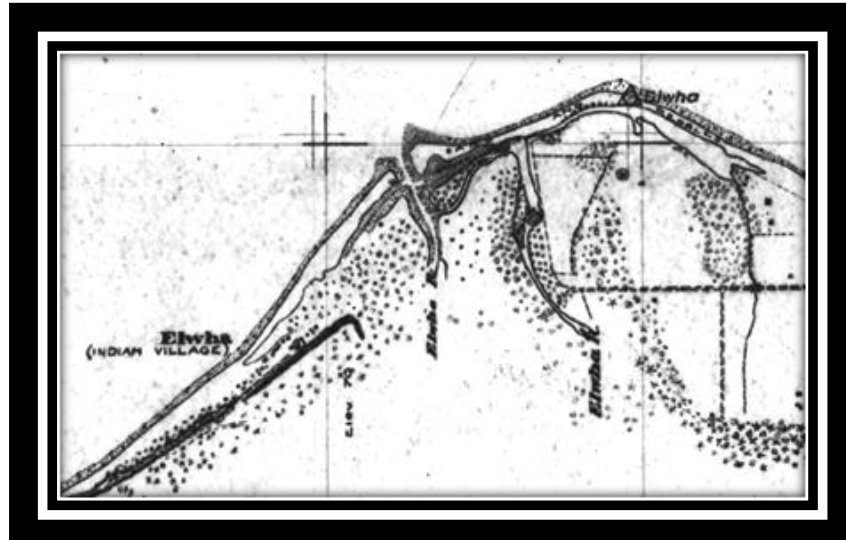


**Figure 5**  
**US Coast and Geodetic Map showing the Elwha Village west of the river, 1853**  
**[at what became the Place Resort location]**



## **II. POST-TREATY ELWHA KLALLAM USE AND OCCUPATION (AFTER 1855)**

### **Introduction**

The period of Post-Treaty Elwha Klallam Use and Occupation after the treaties of 1855 resulted in tribal lands being ceded and major changes to Elwha Klallam lifeways.

In 1854-1855, the United States entered into land cession treaties with tribes of the Olympic Peninsula in order to extinguish title to their homeland. The Elwha Klallam were a party to the Treaty of Point No Point signed by the Klallam, Twana (Skokomish), and Chemakum tribes on January 22, 1855. The Klallam and Chemakum were directed to leave their homelands to live on the Skokomish Reservation along Hood Canal. However, most of the Klallam remained within their traditional homeland and struggled to maintain their lifeways there. They developed the means to stay near the Elwha River or Ediz Hook until the enactment of the first Indian Homestead Act in 1875. Factors worked many who wanted land and that is why the Indian homesteads that existed on and near the Elwha River are so important to the tribe.

In 1968, a reservation on the Elwha River was finally created for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Years after the dams were built; the loss of their Elwha River fishery continues to detrimentally affect the tribe's culture, sustenance, and fishing rights. With the planned removal of the Elwha dams moving forward, this difficult issue will become a story from the past, and the famous Elwha River fish runs will return and be revived and traditions awakened among the Elwha Klallam people.

There is extensive evidence that the Klallam used the entire Elwha River to its headwater. The property types for Post-Treaty Elwha Klallam Use and Occupation are outlined below and are also noted in the Elwha River Ecosystem Restoration Archeological Resources Treatment and Monitoring Plan.

### **Historic Context Statement: Post-Treaty Elwha Klallam Use and Occupation (after 1855)**

The Elwha Valley was home to the largest Klallam population among the many Olympic Peninsula Klallam villages and the relationship between the Elwha Klallam and the Elwha River is inextricable. Today the Elwha Klallam have a reservation located on the north shore of the Olympic Peninsula and east of the mouth of the Elwha River, which includes Angeles Point, and 22 acres west of the Elwha River off of Ranger Road. The reservation contains about a mile of beach land along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The Elwha Klallam once had villages on both sides of the mouth of the Elwha River. According to Klallam tribal member Sam Ulmer, in 1856 the Elwha Klallam were driven from their village on the east side of the river by incoming homesteaders and moved across the river to what later became known as "The Place"<sup>iv</sup> on the west side of the river (Pennoyer 1946-1950). Sometime in the early 1920s the land was purchased by the

Smiths (who bought it from someone else, not the tribe) and The Place Resort was built there. This village has not been documented archeologically, but it is identified on a U.S. Coast and Geodetic map from 1908. Two images show the Klallam homes there. The one with the children swimming was taken after the resort began operation in 1929 [see fig. 6 and 7].

In 1860, there were still two Elwha Klallam villages located on both sides of the mouth of the Elwha River and a village at the confluence of Indian Creek with the Elwha River (Lane and James Draft 2005:35). Mrs. Sam (Elizabeth) Ulmer, John Mike, and Charley Hopie, in their 1941 joint affidavit taken by BIA attorney Edward Swindell, described the village and fishery at Indian Creek and noted that the area was flooded by the construction of the Elwha Dam when people were still living there (Swindell 1942). There may have also been an early settlement on the Little River near the Elwha River. Local historians Buck Adamire and Harriet Fish cited information from a descendant of Anna Bennett, granddaughter of Hunter John, that Anna fished for steelhead at Indian Creek and Little River and that the Indians had smokehouses for curing fish at both locations (Adamire and Fish [1991]:8,10). It is also possible that there were settlements at Boulder Creek, Cat or Wolf Creek, Idaho Creek, and at Windfall Creek (Adamire and Fish [1991]:3; Wood 1967:98-9; Gunther 1927:177-8; Waterman 1920).

Soon after 1860, small numbers of white settlers began homesteading in the lower part of the Elwha Valley. The Elwha Klallam were not permitted to homestead under the General Homestead Act of 1862 because a homesteader had to be a citizen of the United States, or declare their intention to become a citizen. American Indians were not considered to be citizens until 1924, and were not permitted to declare their intent to become citizens until 1870 and only if they abandoned their tribal relations and took up “civilized pursuits” could they homestead under the General Homestead Act. Prior to 1870, there was no way that the Elwha Klallam could acquire public domain land from the United States, so they continued to live in their early villages, but these sites and seasonal camps were soon acquired by settlers who filed homestead claims, or purchased land by cash entry. The Elwha Klallam struggled to find homesites and some settled on land as “squatters” until the first Indian homestead law was enacted in 1875, allowing Elwha Klallam families to acquire legal title to land in the Elwha Valley (Lane and James Draft 2005).

Under the 1875 Indian homestead legislation, an American Indian could file on land in the same way as an applicant under the General Homestead Act of 1862, except that the land remained in trust or United States title for the first five years. After this the Indian homesteader was issued a patent and the land became fee land subject to taxes. The five year trust period was problematic because most Indians were not aware that they would be responsible for tax payments. Some of the land transferred out of Indian ownership for failure to pay taxes. Other lands seem to have transferred out of Indian ownership in less straightforward ways (Lane and James Draft 2005).

As a result, a second Indian Homestead Act was passed in 1884, which extended the trust period to twenty-five years. The lands taken by Indian homesteaders under the 1875 law that had not come into fee status prior to enactment of the 1884 law were extended to be covered by the later law and were held in trust status for the full twenty-five year period. Most of the Indian homesteads in the Elwha Valley were taken up under the 1884 legislation. Some of the lands that were covered by the extension remain in trust to this day. Ten Indian family heads received their patents between 1879 and 1895 (Lane and James Draft 2005).

Some of the Indian homesteading families were close relatives and occupied contiguous or nearly contiguous homesteads. These families assisted one another in farming operations. Several neighboring and interspersed lands were held by families composed of a non-Indian family head, Indian spouse, and their children. In these instances, the homesteads were acquired under the general homestead law and were not held under trust patents.

There were six Elwha Klallam homesteads located within what is now the APE, Zone One. **Boston Charlie** or *Wəqínəxən* was the first Elwha Klallam to settle in 1863, but did not receive his patent until 1915. His homestead included the W2NE4 and the NW4SE4 of T30N R7W section 3 all on the west side of the river. Boston lost his property due to a tax issue and a white settler, Harold Sisson acquired it. **Seatcum or Shingle George** settled the SE4 of Section 34 in T31N R7W in 1864. This land is now part of the Lower Elwha Klallam Reservation. In 1879, **Alberni Jack** made settlement at the mouth of the Elwha River in Section 27 of T31N R8W, which is now also part of the reservation today. **Joe Sampson** homesteaded the SE4 of section 11 in 1870 or 1880. The east half of this parcel still belongs to his descendants. **Hunter John** settled in 1876 in the NE2NE4 of Sec 10 and the S2SE4 of Sec 3 T30N R7W, known today as the Charles Sampson homestead (see fig. 8), but owned by the City of Port Angeles and is the location of the state rearing channel. In 1888, **Charles Jackson** settled on his Indian homestead on the west side of the mouth of the Elwha River, including Lot 4 of Sec 27 and Lot 1 and 2 and the SE4NE4 Sec 33, and the NW4NW4 Sec 34. **Moses Sampson** made settlement in 1889 on his Indian homestead fronting Freshwater Bay on Lot 2 and the SW4SE4 of Sec. 32 of T31N R7W. His homestead remains in trust status and is located within Zone Three of the APE [see fig. 8 and 9].

The 1880 census of Elwha Klallam at Port Angeles lists 16 families living in frame houses. At Elwha, the census shows that of 21 families, five were living in log cabins and 16 were living in frame houses (U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Census—Klallam tribe 1880 in Lane and James Draft 2005). Very few structures survive intact from the Elwha Klallam homestead period. The story of the Hunter John homestead is well understood mostly because of the memories of the two women who grew up there, Adeline Smith and Beatrice Charles. In 1880, the Hunter John homestead contained approximately 80 acres on both the east and west sides of the river. Hunter John lived with his family in a log house on the east side. They had eight pigs and one sheep. In 1886 Hunter John stated on his final proof for his homestead claim that he and his family lived in a one room house, 15 x 20 feet, roofed and floored, with two windows, one door and a fireplace with a chimney [see fig. 10]. They had

cleared about 10 acres and had a barn that was 40 x 30 feet. They planted oats and potatoes on about four acres for nine years, and had 7 head of cattle and sold potatoes. The trust patent was received in 1888, which would have ended on June 8, 1913. Hunter John died in July of 1912. On October 30, 1912, the Elwha Dam blew out and according to his probate records the flood “swept away and totally destroyed” all assets except “the real property” [see fig.11]. Hunter John willed the east side of the homestead, SE4SE4 of Sec. 3 and the NE4NE4 Sec 10 to his grandson, Charles Sampson, and the west side, SW4SE4 of Sec. 3 and the NW4NE4 of Sec. 10 to his daughter, Sally Jackson (Lane and James Draft 2005).

Charlie Sampson and his family moved onto the east side homestead where a circa 1911 photograph of the farm shows a large, wood frame barn, several smaller buildings, a wood framed home, fencing, pasture, and cleared fields. The Sampson family raised oats, hay, cows, horses, turkeys, and geese. Drinking water was available from springs along the east slope, behind the current state fish hatchery trailers. Bea Charles and Adeline Smith recall bathing in a secluded river location created when the family planted large trees to stop bank erosion. Charlie was a carpenter and built four houses over time. Adeline Smith and Beatrice Charles remember a large yellow house they lived in, which burnt down in 1929 as a result of a stovepipe fire [see fig.12].

These six Elwha Klallam homesteads were located on the Elwha River downstream from the lower dam and were inundated when the dam failed shortly after construction in 1912. According to tribal elders, they were given no warning, even though the breach was expected. The dam washed away most of the Hunter John homestead and parts of Joe Sampson’s homestead (Smith and Charles 2008). It inundated their homes, washed away topsoil, and covered the surface of their farms with debris. After this disaster, the Elwha Klallam moved their homes to higher ground. The blow-out also washed out the bridge that crossed the Elwha River just upstream from Hunter John’s homestead. The county hired Joe Sampson, who had the next homestead upriver, to operate a car ferry over the river until the bridge was replaced. Joe’s sons Charles and Ernest Sampson used their team of horses to pull cars up the steep grade (Lane and James Draft 2005).

In 1938 the United States purchased trust lands and homes in the Lower Elwha Valley under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) for fourteen Klallam families. The lands were located near the site of their ancient Indian village and cemetery to the east of the mouth of the Elwha River. Two of the original Elwha Klallam homesteads acquired early on by non-Indians became part of this IRA purchase. These trust lands were not given formal status as an Indian reservation until 1968. Today, the reservation consists of 446.6 acres, an additional 483.6 acres of trust lands, and the tribe holds title to 76.8 acres of fee land.

The Treaty of Point No Point secured to the Klallam their aboriginal fishing rights. The Elwha Klallam continued to rely on fishing, even when they had other occupations. Before the Elwha dams were constructed, the Elwha River was the tribe’s major fishing stream in western Clallam County, providing them with a stable source of food; some Klallam were

still using some of the older methods of fishing such as weirs, traps, nets, gaffs, and spears [see fig.13]. Many of the fishing sites may span both the pre and post treaty periods. We know from oral history that “Smokey Bottoms,” the area near Boulder Creek, was a significant fishing location with a smokehouse (Hagaman 2009). The Press Expedition also identified a smokehouse near Wolf Creek, which may have been a fishing locale. Little River was a fishing location and likely a settlement, and Indian Creek was a widely known fishing and hunting village. Henry Charles, a Klallam born about 1877, was interviewed by anthropologist Wayne Suttles in 1952. Charles described a ‘scoop net’ used on the Elwha River that was held between two canoes. He went on to describe a weir he recalled seeing around the turn of the century:

The weir consists of a series of bipods set into the stream with a pole laid across them. Against this go sections of woven lattice work. There is an opening for the trap and in it a signal stick. Above it is a platform where the fisherman lies with his head against the signal stick. He brings the fish up with a gaff. Henry Charles’ father fished at a trap on the Elwha River; he slept there night and day. By this time the river was muddy so that the hook, which had a straight ironwood point, could be used. (Lane and James Draft 2005)

Some of these fishing methods continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After 1855 the Elwha Klallam were restricted time and again by State law and unnecessary limitations placed specifically on them and their fishing activities, and were even arrested for removing dead salmon found below the dam. The importance of their former fishing places continue to hold deep meaning for the Elwha Klallam to the present.

The Elwha Klallam hunted and camped in the upper Elwha into the early to mid-1900s. Oral histories and exploratory parties in the Olympics reveal that the Klallam people were making good use of the highcountry’s resources. In 1889, the Press Expedition, sponsored by the Seattle Press, followed Indian trails along the Elwha River as the group of Seattle “explorers” journeyed into the interior. Above Indian Creek and Little River, near what is now the Altair campground, the expedition met four Klallam Indians who mentioned they were on their way up the mountains to hunt elk. The Indians directed the party to a route following the “foot of a mountain spur called by the downriver settlers the “Devil’s Backbone” (Wood 1967:63). Waterman (1920) described a location called *sma:I ts* (which refers to lots of elk there) located on a ridge identified as the Devil’s Backbone on a forest service map. The location is on the east side of the river across the river from Stukey Creek. The Press party describe the Devil’s Backbone as traversing “a steep mountainside, skirting a canyon, and descend[ing] to the river bottom. The trail continued for some distance, crossing two creeks and entering the river bottom where there were groves of maple trees and an old Indian smokehouse” (Wood 1967:63-65). From this description the location of the smokehouse was near Wolf Creek. Farther up river, perhaps near Idaho Creek, the Press party found a wringing post, where a hide of deer or elk would have been wrung out for processing (Wood 1967:98-99). It is unknown

whether this would have been a pre-treaty wringing post, but the area around these creeks could contain archeology when Lake Mills is drained. In 1953, Robert Charles, an Elwha Klallam man, told anthropologist Wayne Suttles that he had hunted for elk with Klallam Indian homesteader Boston Charlie at the head of the Elwha River [This would be Low Divide]. Robert Charles was born in 1887 and was 66 years of age when he was interviewed by Suttles in 1953 (Lane and James Draft 2005).

Elwha Klallam homesteaders in the Elwha Valley not only supported themselves by fishing and hunting, they also raised stock (horses, cattle, chickens, and pigs), cultivated crops such as potatoes, oats, and hay and planted orchards. The Indians would sell these crops and goods to neighbors in the surrounding region and to townspeople in Port Angeles and Victoria where they brought their produce by canoe. They also used their canoes to provide transport to white settlers and farmers in the Lower Elwha Valley so they could get their crops to market. This was before there was a road (Russell 1971:182). The Elwha had begun to clear farmland prior to the treaties, as there are reports of the Indians growing potatoes at Port Discovery in 1841 and in 1854; the potatoes grown by natives in the Elwha were noted as being perhaps the finest in the Northwest (Grant [1854]1857: 319 in Lane and James Draft 2005). Some Indians sold timber from their land to local mills; the Shingle George homestead was the site of a mill and dry kiln. Even though all of the Elwha Klallam homesteaders depended upon farming for over half of their subsistence, they also continued to depend upon fishing, hunting, and gathering of roots and berries for sustenance, medicine and spiritual use (U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Census – S’Klallam Tribe 1880; Robert Charles Testimony: July 30, 1936 in Lane and James Draft 2005).

There are two known cemeteries in the lower Elwha River Valley, one on Place Road—the tribe’s current and historic cemetery—initially protected by Charlie Jackson and now in trust status. The other is on the Elwha Reservation—placed in protective status by Adeline Smith and Beatrice Charles. There is also the extensive *čix’wícən* village cemetery at the base of Ediz Hook outside of the APE.

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Elwha Klallam Homesites and Homesteads**

**Description:** There are six Elwha Klallam homesteads located within Zone One of the APE.

The Hunter John/Charles Sampson homestead, which was occupied from 1876 to 1940, was surveyed for its historic archeology in 1996 and 2007 [see fig. 14]. Using maps, photos, and oral history, cultural resource specialists were able to substantiate the location of houses, the barn, outbuildings, an orchard, pastures, and fencing. The 1996 survey covered 9.6 acres of the homestead and metal detectors revealed two iron disks, an iron pipe, and a grommet with leather attached, a horseshoe nail, and a group of eight large nails in what may be the barn location. Thick window glass (auto) and a fragment of a porcelain rice bowl with a peony and tea house decal design also were found at the site. The additional 2007 survey was conducted September 10-19 on the site. Seventy-

nine shovel probes, 22 soundages, 12 test units (50x50 cm), 31 backhoe scrapes, and 3 backhoe trenches revealed 828 historic artifacts including ammunition cartridges, nails, screws, wire, mortar, asphalt, and concrete. Carnival glass and cobalt blue glass fragments, a Hazel-Atlas Glass Company tumbler, porcelain decorative tableware vessel fragments, and a yellow ware marble were also found. Artifacts that were datable range between the 1860s and 1940s. Cherry pits from the orchard were found. The orchard had once contained over 40 cherry, pear, and apple trees [see fig.15]. When Bea and Adeline lived there, they recall spitting cheery seeds out of their bedroom window. No intact artifacts were identified at the homestead and the remains of artifacts found are considered displaced from their original deposition (NWAA 2008:27,37,39). The Hunter John/Charles Sampson homestead is typical of what might be expected at other Elwha Klallam homestead archeological sites from the post-treaty era. The land would have been cleared to grow crops, raise stock, and plant orchards. All structures would have been built in a straightforward, simple and functional style and method of construction. The buildings were log or frame, and there would have been several outbuildings within the homestead boundaries including barns, sheds, and root houses, as well as fencing.

**Significance:** Many archeological remains of homesteads deteriorate rapidly in the wet climate of the Olympic Peninsula, except for ceramic, glass, and metal, to a lesser extent, which do survive in this environment. The archeological site characteristics important for studying Elwha Klallam homesteads are those associated with household composition, socioeconomic patterns, and subsistence. Elwha Klallam homesteads provide evidence of the antiquity and continuous occupation and use of the Elwha River and surrounding shoreline and can “potentially inform on research questions not typically considered in more mainstream accounts of early agricultural practice and experience in the region.” These homesteads “contribute to understanding the continuity and change in cultural and historical patterns of post-contact Native American land use” (NWAA 2008:44).

The Indian homestead represents an era of transition where the Elwha Klallam did their best to assimilate with the incoming settlers, yet continued to maintain long-held associations and connections to their lands and waters. They resisted removal to the Skokomish Reservation and maintained their livelihoods at the place of their origin. The Indian Homestead Act in this locale was utilized by a group of Indian people to maintain residence within their traditional territory and landscape. Although Elwha Klallam lifeways had to be adjusted to the local economy, they continued to maintain traditional practices here. As yet undiscovered homestead archeology can provide insight into the traditions and lifeways of the Elwha Klallam as they adjusted to changing times after the treaty of 1855.

Very few structures survive intact from the Elwha Klallam homestead period. Archeological research has been conducted twice on the Hunter John/Charles Sampson homestead and the site does not achieve significance under Criterion D, due to its lack of physical integrity, but may contribute to a historic district under Criterion A, as a part of a larger group of homesteads that represent a pattern of events, activities, and historic

trends associated with the Lower Elwha Klallam landscape. The site is “a physical reference point” of “ongoing” use by tribal members” (NWAA 2008:44). It is also pertinent to know that no other Indian homesteads have been excavated in this region and often are not even recorded during cultural resource surveys. Therefore, Indian homestead sites in the Elwha Valley that contain an intact archeological component have potential for addressing research questions and would be significant under National Register Criterion D (Schalk et al. 1996:7.3).

**Registration Requirements:** In order to qualify for listing under this historic context and property type, the post-treaty Elwha Klallam homesites or homesteads must be able to be documented as having been used by the Elwha Klallam people, be within the Elwha River project APE, and date after 1855. Glass, ceramics, brick, and metal objects are often found at these sites. In order to be eligible, the subsurface remains of this type of property must be intact or have enough associated materials in place to understand how the site was used, and the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district or site must be high and relatively complete, with later cultural activities or natural processes not severely impacting the archeological record at the site. These properties would qualify under Criterion D, and have the potential to yield information and answer research questions that would enhance our understanding of how the Elwha Klallam lived on these homesites and what their daily existence might have been. Any extant historical archeological Elwha Klallam homestead sites documented within the APE may provide archeological assemblages, including architectural, domestic, and personal items that could reveal information about the differences between Euro-American and Elwha Klallam homesteading, the composition of family, the manufacture and use of Euro-American products, the continued reliance on natural resources, agricultural use, and other patterns of occupation.

It is possible that the best way to address these sites is by establishing a historic district that may include property types eligible under both Criteria A and D, which could include a combination of historic archeological sites, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural properties for plant gathering, and other use areas (NWAA 2008:47).

**Name of Property Type: Fishing-related resources**

**Description:** Fishing-related resources include both sites where fishing occurred and the artifacts that remain from the activity or the procurement of fish. Sites are most likely to be found on high terraces and other landforms where sediments are preserved.

Fishing is by necessity an activity that occurs in a dynamic portion of the landscape, a condition that is often unfavorable for preservation of archeological remains. The building of the two dams and the inundation of important fishing sites further complicates the identification of specific fishing related resources. The potential for discovering archeological objects associated with these sites might include weirs, traps, dip nets, gaffing hooks, spears, weights, and streambed lithic isolates, such as net weights, mauls, and stone wedges.

The mouths of Elwha River tributaries, such as Indian Creek, Little River, Boulder Creek, and Wolf Creek have significant potential for the presence of archeological remains. Inundation by Lake Aldwell may have contributed to archeological preservation.

**Significance:** The project area provides an opportunity to gather archeological data spanning a broad period of time regarding this important subsistence activity. The distribution of artifacts along a stream course can provide information on the importance of fishing locations in relation to habitation sites and fishing techniques used along the Elwha River. Any sites identified, evaluated, and determined eligible for the National Register would qualify under Criterion D, for their potential to yield information important to our understanding of post-treaty Elwha Klallam subsistence traditions and lifeways.

**Registration Requirements:** In order to qualify for listing, the post-treaty Elwha Klallam fishing-related sites must be able to be documented as having been used by the Elwha Klallam people, be within the Elwha River project APE, and date after 1855. They must be intact or have enough associated materials in place to understand how the site was used, and the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district or site must be high and relatively complete, with later cultural activities or natural processes not severely impacting the archeological record. These properties would qualify under Criterion D, and have the potential to yield information and answer research questions that would enhance our understanding of how the Elwha Klallam people lived and used these lands and resources. Certain fishing techniques widely employed by the Elwha Klallam took place in fishing eddies commonly associated with river channels and creek beds tethered by bedrock, and therefore, geologically stable for archeological site formation (Schalk et al. 1996:4.8). Therefore, a defining characteristic of a site associated with this context would be fishing artifacts located along the Elwha River or a tributary. There is also the potential of discovering remains of smokehouses or settlement sites in proximity to these fishing sites.

**Name of Property Type: Sacred sites in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** There are known sacred sites in the Elwha River Valley and the tribe keeps these places confidential in order to protect them. Cemeteries and burials are examples of this property type. Cemeteries are the home of the ancestors and are highly sensitive and spiritual places. There are two known cemeteries on the lower Elwha River, one on Place Road and the other on the Elwha Reservation. The cemetery on the reservation is known from Elwha Klallam tribal members who have seen evidence over the years. There is also the extensive *čixʷcən* burial ground at the base of Ediz Hook that was inadvertently discovered. These burial sites are often found near village sites or settlements, on sand spits, or in nearby woods. Individual grave houses or burial canoes were placed on scaffolds or posts about two or three feet high. Sometimes the canoe or grave house was covered by a structure. Remains were also placed on the ground and covered with an overturned canoe or a structure. Trees were often used as supports for burial canoes, platforms, or boxes. According to anthropologist Erna Gunther interment in the ground

was frequently used in burial grounds located in wooded areas, although it seems this would be where tree burials would occur (Gunther 1927:183, 248). Some burial trees can still be identified because the tree branch grew around a decomposing canoe, creating deformed tree branches. Cemeteries may be known only through oral history or known to be located on a homesite. The Elwha cemetery on Place Road is the tribe's current and historic cemetery. Many of the graves are marked with headstones and the area is fenced. Others may have no outward characteristics.

**Significance:** Sacred sites of the Elwha Klallam help us better understand what was important to them, and how they enriched their lives. Elwha Klallam cemeteries are sacred ground and represent the continuous occupation of the Elwha Klallam in the Elwha River Valley. This resource, while important, will not be evaluated as part of this historic context study for purposes of National Register listing. If any inadvertent discoveries of human remains are uncovered all work will stop, and consultation will occur immediately with the tribe as per Appendix B of the Elwha River Archeological Treatment Plan for human remains under NAGPRA. All location information is protected from FOIA pursuant to the Archeological Resources Protection Act [16 USC 470hh Section 9] and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended.

**Registration Requirements:** Registration requirements will not be established for these sacred sites that are so important to the Elwha Klallam people. Any National Register documentation would be solely up to the Elwha Klallam Tribe. Cemeteries might qualify as a Traditional Cultural Property or a historic site. Cemeteries or burial areas could qualify under Criterion A, association with an event such as the Elwha Klallam people's long existence on the river that is central to the community's identity.

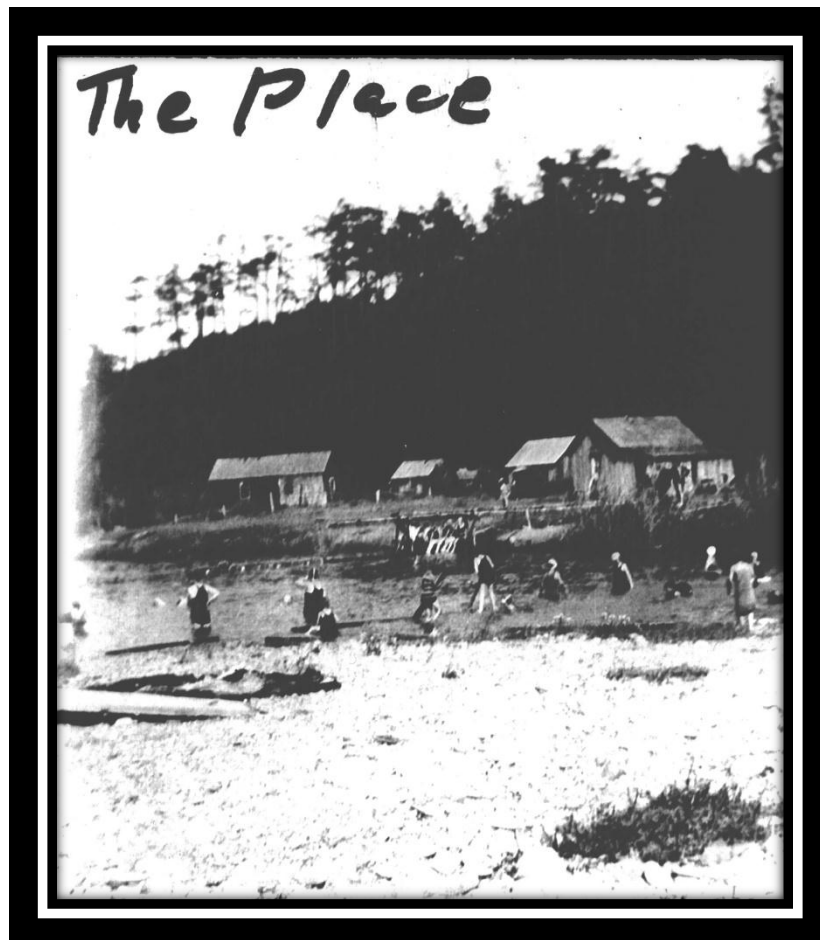


**Figure 6**  
**The Place, a resort near the site of an Elwha Klallam village circa 1928**  
**(see map fig. 5)**



**Figure 7**  
**Boat at The Place, Indian Houses in background**



**Figure 8**  
**Hunter John/Charlie Sampson Homestead**  
**Probably taken after yellow house burned down**  
**Courtesy of Beatrice Charles**





**Figure 10**  
**Andy and Ernest Sampson playing chess in front of their family home**  
**Courtesy of Adeline Smith**

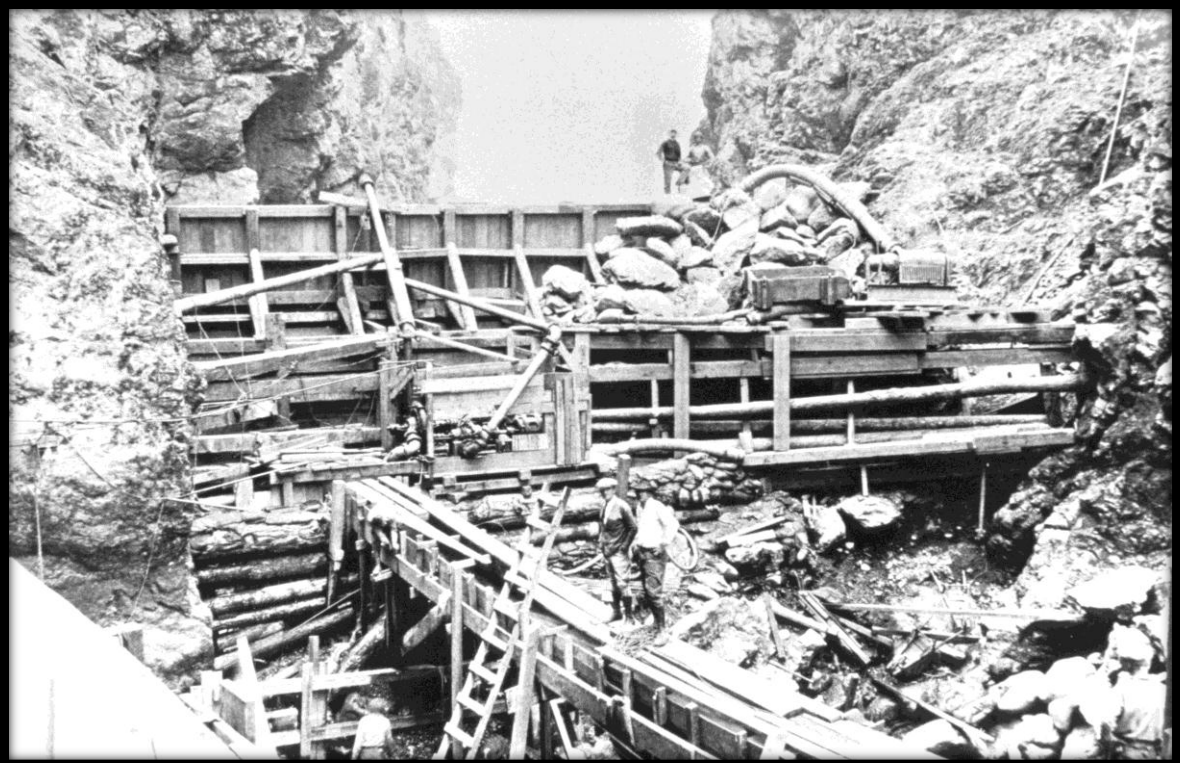


**Figure 11**  
**After dam blow-out**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 201020054)**



**Figure 12**  
**The yellow house where Adeline and Bea grew up on the homestead**  
**Courtesy Adeline Smith**



**Figure 13**  
**Joe Sampson fishing**  
**Courtesy Adeline Smith**



**Figure 14**  
**Adeline and Bea with archeologist**  
**Photo by Jacilee Wray**

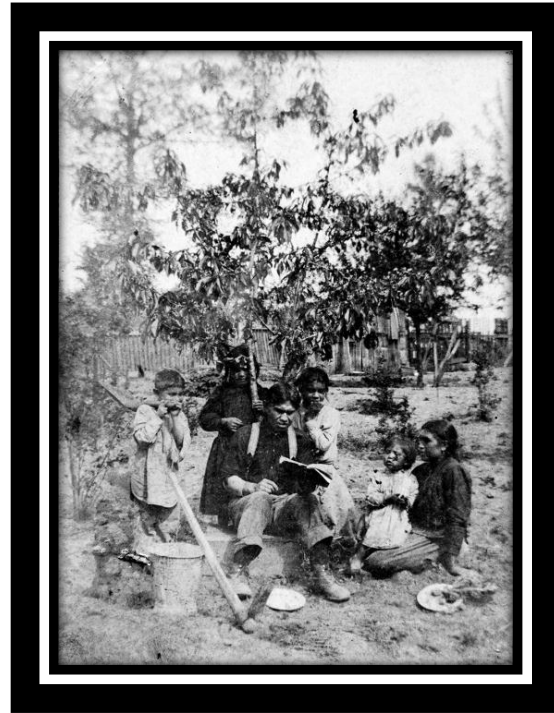


**Figure 15**  
**Sampson family reading under fruit tree**  
**Courtesy Adeline Smith**



### **III. EXPLORATION IN THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY, 1885-1907**

#### **Introduction**

For over two centuries ships have set sail from Spain, Mexico, France, Russia, England, and the young east coast cities of the United States to ply the waters of the Northwest Coast. Well into the late 1700s, sea captains searched in vain for a mythical inland passage that would bring the riches of the Orient closer to Western Europe. Intent on identifying landmarks that would serve to guide them in their voyages, several foreign mariners bestowed names on prominent coastal features and mountain peaks. The most prominent peak on the Olympic Peninsula drew early and continued attention. Sailing under the Spanish flag, Juan Perez viewed and named the highest peak on the Olympic Peninsula, *El Cerro de la Santa Rosalia*, in 1774. Fourteen years later, a British sea captain, John Meares, renamed this jumble of citadels Mount Olympus. British sea captain George Vancouver applied the name Olympic Mountains to the entire range in his 1792 log.

In the first half of the 1800s, one by one, Spain, Russia, and England relinquished their claim to the vast lands of the Northwest, including the Olympic Peninsula. The United States, however, persisted in its coastal explorations. Shoreline and inland features continued to be mapped and named during the American survey efforts led by Charles Wilkes and George Davidson in the mid-1800s.

Many of these place names continue to the present. Three centuries of coastal exploration around the Olympic Peninsula by nearly half a dozen nations has left a legacy of place names that preceded settlement on the peninsula and what is now the park. In the absence of physical cultural remnants left by early coastal explorers, these place names serve as reminders of the rich tapestry of international exploration that preceded Euro-American land exploration inside the present boundaries of Olympic National Park.

The rugged interior mountains of the Olympic Peninsula were one of the last areas to be explored by Euro-Americans in the contiguous United States. For this reason, and because of the inherent harshness of its climate and topography, the peninsula earned an early misperception as an unknown wilderness--a "*terra incognita*," even though indigenous populations may have numbered close to 10,000 on the Olympic Peninsula prior to the influx of epidemics into the 1850s. Archeological evidence and oral history indicate that Native Americans lived throughout the Olympic Peninsula and traveled through and spent time in the Olympic Mountains for thousands of years prior to Euro-American exploration.

Although Euro-American settlement along the shoreline of the peninsula began in the mid-1800s, the first documented land exploration of the interior was not accomplished until 1878 by the Melbourne Watkinson party. This party did not enter the Elwha, but traveled from Lilliwaup Creek on Hood Canal to Lake Cushman and up the Skokomish River to the Quinault watershed.

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, accounts in local peninsula newspapers detailed the expeditions of several parties searching for gold and other valuable minerals. In 1885 and again in 1890, U.S. Army Second Lieutenant Joseph P. O'Neil led two separate exploring parties into, and later across, sections of the peninsula's interior, which are now contained within the park. His detailed written records and photographs and portions of the trail his party blazed remain as testament to his route of travel.

Along with O'Neil, the Gilman party accomplished at least three exploratory expeditions across portions of the peninsula interior in 1889 and 1890. The Press expedition, led by James Christie during the harsh winter of 1889-1890, was sponsored by and reported at length in the Seattle Press newspaper. Blaze marks on trees and remnants of the Press party trail still remain as reminders of their route. Judge James Wickersham, best known for his involvement in Alaskan government and mountaineering, ventured into the Olympics in 1889 and again in 1890. The widely publicized exploits of the O'Neil, Gilman, Press, and Wickersham expeditions likely encouraged others to enter the mountainous interior, although few left written records of their travels. Throughout the 1890s, prospectors, scientists, hunters, mountaineers, and general recreational users ventured up nearly every major river drainage encircling the Olympic massif. Many followed literally in the footsteps of the O'Neil and Press parties who cut wide swaths through the dense forest to permit the passage of their pack animals. Of all these early exploring expeditions, it is perhaps the O'Neil and Press parties that left behind the most tangible evidence of their presence in the park.

### **Historic Context Statement: Exploration in the Elwha River Valley**

Exploration of the Olympic Peninsula reached the Elwha River Valley as well. In 1885, Major General Miles of Fort Vancouver selected the adventuresome Joseph O'Neil to lead an exploration party into the unknown interior. O'Neil's charge was to undertake a general reconnaissance of the country and observe its character and resources.

Even though Elwha Klallam people had spent time in the mountains for thousands of years, non-Indians or the military knew very little about it. With a party of seven, O'Neil traveled overland from Port Townsend to Port Angeles, where he was joined by two others. Before actually entering the Elwha Valley, the party traversed a sizable portion of rugged mountainous country now included in the eastern section of the park. From Port Angeles, the party headed southeasterly and followed present-day Ennis Creek to its headwaters. The group then proceeded on to Hurricane Ridge, at which point the party divided. It was at this juncture that one segment of the exploration party descended into the Elwha Valley; the other continued along the ridge above Lillian River. However, O'Neil was halted from further reconnoitering of the interior mountain peaks and passes, and returned to Port Angeles per orders. The O'Neil expedition of 1885, approximately one month long, left behind one place name that has persisted to the present, Mount Claywood up the Hayes River, named for the Assistant Adjutant General H. Clay Wood, who signed the orders for the 1885 expedition. O'Neil's record of the trip also provides the first description of the route and the events that took place during this exploration.

The next documented expedition to encounter the Elwha River Valley appeared in 1889 under the sponsorship of a newspaper the Seattle Press. The paper agreed to sponsor an exploring group that would help unravel the mysteries of the peninsula. The Press expedition, as the group came to be called, was organized hastily in the late fall. Comprised of six members, the Press expedition left Seattle by steamer and headed for Port Angeles in early December. As winter approached, the party gradually eased away from Port Angeles, heading southwest toward the lower Elwha River where settlers in the area assisted in their preparations. Poor weather conditions and poor judgment over the usefulness of a boat named *Gerdie* prevented the entourage from making serious headway until mid-February. Upon arriving in the vicinity of Altair, today a campground on the Elwha River, the party met a hunting party of Indians who directed them to a trail over the mountains [see fig. 16]. From here they slowly proceeded up the Elwha River, making camps along the way, until the first of April when they reached the Lillian River. One month later, the party was encamped in the upper drainage of the Goldie River below Mount Wilder. Descending down into the upper Elwha Valley once again, then making the steep ascent to Low Divide, the Press party departed the valley and started south down the North Fork Quinault River, arriving at Lake Quinault in mid-May. In slightly less than 6 months, the Press expedition traversed the Olympic Range from north to south, and reconnoitered numerous rivers, canyons, valleys, mountain peaks, and ranges within today's park. Eighteen place names remain from this expedition, and an early form of a contour map (hachure map) was delineated; Antelope Creek, Cat Creek, Difficulty Hill, Geyser Valley, Goblin's Gate, Hayes River, Lillian River, Little River, and Semple Plateau are all place names that remain in use today as evidence of the Press expedition.

Although the Press and O'Neil exploring expeditions of 1889-1890 were widely publicized in newspapers of the day and are today probably the best known of all the early Olympic expeditions, these two parties were not alone in the mountains. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, parties penetrated nearly every major river drainage surrounding Mount Olympus. Fascination with the unknown expanse and wild beauty was only one source of motivation for exploring the mountains. A desire to find mineral wealth in the region's resources was another.

Several prospecting parties entered the mountains in 1890, and their routes took them into the Elwha River Valley. Following the return of the Press party, for example, five prospectors set off in June from the mouth of the Dosewallips River on the Hood Canal and traveled over the mountains to Port Angeles via the Elwha River. Reporting the trip to the Seattle Press newspaper, an expedition member noted the small fertile valleys, limited patches of good timber, the abundance of wildlife, and lack of minerals. Yet other prospecting expeditions of 1890 found the Olympics a great potential storehouse of minerals. Norman R. Kelley, a resident of Seattle and a sponsor of several exploring expeditions into the Olympics, organized a party of three to travel through the Olympics from south to north. Starting in late June 1890 from Shelton on Hood Canal, the party moved westward into the Wynoochee River drainage. The group continued into the upper

Wynoochee drainage to the headwaters of the river, then dropped down into the Quinault River drainage where they encountered a Press expedition party campsite. Passing through Low Divide, the trio then descended into the upper Elwha River Valley and, after passing several more Press expedition camps, arrived in Port Angeles in early August. While the group was unsuccessful in finding great quantities of gold, they did state that the region was rich in almost every other mineral.

Hunting parties as well as prospectors penetrated the Olympic Mountains throughout the 1890s. Once again the Elwha Valley served as a travel route into the interior mountain range. In 1899, for example, a hunting party consisting of three lawyers and a physician ascended the Elwha Valley to the Low Divide area. Martin Humes, a resident of the upper Elwha River, served as the expedition party's guide. Only scanty records remain of these early prospecting, hunting, and exploring expeditions into the Olympic interior.

The forest condition surveying team of Arthur Dodwell and Theodore F. Rixon ushered in an era of distinctly scientific exploration in the interior, which, as with previous explorations of the region, brought them into contact with the Elwha River Valley nearly to its headwaters. Under the direction of geographer Henry Gannett of the U.S. Geological Survey, Dodwell and Rixon surveyed 3483 square miles of the newly established Olympic Forest Reserve between 1898 and 1900 [see fig. 17]. Their wide-ranging survey systematically gathered information on a variety of subjects, principally timber, and they noted in particular that small mining operations (mostly gold and copper) existed in the northern watershed of the Elwha River drainage along the ridge dividing the Lillian River from Morse Creek [see fig. 18 and 19]. In 1898, D.G. Elliot, curator from the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago, led a scientific expedition into the north side of the present national park. Elliot spent several weeks in the vicinity of the Elwha River drainage collecting and classifying hundreds of specimens of mammals, some fish and vertebrates. Scholars representing Harvard University followed Elliot, spending weeks in the high country of the park. Many people were also interested in the Olympic Mountains for the challenging mountaineering experience they offered. Virgin peaks, unconquered and some still unnamed, attracted skilled mountaineers, some from great distances, in the early 1900s.

The conquest of Mount Olympus was the primary objective of a party of four that left Port Angeles in early July 1907. Professor Herschal from Columbia University, Walter G. Clark from a prominent New York electrical supply firm, Belmore Brown, an artist residing in Tacoma, and Port Angeles resident Dewitt C. Sisson comprised the team. Elwha Valley resident Will Humes guided the expedition [see fig. 20]. Parker, Clark, and Browne were among the foremost American mountaineers of the day and belonged to the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. and the Explorers Club, New York. Heading up the Elwha River to its source, the expedition team crossed Dodwell-Rixon Pass, which they named for the 1898-1900 survey team, and set up their base camp at the foot of a glacier which they named Humes Glacier, after their local guide. They successfully climbed the middle peak of Mount Olympus.

While a significant aspect of Olympic Peninsula and Elwha River Valley history, mountaineering activities such as these ascents were more recreational than exploratory in character. The residents of the Elwha Valley had been traveling into the high country on a regular basis throughout this time period, and Native Americans had been traveling in the mountains for thousands of years. In general, these organized expeditions were a transitory activity and the participants left few, if any, permanent sites, such as camps, as physical evidence of their presence, save for tree blazes and rough trails, although local people maintained well-defined routes into the highcountry. These early expeditions certainly raised awareness of the remarkable qualities of the Olympics and enticed greater numbers of recreation users and prospectors to the area.

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Exploration-related trails, blazes, and camps in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** The interior of the Olympic Peninsula, including the Elwha River Valley, was explored during the second half of the 19th century by reconnoitering expeditions, scientists, surveyors, prospectors, and local Elwha Klallam and non-Klallam residents. The expeditions followed portions of existing Native American trail routes and blazed new trails. Traveling through the dense forests, river valleys, and rugged mountain terrain, the major expeditions cut wide swathes and blazed trees, marking their routes and providing a course for those that followed. Tangible evidence of these explorations are represented in the form of blazed trees, surviving trails or routes, vantage points, vistas, place names, and archeological materials, which could include camps and caches. Several expedition camping locations are known to have been located on the terraces between Little River and the Devil's Backbone (historic name), and are within the Elwha River project APE. Archeological evidence at these camps is probably limited to materials that do not deteriorate, such as glass and ceramic artifacts; however, any direct physical evidence of a camp is important for addressing research questions and is capable of yielding important information relevant to the significance of the property.

**Significance:** Trails and blazed trees are the primary evidence of explorers and their route of travel. Associated with trails are the named landmarks, views, and vistas that are often described, photographed, or drawn as part of the expedition. The Press party took photographs and described environmental conditions throughout its journey. These historic photos can be compared with the same locations today. The records of exploration can thus be used to interpret the changing environmental setting of the park and supply a direct link to the past. The photographed vistas, recorded landmarks, and description of the natural setting are important to identify corridors. Camps identified from historical information that contain a landscape landmark are valuable keys for interpreting the route and routine of explorers.

Expeditions such as those of the O'Neil and Press parties caught the interest of the public, drawing tourists and economic development to the peninsula and the Elwha Valley. Explorers looking for minerals or other natural resources attracted the attention of

industrial leaders. Temporary camps of exploration parties are often associated with named landmarks and can be identified by retracing the historical records. Archeological evidence found at camp sites would be extremely significant, as there are no exploration sites yet documented and tested due to the temporal and transitory nature of these sites. For example the Press Expedition established camps that might contain historic artifacts, such as the Devil's Backbone camp where they spent 4 days, Wolf Creek where they spent 17 days, and Boulder Creek where they spent 2 days. These historic archeological sites would be significant because they enhance our understanding of how this remote relatively unknown region of the nation was experienced by explorers.

**Registration Requirements:** To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a trail, blaze, or camp must have the quality to be definitely associated with the early exploration of the peninsula and the Elwha River Valley, and date from approximately 1885-1907 (Criterion A). This association may be established by distinctive marks or "blazes" known to be used by a particular expedition, group, or individual important in the history of the peninsula's exploration (Criterion B). This association may also be established by archeology found at sites discovered from maps and journals of exploration routes and camps. Although many of the trails have been significantly improved since they were cut through, they should continue to convey a strong sense of the conditions that the first explorers encountered.

To be eligible for listing the property would need to be within the Elwha River project APE and have integrity, which would be evidenced by the presence of spatial patterning of artifacts or features (surface and/or subsurface) that are relatively undisturbed and be able to relate directly to specific research questions associated with early exploration of the Elwha River Valley (Criterion D).



**Figure 16**  
**Elwha Klallam Tribal members heading up to Hurricane Hill in 1918**  
**Courtesy of Adeline Smith**



**Figure 17**  
**Rixon Survey Camp, courtesy Polly Polhamus (OLYM-POL.007.008)**

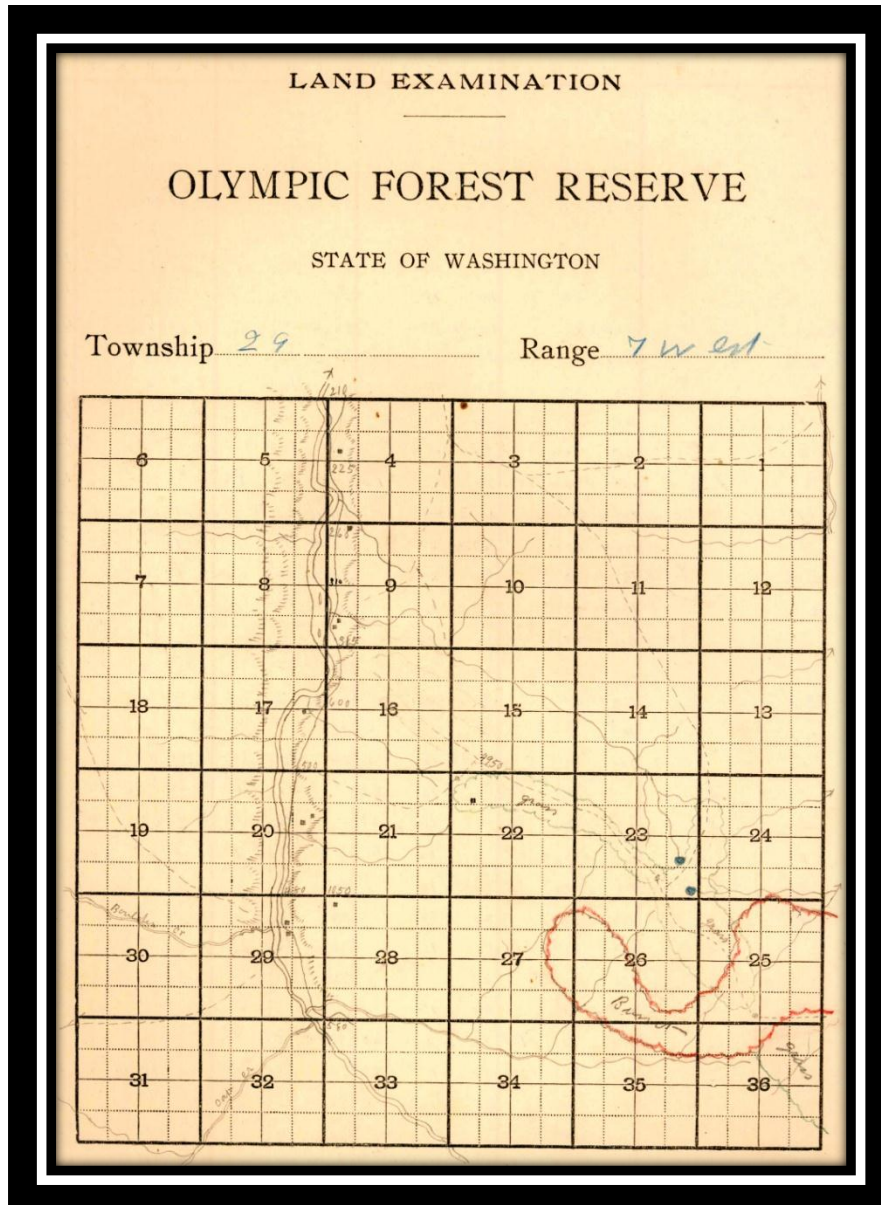


**Figure 18**  
**Dodwell-Rixon survey of current Lake Mills area, circa 1899-1900. The squares**  
**along the river represent structures.**  
**The Devil's Backbone is located where the square is in section 17.**  
**Courtesy of the Rixon family**

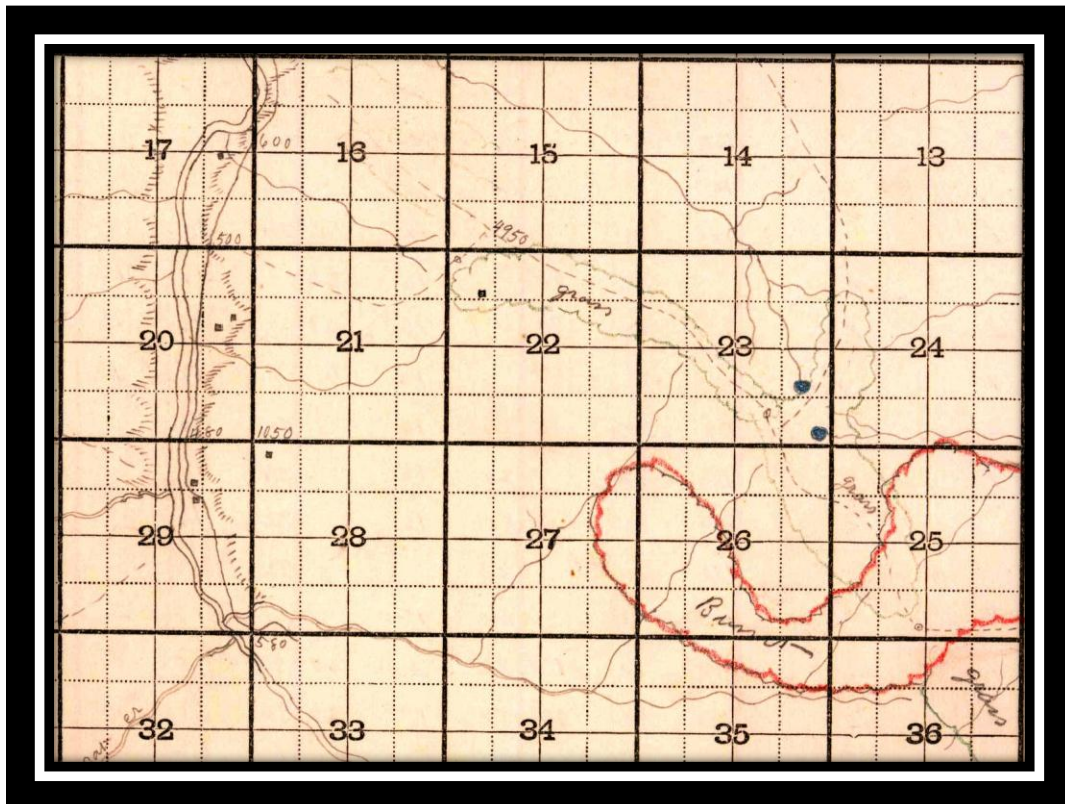


**Figure 19**  
**Close-up of fig. 18. Note area described as “burnt” and “grass”**



**Figure 20**  
**Humes' Cabin**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 201020025)**

#### **IV. EURO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT IN THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY, 1860-1906**

##### **Introduction**

This theme addresses the settlement of the Elwha River Valley by non-Klallam people who came to the valley beginning in 1860, encroaching upon the valley's first inhabitants, the Elwha Klallam people.

Homesteading and settlement of the Olympic Peninsula progressed inward from coastal shorelines following major river valleys. The river mouths were some of the first places settled, as well as around large inland lakes. Only a short distance from the coastline in some cases, these lakes provided a mechanism for transportation via barge or boat. Lakes Crescent, Ozette, Quinault, Sutherland, and Cushman received settlers as early as the late 1880s. Other settlers worked their way inland along major rivers and were either lucky enough to homestead on a prairie that had previously been maintained by the Indians or they began the painstaking job of clearing the land for farming. Further into the mountains where the river valleys narrowed, settlement occurred later and most people did not stay very long because of the remoteness of the area they had chosen.

In most cases, settlers on the Olympic Peninsula were confronted with the task of clearing away massive trees to make way for buildings and agricultural fields. They also had to endure long periods of cloudy skies and relentless rains that frequently caused flooding and a climate that limited crop selection and shortened the growing season. Markets for their crops were many miles from their homesteads via rough horse or wagon trails. Some early settlers left in despair. Those who persisted often relied on seasonal jobs away from their families and farms to provide cash for food and supplies they were unable to produce. Olympic Peninsula settlers garnered materials as well as food from the land. Dwellings and farm buildings, furniture, farm implements, and fencing were often fashioned from trees, or were bought and transported from small local mills. Some early peninsula settlers built their own sawmills. Those who did not have access to these mills often built their homes of log construction, while barns and outbuildings were usually constructed of hand-split cedar timbers and shakes. In every respect, the Olympic Peninsula presented itself as a new frontier. It required perseverance, personal skills, and knowledge to establish homesteads on the Olympic Peninsula.

##### **Historic Context Statement: Euro-American Settlement in the Elwha River Valley**

The Lower Elwha is one of the oldest settled parts of Clallam County (Evans 1983). Settlement in the Lower Elwha River Valley began as early as 1861 when Marcellas Huntoon may have been the first non-Klallam to claim lands on the lower Elwha, as his name appears on the 1857 census for Clallam County. He settled on the land where the Elwha Klallam had a village at the mouth of the river. On the Elwha River there were six Elwha Klallam homesteads that were settled between 1863 and 1888: Boston Charlie (1863-1867), Seatcum (1865), Joe Sampson (1870 or 1880), Hunter John (1876), Alberni Jack (1879), and Charles Jackson (1888). There were an additional 11 non-Klallam

homesteads near the river between 1865 and 1896: Daniel McClees (1865), Silas Goodwin (1872), Alden Loomer (1873), Clara Goodwin (1880) John McGarey (1889), Harry Owen Daniel (1889), Samuel Carusi (1889), Joseph Morris (1889), Dora Hall (1890), Thomas Aldwell (1890), and Julius Kragh (1896).

In 1885, when the exploratory party led by Joseph O'Neil traveled along the east side of the Elwha River, they found many traces of hunters and an old log cabin, but it probably was not until 1888 that settlers began to populate the upper Elwha Valley, beginning with two Norwegian brothers, Henry and Jake Hansen. They soon traded their original upriver land claim for land near the confluence of Indian Creek and the Elwha. Henry Hansen selected a small clearing on the south side of Indian Creek that had been taken up by an earlier settler. Slightly to the east of Henry Hansen's homesite near the mouth of the Little River, William MacDonald had already built a cabin on the east bank of the Elwha River. In the winter of 1889-1890, the Press Expedition, led by James Christie, benefited from MacDonald's hospitality as the Press party was preparing for its navigation up the Elwha. Members of the Press party described MacDonald's cabin and clearing as an outpost of civilization. A succession of owners claimed MacDonald's clearing after he departed. Around 1889, Warriner Smith built a cabin on his timber claim in the rugged, heavily forested slopes on the east side of the Elwha River near the mouth of Madison Creek, formerly known as Matteson Creek after Doc Matteson who had a cabin there and mined for copper in 1900 (Alexander 2009:17 ). The Press Expedition also visited Smith's vacant cabin while travelling through the Elwha River Valley in February of 1890. Smith never lived there; he only kept the cabin on speculation (Alexander 2009:17).

Proceeding slowly up the Elwha River on a faint but established trail, the Press expedition encountered another non-Native habitation site on the west side of the river at the confluence of the Elwha River and Hughes Creek—the unoccupied cabin of Dr. A. B. Lull. During the winter of 1889-1890, this was the last homesite going up the Elwha River Valley. In May of 1890, Jeremiah Griffith homesteaded land upriver from Lull on the east side of what is now Griff Creek. Griffith's 14 x 22 foot house served as the first ranger station for the national forest and his homestead included a 24 x 18 foot barn, an orchard, and other outbuildings.

Later in the 1880s, pioneers may have been lured here by newspaper articles written to entice settlement, such as the following:

Clallam County is literally filled with such quadrupeds as elk, black bear, deer and a great variety of small animals. Ducks are plentiful in the bays and coves on the strait all the year round.... Fly fishing for trout is good in every stream even the smallest brooks, and on Puget Sound, in autumn salmon weighing from five to forty pounds are taken with trolling tackle. Those who are fond of climbing mountains can find ample occupation and with gun and rod can subsist upon the country. (Model Commonwealth 1888b)

The natural and recreational resources of the Olympic Mountains were beginning to be exploited. Those who came found homestead sites and built temporary or simple structures and set out to clear the land for farming. The Homestead Act of 1862 enabled a person to acquire 160 acres for a filing fee after residing on the land or cultivating it for a period of five years. Agricultural land could also be acquired under the pre-emption and timber culture laws and timber land could be purchased without residence or improvement for \$2.50 an acre. People could file under all of these laws for a total of 640 acres (Model Commonwealth 1888b) [see fig.21].

Most of the Euro-American households in Clallam County consisted of single males, between 21 and 41, who farmed or logged. This profile is classic of a raw frontier and more closely resembles mining than farming frontiers. According to an 1860 census, Euro-Americans numbered 148 in Clallam County. The Indian population was not recorded on this census, but there were about 1100 Elwha Klallam in 1857 (ARCIA 1857). With the majority of early settlers being single males, many married Indian women from the peninsula and Vancouver Island.

In August of 1888, the local paper ran a column on the desirability of the more remote areas of the county.

The facts exist here, as now they exist in other places, that to find government land it is necessary to go back beyond the thick settlements, and be content to hew out a home on the outskirts of civilization and wait patiently, till, by degrees, it becomes the center of a thriving community. Or, better still, for a small money consideration it is possible to buy out the claim of someone living on entered government land. Up to the present time only a strip twelve miles wide has been surveyed and opened to settlement, and naturally the best portions of this has been already taken by the first comers, but beyond this there are hundreds of opportunities for entering upon good land that will make comfortable and profitable homes for those who have the head, heart, the muscle and the courage to go into selected districts.... But for those who know how to depend upon themselves there are many desirable places for homes on the hundreds of thousands of acres of unclaimed land of the county that is suitable for almost any character of productive industry. (Model Commonwealth 1888b)

Then in November, the paper went on to say:

Since the article was written a number of new settlers have come in, but nothing to what can be accommodated....Unsurveyed lands, especially up the Elwha river are some tracts of fine bottom land. (Model Commonwealth 1888c)

Settlement began filling in the landscape within the middle reaches of the Elwha Valley soon after Charles Stringham settled in 1892. Ed Isbell and his wife Inez moved in with Charles (her father) in 1893 while Ed located a 120 acre homestead south of Indian Creek

next to Little Mountain. Ed did a variety of work to get by. He helped Charles Stringham work on the county road to Lake Sutherland for \$2.00 a day in county warrants to bring in some cash. In 1894, he staked out a mining claim on Little Mountain. The Isbell's moved onto their claim March 31, 1894, and spent their time working on a house and garden [see fig. 22]. Inez discusses putting in one half window, "the other half we will get as soon as we can get the money for it." Inez filled the cracks on the inside of their board and batten house with moss, which Inez said, "makes it nice and warm and [it] looks quite picturesque" (Isbell 1895).

Inez wrote some beautiful letters that express her awe of her new home on the Elwha [see fig. 23].

Ed to put cabin close by a beautiful murmuring mountain stream. Grand towering snow capped mountains on three sides with the broad stretch of River valley to the northeast. The majestic waters of which go rolling and tumbling and roaring over a fall of 60 feet a mile to the blue waters of the famous Strait of Juan de Fuca.

It is just grand out here on our place. We can see the mountains on three sides of us and grand old trees all around us and the dearest little creek about 200 feet from the house I can hear it bubbling over the rocks now as I sit here and write. (Isbell 1895)

Tom Stringham bought William MacDonald's 40 acres below the canyon where a pony bridge was located around 1893. Tom lived in a converted cedar tree stump, next to the local post office, housed in a lean-to he built around it. He also had a small store for supplies there as well. This was the end of the road and the beginning of the trail up the Elwha so these services were important to the nascent community. In 1905, the MacDonald Post Office was moved across the river to Harry Coventon's and renamed Elwha. Bert Herrick became the postmaster in 1908 until 1928 when the Elwha Post Office was consolidated with Port Angeles (OT 1925d) [see fig. 24].

Other settlers followed in the later 1890s, building one room log cabins barns and outbuildings for animals and farming/orchard operations. In later years, some incorporated small 'resorts' into their homesteads to attract visitors to the region, adding other services as needed for the growing number of tourists. Bert Herrick, built a store and gas and oil station in 1910, operating until 1932. Bert was issued the first Clallam County packer-guide license and made his first trip to the Elwha basin in 1900. Bert operated a pack-train from the end of the road at his store to the hot springs for 16 years until the county road was completed. A news ad from June 1915 states that "pack trains and ponies leave Herrick's Mondays and Thursdays [for the hot springs] at 7:30 a.m. Single fare being 2.00 and baggage 2 cents a pound" (PAOL 1915). After the road was built to the hot springs, Herrick continued to pack hunters, fisherman, and surveyors into the mountains. In 1925, he packed a Diamond drill 5 miles up the Elwha to test the

formation of the Ware Canyon for Washington Pulp Co (today's Glines Canyon dam) (OT 1925a). Later, Herrick worked as a cook for Olympic National Park trail crews. Herrick's lifestyle exemplifies the need to be an entrepreneur to make life successful in the Elwha River Valley.

Hunters, trappers, and occasional miners traveled through the settled area into the upper reaches of the Elwha, and along with this travel came further settlement. Some of the earliest settlers in the area above the Glines Canyon dam include Carl Johnson, an unmarried man who settled just above the canyon. He had a log cabin on the west side of the river and some small sheds on the east side. Upriver from Johnson was Dennis Freeman, a widower with three grown sons. Dennis left in 1893, but his sons took up settlements between Altair and Freeman creeks. Otto Seig claimed land just south of Johnson in 1893. Seig was a single man and had built a house, barn, and other buildings and cleared 3 acres. To his immediate south were Gustave and Emiline Wolff who also settled in 1893. Their ranch was quite extensive, including a house, barn, and other buildings with six acres cleared and cultivated [see fig. 25].

Upriver from Wolff, Ernst Krause, a German immigrant who had been living in Tacoma and his wife Meta established a log house, barn, garden, and orchard in a low valley shelf on the east bank of the Elwha River around 1896. Discouraged by a fire that destroyed nearly the entire complex, the Krause's returned to Tacoma in 1899 (Evans 1983). A small, grassy opening with small hummocks of disturbed ground and scattered fruit trees are all that remain at Krause Bottom today.

In mid-fall of 1897, three easterners arrived in Port Angeles with the purpose of mining gold. Will and Martin Humes, and their cousin Ward Sanders, settled into a temporary unoccupied rancher's cabin about thirteen miles south of Port Angeles on the Elwha River and tried their hand at mining. Impressed by the abundance of wildlife in and around the Elwha, they wrote home proclaiming that they could do quite well hunting if gold could not be found. By March of 1898, Will and Ward had taken up ranches in the upper Elwha, selecting adjoining parcels between Idaho Creek and Lillian River. Martin selected a parcel two to three miles upriver. They cleared the land of vegetation, constructed structures, farmed, and hunted. In 1899, the family was joined by Grant, a third Humes' brother, who selected a site up the Elwha, the last place to be claimed along the Elwha River. Settlement of the Elwha River Valley continued below him as late as 1906.

Subsistence living best describes how these early settlers survived. Only the strong, clever, and lucky seem to have endured for any length of time. Ranching and farming was done in conjunction with the maintenance of the homestead. There were a few efforts to commercialize the products of this labor. Several farmers joined together and formed the Elwha Farming Company. They had a boat built to bring their produce to market and it was reported in the paper in 1888 that the best vegetables brought to Port Angeles (Cooperative Colony) come from the Elwha valley. Farm produce, eggs, plums, beef, and

a variety of vegetables all came in from the upriver properties (Model Commonwealth 1888a). There are also references in the local paper to potatoes and loganberries (OT 1925c). Other sources discuss chicken, eggs, and butter taken to Port Angeles for sale, and turkeys sold in Victoria; there was also mention that Elwha residents had sheep and cattle grazing on Hurricane Ridge and Freeman Creek bottom.

Even when they could build on the labors of other settlers, establishing a trade and barter system, men and women alike had to go beyond their own farms to find other sources of cash income to buy what the river valley could not produce. Some hunted for bounties in the Elwha, or packed supplies in for tourists, while others worked in local mills, taught school, or found other work in Port Angeles. Often men had to go to Seattle to find economic opportunities, which created more hardships at home.

Beyond these hardships, the people of the Elwha strove to maintain a community and participate in social activities. In 1900, the community petitioned for an Elwha school district, which was accepted in March of that year. At that time there were only three other families with children living along the upper Elwha. An old log cabin near the Elwha River (north of the covered bridge site) was used for the first school where 12 children attended three months during the summer. Their chairs were log rounds and the “blackboard” was the beach sand along the river where they did their number and word lessons with a stick in the sand. The first official schoolhouse was built in the spring of 1902 and was called the MacDonald School, although it was not built on the MacDonald property. Ed Isbell, Harry Coventon, Paul Laufeld, and Tom Stringham built the MacDonald School on a bench above the west side of the river next to the old State Highway. Classes were held in mid-winter and lasted 24 weeks [see fig. 26].

The second schoolhouse was begun in August of 1908 and was built using local materials from a nearby mill. The first day of school at this new building was November, 1908. This school operated until 1927 when the Elwha school district consolidated with the Dry Creek district. The students attended grades 1 through 8 at Dry Creek and boarded with families in Port Angeles in order to attend High School. The school building still stands on the corner of the old State Highway and Herrick Road and is currently owned and used by the Elwha Community Club. This site is outside the Elwha River project APE.

In 1925, the Elwha Social Club met on Saturday evenings at the schoolhouse where they socialized, played card games, and held dances. There was also an Elwha Woman's Club that held banquets and other gatherings at the schoolhouse.

One of the greatest pleasures we had with our neighbors on the Elwha was in the little school house. There we square danced, waltzed, danced the two-step, the Scottish and polka. It was a good thing that our horses knew the way home, for we danced far into the night and the roads through the fir forest were so dark, we couldn't see the sky through the tree tops. (Johnson n.d.:8)

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Euro-American Settlement–related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** Vernacular wood frame or log structures, farmsteads, and cultural landscape fragments; including fencing, clearings, remnant orchards, roads, bridges, trails and pathways, are typical of the resources associated with settlement of the Olympic Peninsula and the Elwha Valley. Isolation, poor or non-existent transportation routes, lack of trained architects or knowledge of architectural styles, were all factors that forced settlers to rely on immediately available resources for their building materials--primarily wood. Logs felled while clearing sites, rough split cedar shakes, peeled poles and rough, locally milled lumber are all characteristic of early construction on the peninsula. Structures were one, one and one-half, or two stories, with log, stump, or rubble foundations, and steeply-pitched shake roofs. Finishes are minimal, again owing to the expense of bringing finished materials into remote sites.

Only a few buildings dating from the era of pioneer settlement have survived to the present. Many suffer from a loss of integrity of structure or setting due to deterioration or their surrender to native vegetation. The severe climate has taken its toll on these resources. Humes Ranch Cabin, built around 1900 and listed on the National Register in 1975, is the oldest extant building in Olympic National Park.

Archeological remains of homesteads are an important resource type because of the extremely rapid deterioration of buildings in the wet climate of the Olympic Peninsula. Homesteads initially identified through General Land Office records and 1913 tax assessor's maps compared with the USGS topographic maps provide a chronological reference for sites where buildings are collapsed or completely deteriorated. Photographic records offer direct evidence of the household group along with building information when the site was in use. Landscape alterations such as orchards, cleared fields, fences, and domestic plants may be the only clues to the presence of a homestead or farm maintained within the last 100 years.

Hardships due to environmental conditions led settlers to abandon many structures to the elements. Other structures were acquired and removed by the park as part of its effort to return much of the acreage within Olympic National Park to a natural state. There are a few extant homestead structures on the Herrick Road (outside the park); however, maintenance of any structure in the rain forest is an on-going struggle and abandoned structures are quickly reclaimed by the native vegetation. Of those still occupied, many have been extensively modified to suit changing lifestyles and needs.

**Significance:** Although few structures survive, early settlements and homesteads in the Elwha River Valley represent the extreme difficulties of making a living in the rugged environment of the Olympic Peninsula, and the surviving structures provide important insight into the lifestyles and accomplishments of these early pioneers. The material culture discarded or buried at the homestead offers an opportunity to study the lifeways

of the former occupants. Although there are few surviving structures, the historic archeology remains at the former sites of structures.

**Registration Requirements:** Very few structures survive intact from the early settlement period. To be eligible for listing, properties must be associated with settlement in the Elwha River project APE between 1860 and 1906 (Criterion A), be associated with known settlers (Criterion B), and be relatively unaltered since their initial construction (Criterion C). For individual structures, the original design and use of materials must still be evident. For larger complexes such as farmsteads, important considerations are whether the original layout of the structures is still evident, the clearings for crops and orchards have survived, and the outbuildings are still in place or discernable by remnant foundations. Small-scale features like fencing, water troughs and other subsistence structures should also be extant in order to fully understand the evolution of a property. Enough physical evidence (materials, workmanship, and design) must exist and location, setting, feeling, and association retained in order for the property to have integrity for listing under Criteria A, B, and /or C.

No non-Native historical archeological site has been excavated along the Elwha River and there are no documented archeological assemblages, including architectural, domestic, and personal items within the APE. Any homestead sites in the Elwha River Valley that contain an intact archeological component are significant and can be used to address important research questions and therefore are considered valuable for their information potential (Criterion D). Registration requirements for these properties to be eligible for listing in the National Register require the property to be associated with the settlement era in the Elwha and any surface and/or subsurface remains retain enough undisturbed spatial patterning of artifacts and/or features that can address research questions defined by a research design. Settlement resources must retain original materials, setting, and configuration to be eligible under Criterion D.



**Figure 21**  
**Lawerence Homestead**  
**Courtesy of Phrania Jacobson**

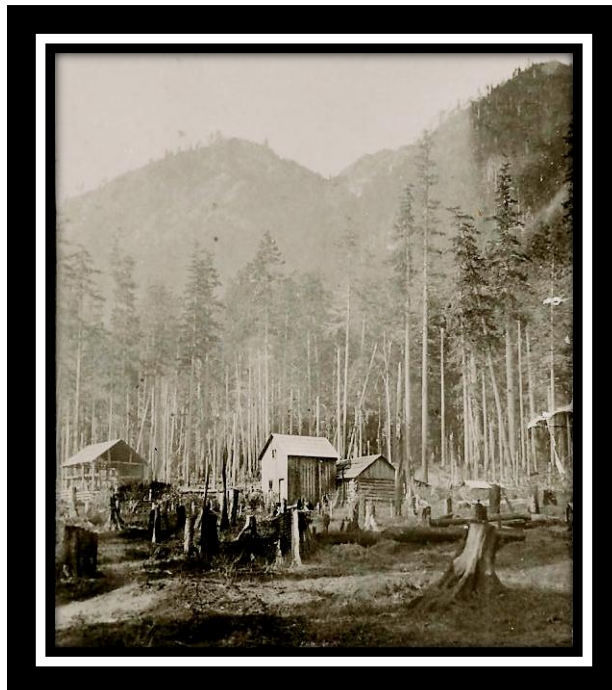


**Figure 22**  
**Isbell Homestead**  
**Courtesy of Phrania Jacobson**



**Figure 23**  
**Inez Isbell in 1889, approximately 22 years of age**  
**Courtesy of Phrania Jacobson**



**Figure 24**  
**Stump converted into a post office**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 20102004)**

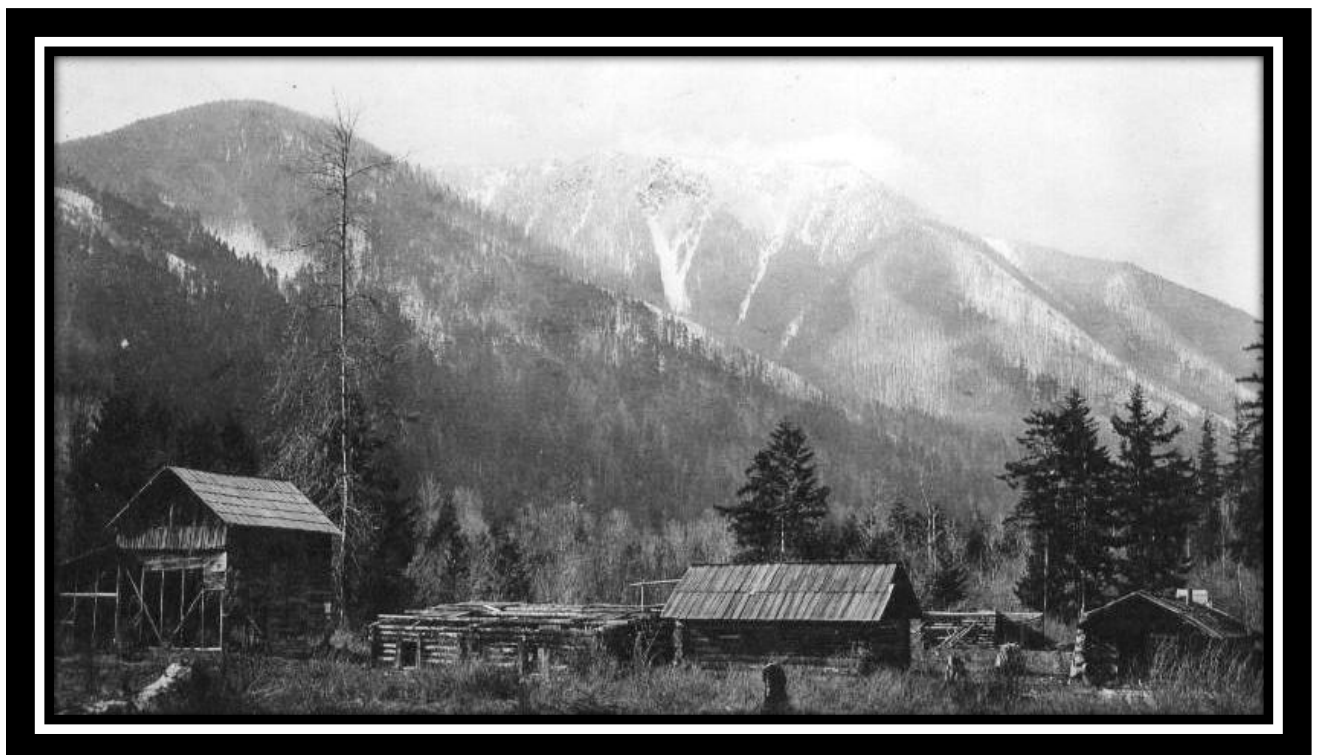


**Figure 25**  
**Wolf Ranch (10 OLYM 1150)**

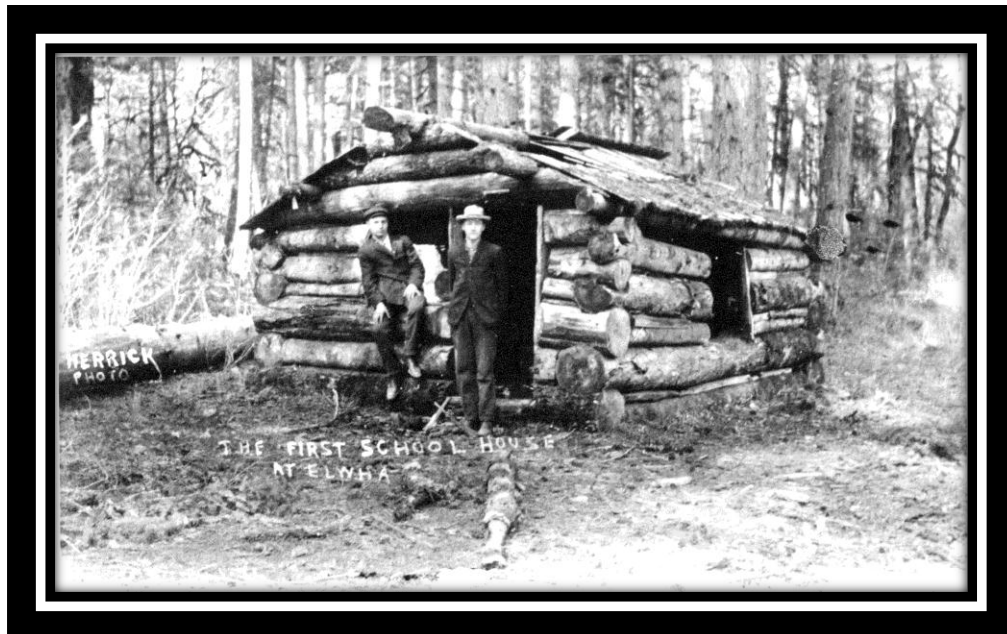


**Figure 26**  
**Art Coventon and Lewis Isbell at the first Elwha school house, 1910.**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 201020021)**

## V. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY 1850-1937

### Introduction

The Olympic Peninsula's rivers provided natural transportation corridors for Native Americans, explorers, hunters, prospectors, and settlers. Early trails often followed streams or rivers, as do many of today's trails into the interior Elwha Valley and over the mountainous divides. The Press Expedition of 1889-90 followed parts of Elwha Klallam trail routes on their sojourn across the Olympics. Horse and wagon trails were constructed by early homesteaders and logging brought the railroad to the North Olympic Peninsula. As pockets of settlement grew, trails were sometimes widened into roads, although technically, they were usually no more than rough dirt tracks. Some puncheon roads (made of boards) could also be found. Between 1897 and 1900, a team of government surveyors, under the direction of Arthur Dodwell and Theodore Rixon, crisscrossed the peninsula, mapping and cataloging the newly formed Olympic Forest Reserve. "There are numerous roads-and trails within the reserve," the team wrote: "In fact, all of the surrounding townships have one or more wagon roads and numerous trails" (Ottoboni 2004:17). The arrival of both the automobile and the United States Forest Service (USFS) on the Olympic Peninsula soon after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century played a significant role in the escalating development of the peninsula's and the future park's recreational potential. Road construction continued unabated into the 1930s, opening more and more land to the lumber industry which, over time, led—ironically—to the movement to establish the national park.

Many of these early roads no longer exist. Washed out or grown over, they have surrendered to time and nature. Others remain, altered here and there, perhaps widened or paved, yet still essentially the same byway. Remnants of railroads met the same fate as use, need, and obsolescence forced this change on the landscape. Those resources and remnants that are extant help us understand how humans used, and moved through, this "*terra incognita*" and developed it into the landscape we see today.

### Historic Context Statement: Transportation Systems in the Elwha River Valley

The earliest transportation routes in Olympic National Park were trails used by the Indians to access their upriver villages and into and across the interior reaches of the Olympic Peninsula. Up until recent years there had been a misconception that Native Americans never ventured into the high country of the Olympics. Some still hold tight to this belief, even though a carrying basket found near Obstruction Point has been dated to be nearly 3,000 years old and oral history and family photos reveal extensive use of the mountains by the Klallam.

Perhaps this belief can be traced to a story by Eugene Semple, a Governor of Washington Territory who wrote in 1888 that the "great Seatco, chief of all evil spirits, a giant who could trample whole war parties under his feet," caused the earth and the waters to kill all

but a few of the Indians. Semple purports that this is the reason Indians feared to travel to the mountains again, and that the interior of the Olympics was “*terra incognita*” or unexplored territory for them (Semple 1888 cited in Wray 1997:136). Oral tradition and physical evidence have shown Semple’s theory to be misguided.

In 1889, the Seattle Press Expedition set out to explore the interior of the Olympics from Elwha to Quinault, naming valleys, canyons, and rivers as they went. The Press Expedition then published an article that stated the Indians never penetrated the mountains because a fierce tribe inhabited the interior, even though the expedition followed what they called “an ancient Indian trail (Wood 1967:14, 103). This trail was not deserted, just not used in the heavy snow season. Charles Barnes, a member of the expedition, stated that the reason the group may not have seen evidence of a continuous trail on both sides of the Elwha divide was that there was from six to fifty feet of snow along the route, and they could not continue on (Wood 1967:180).

As the Olympic Mountains became more familiar territory, and settlement was underway, early trails were expanded into horse and wagon roads for access to the vast timber resources. The development of trails and roads in the Elwha River Valley spans four land management designations. First, a Forest Reserve was created (1897); a National Forest was next (1907) followed by the interior of the Olympics designated a national monument (1909), the establishment of a national park (1938) that enveloped over 68,000 acres of largely virgin forest effectively prohibiting the inward encroachment of logging activity and other road building activity.

Trail building by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) had begun as early as 1903 along the south shore of Lake Crescent, constructed by Chris Morgenroth, the first Forest Reserve ranger. More intensive trail construction began in 1909, and by 1910 the Forest Reserve had 73 miles of trail, 12 miles of road, 9 miles of telephone line, 3 bridges, and 6 cabins. First and foremost, trails were constructed by the (USFS) to protect the timber in the Forest Reserve from fire. Shelters lined the trails--about one day’s travel apart--for USFS personnel and, later on, recreationists, to have shelter along their routes. The 1920s was an intensive time for trail construction by the USFS, and by 1930 the federal agency was responsible for 300 miles of trail. By this time, the trails were more for recreational and fire protection use and not thought of as transportation corridors.

Trails and wagon roads were important for early pioneers in the Elwha River Valley. Settlers in the bottomlands of the river constructed horse and buggy trails to reach their homestead claims and cabins [see fig. 27]. The weather often created impassable roads for these residents. According to Alice Alexander, local historian, a wagon trail from Port Angeles to the Elwha was built in 1892. What became known as the Coleman Road started from Pine Hill in Port Angeles to the Hatch Ranch and then up Black Diamond and along Little River, then continued south along the east side of the Elwha River. There was a pony bridge to cross, which sat fairly low above the river and eventually washed out in 1895 [see fig. 28]. Bridges were critical if wagon roads were to connect and link

places and people in the Elwha River Valley. In 1897, the settlers on the west side of the river built a wagon bridge [see fig. 29]. The settlers' road continued on the west side of the river to what is today known as Altair Campground and from there another 11 miles to Olympic Hot Springs, a resort that was first operated in 1906 [see fig. 30]. The earliest bridge across the Elwha River was at the river mouth. It was constructed of three fir logs, and was 8 feet wide. Settler Silas Goodwin constructed the bridge in 1887, but it was washed away by high water in November 1896.

About 1903, a wagon road bridge was built just above the location of the current state fish hatchery. Perhaps the use of the word "road" does not adequately describe the route built for travelers. Local resident Emily Lewis described a 14 mile trip to Lake Sutherland via this bridge in 1905:

The route went along what became State Highway 112 [Burlingame Road]. The land was fairly level until we got out to where the road now turns near Dry Creek Grange Hall.

There, some road builder must have decided the shortest way was the best way. Instead of working its way around and down the side of the hill to the Elwha River, the road went in a line ahead, past Al Eacrett's farm, through the woods and right over the edge of the hill and straight down to the river.

The road was steeper than a scared cat's spine. Even with the wagon's brake on it didn't help much....

[The road continued to the Eden Valley] a narrow strip of land that wound through the hills toward the lake. Some place on the valley road we turned south again and climbed up a long hill. Then we started down—and I mean *down*--to Lake Sutherland. It was worse than the road to the river. (Miles 1981:13)

Two years later, in 1905, local residents Ed Isbell and Harry Coventon bid \$3,975.00 for the contract to build a covered bridge over the Elwha River. With assistance from Tom Stringham and others, they finished what was known as MacDonald's Bridge on October 8, 1907. The covered bridge was located near the current gauging system, and its pilings are still evident today [see fig. 31].

Another bridge located below the Elwha Dam was washed away after the dam burst on October 30, 1912. The County Commissioners instructed the county engineer to survey and locate a new bridge across the Elwha River as near to the old bridge as practicable. A call for bids went out for a two span steel bridge in December of 1912 (Soderberg 1979-1980). In the interim, Elwha Klallam tribal member, Joe Sampson ran a car ferry across the Elwha River near the site of the bridge, for which he was paid \$50.00 per month by the county [see fig. 32]. His brothers helped him by pulling cars up the steep incline from

the river with horses. The improved roads and new bridge facilitated access to different areas of the peninsula and increased trade between Port Angeles and other cities (Humes 1923).

A combination of interests influenced road building activity on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Elwha River Valley specifically. While logging activity was the first impetus for good roads, the desire to market the scenic beauty of the region further pushed the good roads movement. The Port Angeles Commercial Club, comprising Engineer E.A. Fitzhenry, W.F. Delabarre, and Chris Morgenroth, petitioned Congress to open up the Olympic Mountains with trails and roads:

Whereas, the Elwha valley is of greatest importance as the gateway to the very heart of the Olympics, it being the most practical route, affording easy grades, to the vary summits of many of the highest peaks and unsurpassed scenery. Aside from this [the] valley itself constitutes a natural park, where hundreds of tourists, sightseers and campers spend all or part of their summer vacations. (PAOL 1911)

The automobile was making a quick entrance onto the peninsula as expressed by the Commercial Club:

Some of us tho't that the last trumpet was being sounded last week as thru the woods came a strange toot, toot, of a horn. It proved not the last, but the first trump of triumph as Mr. Isbell drove his auto loaded with happy children gathered by the wayside [Inn] up to his ranch. The first farmer on the Elwha to own an auto. May it fulfill all anticipations to those worthy people. (PAOL 1911b)

The Good Roads Movement initiated construction of new highways. In an effort to link the Olympic Peninsula with the rest of the state, roads were being constructed that would “serve the tourist as well as the agricultural and lumbering interests.” Clallam County placed high value on this endeavor as it would bring tourists into the region and would assist farmers in bringing their products, such as milk from the dairies west of the Elwha River, to market. “Although the county’s total assessed valuation was barely \$10,000,000 about \$350,000 of the \$496,000 that was spent on bridge and road construction during the 1913-1915 biennium was raised through direct taxation” (NR 1979) [see fig. 33].

In 1913, a cooperative effort was undertaken by the Puget Sound Cooperative Colony and Clallam County to improve the 1910 road to the Olympic Hot Springs. The improved road to the springs was completed in 1915, which according to the Port Angeles paper was a mile shorter than the old one. By the 1910s, automobiles were becoming quite common on peninsula roads due to the improvements in the overall transportation network. By 1915, the highway was completed from Shelton, on the Kitsap Peninsula, to Port Angeles, and train service reached Port Angeles from Port Townsend to the east via a steamer from Seattle (PAOL 1915; OT 1915) [see fig. 34].

Power and politics played a role in what roads were built and where. The USFS began to build a road on the south side of Lake Crescent between East Beach and Singers' Resort (Lake Crescent Lodge today) around 1917. There was a temporary hiatus on this road in June of 1918. Theodore Rixon, who was the Grays Harbor Railroad's Chief Engineer in southwest Washington at the time and who surveyed the entire Forest Reserve in 1898-1900 with colleague Arthur Dodwell, did not want the road around the lake. A road around the south shore of Lake Crescent would rule out the proposal for a Grays Harbor railroad line to come in and furthermore make people less dependant on the railroad for moving timber. Further research shows that the proposed Grays Harbor Railroad land around the south shore may have been purchased so the water level of Lake Crescent could be diverted into Indian Creek to increase the capacity of the Olympic Power Company to generate hydroelectric. The Lake Crescent Road was eventually completed, providing a road for vehicle access to other peninsula communities such as Forks and Mora on the coast by 1922. A new bridge was built across the Elwha River at the head of Lake Aldwell in 1925 where State Highway 9 (presently SR 101) crossed the Elwha River and connected the city of Port Angeles (approximately 6 miles to the east) with the western Olympic Peninsula. No longer needed, the old covered bridge, MacDonald's Bridge, which served so many for so long, was closed to all but foot traffic in 1930.

In the early 1900s, there were three railroad lines vying to open up the Olympic Peninsula: The Northern Pacific, the Union Pacific, and the Milwaukee. Theodore Rixon was sought by the railroads as engineer to survey the lines. Eventually, in 1911, a railroad was built from Port Crescent to Aldwell Canyon in order to bring in heavy machinery for the building of the dams. By 1913, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad carried passenger and freight 68 miles from Port Townsend to Port Angeles, and continued west to the north peninsula town of Pysht (PAOL 1913). A railroad bridge was built across the Elwha River next to the one-lane bridge built in 1914; this railroad bridge was destroyed around 1954, while the one-lane road bridge remained until 2007 [see fig. 34].

Logging railroads and railroad spurs formed an integral part of many logging operations and reached as far south as Little River, the Indian River Valley, Lake Sutherland (all at the northern boundary of Olympic National Park), and to Piedmont on Lake Crescent, now inside the park boundary (Evans 1983:143). The advent of World War I suddenly placed great demands on the forests of the north peninsula, in particular the spruce forests. In response to the allied forces' urgent need for lightweight but strong Sitka spruce for the construction of war time airplane wings, the United States War Department established the Spruce Production Division in 1917. By the end of the year, 25-30,000 soldiers in 234 spruce division camps in the Northwest assisted nearly 10,000 civilians as loggers, mill workers, and railroad laborers in harvesting and milling the much-needed wood. Thirteen logging railroads in Washington and Oregon were built to tap the largest stands of Sitka spruce in the Northwest. On the Olympic Peninsula, Spruce Production Division workers laid ten miles of track in the Quinault and Pysht areas of the peninsula

and 36 miles of track laid by the Spruce Division Railroad No. 1, in what is now the north shore of Lake Crescent of Olympic National Park, but outside the Elwha River project APE. The end of World War I led to the sale of the railroad in 1918. Ironically, with all its great engineering and labor accomplishments in building this 36 mile long line, not one single log for the war time effort was hauled out by this railroad. The rail line was abandoned in 1954 and the rails pulled up for scrap.

Some roads and bridges were built to facilitate industry. The Soldier's Bridge (near the present Altair Campground), was one such bridge, built to expedite the construction of the hydroelectric facilities on the Elwha River. It was begun around August 18, 1924, by Company B of the Sixth Engineers of the U.S. Army to provide access to the upper dam site. The bridge was a Howe Truss type, 210 feet long from bank to bank. In 1925, the County Commissioners requested construction of a road up the east bank of the Elwha from the covered bridge to the USFS ranger station. It was thought that this could be a joint effort between the county, USFS, and the Northwest Power Company. If the road was not built the power company planned to build a narrow gauge railroad to access their construction site. The secretary of the Port Angeles Commercial Club said that power was the one thing needed now for securing more industries in the city and that every encouragement should be given to make more power available (OT 1925b).

The road was constructed to Glines Canyon in 1926 to build the dam after the Soldier's Bridge was completed at Altair. By April of 1927, the County and USFS entered into agreement for a 50-50 split of construction costs for 7 miles of road from the dam site to the hot springs. Though a rough wagon road had been built to the hot springs in 1913, the Forest Service, in cooperation with Clallam County, finally cut a narrow dirt road through to the hot springs in 1930. Guests could now hire a taxi in Port Angeles, and arrive at the Hot Springs resort in style.

A growing number of privately owned automobiles were being seen more frequently on the peninsula. The national emphasis on good roads during the 1910s and 1920s led to the completion of the loop highway, connecting the entire Olympic Peninsula and opening to great fanfare in a splashy celebration in August of 1931. The opening of Highway 101 greatly enhanced recreational development:

Without stirring from his car the vacationist may revel in the beauty of Lake Quinault, Crescent, Sutherland, and others with charm but less renown.... Three thousand miles of wilderness challenge the traveler to leave his car at any of the half dozen points along the loop, to take pack-sack or packtrain and go adventuring.... Even the inexperienced tourist who never leaves the highway unless told to do so by a signboard must find the Olympic Peninsula an enchanting far off corner of America's greatest tourist empire—the Pacific Northwest. (*Argus Magazine* by Linklater 1932:33-34 *in* Evans 1983:207)

The appearance of the automobile and road access to previously remote resort havens in the 1910s accelerated the growth of resort development in general. Additionally, they encouraged the expansion of already existing resorts. Although lakes Crescent, Sutherland, Quinault, and Cushman remained the areas of the most concentrated commercial resort development, small rustic inns and cabins began to appear sporadically in lowland river valleys and along the coast as sections of the Olympic Loop Highway were completed. Newly constructed roads provided direct or near direct access to two hot springs deep in the north peninsula forests--and the commercial resort facilities flourished. In general, private resorts, auto camps, campgrounds, and privately-owned cottages proliferated at numerous sport and beauty spots along the highway during this period.

In the 1930s, during the Depression, Works Progress Administration projects included road construction and the peninsula was a beneficiary. In 1934, 20 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) men began improving the Olympic Hot Springs road in cooperation with the county. In addition 50 CCC men located at Danz Ranch side camp began constructing the Deer Park and Ennis Creek roads (PAEN 1934). When the program was finished, the USFS would have had a continuous roadway from the Elwha River to Slab Camp and the Deer Park region. However, the road work stopped at Heart of the Hills, and a separate road to Deer Park from Highway 101 was built in 1936.

Most roads in the park today date from USFS management. The main road to Hurricane Ridge up Wolf Creek was constructed in 1933 by the CCC. This first Hurricane Ridge Road had proven difficult to negotiate with its steep grades (at points in excess of 18 percent), narrow roadbed, and winding course. The route left the Elwha Road, running south along Lake Mills to Whiskey Bend, and then eastward to Hurricane Ridge. This road was closed and converted into a trail from Whiskey Bend after the new National Park road to Hurricane Ridge from Port Angeles was completed in 1957 and opened to the public on January 1, 1958. By NPS design, no other roads were to penetrate the upper Elwha River Valley [see fig. 35].

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Transportation-related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** Trails were narrow, unpaved, and carved out of the dense forests of the Elwha River Valley. Roads were at first unpaved and narrow, built from trails and first designed for use by horse and wagon/buggy. These roads later were paved to facilitate travel, so necessary in this wet region of the nation. They often followed the path of least resistance, along the river's edge. Bridges spanned rivers and creeks and were constructed of wood and later steel, sometimes covered, and had concrete piers or abutments as their foundations. Railroad lines of typical construction with land being cleared for the right-of-way and steel track laid for cars transported goods and at times passengers.

Existing roads of the Elwha River Valley were described in a 2004 roads study:

The Elwha Valley and adjacent area are served by several roads. The route through the lower valley is usually called the Elwha Road, but it is more properly known as the Elwha Valley Road.... To the west, a paved road parallels the lake as far as Boulder Creek where it then continues west to Olympic Hot Springs, once the site of a hotel. Years of cultural history, along with proximity to these several points of geographical interest, have led to linguistic confusion. On some maps, the entire 10.35 miles is labeled "Elwha Valley Road" and on others, "Olympic Hot Springs Road." More often, however, the latter name refers only to that portion of the road leading west along Boulder Creek to the hot springs and Boulder Creek Campground. For evident reasons, this final portion of the road is sometimes also referred to as the "Boulder Creek Road." Names aside, the road is currently closed several miles from the end due to a washout.

Leaving U.S. 101 at the tip of Lake Aldwell, the Elwha Valley Road heads south through Olympic National Forest before entering the park. The entire 10.35 miles of road are paved and the maximum grade is nine percent. The first 3.66 miles from the park boundary to Lake Mills is eighteen feet wide, with a shoulder of up to two feet. The flat to rolling terrain covers areas of both forest and open space. The road follows the Elwha River towards Lake Mills, passing the Elwha Campground and about a mile later, the Elwha Ranger Station. Just beyond the campground the road crosses to the western bank of the river. The bridge, built in 1972, is 235 feet long and 29.8 feet wide. It has two spans, constructed of continuous steel beams and a concrete deck. The original span, the Soldiers Bridge, was built in 1923 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The present span is the third bridge to cross the river and is adjacent to the original site. Altaire (sic) Campground is just beyond the bridge. Continuing up the river, the road ascends slightly to Glines Canyon Dam and Lake Mills. This second section of road is slightly narrower, at only seventeen feet wide, although the shoulders remain the same, at up to two feet. Beyond, the road climbs sharply up the forested mountainside and then follows the contour of the lake far below. The road provides access to several trails, including Olympic Hot Springs Trail and Boulder Lake Trail.

[Built by the CCC in 1933]... the Whiskey Bend Road, an unpaved, gravel road, branches off from the Elwha Valley Road just beyond Elwha Ranger Station. The road is just over 4 miles long and varies in width from thirteen to fifteen feet. There are no shoulders, although the road has several turnouts. The densely forested terrain is mountainous with a maximum grade of fifteen percent. The road now ends at a parking lot and trailhead at Whiskey Bend. Until 1959, when the new Hurricane Ridge Road opened, Whiskey Bend Road,

then known as Hurricane Ridge Road, continued eastward from this point, gaining elevation until it met Hurricane Ridge, just west of the present-day lodge.<sup>v</sup> This final portion of the old road, now called the Wolf Creek Trail, although no longer accessible by automobile, can be traversed on foot or horseback. (Ottoboni 2004:8-9)

**Significance:** Trails, roads, bridges, and railroads are related to the theme of transportation in the Elwha River Valley and are evidence of historic transportation systems and networks in the valley. Trails led to roads, which in turn, led to larger roads or transportation systems (like railroads and steamships) that could connect residents to places farther away in the Pacific Northwest. These transportation routes were critical for both the development and growth of the Olympic Peninsula and as a lifeline for peninsula and Elwha River Valley residents. They allowed timber, produce, and other commodities to reach their markets. For these reasons, extant historic trails, roads, bridges and railroads enhance our understanding of how these transportation systems were designed, operated, and worked to accelerate the growth of industry on the peninsula. Many of the existing trails and roads follow the exact route of their predecessor. The trail along the west side of the Elwha River was once a wagon road and ruts of that road can still be seen today. All the old bridges are gone, except for some foundation remnants of the covered bridge. If determined eligible, these properties would be listed under Criterion A, events important in American history, or Criterion C, as an example of a special type or method of construction.

**Registration Requirements:** To be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must be associated with transportation during the period of significance (1850-1937) and must have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Transportation resources must be associated with a locally important industry or historical event (Criterion A) or must be an example of a design that was important in the construction of roads or railroads in the Elwha River Valley (Criterion C). Railroad track and bed would be eligible as long as the original alignment and grade of the bed and track have been maintained. Trails and Roads would be eligible if they are associated with an important activity or event in Elwha River Valley history and their character and materials reflect their historical appearance. Enough of the resource (road, trail, bridge, and railroad) must exist to convey a sense of the total, overall historic transportation route and feature, and the essential character and design or engineering aspect of the historic resource. All transportation-related resources in the Elwha River Valley must have integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to be eligible under Criteria A and C.

If the surface or subsurface remnants of a transportation-related property reveal enough information to answer research questions posed by a research design, these features may be eligible for listing as historic archeological sites under Criterion D.

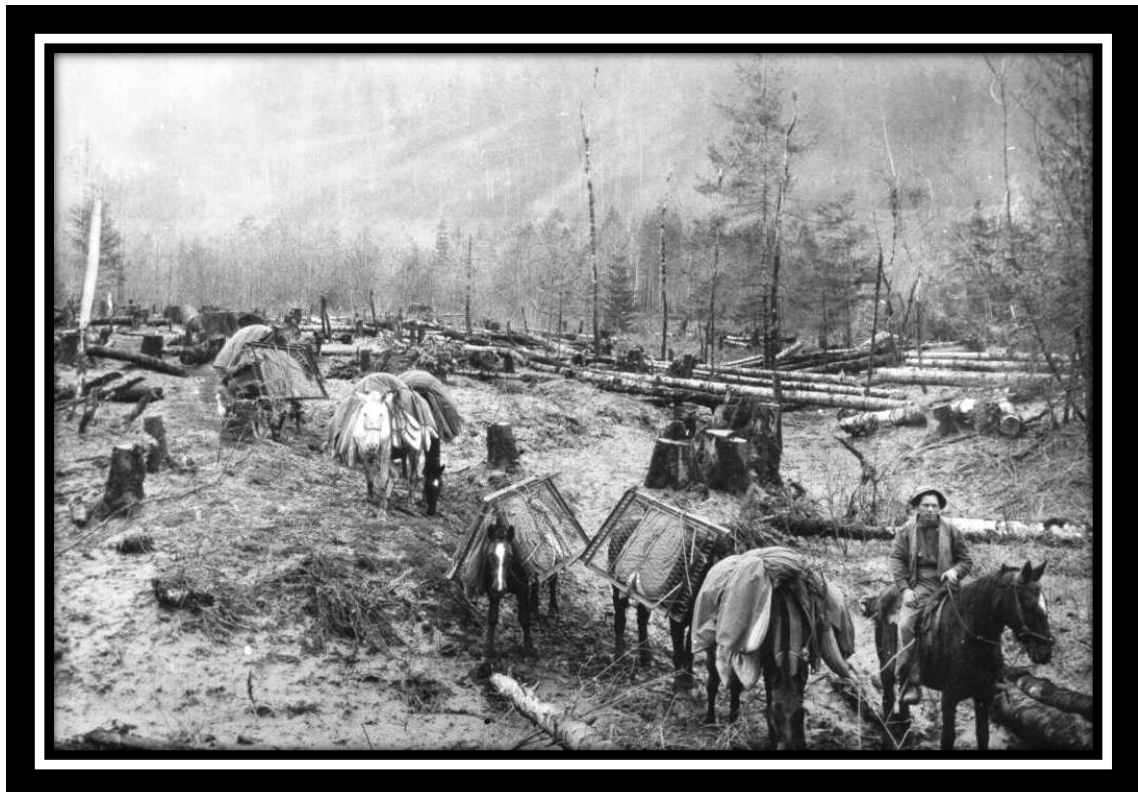


**Fig. 27**  
**Packing bed springs, probably up to Olympic Hot Springs**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society**

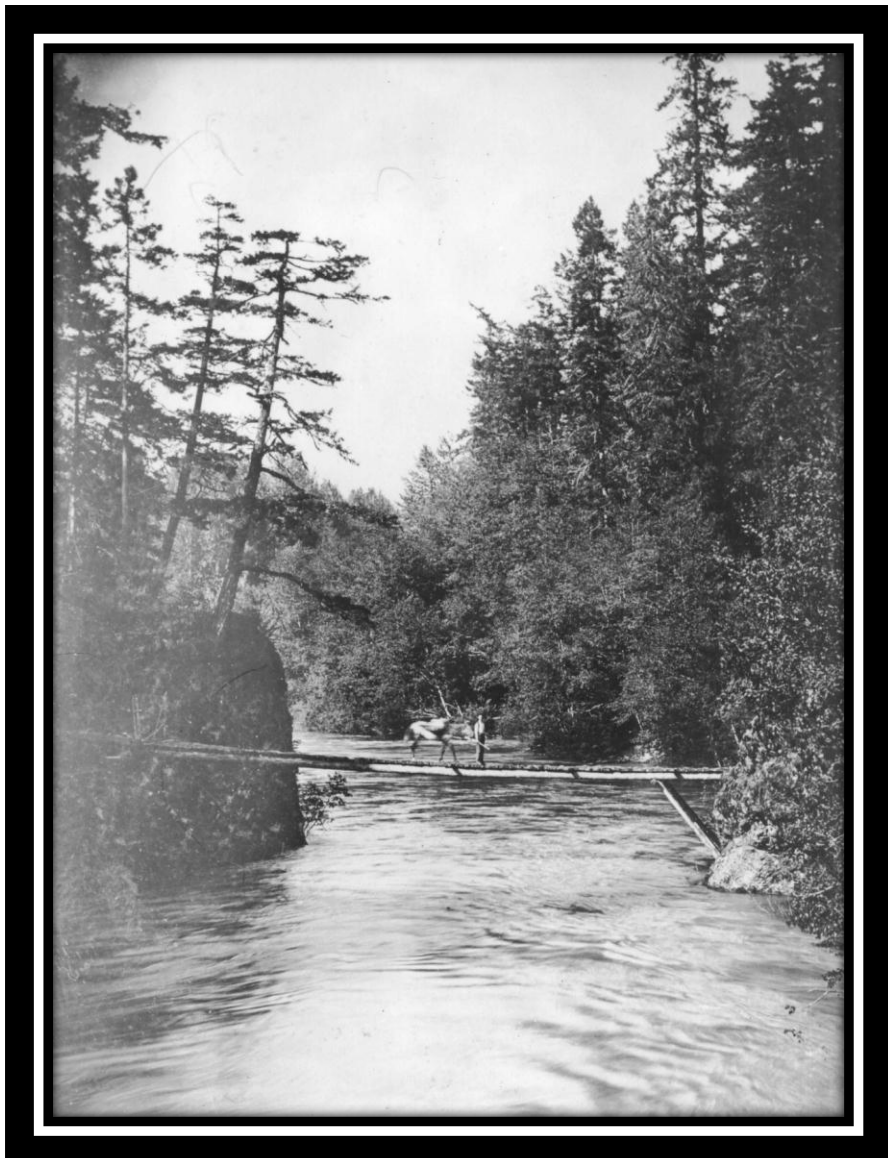


**Figure 28**  
**First Elwha Bridge**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 45)**

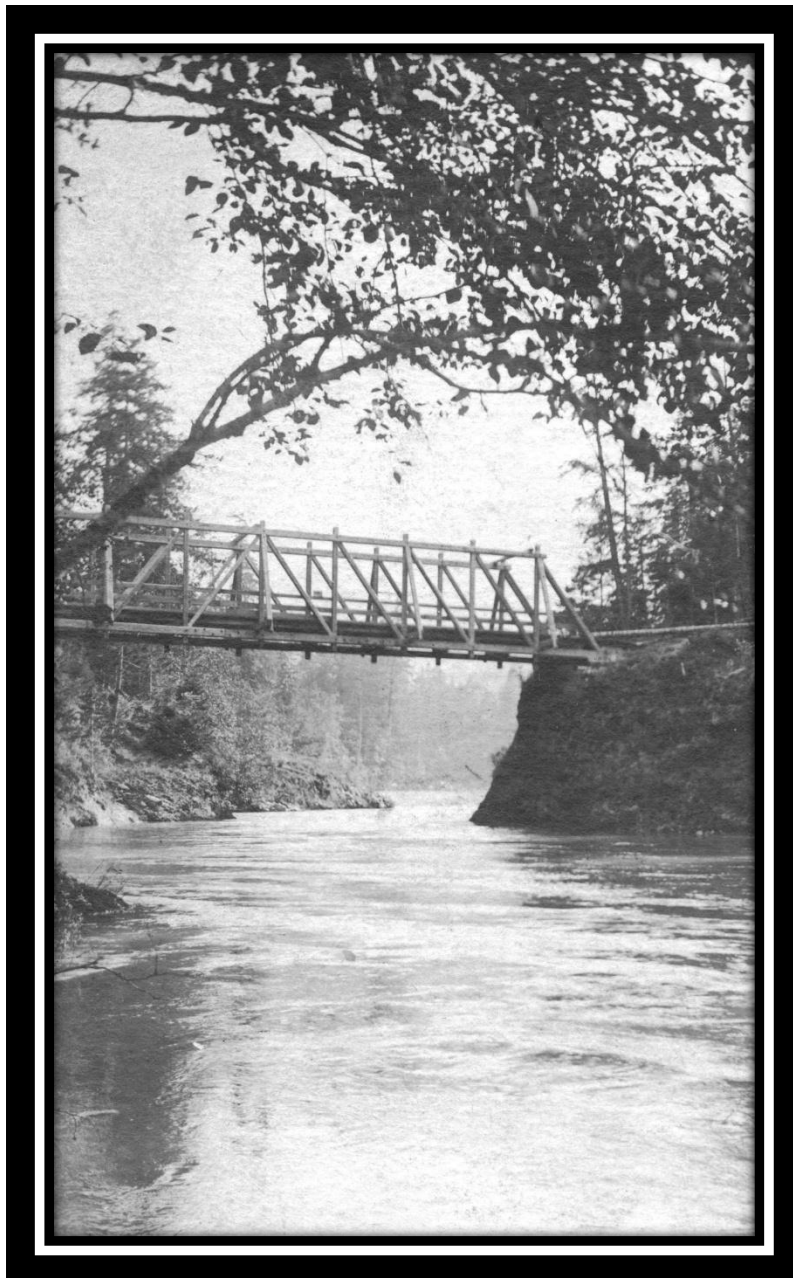


**Figure 29**  
**Bridge 1904**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 12)**

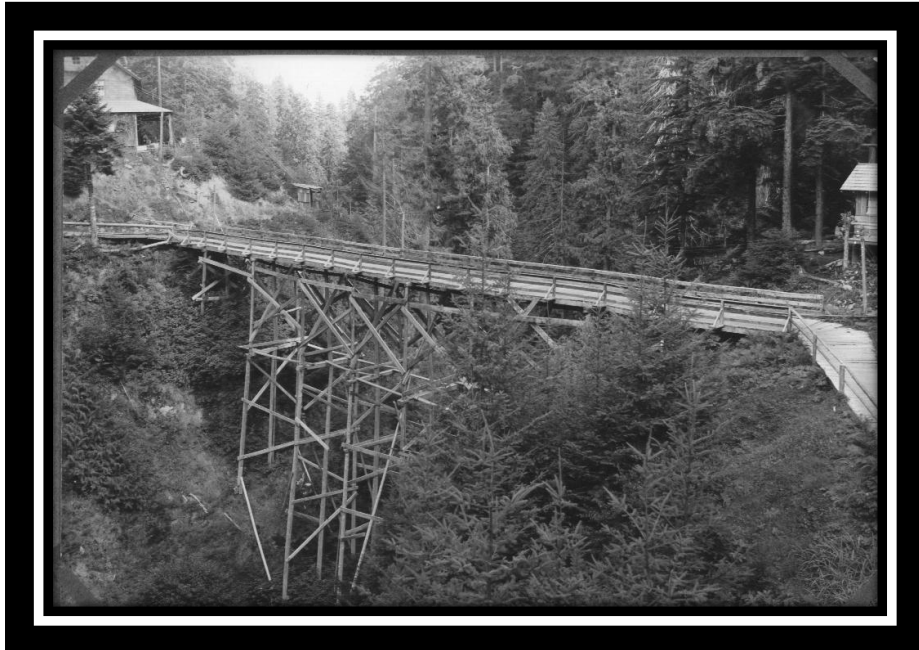


**Figure 30**  
**Bridge crossing Boulder Creek at Olympic Hot Springs (OLYM-ForSer.239)**

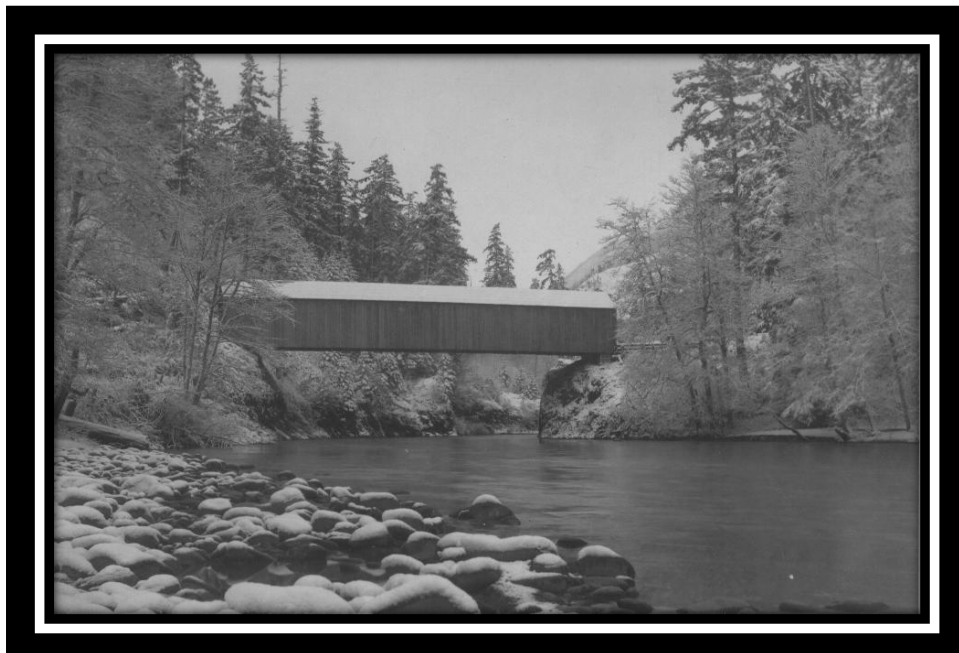


**Figure 31**  
**MacDonald's Covered Bridge built in 1907 (OLYM1108)**

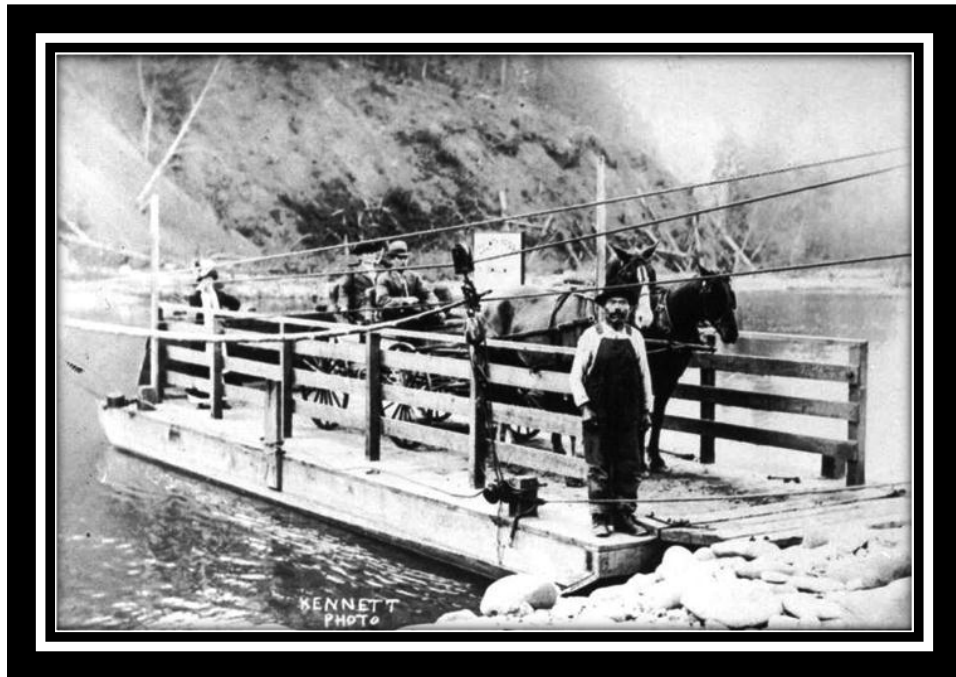


**Figure 32**  
**Joe Sampson's Ferry**  
**Courtesy Adeline Smith**



**Figure 33**  
**Lake Crescent gravel road (OLYM-POL.003.003)**



**Figure 34**  
**One-lane bridge with railroad bridge behind it, circa 1914 (OLYM-POL.013.001)**



**Figure 35**  
**Old road to Hurricane Ridge**  
**Courtesy of Fran Andrews (OLYM-388.001)**

## **VI. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY** **(c.1880s-1949)**

### **Introduction**

Little lasting industrial development occurred within the present day boundaries of Olympic National Park. Logging, mining, and hydroelectric production were the principal pursuits by those who sought financial gain from the resources offered by the peninsula.

Logging efforts were drastically limited by difficult terrain as well as the availability of transportation. Logs were rafted to Port Angeles Harbor from the western peninsula, before and during the advance of railroad construction. It wasn't until the construction of the Spruce Production Division Railroad in 1918 that extensive logging railroads webbed their way across the Olympic Peninsula. It was the logging truck however, in common use by the 1920s, and the loop highway (completed in 1931) that created the first serious challenge to the previously inaccessible forests of the peninsula. The largely virgin forests were preserved when the national monument was established in 1933.

Mining never realized the grand scale envisioned by early industrial entrepreneurs. Spurred by the encouraging stories of gold strikes in the California Sierras, sections of the Rockies, and the Alaskan-Yukon and Klondike region, small parties of miners ventured up the eastern and southern river drainages of the Olympics, even before the 1890 O'Neil and Press exploring expeditions. Discoveries of placer gold along with deposits of copper and iron were reported with great fervor and regularity by peninsula newspapers throughout the late 1880s and 1890s. Hard rock and placer gold deposits proved to be illusive and disappointing time and again. Even manganese, the one mineral of sufficient value that appeared in commercial quantities, could not be successfully exploited. Manganese was found predominantly in the Mount Angeles and North Fork Skokomish River areas. Repeated efforts to extract ore from steep mountain slopes located near the tree line are still visible in the form of tailing piles of loose gravel and stone, occasional gaping orifices of mining shafts and tunnels, and scattered remnants of fallen mining cabins are now overgrown by dense underbrush or reduced to barely recognizable humps in the ground.

Only one structure associated with the history of mining on the peninsula remains standing within the park boundaries: the Hurricane #1 Mining Claim Cabin. Now collapsed, this one-story log structure, located above Little River, appears to have been constructed as recently as the 1940s. Considering its recent vintage and its severely deteriorated condition, this structure is deemed ineligible for listing in the National Register.

The hardships and expense caused by the rugged terrain coupled with the lack of transportation and a competitive world market were obstacles that could not be overcome. The extent and richness of these mineral finds never matched the inflated

expectations of early prospectors. Although the intensity of prospecting in the Olympics periodically subsided, the strong belief that the Olympics' rocky mantle concealed great mineral wealth promulgated strong resistance among some peninsula residents to a series of early (1909-1915) proposals to create a national park that would inevitably prohibit mining. Deeply disturbed by these legislative proposals and the 1909 creation of a small national monument that prohibited mining within its boundaries, southwest Washington State residents in Hoquiam, in 1911, greeted visiting Interior Secretary Walter Fisher with abundant samples of gold, iron, and copper in an attempt to prove that the "former President Roosevelt's bear and cougar reserve would be better opened to exploitation and development than fenced off as a beautiful fernery." Only the Black and White Mine and the Keller Mine on the North Fork Skokomish River grew large enough so that it left behind any lasting impression on the landscape of the park today.

A more enduring peninsula industry was the production of hydroelectric power, which began at the turn of the century, and supplied power for residential, industrial, and commercial interests on the peninsula. At the time of this writing two Elwha hydroelectric complexes remain operational and supply power to the Bonneville power grid.

### **Logging and Associated Resources**

#### **Introduction**

The Olympic Peninsula, like much of the western interior slopes of the Pacific Northwest, has long been noted for its abundant stands of coniferous forests. The tremendous height, girth, and dense growth of peninsula forests were observed by the earliest coastal and overland explorers and graphically described in expedition diaries and journals. As Eastern and Midwestern forests became depleted in the late nineteenth century, lumbermen took a growing interest in developing the potential of the Olympic Peninsula's lumber industry. The industry of lumbering, in fact, provided the original impetus for the establishment of the peninsula's earliest coastal towns, particularly where the eastern shoreline meets the Hood Canal and Puget Sound. Ambitious lumbermen logged along the lower rivers and coastal areas and gradually advanced inland. Logging activity was greatest at the southern base of the peninsula where the terrain was less rugged and leaders in the lumber industry early on established mills on the Hood Canal and in the Grays Harbor area in southwest Washington.

With the steadily increasing sophistication of logging machinery and methods, along with the dwindling availability of lumber east of the Rockies and the expanding western markets centered around growing west coast cities, pressure mounted to move further and further into the interior of the peninsula after the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A western townsite was established at Port Angeles in 1862, and descriptions of its great stands of timber were circulated. In 1886, a former New York judge conceived the idea of a Cooperative Colony, which was established by George Venable Smith in Port

Angeles in 1887. The colony residents built the first sawmill in Port Angeles near Ennis Creek that same year. The mill was not financially successful because of problems transporting lumber and went out of business soon after the colony disbanded in 1889.

But timber resources remained important and were clearly available. In 1916, two new mill sites were being discussed with the city council of Port Angeles. One was the Washington Pulp and Paper mill that would manufacture newsprint (now Nippon, formerly Daishowa and Crown Zellerbach). The other plant (now fiberboard) made cardboard products. These mills needed hemlock, spruce, and white fir, timber that was not used by the lumber and shingle mills in operation at that time. Construction of the pulp mills began in 1917.

World War I demands for spruce, used in the construction of aircraft for the Allied countries, led to perhaps the greatest single attempt to secure valuable lumber from peninsula forests. In 1918, the federal government selected Port Angeles as the location for its Spruce Production Corporation and constructed a huge spruce sawmill at the location of the former Cooperative Colony's mill at Ennis Creek, and built a standard gauge railroad (the Port Angeles Western) from Disque west to Lake Pleasant. The Spruce Railroad operated on the Milwaukee Railroad's line between Port Angeles west to Disque. Just as the mill was readying for production, the Armistice was signed, the war was over, and spruce was no longer strategically needed. The mill stood empty from 1918 until 1929. However, the thirty-six mile mainline roadbed, which had been extended across the northern peninsula, opened the area's vast timber reserves for logging [see fig. 37].

In 1931, a new mill was started at the Ennis Creek site by Olympic Forest Products, which later became I.T.T. Rayonier Incorporated. The mill used western hemlock for the manufacture of cellulose products. Rayon was the main pulp product. A clean source of water was needed to operate the mill and the three Port Angeles pulp companies approached the city council to approve an industrial water line from the Elwha River. The city would build the seven and one-half mile system, the three mills would pay the city back over a thirty year period, and the mills would maintain the waterline.

The valuable timber and newly built railroad lines led to further logging on the northern Olympic Peninsula. The lumber industry's mounting interest in the interior river valleys and lower mountain slopes, and the desire to protect the natural habitat of the great herds of Roosevelt elk, spurred concerted efforts by conservationists to establish a national park on the Olympic Peninsula. The establishment of Olympic National Park in 1938 embraced over 680,000 acres of largely virgin forest which prohibited the further inward encroachment of logging activities. Although certain outer areas of the existing park have experienced small scale logging operations both before and since the park's creation, visible evidence of logging within the park is now minimal. The only standing structures that exist today on the Elwha River that represent the history of the lumber industry on

the peninsula are the screen house and water diversion system structures for the mills located on the Hunter John/Charles Sampson homestead within the Elwha River project APE.

### **Historic Context Statement: Logging in the Elwha River Valley**

The earliest industrial logging along the Elwha River was carried out by local pioneers. The first lumber mill was built on the lower Elwha by Silas Goodwin and his son Walter. Goodwin built the first bridge across the lower Elwha River in 1887 and his mill was probably in operation at this time. It was located on the west side of the lower Elwha River near its mouth and the shingles were loaded on scows from the beach. This loading procedure proved to be too difficult because of wave action so the mill was moved to Freshwater Bay on the west side of the river's mouth.

The first sawmill in the upper Elwha River Valley was built on Indian Creek by E.B. Griffin. It is unknown when it was built, but it was sold to Ingvald Olson sometime after 1905. Early Port Angeles newspapers refer to red cedar shingles being made at the Little River Shingle and Lumber Company in 1896. The Isbell's had a little steam sawmill on G.M. Lauridson's property which they ordered out of a catalogue in 1903. It was later purchased by other settlers who moved it onto the Herrick property where it operated until a fire destroyed it in 1924 (Alexander 2009:82). Most of this early logging was done with oxen and horses, while steam donkeys and locomotives were used around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later replaced with diesel power trucks by the 1940s. Numerous settlers were able to log their land under the Timber Culture Act of 1873 or they sold their claims to timber interests. Thousands of acres of land along the Elwha River were sought for financial gain from the seeming endless supply of trees.

The Milwaukee Railroad crossed the Elwha River at river mile 3, and was a prime example of a logging related property, although now extinct. The Rayonier Mill Screen House and Intake Diversion system is still extant and is associated with the timber industry on the Olympic Peninsula.

The lumber industry never gained a strong foothold in the upper Elwha River Valley because of the rugged terrain and lack of interior roads. After 1905, the Forest Service began to manage much of the Elwha River Valley, and, as it did elsewhere, the agency encouraged regulated logging through the construction of stub roads and the issuance of permits. Interest in the peninsula's interior valleys and lower mountain slopes mounted over the next several decades, yet the upper Elwha drainage was spared from extensive timber harvesting. Stub roads were extended up the Elwha Valley in the mid-1930s, but the National Park Service took over management of Mt. Olympus National Monument in 1933, and administered the larger Olympic National Park created in 1938, all of which effectively ended any further plans the lumber industry had for the Elwha's forests, except for the areas in the vicinity of the dams. Timber companies most likely harvested trees in the reservoirs behind the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams between about 1914 and 1927.

Under the management of Superintendent Overly in the 1950s, some backcountry logging occurred up the Elwha drainage and on the hillsides above Lake Mills. One operation allegedly took place at Camp Baltimore along the Elwha Trail; trail crews cut and rolled the logs down to the river, which later collected behind the Glines Dam where a contractor took them as driftwood. Following this, Overly contracted for salvage lumber operations at Lake Mills (Lien 2000: 278, 284) [see fig. 38].

Today, there are few physical remains of these logging operations within the APE. Portions of the abandoned roadbed of the Milwaukee railroad line are extant today, including several sections near the Elwha River. There is also the potential for archeological remains of the old mill sites and timber camps.

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Logging-related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** Resources associated with logging include equipment such as cables, winches, steam donkeys, and sawmills and their component elements or features. They were located within the Elwha River Valley, and may be both above and below ground resources today. Former logging camps, mill sites, trails, and skid paths may also be found. Known visible evidence of logging along the Elwha includes sections of the Milwaukee Railroad, logging roads, and spring board notched tree stumps.

The Rayonier Mill Screen House and Intake Diversion system is associated with logging in the Elwha. The screen house and diversion intake system is located adjacent to a State Fish Hatchery on the east side of the Elwha River. The complex is composed of four buildings, two diversion channels, pipeline, collection pond/canal, and a low gabion dam. The circa 1950 screen house, attached shed, and garage are built of wood-frame construction with horizontal board siding and gable roofs. A concrete water pipe replaces the original wood stove pipe, and extends north in a large diked ditch. A low gabion dam spans the Elwha River, which allows water to be collected by the intake structure that is diverted at the gate for use by the State rearing channel and Port Angeles mills.

A remnant spur of the Milwaukee railroad line, which was utilized by the Spruce Railroad, follows the east edge of the terrace east of the State Fish Hatchery buildings and along the base of the area's steep slopes. The alignment of the remnant spur crosses the river south of the diversion gate and north of the intake structure.

**Significance:** Logging operations began on the Elwha in the late 1880s. The establishment of the national park in 1938 shielded the largely virgin forest in the park from further logging. Although logging was minimized by federal protection, the terraces along the Elwha River were logged in 1940 and contain large stumps, 7-8 feet tall, with spring board notches in them. Logging operations in the Elwha River Valley and elsewhere on the Olympic Peninsula are associated with the logging history of the Pacific Northwest. This region of the county has long been known for its dense stands of massive

old growth forests and the decades of controversy the removal of these stands have created. Logging on the peninsula is directly related to the establishment of Olympic National Park, the rise of the environmental awareness movement in this country, as well as the growth and development of the peninsula itself. Understanding the logging history of the peninsula through these extant resources is significant and enhances our understanding of a larger history of resource use and exploitation and how it has shaped environmental movements across the nation.

**Registration Requirements:** For logging resources in the Elwha River Valley to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under this context, the properties must be associated with logging activities in the Elwha River project APE, have been present between 1880s -1949, and have integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. They must have been used by the logging industry (either individual loggers or logging companies) and be an intact example of a logging-related resource in the Elwha River Valley. They must have enough associated materials in place to understand how the site was used, and the level of preservation or quality of information contained within a district or site must be high and relatively complete, with later cultural activities or natural processes not severely impacting the informational record at the property. Remnants of skid roads, railroads abutments from former bridge sites, pilings, notched tree stumps for springboards, pieces of metal and equipment are related to logging, but in and of themselves do not retain integrity for listing; collectively, they may yield information about logging and be eligible under Criterion D. There are two known properties that meet the requirements for listing: the Rayonier Mill Screen House and the Intake Diversion System associated with the construction and operation of the Port Angeles pulp industry.

## **Mining and Associated Resources**

### **Introduction**

For more than a century, people have predicted and searched for mineral wealth on the Olympic Peninsula. Along with trappers and hunters, zealous hopeful mining prospectors were among the first visitors to little known sections of the rugged interior foothills and mountains. Perhaps stirred by visions of rich strikes equal to those that induced the great gold rush in California and southern Oregon in the late 1840s and early 1850s, those prospectors made gold the first sought after mineral on the peninsula. Before the turn of the century, however, random reports claimed the presence of a wide assortment of metallic and nonmetallic minerals scattered around the peninsula. In addition to gold, silver, iron, copper, manganese, tin, coal, oil, sandstone, granite, and marble were said to exist. Scientific records and documentation of mining activity and exact locations before 1900 are scanty. Thus, a heavy reliance must be placed on the often colorful, sometimes exaggerated and vague hearsay reports, or speculative accounts found in contemporary newspapers and expedition journals.

When the Olympic Forest Reserve was created in 1897, miners' interests were protected

and prospecting was allowed on Reserve lands. After the creation of Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909, mineral development was no longer permitted. Because of vigorous opposition by miners and others, Mount Olympus National Monument was reduced in size by approximately one-half in 1915, and the encircling lands became part of Olympic National Forest, where the USFS encouraged mining activity. Mining activities were not phased out until 1938 when a large national park was created from the national monument and much of the national forest.

Known prospecting within the interior portion of the park occurred principally in the northern and southeastern sections of the park. In these areas, manganese, and some copper and iron, were mined in commercial quantities. Several mineralogists' reports describing the occurrence of manganese deposits on the peninsula include the Lake Crescent/Mount Angeles area on the north and the Lake Cushman/North Fork Skokomish River area on the southeast in a broad, arching belt lying on the outer slopes of the mountains on the north, south, and east. In the Olympic National Park Coastal Strip prospecting for gold, oil, and natural gas was the most prevalent mining activity (Evans 1983:166).

#### **Historic Context Statement: Mining in the Elwha River Valley**

Mining in the Elwha River Valley produced more stories of rich ores than the ore itself. The valley was part of a horse-shoe shaped mineral belt around the lower slopes of the Olympic Range; it extends for approximately thirty miles in a long swath of land on the northern side of today's park, between the west end of Lake Crescent and Deer Park. The first known mining activity in the Elwha River Valley dates from the 1890s. In late 1897 or early 1898, Ward Sanders and his cousins, Will and Martin Humes, arrived in the valley and began prospecting for gold in a ledge about 325 feet above the Elwha River west of Hurricane Hill. The claim contained no paying quantities of gold, but despite his disappointment, Sanders pronounced that the nearby "Hurricane hill mine has proved rich in copper." A survey of the entire Forest Reserve, conducted by Arthur Dodwell and Theodore Rixon around this same time, mentioned that there was mining activity in the Hurricane Ridge area. There was apparently a mining cabin near Camp Wilder and claims of some mineral found along the Lillian River. From their homestead on the west side of the Elwha, the Isbell family made trips to their mine site on Little Mountain where they hoped to find gold, but had no luck. Boston Charlie, an Elwha Klallam, spent a great deal of his life in the mountains above the Elwha looking for gold. However, it is unknown if he ever found any. There is also known to be a ten foot deep mine adit on the hillside at the Stuckey claim, approximately 100 feet above Lake Mills.

Around 1900, Dr. A.L. Matteson assumed the site of W.E. Smith at what became known as Madison Creek and started mining the area. They claimed to find a vein of copper ore and penetrated the rock to form an approximately 80 foot tunnel. The entrance was later sealed by the park for safety reasons, but piping remains along the creek bed (Alexander 2009:17).

Both the creation of the Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909 and the Olympic National Park in 1938 restricted new claim seekers from efforts to uncover even a small sampling of the peninsula's imagined stores of mineral wealth in the Elwha Valley as evidenced by the following 1911 newspaper account:

Jasper Rice has been exhibiting...pieces of quartz showing free gold which he obtained from a ledge at the headwaters of one of the streams flowing into the Elwha....At present Mr. Rice cannot file on a claim or in any other way secure his find...for the higher Olympics are locked up in a so-called National Monument, the only excuse for which is to protect the elk. (PAOL 1911c)

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Mining-related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** Mining resources include prospecting holes (sample area removed for testing for mineral content), mine tailings, shafts (vertical or slanting long narrow opening into earth), adits or tunnels (horizontal passageway into mine), camps and collapsed mining cabins. The Madison Creek adit is representative of the small, hard-rock mining operations developed on the Olympic Peninsula; it is clearly marked by a trail and an interpretive brochure. Other mining related properties are located on the mountain slopes surrounding the valley and outside the APE. There may also be remnants of equipment such as ore carts, ore cart rails, tools for building and repair of equipment and structures, and domestic materials associated with camp life, among other items.

**Significance:** Mining never showed signs of being a viable industry in the Elwha River Valley, though mineral finds, in the form of gold, were made in the late 1890s. Mining may have been more of a recreational pursuit for many, with the added hopefulness of wealth. No placer mining was attempted along the Elwha River. There are three known properties associated with mining within the Elwha River Valley, but all are outside of the APE: the Stuckey adit, the Little Mountain Claim, and the Madison Creek adit. These resources add to our body of knowledge of how some local people attempted to make a living from the resources of the peninsula and how people tried to advertise the riches of peninsula minerals to exploit them and create business and growth, to no avail. Any resources identified with this theme will enhance our understanding of the valley's commercial activities and how entrepreneurs attempted to exploit the natural resources of the Elwha River.

**Registration Requirements:** To be eligible, mining properties within the Elwha River project APE must contain one or more of the following attributes: a mine, shaft, adit, prospecting hole, remnants of buildings, structures, sites, systems or artifacts associated with, or in support of mining activity, including extraction, beneficiation (process of upgrading the ore's value), and/or refining (conversion of metal into a state of purity). They must be evaluated in terms of their association with mining on the peninsula between the 1880s and 1949, and be able to be documented as such. They must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and

association, and be significant in American history, architecture, engineering, or culture, and meet one or more of the four National Register criteria.

Subsurface and surface features associated with mining on the Olympic Peninsula may be eligible for listing as archeological sites (Criterion D) if they are basically undisturbed deposits, retain spatial patterning that represent different aspects of mining activities, relate directly to research questions defined by a research design, and retain integrity.

## **Hydroelectricity and Associated Resources**

### **Introduction**

The Olympic Peninsula, like most of Washington State and a few other regions in the nation, is endowed with mountainous terrain, abundant rainfall, and powerful rivers. Harnessing this power became attractive with the growth of the electrical industry in Washington in the 1880s. Its development, however, was no simple matter. It required technological and engineering advances to dam the rivers and build power-generating facilities. It also required companies to have financial backing to develop and manage hydroelectric power plants and electrical supply systems.

The hydroelectric projects on the Olympic Peninsula were not the first built in the state. The Puget Sound Power and Light Company and the Washington Power Company owned this distinction; they were two of the state's largest and oldest power companies, which began operating in the 1880s by supplying power to major urban centers in western and eastern Washington, respectively. Nevertheless, the projects on the peninsula, though smaller enterprises, played important roles in the history of the electrical industry in the state, for they belonged to the two organizational systems in the electrical industry prior to 1930--the private electrical company and the municipality-owned system.

The first of the Elwha dams to be built was the Elwha River Project, a privately-owned plant. The Elwha River Plant was constructed between 1910 and 1914 in order to spur development on the peninsula, primarily in the Port Angeles area. Thomas T. Aldwell, an early settler in the northern peninsula, spearheaded the power project. Once completed, the project provided most of the electrical power from Port Angeles south 77 miles to Bremerton for residential, commercial, and industrial uses (HAER 1995).

By the 1920s, the Elwha Plant could not meet its load demands; an additional power plant was constructed, but it proved to be only a temporary measure. In 1926 the Northwest Power and Light Company, formerly Olympic Power Company, built a second hydroelectric facility on the Elwha River, the Glines Canyon Plant. Located some seven miles upriver from the original facility, the Glines Plant doubled the company's generating capacity for the peninsula's inhabitants and industries (HAER 1995).

Olympic National Park was established in 1938 and expanded in 1940, at which time it included one of these privately-owned facilities, the Glines Canyon Plant, within its boundaries. The park, however, exerted little influence on either facility's operation compared to changes in the power industry during the 1930s and 1940s. During this period, the Elwha River plants joined a "power pool" that served the power load demands of the peninsula. A still greater influence on the Elwha River plants and one that limited their potential for power development was the construction of the enormous, federally-funded multipurpose dams such as Coulee Dam on the Columbia River. These dams opened a new era in power generation, for they made it possible to produce and supply power on a vast regional scale. In 1949 this possibility came true when a large dam on the Columbia transmitted power to the Olympic Peninsula.

The third hydroelectric facility to be built on the peninsula was the Cushman Project. This project was part of Tacoma's municipal electrical system, which was one of the state's two major municipal utilities; the other was owned by Seattle. Formed in the 1890s, the utility built its first hydroelectric plant on the Nisqually River in 1913. By 1917, Tacoma's increased power demands and limited power generating capacity made it necessary to develop another site for the city's expanding market. City engineers conducted a systematic survey of potential power sites, and selected the North Fork of the Skokomish River on the Olympic Peninsula, forty-four miles northwest of Tacoma. The new site promised to nearly double the Nisqually Plant's generating capacity, as it was located in an area known for its heavy rainfall. The first Cushman Plant was built and operating by May 1926. The second Cushman Plant, completed in 1931, was constructed primarily to serve the load requirements of an expanding commercial power market. Along with Seattle, Tacoma developed large-scale hydroelectric facilities that rivaled the scale of the state's private systems. Their construction presaged the enormous public-funded hydroelectric facilities being built in the state and throughout the country during the 1930s.

### **Historic Context Statement: Hydroelectricity in the Elwha River Valley**

Early hydroelectric power development on the Olympic Peninsula was spearheaded by a single individual, Thomas T. Aldwell. Although a large eastern interest financed the power project, it was Aldwell's vision, tenacity, and relentless spirit that propelled the project to a successful completion in the face of great odds. The Elwha River figured significantly in the entrepreneur's plans. In 1890, he homesteaded the site upon which the existing Elwha River Plant is situated and by 1908 had quietly purchased the adjacent lands that would be flooded by the site's development. In 1910, Aldwell and George A. Glines, a new partner, formed the Olympic Power and Development Company, and together they set out to build the hydroelectric project. In order to secure funding for the construction of a dam, they first obtained franchises and contracts as proof of the project's potential income and the market for electrical power, despite opposition from the Port Angeles mayor and Seattle investors who were proposing their own hydroelectric project on the Little River near the Elwha River. Glines and Aldwell next secured capital from Chicago investors (HAER 1995).

Though remote, the Elwha site encouraged the investors. They were impressed with many of the natural features of the canyon and Elwha River watershed. At the location of the power plant and dam, the Elwha River provided a hundred-foot head for the operation of the turbines, and the melting snows of the glaciers at the river's headwaters, combined with a large quantity of rain, ensured a reliable supply of water for power generation throughout the entire year.

Construction of the project got underway in 1910 and was plagued by difficulties. These problems culminated in the failure of the Elwha dam in 1912 because it was not supported on a secure foundation of bedrock but one of sand and gravel [see fig. 38]. The owners set out to rebuild and repair the damage immediately. The completed dam is a concrete structure consisting of a central gravity-type section with adjacent multiple-buttress spillway and intake sections. It is approximately 417 feet long at its crest and approximately 100 feet high. Lake Aldwell, formed behind the dam, is 2.2 miles long and has a storage capacity of 580 acres (HAER 1995).

Finished in 1914, the Elwha Plant provided electrical power for various industrial complexes in Port Angeles, as well as the Bremerton Navy Yard, and forts Worden and Flagler. In 1919, the Crown Zellerbach Corporation purchased the Elwha River Plant to supply power to its pulp and paper mill in Port Angeles. By the 1920s, however, the Elwha Plant could not meet its load demands, and the Olympic Power Company, which later became the Northwest Power and Light Company, added two new generating units rated at 5,000 horsepower each in an addition to the main plant. It still was not enough power, and in 1926 the Northwestern Power and Light Company constructed a second hydroelectric facility on the Elwha River. The Glines Canyon Plant was located 7½ miles upstream from the first facility. The Glines dam is a varied radius, single arch, reinforced concrete structure that is 210 feet high and varies in width from 55 feet at its base to 270 feet at its crest. The dam also created a 2½ mile long reservoir, Lake Mills. After the Elwha Dam facility began operation in 1927, the new plant doubled the company's generating capacity to furnish power to the Washington Pulp and Paper Company and other recipients in Port Angeles.

The Glines Canyon Plant had the distinction of containing "the largest single water wheel generator [Francis turbine] unit to be controlled by semi-automatic remote supervisory equipment," the Francis turbine [see fig. 39]. In this respect, the Glines Plant was part of the mainstream of hydroelectric development in the 1920s, when automation of plants increased. But its design tested the limits of automated hydroelectric plant design in at least two ways. First, for safety reasons, it was necessary to open the main butterfly valve at the Glines Canyon Plant manually before the automatic equipment could function. Second, once the automatic controls engaged, it was possible to control the load from the Elwha Plant. The system was also designed so that it could be synchronized from either plant (HAER 1995).

Two more hydroelectric projects were planned for construction on the upper Elwha River to supply the expanding lumber products industry on the Olympic Peninsula. Numerous reasons prevented their construction, however, and soon after the construction of the Glines Canyon Plant, the production of electricity was no longer a local enterprise. In 1926, the Puget Sound Power and Light Company entered the Olympic Peninsula and purchased segments of the Northwestern Power and Light Company's distribution system and many of its substations, almost twenty years after this kind of consolidation occurred elsewhere in the state. In a short time, electrical power was transmitted to Port Angeles from a source across the Hood Canal (HAER 1995).

During the 1930s and 1940s, power demands grew on the peninsula for commercial, domestic, and industrial needs, and to meet this need, the Elwha River plants became part of a "power pool" serving the power load demands of the peninsula. Ultimately, all of these changes were not responsible for limiting the potential of the hydroelectric developments on the Elwha River. Rather, it was a radical change in the design of hydroelectric installations that restricted the potential of the Elwha plants. It was also during this period that Olympic National Park was established and its boundaries included the Glines Canyon Plant but not the Elwha facility. Although notable for their contribution to hydroelectric power generation on the peninsula, the dams left another legacy; they blocked the native fish runs of more than seventy miles of the wild Elwha River and its tributaries.

Fish hatcheries were constructed as a result of the loss of salmon habitat due to the construction of dams, irrigation ditches, and other developments in the Northwest. Hatcheries were viewed by cannery men and resource managers as the most effective tool to prevent the demise of a valuable resource. In the Elwha River drainage, when funding was secured to build the dam, no accommodations were made for the passage of migrating fish, though there was a legal requirement in place. After the first dam's foundation blew out and was repaired, efforts to provide for the fish passage were ignored. A compromise was reached allowing Thomas Aldwell, one of the investor/owners of the dam, to construct a fish hatchery at the dam in lieu of a fishway. The hatchery was unsuccessful and finally abandoned in 1922 due to the scarcity of salmon making their way upriver (HAER 1995).

There are no known historical fish hatchery remains in the Elwha River project APE. The one operation noted above was abandoned and presumably removed. There is a hatchery within the APE owned by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, which is being replaced by another one that will raise coho and steelhead. The rearing channel, where juvenile Chinook salmon are produced, is within the APE and is owned by the state.

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Hydroelectric-related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** The power generating developments each include three main structures: a dam, a water conveyance system, and a powerhouse; other structures associated with these are turbines, headgates and spillways, intakes, gate houses, penstocks and generating units, surge tanks, switchboard, and transformers. Most of these structures are made of concrete or reinforced concrete materials. Of particular importance are the designs of the dams. The Elwha River Power Plant has a 100-foot-long (approximate) gravity dam with a concrete multiple-buttress spillway and intake sections (417 feet long at its crest). The concrete structure has two sections, both rectangular; the original building is characterized by its simple, unadorned appearance and two rows of multi-paned industrial steel sash separated by pilasters defining 6 bays; the later addition is characterized by its 4 bays with floor-to-ceiling, multi-paned industrial steel sash with hopper windows, and a horizontal band or frieze that results in the upper sash appearing as transoms to the main fenestration. The design of the Elwha project, invented by N.F. Ambursen, had several advantages: it required a minimum of material; failure would be limited to a single bay; and, if designed properly, the dam would not overturn, the total water load being distributed uniformly over the buttresses [see fig. 40]. The Glines Canyon Plant has a reinforced concrete arch dam that is 270 feet high [width--55 feet at base, 270 feet at top]. A varied-radius single arch design, the dam is particularly adapted to the rock-walled canyon in which it was built. Curved in the upstream direction, the arch dam is structurally more efficient than a straight gravity dam (HAER 1995) [see fig. 41].

Other noteworthy structures are the powerhouse at the Glines Canyon Plant and the switchboard at the Elwha River Plant. The Glines Powerhouse is a rigidly symmetrical reinforced concrete building which houses equipment. A 40 by 60 foot utilitarian structure, it is modestly ornate in a style reminiscent of the neoclassical tradition of the early twentieth century; a smaller reinforced concrete structure with similar detailing was built next to the dam. The concrete powerhouse is rectangular, 3 bays wide separated by pilasters defining the multi-paned industrial steel sash that incorporates (in places) hopper windows for ventilation. Its large, simple and unadorned cornice, along with the three recesses defining the upper row of windows from the lower, and its hierarchy of base, column (middle) and capital (cornice) give the structure its Neoclassical appearance. The original circular bench switchboard, located inside the switching gallery at the Elwha Plant, is still intact and in use; one example of the interesting detailing that survives is the row of curvilinear steel Doric columns which supports the switchboard. The outside light standards at the Glines Canyon Power Plant follow the neoclassical tradition and have round-topped globes sitting atop articulated concrete columns that are incorporated into a metal railing/fence (HAER 1995).

Additional property types related to the hydroelectric resource theme include construction worker's camps, workers homes, construction project work sites, roads, bridges, fish hatcheries and landscape alterations. Construction worker's camps are reported on the

terraces of the Elwha River at both dams, some of which are now submerged by the reservoir pool. The construction camps date from 1911 to the 1930s at various locations within the valley. The temporary nature of camps required wooden buildings, with some canvas sided tents to house the crews and serve as kitchen and dining shelters. Clearings, stumps, and modified trees may be the only landscape alterations of the camps. Photographic records offer direct evidence of the large-scale construction projects and the worker's camps [see fig. 42]. The material culture discarded or lost in the camps provides data sets by which to assess the worker's lifestyle [see fig. 43]. The remains of the permanent worker's homesites can provide further evidence of this isolated lifestyle.

There are no known historical fish hatchery remains in the Elwha River project APE. The one operation that began at the lower dam was abandoned and presumably removed. Permanent hatcheries have structures and features including concrete, metal and/or wooden pens, holding tanks, ponds, weirs, gates, sluiceways, among other components that are integral to the raising and rearing of fish for the purpose of releasing them in waters elsewhere. Since there are no remnants left from the hatchery built in conjunction with the Elwha Dam, specific descriptive information is not available.

The Rayonier Screen House locale associated with industry and lumbering also has association to the power provided by the Elwha hydroelectric developments. In order for the city of Port Angeles to operate their pulp and paper mills they had to have both the necessary power and clean water.

**Significance:** Hydroelectric production on the Olympic Peninsula began in 1914 with the completion of the Elwha River Hydroelectric Power Plant in order to supply electricity for Port Angeles' and other parts of the peninsula's domestic, commercial, and industrial needs. A second hydroelectric facility, the Glines Canyon Plant, was constructed in 1926 to meet the rising demands of the peninsula's inhabitants and industries. The hydroelectric power plants on the Elwha River are historically significant for their associations with the rapidly evolving technology of power generation and the organizations that formed to harness and distribute that power in Washington State. The Elwha River Plant is a historically significant example of a low head hydroelectric system in Washington State from the early twentieth century. In addition, the dam is a rare, early example of the multiple-buttress type (Criterion C). Finally, the "blowout" and reconstruction of the original dam foundation are noteworthy because they represent a failure of early engineering and response to that failure. Although changes have been made to the system over the years, no one element has been so altered that the continuity of the system is compromised. The Glines Canyon Plant is significant for its association with the evolution of power plant design and contribution to the development of the automation of hydroelectric installations (Criterion A). In addition, as one of the last dams within the state to be constructed solely for the purposes of power generation, it marks the closing of an era, which characterized early hydroelectric development within

Washington State (Hydroelectric Power Plants in Washington Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 12, 1988). These properties were determined eligible and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

The dam construction work camps were organized work groups, primarily male-dominated, and have been identified as institutional co-resident groups. The unique aggregate of temporary camps for which the construction company supplied all or most of the basic staples, will provide insight into the types of goods and personal items that evince a pattern unlike domestic habitation sites. The lifestyle of men inhabiting work camps is not well documented from archeological sources, and evidence of the camps should be considered an important resource for addressing research questions. Any camp site remains or permanent worker homesite locations may be eligible for listing under Criterion D, for their potential to yield information and answer research questions.

Fish hatcheries were constructed as a result of the loss of salmon habitat due to the construction of dams, irrigation ditches, and other developments in the Northwest. Any remnant features from the early fish passageway construction would enhance our understanding of how such a facility was designed and expected to operate. It would likely only be eligible for listing under Criterion D, as no intact properties remain from this early endeavor to assist fish in moving past the dams.

**Registration Requirements:** The hydroelectric plants on the Elwha River are listed in the National Register. According to the National Register documentation, both facilities are eligible under Criterion A and C because they are associated with the history of hydroelectric power plants and development of hydroelectric power in Washington State, 1880-1938, and are significant in the areas of Engineering and Industry. The Elwha Dam Plant's period of significance is 1910-1937; the Glines Canyon Dam Plant's is 1926-1938. The Hydroelectric Power Plants in Washington Multiple Property Documentation Form identifies four general criteria for determining the eligibility of hydroelectric plants and installations. Properties are eligible for listing if they are:

1. Significant in the history of hydroelectric generation engineering and electric transmission technology, in the history of hydroelectric design principles, and in the development of construction techniques (Criteria A and C); or,
2. Significant in the social, economic and industrial development of the locality, state, region or nation (Criterion A); or,
3. Significant examples of hydroelectric power systems designed or built by renowned engineers (Criterion C); or,
4. A rare example, a significant early example, or a significant representative example of a low or high head hydroelectric development (Criterion C).

In addition to these eligibility criteria, the multiple property form identifies the critical components of a hydroelectric power facility, and states that these components are part of a larger, interconnected system which makes up the power plant as a whole. The critical

components typically include a reservoir; dam; intake structure; water conveyance system, including canal, pipeline, penstocks, forebay; stand pipes and surge tank; powerhouse and generating equipment; transformers and transmission system. In addition, some plants included company housing and related structures. Fish hatcheries are another type of hydroelectric-associated property. They are a reflection of the belief that diminishing fish runs and loss of habitat due to “progressive” improvements such as hydroelectric dams could be mitigated through the construction of these fish-rearing hatcheries; beginning in 1895 they were constructed all over the state as a response.

Any remnants identified as related to a fish hatchery would likely only be eligible for listing under Criterion D, as no intact properties remain from this early endeavor to assist fish in moving past the dams (HAER 1995).

In order to be eligible, hydroelectric-related properties will retain integrity of most of the components, suitably enough so that the significance of the total system is well-represented. Loss of some components will not irreversibly compromise the integrity of a plant if the surviving features are well-preserved and 1) convey a discrete significance on their own, or 2) satisfactorily convey the significance of the total system. In addition, because hydroelectric plants were routinely expanded and adapted to meet changing technologies and/or power loads, some replacement in-kind or new construction is acceptable if the essential character of the plant is preserved. To be eligible under this context, the properties must be able to be documented as part of the existing hydroelectric production properties and have integrity and be significant either individually or as part of the district.

Other components related to the hydroelectric installations on the Elwha River may exist. These may be eligible for listing in the National Register if they have significant historical associations with the theme of hydroelectric power and retain integrity. Any industrial site in the Elwha River valley with an archeological component that may have a level of integrity to address research questions as defined under Criterion D is considered important for this study. No comparative data sets exist within the Elwha River Valley that pertain specifically to industrial habitation sites.

The hydropower projects have become historic properties and both are on the National Register of Historic Places. Removing them means the loss of the projects themselves, an adverse effect under the National Historic Preservation Act. However, mitigation in the form of extensive documentation of the properties to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) offsets this loss.



**Figure 36**  
**Railroad Bridge across Elwha River**

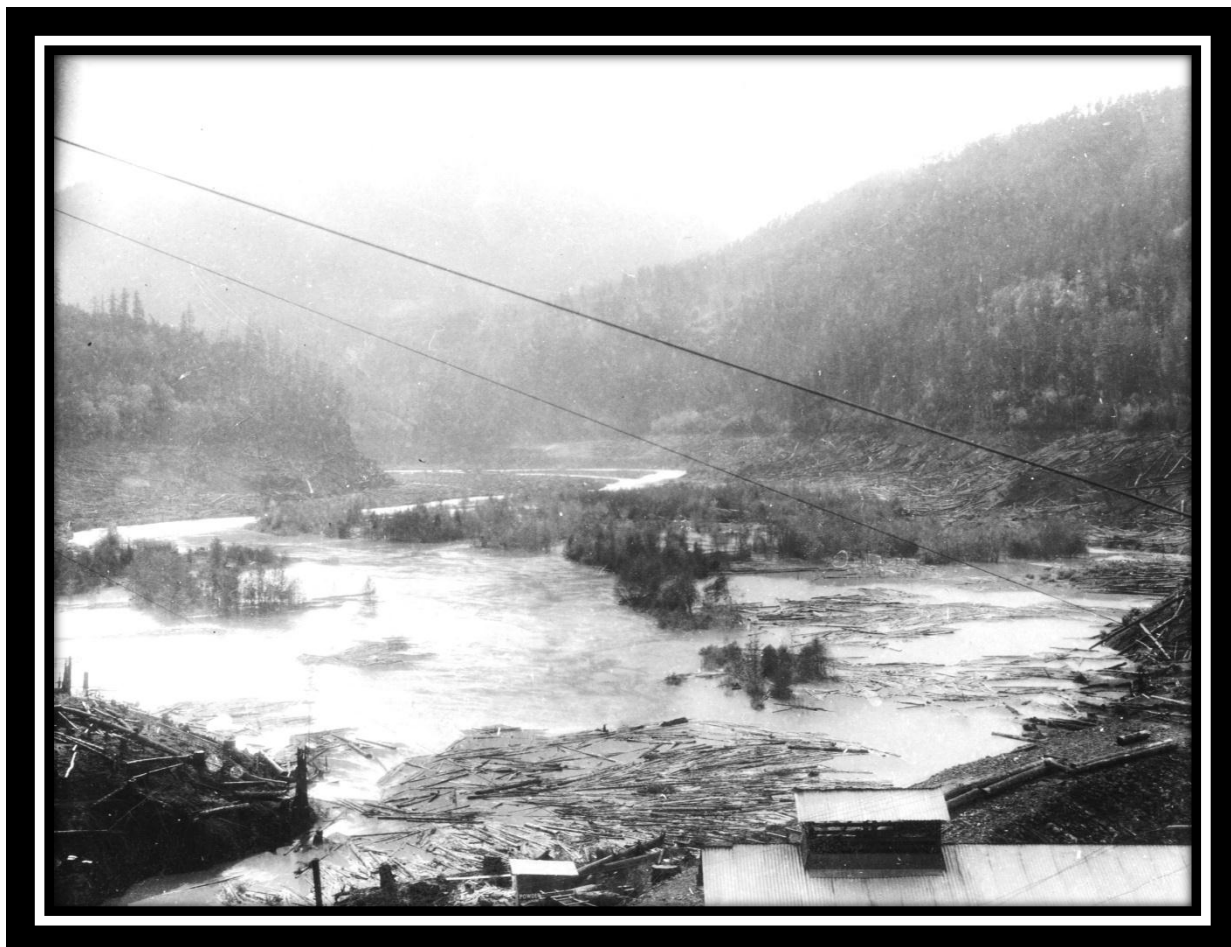


**Figure 37**  
**Glines Reservoir**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 201020074)**

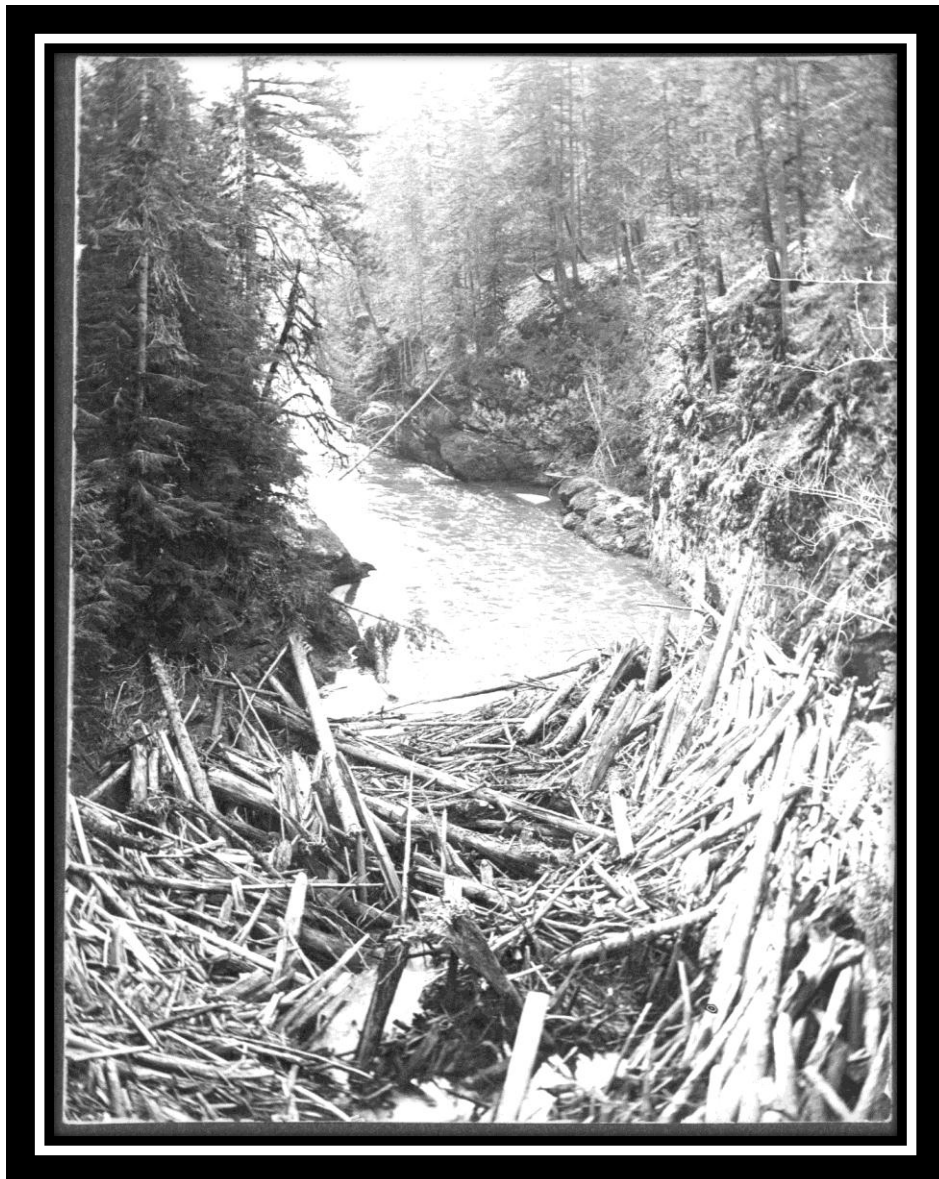


**Figure 38**  
**After blow-out**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 20102006)**

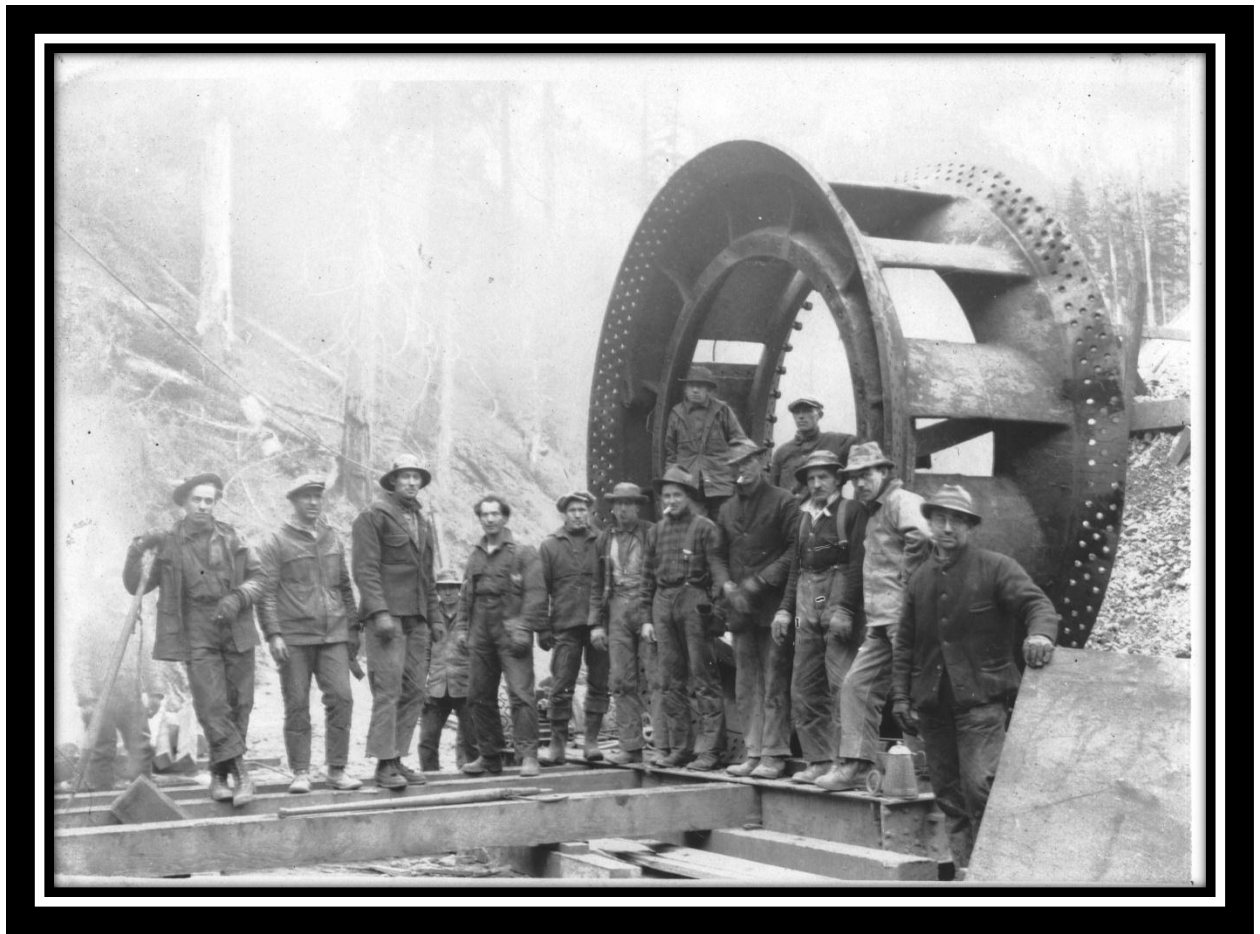


**Figure 39**  
**Francis Turbine runner for Glines**  
**Courtesy Anna Clawson (OLYM733-046)**

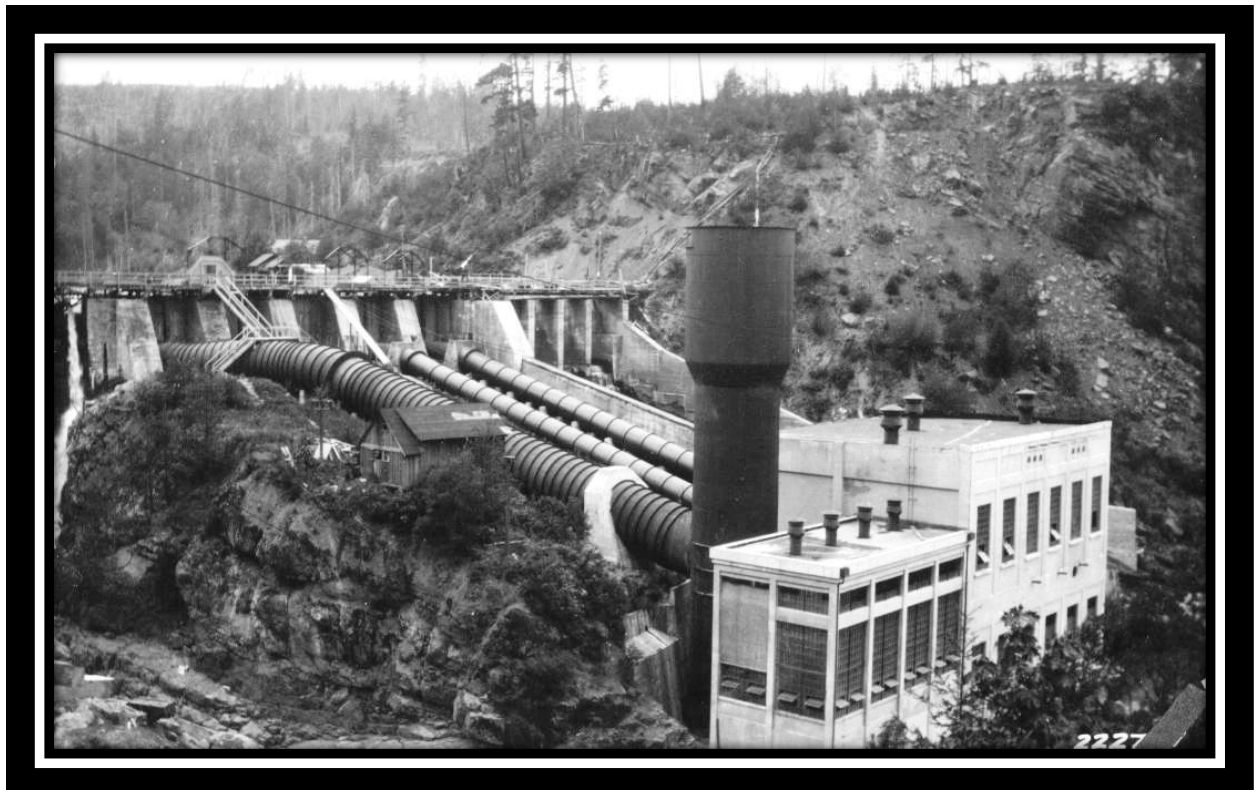


**Figure 40**  
**Elwha Dam Powerhouse (OLYM-FOR.SER.131)**

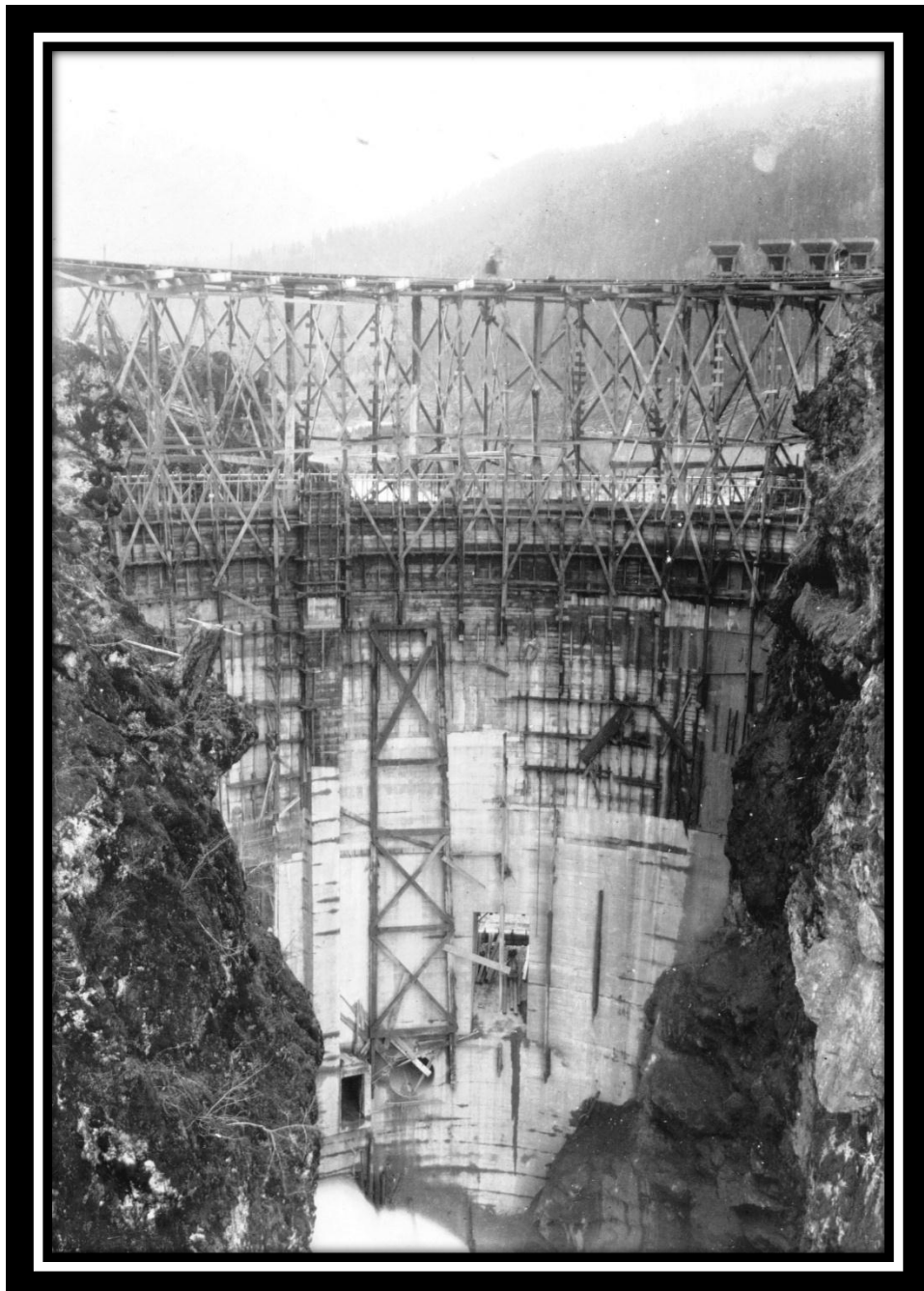


**Figure 41**  
**Glines Dam**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 201020082)**

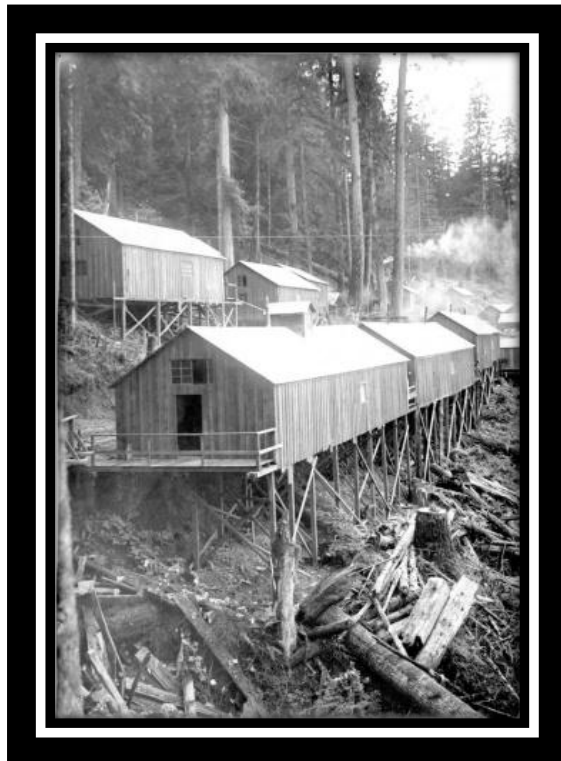


**Figure 42**  
**Elwha Dam camp housing**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 2010200144)**



**Figure 43**  
**Glines camp cookhouse**  
**Courtesy Clallam County Historical Society (CCHS 201020050)**



## **VII. RECREATION AND TOURISM IN THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY (1890s-1930s)**

### **Introduction**

For nearly a century, the real and perceived wilderness qualities of the Olympic Peninsula have been central to the recreational development of this northwestern land mass. Recreational interests were part of the O'Neil expedition, as he was accompanied by three members of the Oregon Alpine Club on his 1890 trans-Olympic exploration. Over the next several decades, private and public recreational developments appeared on the peninsula to augment the public's experience. The combination of peaceful solitude, inspirational scenery, and challenging sport attracted hardy adventurers and spawned commercial resort development on the peninsula and within Olympic National Park.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, O'Neil and outdoor enthusiast Judge James Wickersham wrote detailed accounts of breathtaking scenery, prolific numbers of deer, elk, and bear, and abundant fish on the peninsula. These writings stimulated the interest of growing numbers of urban Americans who sought reprieve from the crowded and sullied spaces and growing tensions of industrial cities. Around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, avid fishermen and hunters from as far away as east coast cities succumbed to reports of the region's bountiful nature. Fishermen were lured by stories of large inland lakes and major rivers and tributaries on the peninsula teeming with enormous fish. Lakes Crescent, Sutherland, Quinault, and Cushman, as well as the more accessible Elwha, Queets, and Quinault rivers, were early popular fishing havens. Equally enticing to the sports enthusiast were the large herds of elk and deer that were abundant throughout the peninsula. Although hunting regulations restricted the killing of certain animals in parts of the peninsula, the hunting of big game animals initially drew many recreational users here.

Hiking and mountaineering are among the earliest continuous recreational pursuits on the peninsula and in the area now included within Olympic National Park. In the tradition of the 1890 Wickersham and O'Neil expeditions, parties of hikers saw in the Olympic Mountains an unequalled opportunity for adventure, physical challenge, refreshment, and inspiration. Beginning in the 1890s and continuing into the 1920s, hiking and mountaineering groups such as the Oregon Alpine Club and the Mazamas from Portland, Oregon, the Mountaineers of Seattle, and the Klahhane Club and the Olympians from local peninsula towns, organized regular hiking treks into the interior portions of the Olympics. In 1907, the first major recreational expedition into the Olympics by sixty-five members of the newly-formed Seattle Mountaineers club hiked to the headwaters of the Elwha River and climbed several yet unconquered peaks. Subsequent summer outings sponsored by the Mountaineers were repeated in 1913, 1920, 1926, and 1933. Although fewer in numbers, but just as serious about their interest to experience the array of splendid scenery and wildlife in the Olympics, the Klahhanes and the Olympians encouraged and perpetuated recreational use of the interior mountain valleys and slopes.

Perhaps nothing so dramatically encouraged the recreational development of the area now contained within the boundaries of Olympic National Park as the opening up of the peninsula and the mountains by the construction of roads and trails. The arrival of both the automobile and the USFS on the Olympic Peninsula soon after the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century played a significant role in the escalating development of the peninsula's and the forest's recreational potential. Born during an age of great technological innovation and the rapid expansion of big business in America, the automobile and the subsequent demand for good roads opened the peninsula for the first time to a quickly growing group of mobile people [see fig. 44].

Central to this development was the construction of a peninsula highway. Beginning on the eastern periphery of the peninsula and slowly advancing to the west, the Olympic Highway eventually encircled the entire mountain range, providing access to the outer slopes of the Olympic Mountains. By 1915, the northern segment of the highway linked Seattle to Mora, on the Pacific coast. By the early 1920s, a road hugging the south shore of Lake Crescent relieved the bottleneck of cars waiting to cross the lake by ferry. At the southern base of the peninsula, an improved section of the highway pushed its way to Lake Quinault and beyond. In 1931, both ends of the Olympic Highway met on the Pacific coast where a dramatic ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the long-awaited completion of the peninsula's 350-mile loop highway. As work on the Olympic Peninsula's major roads advanced, so too did the number of recreationists who chose to spend their leisure time fishing, hunting, hiking, or simply relaxing in the wilderness setting of the mountains and coastline.

While the Olympic Loop Highway progressed toward completion in the 1920s and early 1930s, the USFS, land managing agency for thousands of acres encircled by the loop road, made inroads into the heart of the mountains through its extensive trail and shelter building activities. Guided by its philosophy of multiple resource use, the USFS aimed its trail construction efforts at the dual purpose of protecting the immense stands of Olympic timber against destruction by fire, and at perpetuating and encouraging recreational use of the vast lands under their domain. The 1920s were a period of intense trail construction activity by the USFS. By 1930, the USFS maintained 300 miles of trails and nearly ninety shelters.

Beginning in 1933, when newly-elected President Franklin Roosevelt mounted his campaign to halt the devastating effects of the national Depression through numerous work relief programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) further aided the USFS's efforts to develop the recreational potential of much of the area now included in Olympic National Park. Just as the building of roads brought vacationers to the peninsula, the construction of trails opened the way for easier access to the recreational opportunities in the interior valleys and mountains.

Recreational pursuits also gave rise to commercial resorts on the peninsula at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Like other developments in the region, commercial resorts moved inward from the periphery of the Olympic Peninsula. Typically, resorts first appeared along the edges of large inland lakes, such as lakes Crescent, Sutherland, Quinault, and Cushman, which witnessed the first wave of sport vacationers as early as the 1890s. Pioneer settlers at the edge of these lakes struggled to derive a living from the land by opening their rustic cabins to the earliest summer visitors.

By 1900, resorts and summer cottages dotted the shores of Lake Crescent and other inland lakes. Many of these early resorts took shape as rustic log structures, while others were wood-frame built from native materials obtained from or near the building site or nearby mills. Early resort buildings served as lodges where guests slept and took their meals. Expansion of these first buildings came quickly in the form of tent cabins, usually replaced soon afterward by permanent modest sleeping cabins. Lakeshore resort guests occupied their leisure time with a variety of activities: fishing, swimming, boating, hiking or horseback riding, croquet, horseshoes, trap shooting, and later entertainment provided by the resort proprietors.

The appearance of the automobile and road access to previously remote resort havens in the 1910s accelerated the growth of resort development in general. Additionally, they encouraged the expansion of already existing resorts. Although lakes Crescent, Sutherland, Quinault, and Cushman remained the areas of the most concentrated commercial resort development, small rustic inns and cabins began to appear sporadically in lowland river valleys and along the coast as sections of the Olympic Loop Highway were completed. Newly constructed roads provided direct or near direct access to two hot springs deep in the north peninsula forests--and at these locations commercial resort facilities appeared. In the 1920s and the early 1930s, road access to the previously remote Pacific coast of the peninsula prompted the proliferation of several roadside resorts near the pounding ocean surf. In general, private resorts, auto camps, campgrounds, and privately-owned cottages proliferated at numerous sport and beauty spots along the highway during this period.

A major player in the history of commercial resorts was the USFS. Between 1905 and 1933, the USFS encouraged commercial resort development in areas where recreational use had an early precedent, or where other uses (specifically commercial logging interest) were of no great consequence. After 1910, the USFS encouraged families and resort owners to build facilities within the monument and forest and developed a permit policy to construct recreation structures. The Term Occupancy Act of March 4, 1915, allowed private use and development of public forest lands for terms up to 30 years. The USFS granted permission for the continued operation of existing resorts (in the form of permits) and, in many instances, for the construction of new resort facilities. The USFS's expanding network of trails into the interior Olympic Mountains in the 1920s and 1930s further stimulated commercial resort development in two remote locations in the Quinault River drainage on the southern slopes of the Olympics.

The introduction of the automobile and the development of the nation's highway system further stimulated recreational growth. Improved access and inexpensive transportation led almost immediately to the development of auto-oriented tourist camps in National Forests.

By the 1930s, the Olympic Peninsula was known throughout the region as a scenic wonderland replete with resort facilities to suit the needs, tastes, and means of nearly every vacationer. With the growing affordability and popularity of the automobile, many resorts that once catered exclusively to the urbane tastes and genteel fancies of the wealthier resort-goers added housekeeping cabins to their repertoire of accommodations. The 1930s also brought other changes. It was a time when existing resorts had varying degrees of success adapting to the changes that came with the shifting social values and concepts of recreation at the time, and by the changes in land management regulations that occurred as a result of the creation of a national park.

Preservation proved to be an important catalyst for change, too. Worried that continued road and trail construction was not only opening more and more land to recreationists but to the timber industry as well, concerned citizens mounted a campaign to preserve those natural resources that, for over four decades, had drawn the pleasure seeker to the Olympics. Ultimately all of this led to the establishment of Olympic National Park on June 29, 1938. Since then, recreational use has been pursued within the context of preservation of the unique natural qualities for which the peninsula gained its early and continuing widespread reputation.

Today, scores of buildings exist on the peninsula, which represent the peninsula's continued recreational activities since the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among these are trail shelters and campground "community kitchens" (included in discussion under the history of government activity in the park), and great numbers of private recreational structures clustered around Lake Crescent. Individual resort cabins were scattered at several other locations, including the Pacific Ocean, Queets River, and the Elwha River basin. Few of the commercial resorts built at or after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century exist today or remain intact. Decay from disuse and neglect spelled the end for some vintage resorts; fires caused the demise of many others; and demolition, relocation, or reconstruction by the NPS has significantly altered or ended the life of several older resort ensembles. Of the myriad resorts on the peninsula, some that survive today include three structures in the park: Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern (Lake Crescent Lodge), Rosemary Inn (Olympic Park Institute), the Enchanted Valley Chalet; the Lake Quinault Lodge on USFS lands, and one home remaining from the Place Resort.

**Historic Context Statement: Recreation and Tourism in the Elwha River Valley**

Beginning in the 1890s, outdoor recreationists sought the scenic qualities of the Elwha River Valley, just as they did throughout the rugged Olympic Peninsula. Fishermen, hunters, hikers, sightseers, and resort patrons were drawn to the Elwha's splendid beauty and wild surroundings. As one Midwestern visitor commented after a trip up the Elwha Valley at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, "Wild wood, wild berries, wild life; there's nothing tame in the Olympics" (Evans 1983:202).

Sport hunters visited the Elwha country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to hunt the peninsula's famed herds of elk, renowned for their abundance. State law prohibited hunting elk in 1905, and when Mount Olympus National Monument was established in 1909, its express purpose was to protect this "monarch of the wilderness" and its feeding range. Although prohibited from taking elk, sport hunters hunted deer and cougar up the Elwha; they were perhaps two of the most widely hunted game animals in the interior mountains. Deer hunting was legal in parts of the monument and national forest, and the upper Elwha River became a popular location for hunting camps during the 1910s and 1920s. Deer hunting also kept local packers employed in the area, for they frequently packed supplies for hunters in the fall from the Elwha into the interior mountains. Among these packers were Grant Humes, Burt Herrick, and DeWitt Sisson. When a bounty was offered for cougar, peninsula residents, including those up the Elwha River, hunted this animal to supplement their income. One resident of the Elwha Valley, Emil O. Michael, for whom Michael's Cabin is named, gained considerable notoriety for his prowess hunting cougar during the 1920s and 1930s [see fig. 45].

Recreational fishing was enjoyed by untold numbers of sport fishermen and hikers on the Olympic Peninsula and in particular on the Elwha River during this same period. Stories of lakes and streams filled with abundant trout, cutthroat, and steelhead appeared in sport and recreational magazines before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Pronouncing the fishing wonders of the Elwha River, along with Lake Crescent, a promotional pamphlet from 1911 claimed:

At McDonald Bridge the wilderness and grandeur of the Elwha are particularly impressive and the ripples and pools of this splendid trout stream offer a hard-to-resist temptation to just stop for a minute to try a few casts.... It is fairly clear [that] the big Dolly Vardens in the deep, dark pools, or the gamy cutthroats on the wide, white-crested rapids, afford abundant fishing. (Evans 1983: 228) [see fig. 46]

Attesting to the continued popularity of fishing on the Elwha, some twenty years later an informed observer stated that "there is no question but the Elwha is the best trout stream in the Olympics" (Evans 1983:228). Many fishing enthusiasts hiked or hired packers for the trip up the increasingly famous Elwha River.

Both sport hunters and fishermen stayed in summer cabins erected in the Elwha drainage. Grant Humes and Doc Ludden took recreationists into their homes. In the 1920s, the USFS issued permits to several sports enthusiasts who annually visited the valley to build their cabins on or near the present Elwha River Trail. According to the acting custodian of Mount Olympus National Monument, Preston Macy, there were four summer residences on the Elwha River in 1935: the log cabin of Dr. Ball of Seattle near Windfall Creek (1920); the two log cabins of Truman Drum and Frederick Remann (1926), only a half-mile apart and about a mile south of the present Elkhorn Ranger Station; and the log cabin of H.H. Botten (1928-1929), about ten miles south of Remann's Cabin. Both Remann and Botten, whose cabins still stand, were well-known figures in the Elwha country.

Although recreational hunting and fishing in the Elwha River Valley could hardly be divorced from hiking, mountaineering and hiking developed as independent recreational activities. The drainage's scenic beauty combined with the challenge of traversing rugged country and ascending unconquered peaks had great appeal to numerous hikers and mountaineers. One of these parties, a group organized by Seattle photographer Asahel Curtis and composed of three men and five horses, set out in the mid-1920s to "penetrate the last untamed wilderness of our land" (Evans 1983: 241). The group traveled extensively in the western river drainages, one of which was the Elwha, with Curtis taking numerous photographs of the scenery and commercial possibilities.

The experience of traveling in the Olympic Mountains gave rise to an ardent wilderness lifestyle for some individuals. Between the mid-1920s and the mid-1940s, for example, Port Angeles photographer Herb Crisler erected a series of backcountry shelters and caches for storing supplies while he carried out his hunting and hiking pursuits, and later his photographic expeditions in the mountainous interior of the park. Several of these shelters were scattered on the high slopes and ridges in the vicinity of the Elwha River basin [see fig. 47].

Asahel Curtis viewed the wilderness differently, with an eye toward commercial development. Curtis believed in stimulating interest in the peninsula's timber resources, its plentiful wild game, its water power and agricultural potential, the outstanding mountain scenery, and the "summer resort possibilities." It was in this latter area that others shared his views, for they developed resorts up the Elwha River Valley and general vicinity in an attempt to profit from natural features found there.

One of these was the region's hot springs. Olympic Hot Springs on Boulder Creek, already used for centuries by the Elwha Klallam, was first opened to the public in 1906 by Billy Everett (the son of early settler John Everett and a Klallam woman, a relative of Boston Charlie or *Kanahort*), Charles Anderson, and Thomas Farrel with marginal operations. Farrel and Anderson soon pulled out and Billy Everett turned the hot springs into a destination resort [see fig. 48]. In 1907, Everett built a trail to the springs and a bath house. Walter Goodwin constructed a water wheel to supply power for a sawmill in

1909 and the mill was used to cut timbers for the pool, which was built on the hillside in 1910. The hot springs owners steadily improved the resort by 1917 and over the same period of time it increased in popularity [see fig. 49].

The reopening of the Sol Duc Hot Springs in the 1920s contributed to Olympic Hot Spring's decline in popularity, in addition to Olympic's inaccessibility. To ease this problem, Olympic Hot Spring's new managers, Harry and Jeanette Schoeffel (Billy Everett's daughter), leased the camp at Altair on the upper Elwha River and ran daily pack trips to the resort. Finally, in 1930, a road was built to the hot springs, the result of combined efforts by the USFS and Clallam County to promote the resort and its therapeutic waters. New construction at Olympic Hot Springs continued into the late 1920s and early 1930s, both expanding and improving the resort's services. In 1940, the Boulder Creek/Elwha River area was added to Olympic National Park and the new boundaries included the resort. The Olympic Hot Springs was marred by fire and gradual decline and the business closed in the late 1960s. In the early 1970s the NPS removed the buildings.

A number of other small, commercial and home-operated "resorts" were built in the Elwha River Valley. Some included gas stations, housekeeping cabins, stores for provisioning the tourists, and even a swimming pool and a dance pavilion for evening entertainment. Some resorts and businesses offered horseback riding and saddle/pack trail services to transport visitors into the backcountry, while others offered boat excursions. A few "resorts" had smokehouses that were used to smoke the fish that the tourists had caught during their stay. These were typically small wood shake structures as little as 18 inches square, extending about 2 feet above the ground, with nails and wires inside for hanging the fish. These structures were found throughout the area, and as many as six remained standing until 1934, when monument Superintendent Preston Macy ordered them destroyed (Macy to Tomlinson 1934) [see fig. 50].

The Elwha Resort was one example of a local auto-era "resort" dating from the first half of the 20th century. While bearing characteristics of roadside auto camps and tourist courts from an earlier era, the resort complex represented evolving entrepreneurial responses to an ideal roadside business location. Wood-frame cabins overlooking the Elwha River helped define the property as an auto-friendly destination resort; other structures, including the resort office/store, shop, laundry/toilet, and a modern metal mobile home bespoke of commercial convenience without any pretensions. Associated features, such as camping sites scattered on the wooded terrace along the riverbank, trailer spaces on the east side of the open parking area, and a waterside barbecue shelter and boat launch, reflected the facility's multiple commercial and recreational functions.

If State Highway 9 (presently SR 101) had not crossed the Elwha River at this location, the Elwha Resort would likely never have been built. Its existence had always been dependent upon both natural resources (the river and nearby Olympic Mountains) and man-made features (the highway and Aldwell Reservoir). From the time of its

establishment in the 1920s, the Elwha Resort benefited from proximity to the highway, which connects the city of Port Angeles (approximately 6 miles to the east) with the western Olympic Peninsula. Indeed, construction of the highway bridge in 1926 appears to have spurred construction of the first gas station at the site of the Elwha Resort. Bridge construction crews may have lived in the cabins brought to the site, which appear to have evolved into a fishing resort as Lake Aldwell bordered its western edge.

Eventually time and lack of improvement left the Elwha Resort cabins unappealing to those accustomed to frequenting more upscale destination resorts, and renters moved in. When acquired by the NPS in August 2000 (as one of the measures to restore native anadromous fisheries by removing the Elwha River hydroelectric dams), a dozen tenants were living in the decrepit cabins. The property deteriorated further due to vandalism and lack of maintenance. Arsonists set the resort on fire in October 2000 and the remaining structures were removed and the grounds cleaned up. Thus was the demise of the last auto resort on the Olympic Peninsula. Although lacking formal design and features common to family-friendly destination resorts, the Elwha Resort constituted perhaps the most complete assemblage of resources associated with historic-era recreation resorts remaining on the Olympic Peninsula [see fig. 51].

Waumila Lodge was another resort built in the Elwha River Valley, though nothing remains of the buildings today. Located about 5 miles within the park boundary and just south of the Elwha Ranger Station, only a small open field on Griff Creek marks the site of the cluster of rustic peeled log and wood frame buildings that once comprised Waumila Lodge. First built as an auto camp about 1930, the main buildings at Waumila consisted of a log store and open-sided log dance pavilion. Ten housekeeping cabins stood nearby, some of log and some of wood construction. Saddle and pack trail service provided by the lodge proprietor transported visitors to the upper Elwha River Valley and elsewhere for excursions. The first packer was local resident Joe Stanley, followed by Arthur and Rhea Shelleberger in 1936, who operated the lodge until the late 1940s. After several other owners and operators took their turns, Waumila Lodge ceased operations and by 1963 all the buildings were removed (Evans 1983:289) [see fig. 52].

Through all of these recreational pursuits and commercial resort activities, the USFS played an important role in the Elwha River Valley, as well as throughout the national monument, by building trails and shelters, and by constructing stub roads into areas of heavy recreational use during the 1920s and early 1930s. The road extending up the Elwha River to the Olympic Hot Springs was one example. Emergency conservation programs created under the New Deal, such as the CCC, aided the USFS significantly in building recreational facilities.

The early trails in the National Forests were for official use in land management and resource protection. Trail-side improvements, including shelters began to appear in the 1910s. Development of backcountry access for recreation was not undertaken until the 1920s, which was a period of intense trail construction activity by the USFS. Planning

and design of trails proceeded under the guidance of Fred Cleator in the USFS Regional Office, and numerous trails were constructed. Cleator's design differed from administrative trails in that a recreation experience was the objective. Scenic views, terrain, and vegetation to integrate with natural features were incorporated into trail building and routes. Recreation trails were engineered, sometimes in difficult terrain [see fig. 53].

The CCC had far reaching effects in recreation policy as the philosophy gave more attention to the "social" functions of the forests. Roads were located in relation to scenic vistas as the beauty of the natural environment was one of the goals. The governing factors in planning trailside improvements were to meet the needs of the trail travelers; to provide for sanitary conditions; and to protect the forests from fire.

In 1937, President Roosevelt supported the establishment of a park and came to Port Angeles on September 30, 1937, calling for a large roadless park, which was established June 29, 1938. On January 2, 1940, Lake Crescent, the Port Angeles administrative site, Deer Park, Hurricane Ridge, Obstruction Point, the Elwha, Bogachiel, and Quinault River valleys were added to the park. At the time there was a USFS CCC camp operating at Elwha that was then transferred to the NPS. The CCC continued to work on road and trail improvements for the NPS.

After the NPS took over management of the new park in 1938, it continued to manage for recreation. Under NPS regulations and because of the wilderness qualities of the park, hunting was prohibited, commercialization of recreational facilities was discouraged and reduced over time, permits for private resort homes were discontinued, and vehicular access was limited. Consequently, no new recreational cabins or resorts up the Elwha River Valley appeared, and most of the aging structures from early in the century were removed.

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Recreation and Tourism-related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** Early recreational structures were generally very modest. The same limitations that early settlers experienced--isolation, difficulties in transporting materials, lack of trained architects or skilled craftsmen--were applicable to these structures as well. They are most often single story or one-story plus an attic loft, log or hewn timber construction on rubble or log foundations, with gable roofs sheathed in hand-split shakes. They were functional structures designed to provide basic shelter with a minimum of frills. The difficulties encountered in creating a clearing in the dense forest usually limited the clearing size to that needed to provide room for the main structure and any associated outbuildings. Where cabins or shelters have been neglected or abandoned, the size of the original clearing has been diminished by the rapidly encroaching vegetation.

Commercial resorts, on the other hand, tended to be slightly more substantial. Although the earliest resorts were made up of rude structures with primitive cabins or tents, they became more sophisticated by the 1910s.

Resorts were often built on property that was initially homesteaded and cleared. Resort owners maintained gardens and orchards originally planted by the homesteaders. Evidence of resorts may be limited to photographs, landscape alterations, and buried metal, ceramic and glass artifacts associated with the resort owners and assemblages from cabins occupied by the guests. Additional historical archeological property types for this theme include recreational camps, hunter's camps, and individual cabins. Fishing camp remains might be found adjacent to the river on terraces, and hunting camps may be found on the mountain slopes, smaller drainages, or mountain ridges. Recreational camps are of short-term duration, with few permanent wooden buildings, although fire hearths, tent platforms, and corrals or fence posts may be present.

There are few extant properties related to the themes of recreation or tourism within the APE except for the Place cabin, and archeological manifestations of the Waumila Lodge, Sweet's Resort, recreation camps, and the site of the Elwha Resort. The resorts could contain landscape plantings and buried cultural material that is functionally and temporally discrete and may have interpretive value to the public's understanding of the area's history (Schalk et al. 1996: 4.7). Other properties that exist, such as the Remann and Botten cabins, are located farther up the valley and outside of the APE.

**Significance:** Interest in the recreational potential of the Olympic Peninsula and the Elwha River Valley has been an important factor in its exploration and development since the late 19th century. The recreational opportunities of the peninsula brought it national attention, and by association, the Elwha River Valley was included in this national light. Both the real and imagined wilderness nature of the Elwha country attracted sport hunters, sport fishermen, hiking and mountaineering groups, sightseers, and resort patrons from the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere throughout the country. They sought peaceful solitude, inspirational scenery, abundant wildlife, and rugged lakes, rivers, and mountains to enjoy and conquer. They hunted, fished, hiked, climbed mountains, and viewed spectacular scenic wonders. The Elwha's recreational attributes also contributed to the development of roads, trails, shelters, cabins, and tourist businesses, such as campgrounds, auto camps, and the hot springs resort. The USFS enhanced these recreational opportunities by permitting the construction of these commercial resorts that epitomized the Elwha's recreational significance. The importance of outdoor recreation and commercial resorts goes beyond any economic benefits. These recreation-related properties are significant for their association with persons of local significance (Criterion B), the peninsula's tourism development and the lifestyles associated with it (Criterion A), and the larger movement to establish a national park (Criterion A).

**Registration Requirements:** In order to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, recreation-related resources must retain enough of their original materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling and association so that their original appearance is evident, be in fair or better condition, and be located within the Elwha River project APE and date from 1890s-1930s. Association with specific individuals must be conclusively documented through written records and oral histories to qualify under Criterion B, and must have importance to recreational development in the Elwha River Valley between 1890s and 1930s.

To meet the minimal requirements for Criterion D, any sites related to Recreation and Tourism in the Elwha River Valley with an archeological component and level of integrity to address research questions would be considered potentially eligible. The importance of this archeological information is related to the fact that there are no comparative data sets to refer to, and therefore all information is important for study.

Before they burnt down, the Elwha Resort structures were found eligible for listing in the National Register as the Elwha Resort Historic District under Criterion A, at the local level of significance, for its association with early automobile-era lodging and recreation in Washington State. The historic district derived its identity from interrelated, functionally distinct elements that together conveyed a sense of the property's historic character.



**Figure 44**

**“See Washington First” in the Olympic Forest on the Road to Lake Crescent and the Sol Duc Hot Springs, Post Card (OLYM-POL.002.051)**



**Figure 45**

**Cougar Mike and his pack string  
Courtesy Elsa Schmidt (OLYM-Elsa-00005)**

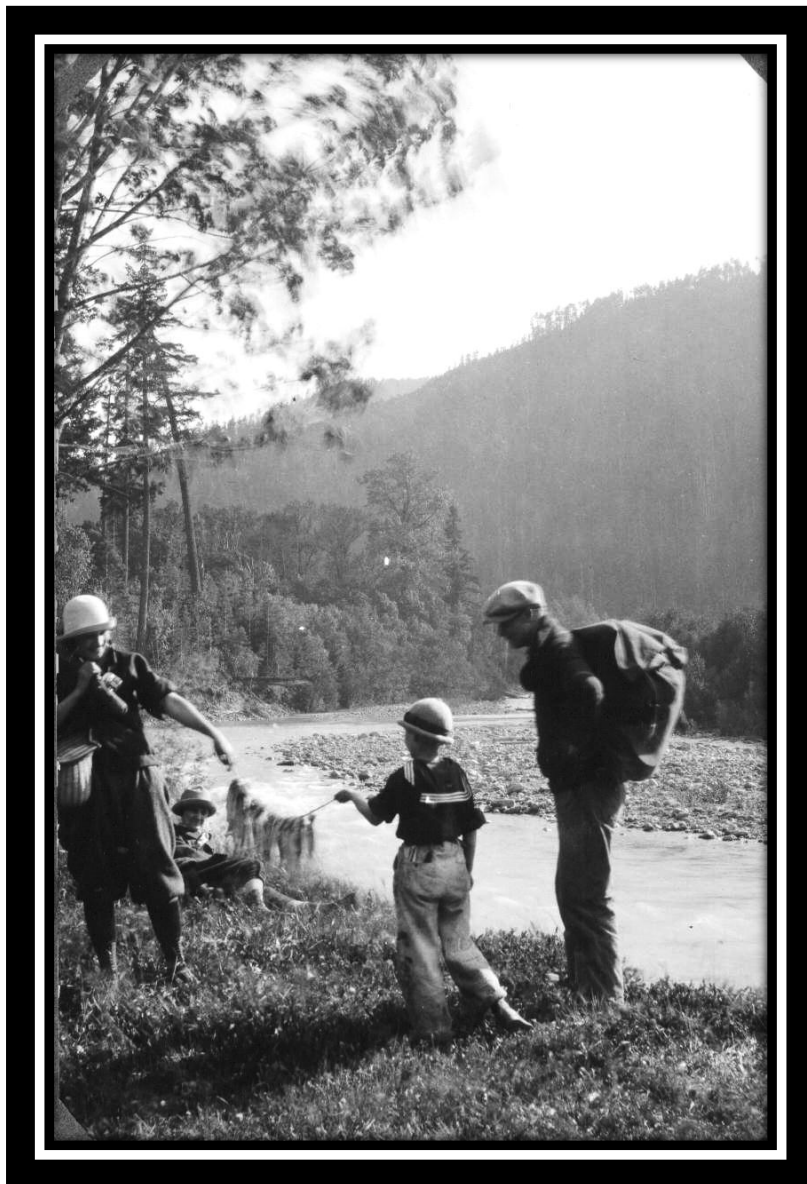


**Figure 46**  
**Fishing on the Elwha (OLYM-FOR.SER.149)**



**Figure 47**  
**Herb Crisler (OLYM-CRI.009.037)**



**Figure 48**  
**Billy Everett by Herb Crisler (OLYM-CRI.012.009)**



**Figure 49**  
**Olympic Hot Springs Cabins (OLYM-FOR.SER.237)**



**Figure 50**  
**Smokehouse (OLYM-SMR.001.007)**



**Figure 51**  
**Elwha Resort (OLYM-JAC.001.003)**

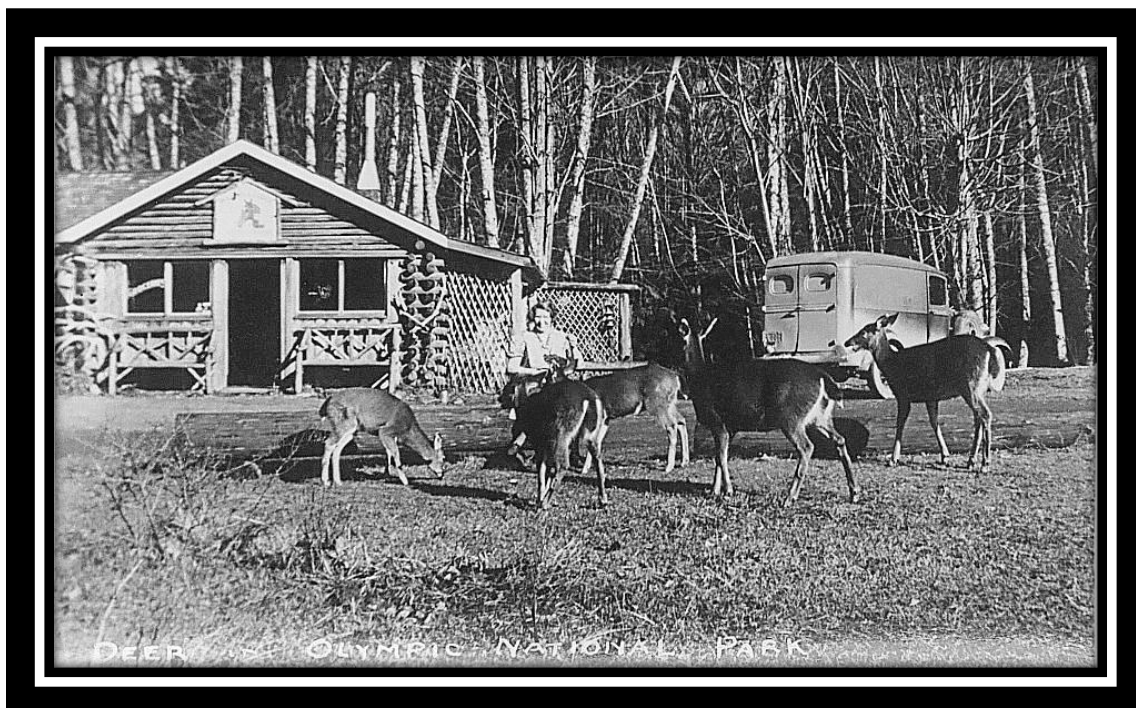


**Figure 52**  
**Waumila Resort (OLYM-DOR.001.001)**

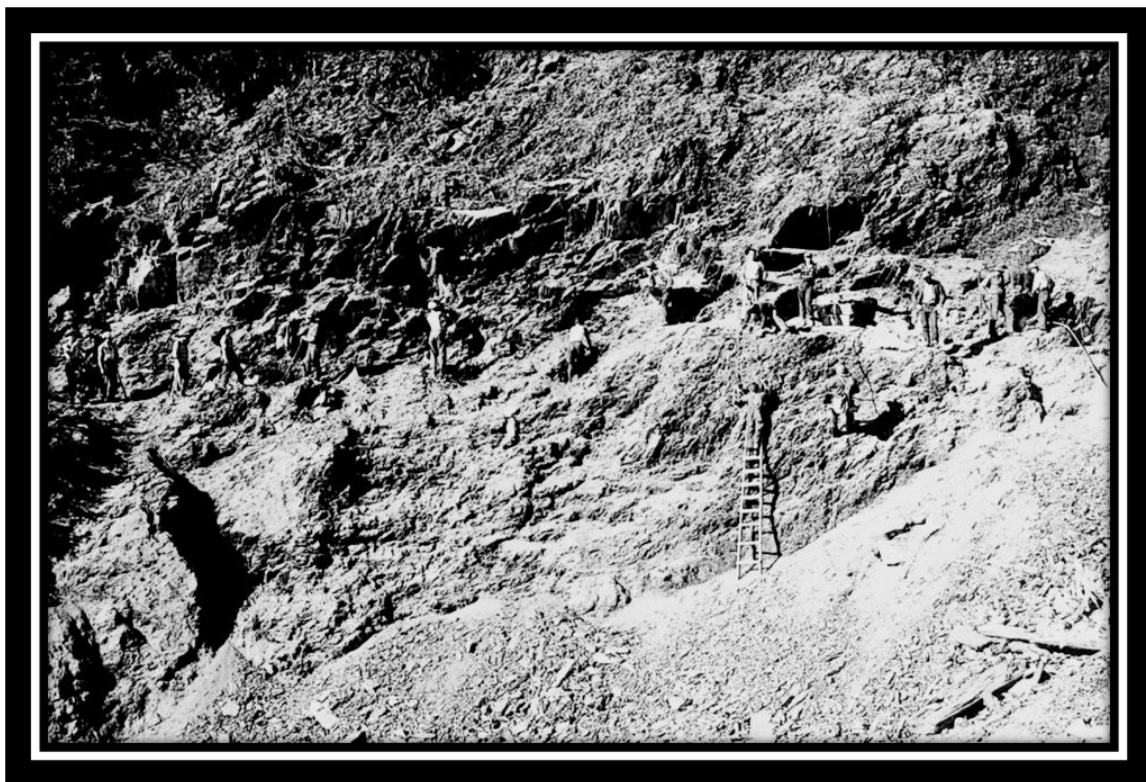


**Figure 53**  
**CCC building trail (OLYM-BOY.001.005)**

## **VIII. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IN THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY (1910-1942)**

### **Introduction**

Since 1897, when President Grover Cleveland set aside over two million acres of land (the largest portion of the peninsula) as a forest reserve, much of the Olympic Peninsula has remained under the jurisdiction of the federal government. As noted earlier, the federal presence follows an ever changing and convoluted history: both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (as they are now named) have each administered lands on the peninsula, and federally designated areas have continually been expanded and reduced in response to political pressures from both within and outside these departments of government.

The area within today's park has undergone four management designations, beginning first as a Forest Reserve in 1897. It became a National Forest in 1907. On March 2, 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt established Mount Olympus National Monument to protect the elk population. The USFS administered both the monument and forest. In 1933 the monument was transferred to the NPS; in 1938 Olympic National Park was created with the monument and other lands. Additions of the Elwha, Sol Duc, Lake Crescent, Deer Park, Hurricane Ridge, Bogachiel, Port Angeles, and some of the Quinault were made in 1940. Then, in 1958, the coastal strip and the Queets corridor were added to Olympic National Park.

Initially, physical evidence of a federal presence was limited to a very small cadre of individual, sparse, and widely scattered patrol camps. A proliferation of trails, primitive stub roads, and administrative structures increased significantly by the 1910s and 1920s. Today, along with remnant sections of early trails and roads, government-built structures present tangible evidence of the existence of the extended history of both the USFS and the NPS on the Olympic Peninsula. The NPS, as caretaker of lands now included in the park, has, in many instances, maintained many buildings, thus perpetuating their survival in a climate that quickly assaults buildings left unoccupied and unmaintained. The collection of buildings associated with government administration of the present Olympic National Park includes guard and ranger stations, trail shelters, fire lookouts, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed structures, and the park's administrative headquarters buildings. Many of these buildings comprise one of the largest groups of extant pre-1943 buildings in Olympic National Park.

This historic context will discuss the various government agencies and their management priorities and then explore the Government Operations theme specific to the Elwha River Valley.

### **United States Forest Service (USFS)**

Structures erected by or under the direction of the USFS make up the greatest number of government buildings inside the park today. In 1905, the USFS was given jurisdiction of

the nearly 1.5 million-acre Olympic Forest Reserve. Over the next 33 years, the USFS established an expanding network of guard and ranger stations, shelters, roads, trails, and fire lookouts throughout the Olympics.

Before 1911 the USFS constructed only a few widely dispersed ranger and guard stations. (USFS ranger stations were usually distinguished from guard stations by their proximity to road access and centers of populations). Early management in the 1910s focused on issues of land claims, grazing, trail improvements, land status, trespass, special use permits, reconnaissance, timber sales, fire protection and prevention, building telephone lines, and the establishment of year-round ranger stations. The superintendent of Mount Olympus Forest Reserve suggested a fire protection plan that outlined construction of an extensive trail system and roads that paralleled phone lines. He also proposed patrol boxes with fire fighting tools every five miles and shelters for travelers and fire fighters. Planning and design of trails proceeded under the guidance of Fred Cleator in the USFS Regional Office, and numerous trails were constructed. Cleator's design differed from administrative trails in that a recreation experience was the objective. Scenic views, terrain, and vegetation to interact with natural features were incorporated into trail routes. Recreation trails were engineered, sometimes in difficult terrain.

As the ranks of the USFS swelled and more trails were cut into and across the Olympics, these guard and ranger stations were added throughout the 1910s and 1920s. In the late 1920s and into the 1930s, USFS guard and ranger station construction reached major proportions. By the end of the 1930s, no fewer than twelve ranger stations and nearly thirty guard stations existed on the peninsula's federal lands.

The surge in trail construction in the 1920s fostered the growth of trail shelters. Shelters, initially built for the protection of trail crews, were placed at roughly five-mile intervals along trails, close to rivers or creeks, and at lower elevations. Frequently, trail shelters supplemented the network of backcountry guard stations. By the mid-1930s, an estimated ninety trail shelters existed on land administered by the USFS on the peninsula.

An intense period of fire lookout construction paralleled that of trail, guard, and shelter construction. Beginning around 1915, the USFS erected scores of fire lookouts on mountain peaks and ridges that afforded an unobstructed view in all directions. Linked to guard stations by telephone lines, these fire lookouts played a significant role in the USFS's critical land management edict to protect the immense expanse of Olympic forests from destruction by forest fire. At one time, no less than 65 fire lookouts stood on federal and state land on the Olympic Peninsula.

It was this amalgam of ranger and guard stations, shelters, and fire lookouts, all linked by trails and phone lines (and in some cases roads), that formed the backbone of the USFS's management efforts between the 1910s and 1930s. The Forest Service managed the natural resources of the Olympic Peninsula for the multiple purposes of timber

management, fire protection, and recreation. Thus, the agency's management practices, as expressed through its building activities, left an indelible imprint on the peninsula's federal lands.

#### Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 in response to the high unemployment brought on by the Great Depression, the CCC or "peacetime army" went to "battle against destruction and erosion of our natural resources" (NACCCA 1987). As elsewhere across the country, the CCC contributed greatly to the development of both administrative and recreational facilities on the Olympic Peninsula. Under the direct supervision of the USFS, and later the NPS, the CCC built roads, trails, and campground facilities, laid phone lines, and aided in the detection and suppression of forest fires. They also built ranger and guard stations, trail shelters, and campground cooking shelters (also known as "community kitchens" for larger groups of campers). Noted for the high degree of craftsmanship, distinctly Rustic style of architecture, and unobtrusive materials, CCC-built structures comprise an identifiable genre of building type. Born out of federal legislation and supervised by two federal agencies on the peninsula, the peacetime army of conservation workers greatly accelerated federal administrative and recreational development of the area now included within Olympic National Park.

The CCC had far reaching effects in recreation policy as the philosophy gave more attention to the "social" functions of the forests. Roads were located in relation to scenic vistas as the beauty of the natural environment was one of the goals. The governing factors in planning trailside improvements were to meet the needs of the trail travelers; to provide for sanitary conditions; and to protect the forests from fire.

Towards the end of USFS administration, in April of 1937, the CCC crew withheld any new construction development in preparation for the new National Park administration coming in, knowing there was the possibility that the NPS might have a different emphasis on how the lands were to be managed. When the CCC came under the direction of the NPS the projects proposed for April 1, 1939, to March 31, 1940, included: fire suppression, construction of tables and benches, building construction and maintenance, road construction and maintenance, trail construction and maintenance, campground development and maintenance, construction of camp stoves, laying telephone line, and building of guard station furniture. Historical records show that the two NPS CCC camps (Elwha and Quinault) were utilized to a considerable extent on improvements and maintenance of existing trails.

National Park Service. The National Park Service arrived on the Olympic Peninsula as a land managing agency in 1933, seventeen years after the agency was created by congressional legislation. In 1933, an Executive Order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt transferred jurisdiction of Mount Olympus National Monument (along with other national monuments) to the NPS. In comparison to the area later included in the

national park, the monument was relatively small, encompassing approximately 300,000 acres. Situated in the interior of the Olympics, the monument was ringed by Forest Service lands.

Following the 1933 transfer of the monument to the NPS, park officials exerted considerable effort to enhance their image on the peninsula in an attempt to quell the existing friction between the forest and park services. While the uneasy situation between these two land managing agencies occupied considerable energy and time on the part of NPS officials, money needed to manage the newly acquired monument was an added problem at a time when the entire nation was engulfed in the nation's worst economic depression. Consequently, the actual physical development of Mount Olympus National Monument languished. In 1941, there were no regular road and trail funds available for the new park unless a special appropriation was made, so the only trail work accomplished for the park was by the CCC.

The establishment of the large Olympic National Park in 1938 greatly expanded the role of the NPS as a land managing agency on the peninsula. The new park was double the size of the national monument. In 1940, two years after the park's establishment, a Presidential Proclamation authorized the inclusion of an additional 187,411 acres, which included a portion of the Elwha, thus raising the acreage of the park to a total of nearly 870,000 acres. The coastal strip and Queets watershed were included in 1953, adding approximately 53,000 acres to Olympic National Park.

Only 3½ years after the establishment of the park, the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan brought the United States into World War II. Immediately, the nation's resources of money, manpower, manufactured goods, machinery, and raw materials were diverted to the war effort. In a state of wartime preparedness, federal dollars for non-military activities such as recreation and conservation were drastically cut back. The building of roads, trails, and structures was severely curtailed. The location of Olympic National Park resulted in its unique involvement in the war effort. Because of its strategic location on the western edge of the United States, many military strategists considered the peninsula one of the most threatened and vulnerable parts of the nation. Federal agencies prepared plans and mobilized for the defense of the coast. Both the Army and the Coast Guard participated in the establishment and operation of remote regularly spaced lookout stations on the beach. These structures were quickly erected and primitive in nature, and manned around the clock. As the real threat of naval landings by Japan diminished, beach patrols were reduced and by 1944, all Coast Guard patrol stations were discontinued and replaced by Aircraft Warning Service efforts. Throughout the northwest, remote mountain peaks and ridges were selected for construction of small wood-frame AWS lookouts. Existing fire lookouts were called into service for this purpose (NPS Multiple Property Documentation 2007:17-18). None of these activities occurred within the Elwha River project APE.

### **Historic Context Statement: Government Operations in the Elwha River Valley**

Established on a philosophy of multiple resource management, the USFS identified the Elwha River as one of fifteen areas in the Olympics to be set aside expressly for recreational use. The agency also pursued an active fire protection program in the Elwha drainage. These two management activities influenced the types of administrative structures built by the agency in the Elwha River Valley between 1910 and 1942.

Recreational use and fire protection were the principal reasons for the establishment of the Elwha Ranger District in 1930. In that year, the USFS added to the existing ranger station by constructing seven administrative structures, including a dwelling house, woodshed, garage, fire cache/warehouse, storage shed, warehouse/repair shop, and barn. Over the next several years, other buildings went up, including a ranger station office, a ranger residence, bunkhouse, woodshed, gas, oil and grease rack building, and equipment shed.

Another USFS structure built for administrative purposes was the Elkhorn Guard Station residence. Situated near Stony Creek on the upper Elwha River, it belonged to the network of administrative structures erected to facilitate the work undertaken by forest rangers and guards--patrols of the immense backcountry of the Olympic Forest Reserve. Workers employed by the Depression-era work relief programs, the CCC and the Works Progress Administration, built the station. They erected major portions of this peeled log structure in the fall of 1933 at the time the NPS was given jurisdiction of the Mount Olympus National Monument. The new guard station replaced a smaller log cabin that was used for administrative purposes, which stood near the edge of the meadow close to a shelter. A barn with approximately five acres of open pasture, a wood shed, and a shelter, all remain as part of this complex today.

The Dodger Point Fire Lookout was also built during this period; it was one of dozens of fire detection stations built on mountain tops throughout the Pacific Northwest. The USFS built and manned lookouts beginning in the 1910s, climaxing between the late 1920s and the mid-1930s. Dodger Point Lookout is the only lookout remaining in the park that was built specifically for fire detection. CCC labor may have been used to build the structure [see fig. 54].

The CCC provided an invaluable source of labor for constructing administrative structures and other projects in the Elwha River Valley, as well as throughout the present Olympic National Park. Camp Elwha was among the most active CCC camps. Located on a gently sloping hillside several hundred yards south of the present Elwha Ranger Station, it was one of the first CCC camps established on the north Olympic Peninsula. In 1933, the arrival of the "forest army" on the Elwha River aroused great interest among local residents. The work program outlined for both the main Elwha Camp and the side camp at Slab Camp in the hills southeast of Port Angeles included the construction of administrative facilities, a network of roads and the improvement of existing roads and several campgrounds. By 1938, when the workers from Camp Elwha finished their

projects in the Elwha River Valley, they had not only engaged in these activities, but had also been involved in a wide assortment of other assignments. They built bridges, erected signs and markers, conducted surveys, constructed fences and guardrails, laid and maintained telephone lines, built parking areas and parking overlooks, razed structures, suppressed fires, and conducted field plantings.

One of the first tasks of the CCC was the construction of Camp Elwha. By mid-July 1933, the tents at the Elwha CCC camp were gone and the headquarters for the 180-man company had taken on the look of permanence. Four barracks, a mess hall, an administration building, a bathhouse, and ancillary workshops and storage buildings were added to the complex [see fig. 55]. In time, the camp was also outfitted with a hydropower system on Griff Creek that served the CCC camp, Ranger Station, and privately operated Waumila Resort.

Road projects, a major thrust of Camp Elwha's energies, were principally for fire protection purposes and proceeded with haste. The overall plan for the road-building projects was to provide the USFS with a continuous roadway from the Elwha River to Slab Camp and the Deer Park region by way of Little River, Mount Angeles, and Ennis Creek. In 1933, a road was completed from the Elwha Ranger Station to Idaho Camp on Hurricane Ridge and then onto Obstruction Point. Local resident and early settler Grant Humes wrote of this road in 1933: "It is more difficult to get up and out of there [Humes Ranch] on the new road than it ever was on the trail" (Humes 1933).

In 1934, the CCC, in cooperation with Clallam County, built the road to the Olympic Hot Springs, also improving access to the Elwha hydroelectric development and impoundment. By this time, early 1934, the Elwha CCC crews had completed twenty-two miles of road [see fig. 56].

CCC camps typically were nomadic; they were located and relocated depending on the priority of work projects in a particular geographic area. Camp Elwha was temporarily abandoned a year after its establishment, but the USFS restored the camp to activity in October 1934, making it one of fifteen USFS camps in the State of Washington. Camp Elwha was then used only at intervals as a smaller side camp. CCC corpsmen sporadically continued to undertake projects on USFS land in the vicinity of the Elwha River drainage. In the spring of 1935, for example, enrollees improved both the Elwha and Altair public campgrounds. These improvements included work on roads, trails, camping spots, and the installation of water pipes, playground equipment, horseshoe courts, and the construction of sturdy, open-sided Rustic-designed community kitchens. The same year, plans for a new campground and a float for boats on the east shore of Lake Mills above Glines Dam, chiefly for boatmen and fisherman were developed (PAEN 1935). It is uncertain if this site was ever constructed. No record exists of its completion and the current float is on the west side of the reservoir.

On December 1, 1938, forest service Camp Elwha (#F-17) and its men were transferred from the USFS to the NPS, becoming the first NPS Camp (#NP-1 and later #NP-9) in the new park. By January 1939, the corpsmen were working on constructing large rustic entrance signs for the new park and planning for reconstruction of hiking and truck trails that could be accessed during the winter months. They also worked on the approach road to the Olympic Hot Springs. This work was carried on from the Elwha Bridge on the highway to Lookout Point. Between 1939 and 1942, the NPS supervised Elwha CCC work efforts that focused on certain areas of the park. Areas outside the Elwha River Valley were beneficiaries of the work force. As one of two CCC camps undertaking projects in the new park (also NP-10 at Quinalt in 1940), the Elwha NP-9 camp and its side camps concentrated most of their efforts for the first year and a half in northern areas of the park. Some of the trails that were constructed by the CCC were requested on December 21, 1934, using PWA funds. These included the High Divide-Elwha Basin Trail, which would save several days travel from the east side of the monument to the west side; and the Dodger Point Lookout trail, which would shorten the distance for hikers going from the lower Elwha across to the southwest or northwest section of the park (this was a very important and valuable trail for fire protection). Other CCC requested trails were Elwha River, Lillian Way, Low Divide-Promise Creek, Mt. Fitzhenry, and Lake LaCross.

For the period from August to October in 1940, the CCC would be utilized on the recent Elwha lands addition to the park. Forty miles of trail reconstruction was necessary along the Elwha River and subsidiary trails because of unprecedented floods that changed the courses of streams, washed bridges out, and caused numerous earth slides. In the wake of the Depression and at the eve of the U.S. involvement in World War II, funds for managing and developing the park were difficult to secure. Park Administrators eagerly sought the assistance of additional manpower from the CCC. But by 1942, the CCC was phased out. The only new road construction in the park after the CCC departed did not occur until 1958 when the road from Port Angeles to Hurricane Ridge was built and the old CCC road up Wolf Creek was converted into a trail [see fig. 57].

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Government-Related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** A variety of buildings and structures are included in this category. The trail shelters constructed by both the USFS and NPS are generally very simple structures of logs or rough hewn timber or shakes. As was the case with early settlers and recreationists, the difficulty of transporting materials into remote backcountry locations, even when located along a trail, precluded the construction of anything more elaborate; therefore the simplest structures that provided basic protection from the elements were built. Ranger and guard stations and fire lookouts constructed by the USFS were more elaborate structures built in accordance with established agency styles and plans. The earlier USFS structures reflect elements of the Bungalow or Craftsmen styles; later USFS, NPS, and CCC structures incorporated features of the Rustic or later NPS Rustic

styles. Gable shake-clad roofs, horizontal board siding, multi-paned windows, rubble or masonry foundations, and stylized ornamentation (such as the pine tree symbol found on many USFS buildings) are typical features of these structures. In keeping with the philosophy of minimizing their impact on the surrounding environment, most were designed and stained or painted to harmonize with their surroundings and appeared to have “grown” out of the earth with the use of native, local materials featured prominently in the aesthetic.

The extant Government-related resources in the Elwha River Valley include the Hayes River Fire Cache, Dodger Point Fire Lookout, and two USFS constructed ranger complexes, the Elkhorn Ranger Station Historic District and the Elwha Ranger Station Historic District. Only one USFS shelter still stands along the Elwha River Valley and it is within the Elkhorn Ranger Station Historic District. All of these resources are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; however, they are not within the Elwha River project APE. An additional property type associated with the Government theme in the Elwha River Valley includes archeological remnants of the CCC camp, portions of which might be discovered within the APE.

**Significance:** Since 1897 when President Grover Cleveland set aside over two million acres of the Olympic Peninsula as a forest reserve, much of the Olympic Peninsula has been under federal management. The federal government has been one of the key players in the history and development of the peninsula. The U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, have been the primary federal land management agencies active within the boundaries of the existing national park. Public Works Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps projects also contributed to the park's development through the expansion of roads and trails, and construction of recreational and administrative facilities, many of which were built in the Elwha River Valley.

Within the boundaries of Olympic National Park and the Elwha River Valley, federal agencies were responsible for the construction and maintenance of the majority of structures, trails, roads, and other landscape modifications. As with all manmade features on the peninsula, the environment has taken a severe toll on many of the oldest of these properties. Government management practices, particularly under the NPS, have also resulted in loss of many of the oldest structures. Abandonment or modification by owners of private property within the park has resulted in the loss of many others.

The CCC made significant contributions. CCC labor was employed in building roads, trails and campground facilities, in fire detection and suppression, and in the construction of ranger and guard stations, trail shelters and campground cooking shelters. Although the average CCC recruit was not a highly skilled craftsman, these structures vary from simple log shelters to Rustic style guard stations.

In the case of CCC-built resources, the exact geographic locations of many Camp Elwha projects are not always identifiable and much of the CCC work has been obliterated over the years. The effect of the various CCC projects undertaken by the Elwha Camp, however, is very much a part of the overall development of recreational use and federal management in Olympic National Park. Those structures that remain, no matter which agency constructed them, bear testimony to the activities of the two primary federal agencies, the USFS and the NPS. In addition, many reflect the Rustic architectural style put into practice by NPS architect Herbert Maier who oversaw the design and construction of CCC facilities under the NPS. Maier's design ethic focused on creating non-intrusive structures that harmonized and blended with their surroundings through the use of native materials and careful citing. Government-related resources within the Elwha River project APE would be eligible for listing under Criterion A, for their association with the work of government agencies and how their management philosophies resulted in certain kinds of developments. Resources may also be significant under Criterion C for their method of construction and Rustic style of architecture being promoted by the USFS and later the NPS, and articulated by the CCC.

Archeological evidence of CCC camps, such as Camp Elwha, may be the only tangible link to their presence in the Elwha River Valley, besides their work projects. The male dominated work groups of the CCC camps are not well-documented historically or archeologically. The U.S. government supplied all or most of the basic staples for these camps, and therefore the types of goods and personal items should evince a pattern unlike habitation sites [see fig. 58]. The CCC camp was located on the terraces of the Elwha River and dates from 1933 to 1942. The condition of architectural, domestic, and personal items may be useful for addressing important research questions concerning the lifestyle of men inhabiting the CCC camps and their participation in a consumer economy. Under Criterion D, CCC camps with archeological components that retain integrity are considered important resources.

**Registration Requirements:** To be eligible for listing in the National Register, buildings, structures, sites, and districts included under this theme must be located within the Elwha River project APE and be associated with the federal management of the Elwha River Valley (Criterion A), and date from between 1910 and 1942. They may also be eligible under Criterion C if they reflect the Rustic architectural style associated with the USFS and NPS facilities. The structures determined eligible for listing must have integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and be in fair or better condition. Some structures may follow standard USFS or NPS designed plans for those types of construction. Among the types of structures included in this group are trail shelters, ranger and guard station complexes (including residences, barns, offices, warehouses, shops, sheds, garages, etc.), campground facilities, roads and trails, and administrative buildings.

Sites considered potentially eligible under Criterion D would include any sites related to Government in the Elwha River project APE, dating from 1910-1949, and with an archeological component and level of integrity to address research questions. There is no comparative data for this property type within the study area; therefore, any information is important.

The CCC dump site is the only known archeological link between the CCC and its camp, the assemblage (including domestic and personal items) is potentially significant for its capacity to yield data on lifestyles in a predominately male institutional worker camp. Additional information is needed to evaluate the associations of this dump site and its research potential (Schalk et al. 1996:7.6).



**Figure 54**  
**Dodger Point Lookout (OLYM-SMR.001.005)**



**Figure 55**  
**CCC N.P. 1, Camp Elwha (OLYM-PTZ.001.034)**



**Figure 56**  
**CCC working on Hot Springs Road (OLYM-FOR.SER.105)**



**Figure 57**  
**CCC Road up Wolf Creek to Idaho Springs and Hurricane Ridge.**  
**Idaho Springs shelter is seen in background.**  
**(OLYM1840013)**



**Figure 58**  
**Elwha Infirmary (OLYM-PTZ.001.036)**

## **IX. ARCHITECTURE OF THE ELWHA RIVER VALLEY (1870-1945)**

### **Introduction**

Many of the buildings and structures within the Elwha River Valley are architecturally significant as well as historically significant. They are the physical manifestations of the activities humans have undertaken in this isolated and remote area of the Pacific Northwest. Ranging from basic shelters for protection against the elements, to carefully designed buildings to facilitate government administration and management of the area, to the family homestead these properties are important for their style and method of construction and design elements. Many of these reflect the Rustic style of architecture, used by both the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service. This style has its roots in the sublime perceptions about nature and the frontier that gave rise to the conservation ethic and the establishment of the first national parks in the latter half of the 19th century. This style evolved as an approach for dealing with the need to provide visitor and administrative facilities while respecting a mandate to protect the natural environment. The fundamental tenet of the style was that structures should be subordinate to and harmonize with their natural settings. This was achieved through the use of native materials--minimally processed and in proportion with their natural setting--and careful landscaping. Craftsmanship, as opposed to the regularity and symmetry of industrially produced materials and structures, was also emphasized.

There are several distinct building types and architectural styles throughout the park that are also found in the Elwha River Valley. These include log, pole, and shake buildings, Bungalow/Craftsman Style buildings, United States Forest Service architecture, Rustic Style architecture, and vernacular architecture. The discussion that follows highlights these particular building designs and methods of construction that have been identified in the Elwha River Valley.

### **Historic Context Statement: Architecture in the Elwha River Valley**

Log, Pole, and Shake Building Types. Log and pole frame structures, often considered the traditional American frontier building type, served as appropriate shelters for the early Euro-American inhabitants of the Olympic Peninsula. Constructing buildings on land many miles from mills, and often without the tools or knowledge to design and construct buildings that emulated contemporary architectural styles, the first Euro-American settlers on the peninsula, as well as the early USFS rangers, used logs and poles to build their first structures. Conveniently, the Olympic Peninsula, with its forests of abundant and huge coniferous trees, provided a limitless source of this building material. Cedar shakes enjoyed the same popularity as logs since there was an abundant supply of native western redcedar trees, and the splitting of shakes from whole logs did not require sophisticated technology or tools. For this reason, split cedar shakes were often used in combination with logs or poles as the dominant roofing material or as the sheathing material for pole structures. Well into the twentieth century, after the completion of a major highway encircling the Olympic Peninsula and the rapid appearance of vehicular transportation and numerous lumber mills on the Olympic

Peninsula, log and pole structures continued as the preferred or only possible building type in the more remote and inaccessible interior sections of the peninsula. Usually built to last only one lifetime or until there was time and materials to construct something more permanent, most pioneer log and pole frame structures have long since collapsed and decayed. Only a few such structures exist on the peninsula or in the confines of Olympic National Park that represent the early efforts of Olympic Peninsula inhabitants who, out of necessity rather than self-conscious design (as was the case with Rustic style architects), built log structures to provide shelter against the Pacific Northwest's cool, damp climate.

Of the extant pioneer log cabins in Olympic National Park, the Humes Ranch Cabin, the Botten Cabin, and the Elk Lick Lodge, embody the distinctive characteristics of the log building type and, in addition, exhibit a high degree of craftsmanship. Both the Botten Cabin and Elk Lick Lodge were designed by and built under the supervision of Grant Humes, early Elwha River settler. Humes used log-building skills and knowledge acquired in his upstate New York boyhood home and after years of experience had perfected building shelters and structures in the Elwha valley for recreational outdoorsmen. These skills display excellent traditional log-building techniques which are most evident in the dovetail corner notches. Although reconstructed in 1980, the Humes Ranch Cabin reveals the same high level of craftsmanship displayed in both the Botten and Elk Lick cabins [see fig. 59].

Pole and shake construction, a northwest vernacular variation of log structures, was a building type frequently used by the peninsula's pioneer settlers in constructing early farmstead outbuildings. Since these structures were generally less substantial than log buildings, were not well-suited for wood flooring, and had poor insulating qualities, they were not often built as dwellings. When, if ever, they served as human shelter, no doubt these thin-walled buildings were soon replaced by log dwellings and eventually by wood-frame houses.

In pursuit of their goal to construct a network of trails and backcountry structures throughout the Olympic Mountains in the 1920s and early 1930s, the USFS adopted the locally popular pole and shake method of construction for its backcountry structures. Just as the peninsula's early pioneers had done, the USFS used this simple building technique in areas distant from or inaccessible to mills and primarily for use as outbuildings or temporary structures. Built quickly from materials available on the site, the vast majority of trail shelters erected by the USFS in the 1920s and early 1930s were of the pole and shake genre. Although the replacement of individual shakes or the entire resheathing of shelters has been necessary over the years, several extant trail shelters have retained the form and appearance of their original progenitors.

Twentieth Century American: Bungalow/Craftsman. As roads were constructed on the peninsula in the 1910s and 1920s, and new technological innovations (such as motorized vehicles, standardized lumber mill machinery, and indoor plumbing) arrived in the

region, especially around World War I, current styles of architecture likewise made their appearance. Throughout the West, including the Olympic Peninsula, the Bungalow/Craftsman style proliferated between 1915 and 1930. Although very few buildings in the park could be considered "pure" examples of this architectural style, several park buildings incorporated many design elements typical of the style.

Bungalow/Craftsman buildings were predominately wood-frame, rectangular in composition, and had a horizontal earth-hugging quality. Roofs were usually clad with shingles and were low- or medium-pitched gable with wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafters and/or decorative brackets. Native cobbled or rough cut stone were often prominently displayed in foundations, porch columns, and chimneys. Windows consisted of a series of small panes in the upper portion of the sash, whether double-hung sash or casement. Finally and significantly, the exterior wall surface materials were most often shingles or rough-cut stone or brick and possessed a distinctly natural rustic quality. Interiors continued these rustic qualities: wood surfaces, such as beamed ceilings and wall wainscoting were generally finished in a natural stain, and cobblestone or clinker brick fireplaces were the focus of the interior living spaces. Always with emphasis on the natural outdoors, glass doors leading to outside porches or verandas, entwined with vines, were common. Although variations in the Bungalow/Craftsman style were great (one book on bungalows published in the 1910s divided the style into nine types that included the southern California bungalow, the Swiss chalet type, the Adirondack lodge, the retreat or summer cottage, and the portable tent-house bungalow with canvas over wooden frames), all Bungalows shared the strong propensity for a fine degree of craftsmanship, adaptation to climate, and the use of locally available materials that were left as close as possible to their natural state.

The rustic quality of the Bungalow/Craftsman style, as most conspicuously expressed by the use of natural wood and stone, was a predominant quintessential element of the style. As expressed by Gustav Stickley who was most responsible for popularizing the style through his monthly magazine, The Craftsman, published between 1901 and 1916, the Bungalow was "a house reduced to its simplest form"-- a building that "never fails to harmonize with its surroundings, because its low broad proportions and absolute lack of ornamentation give it a character so natural and unaffected that it seems to sing into a blend with any landscape." The Olympic Peninsula, dominated by natural landscapes, an abundant supply of wood and stone, and breathtaking scenery that encouraged even the most urbane dweller to turn to the outdoors for refreshment, welcomed the arrival of the Bungalow/Craftsman style.

Although the major population centers of Port Angeles, Hoquiam, and Aberdeen embraced the Bungalow/Craftsman style during the 1910s and 1920s when these peninsula towns experienced great population increases, the style enjoyed even greater popularity among resort owners and seasonal vacationers. Warm sunny summers encouraged the outdoor ethos promoted by the Bungalow/Craftsman style. Likewise, the simple forthright and functional plan and design of this style was well-suited to the less

pretentious informal lifestyle of the short summer season visitors. Consequently, favorite recreational or beauty spots became enclaves of simply designed Bungalow/Craftsman style summer resorts and cottages.

U.S. Forest Service Architecture. Since 1905, the U.S. Forest Service has existed as one of the principal land managing agencies on the Olympic Peninsula. In the early years, only a handful of rangers were on the peninsula to administer the immense land area under the domain of the Forest Service. Typically, the ranger spent much of his time building trails and fire fighting. Often the Forest Service ranger worked alone or with the help of seasonal assistants or "guards," and traveled by foot or horseback from camp to camp. Gradually, the most favorable camp sites evolved into permanent or seasonal administrative sites. From 1905 to the outbreak of World War II, the U.S. Forest Service erected a large number of residential and administrative structures throughout the Olympic Forest Reserve (later the Olympic National Forest). These buildings were known as ranger and guard stations.

Although a large number of the earliest Forest Service ranger and guard stations were canvas wall tents or log cabins built in the tradition of early peninsula pioneer cabins, Forest Service guard and ranger stations built in the 1910s and later were often of wood-frame construction and adopted popular domestic architectural forms. On the peninsula, this shift toward popular architectural house types was encouraged by the developing road system and the marked increase in motorized vehicles which afforded the Forest Service access to mass produced building materials, such as milled lumber, hardware, and framed windows. While the increase in roads and automobiles brought manufactured building materials closer to Forest Service building sites, they also fostered the growth of peninsula cities, such as Port Angeles, Shelton, Aberdeen, and Hoquiam where scores of Bungalow/Craftsman residences mushroomed. At the same time there was a great influx in recreational visitors to the peninsula. These increases, in turn, encouraged the expansion of Forest Service personnel and the construction of suitable ranger and guard stations to accommodate these men.

Although much simpler than their architectural counterparts in nearby Olympic Peninsula residential communities, Forest Service ranger and guard stations built during the 1910s, 1920s, and early 1930s were imitative of the numerous Bungalow/Craftsman houses being built in growing peninsula towns. These straightforward, simply designed structures that relied heavily on the use of natural materials were ideal models after which to pattern Forest Service administrative structures. Like most of the peninsula resorts and private summer cottages built during the same period, the Forest Service ranger and guard stations are not "pure" examples of the Bungalow/Craftsman style, but many possess identifiable components of that style. Rectangular forms, gable roofs and dormers with roof eaves and exposed rafters, front porches, multi-paned sash or casement windows, and the predominant use of wood and other natural materials on both exterior and interior wall surfaces, are among the Bungalow features incorporated into the 1920s

and early 1930s generation of Forest Service ranger and guard stations. Finally, during this same period, the pine tree symbol, used at the Elwha, became a featured Forest Service decorative design element [see fig. 60].

In addition to adhering to this one architectural form, ranger and guard stations on the peninsula and throughout the Pacific Northwest took on a unified appearance through the use of standard exterior paint schemes. Consistent with the use of natural materials in the Bungalow/Craftsman style, the exterior wall surfaces of Forest Service buildings were stained or painted subdued earth tones. Light grey with green trim became a favored paint scheme in the 1920s. Regardless of which earth tone color was selected, all structures within a ranger or guard station complex were painted the same uniform color. Thus, through the choice of a single architectural style and paint scheme, ranger and guard stations imparted a consistent orderly appearance that became a distinct trademark of Forest Service buildings constructed in the 1920s and early 1930s.

The most complete and unaltered example of the 1920s and 1930s Forest Service architecture in the park, and possibly on the Olympic Peninsula, exists at Elwha Ranger Station. The uniform adoption of certain identifiable Bungalow/Craftsman design features and a consistent color scheme, as well as the consciously ordered spatial arrangement of buildings within the entire ensemble, render the Elwha Ranger Station an excellent example of both architecture and site planning typical of the 1920s and 1930s USFS ranger stations on the Olympic Peninsula. [see fig. 61 and 62].

Rustic Style Architecture. The seeds of the Rustic style germinated before the establishment of the NPS. In response to the uneasiness over the growing regularity and symmetry produced by this country's expanding industrialization in the late 1800s, a new romanticism about nature and the country's western frontier was expressed in a subtle, little noticed movement in American architecture that emerged in the last decades of the 1800s. The use of native materials in buildings and their integration with the landscape was first encouraged by professional associations between landscape architects and architects, such as Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and H.H. Richardson. Harmony between buildings and landscapes was further advanced before the turn of the century by architects like Bernard Maybeck, who searched for innovative ways to use natural materials for structures. Built by wealthy Easterners in New York's Adirondack Mountains, these large mansion-like dwellings achieved an ornate "high style" architectural design through the use of logs, poles, and branches. In the West, in the late 1880s, architect William H. Whidden designed the log and stone Cloud Cap Inn on the northwest slope of Mount Hood. The rustic expression was given further impetus in the West by the construction of the massive log Forestry Building designed by Ion Lewis and Albert E. Doyle for the widely attended Lewis and Clark Exposition held in Portland, Oregon, in 1905.

The first national parks were early expressions of America's reverence for wilderness and the conservation ethic, and were receptive environments for the growth of the Rustic movement. At Yosemite, the Sierra Club erected LeConte Memorial Lodge in 1903; a weathered granite building with a huge stone fireplace and rough finished and exposed roof beams. That same year, a huge log frame structure, Old Faithful Inn, was erected at Yellowstone National Park. Between 1903 and 1916, the rustic philosophy exhibited by early architect-designed buildings was repeated elsewhere in these and other parks and monuments, such as Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Crater Lake. Although no one architectural style was predominant in the early park hotels, railroad stations, studios, shelters, and residences, the most aesthetically appropriate buildings successfully harmonized with their natural setting. The creation of the National Park Service in 1916, and the early establishment of a group of landscape architects to design and direct the construction of NPS administrative and visitor facilities perpetuated the non-intrusive philosophy adopted earlier by several railroad companies and concessionaires that built facilities in the first parks. Ultimately concerned with the integration of buildings into the landscape, architect Herbert Maier, and landscape architects, such as Mark Daniels, Charles Punchard, Daniel P. Hull, Paul P. Kiessig, Thomas C. Vint, and others in the employ of the NPS, strove to subordinate buildings, as well as trails, roads and other improvements, to their natural settings. As noted in Tweed, Soulliere, and Law (1977) "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," a 1918 Park Service statement of policy stated:

In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. This is a most important item in our program of development.... All improvements will be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of landscape(s). (Tweed, Soulliere, and Law 1977)

Thus, the NPS embraced the tenets of Rustic style architecture in its effort to reconcile a need for physical improvements and the Service's federal mandate to protect and preserve the natural setting.

The NPS's adoption and development of the Rustic style continued for twenty-five years after 1916. Authors Tweed, Soulliere, and Law identify four distinct phases of the Rustic style within the Park Service: The formative years of 1918-1927 when the NPS Landscape Engineering Division made pioneering attempts to establish a design ideal and an architectural aesthetic as set forward in the 1918 policy statement; the years of maturity between 1927 and 1933 when greatly increased appropriations for NPS physical improvements allowed a great expansion of the landscape division and the full development of the Rustic style emphasizing its strong visual ties to the environment; the period from 1933 to 1935 when President Roosevelt's emergency relief programs, such as the CCC and the PWA, played a major role in the Rustic building programs in NPS areas, state parks, and natural areas under the jurisdiction of other federal agencies; and finally,

the years from 1935 to 1942 when expanding Park Service institutional growth and operations, and changing perceptions of park architecture and the need to embrace new building technologies fostered the decline of the Rustic ethic.

In 1933, the nearly 300,000-acre Mount Olympus National Monument was transferred to the NPS. The same year, President Franklin Roosevelt created two relief programs that greatly influenced the development of both the national forest and the national monument during the next eight years. Although CCC and PWA allotments of both men and money were expended largely on trail and road construction and general maintenance projects, a number of building projects were assigned to these programs. As early as 1933, the USFS used CCC corpsmen to assist with the construction of the Elkhorn Guard Station Residence built in an avowedly "rustic" mode. Less than one year later, the CCC, under the supervision of the Forest Service, erected three open-sided community kitchens at campgrounds on Lake Crescent (LaPoel) and the Elwha River (Elwha and Altair) [see fig. 63 and 64]. All three structures, although varied in overall form, had large stone and mortar fireplaces and made use of upright logs that, in size and scale, replicated the dimensions of trees near the building site. In 1937, the Oil, Storage, and Service building in the utility area of the Elwha Ranger Station was completed by CCC enrollees [see fig. 65]. Here, a visible effort was made to make use of rustic materials and design features, such as heavy timber porch posts, while striving for design consistency and compatibility with the existing Elwha utility buildings.

The period 1935-1942 marked the declining phase of Rustic architecture. While the characteristic use of native materials (such as wood shingles, rough-cut, irregular-shaped stone) and the perpetuation of ground-hugging qualities expressed by the overall design were still present, the utilization of new building materials and methods and the influence of modern architectural styles popular outside the NPS were also evident. Such qualities typify the declining years of NPS Rustic architecture. Even with this apparent influence of outside architectural styles, such as the International style, the visible and consistent reliance on native materials and the self-conscious effort to unite buildings with their setting through a careful landscape plan, the basic tenets of the NPS's Rustic style philosophy are reflected.

Vernacular (or eclectic) architectural styles are common on the Olympic Peninsula and throughout Olympic National Park. Largely as a result of isolation, poor or nonexistent transportation routes, and the paucity of trained architects and technological equipment or knowledge, building styles during the peninsula's early phases of development did not duplicate features characteristic of any one particular style. Instead, buildings display design characteristics that reflect the Olympic Peninsula's unique amalgam of available materials, topographic and climatic constraints, and the knowledge and skill of local builders. Log cabins built from trees felled on site, and modest unpretentious frame structures built from materials produced by nearby mills are among the cadre of extant vernacular buildings found in the park. Rough split cedar shakes with peeled-pole

framing are yet another variant of the vernacular building type found in Olympic National Park. A remarkable feature shared by all vernacular historic buildings in the park is their unobtrusive, restrained physical appearance. Although unconscious in their intent, builders of these vernacular structures produced buildings that in scale, mass, design, materials, and color harmonize with the surrounding natural setting. Without formal training, these individuals accomplished the same Rustic style that was consciously attempted by architects working during an earlier era. As more materials became available through catalogs, mail order, and by travel to local cities, doors, windows and other architectural features would be incorporated into the otherwise simple, functional, wood-frame structures.

### **Associated Property Types**

#### **Name of Property Type: Architecture-related Resources in the Elwha River Valley**

**Description:** A number of properties included in this nomination are considered eligible because they represent a building type or architectural style. These properties fall into one of five categories: Log, Pole, and Shake Buildings; Twentieth Century American: Bungalow/Craftsmen; Forest Service Architecture; NPS Rustic Style Architecture; and Vernacular. The basic characteristics of each are detailed briefly.

**Log and pole and shake structures** were typically used by early Euro-American settlers on the Olympic Peninsula. Although each material was used with different construction techniques, they shared two important features: they were very modest, simple, functional structures, usually not more than one or one and one-half stories, and they employed the native, local materials readily available in the Olympic wilderness. These materials were mixed and matched; for example, shingles were used to sheath pole structures and to roof log cabins. The ease of construction and abundance of wood also attracted the early USFS rangers, who used the same techniques and materials to construct many of the early trail shelters. Most of the early privately-built structures were only temporary shelters and have been lost as new structures replaced them, or claims were abandoned and sites left to the ravages of nature. As noted in the discussion of government properties, NPS management practices also have led to the removal of many of these structures. Where trail shelters have been maintained, they have often undergone extensive remodeling and no longer exhibit their original design and construction. Thus, there are very few surviving good examples of these early cabins and shelters.

The design features that characterize the **Bungalow/Craftsman** style are a low horizontal profile, wood frame construction, rustic stone or brick chimneys, multi-paned wood windows, shake or shingle-clad roofs with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters, and carefully crafted detailing with often two or more textures for siding.

**United States Forest Service architecture**, as illustrated by the ranger and guard stations built from the 1910s through the early 1930s on the peninsula, tended to imitate, in a simplified fashion, the Bungalow/Craftsman styles popular for domestic dwellings. Rectangular forms, gable roofs, and dormers with roof eaves and exposed rafters, front

porches, multi-paned sash or casement windows, and the predominant use of wood and other natural materials are typical of these structures. Use of a standard exterior paint scheme, usually one that blended with the natural environment and the USFS pine tree symbol, distinguished these structures.

**National Park Service Rustic style architecture** evolved from the Romantic and Rustic styles of the late 19th and early 20th century, fostered by the NPS's early commitment to the principles of landscape design that supported integration of and subordination of buildings in park areas to their natural setting. "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942," identifies four phases in the evolution of this style. Examples of the third and final phases, dating from 1933 to 1935, were constructed when the CCC and PWA played a major role in park building programs, expanding on the mature style developed over the previous decade. From 1935 to 1942 the expanding NPS operations and changing perceptions of what park architecture should be resulted in the decline of the Rustic ethic and the introduction of new more modern stylistic elements and construction methodologies.

All examples of this style in the park rely on the use of native materials and integration of the structures into their natural setting as the basic tenets of their design. However, in the final phase many of the more Romantic affectations of the style were modified or eliminated, such as the pronounced overhanging eaves, the rough cut or rubble ground-hugging foundations, or the craftsman details in favor of more streamlined, functional forms.

**Vernacular architecture** is represented by the buildings and structures built by local residents in the Elwha River Valley, who without the assistance of an architect, engineer or trained builder, erected functional buildings that served the purpose of shelter and storage for humans, animals, and equipment. Houses, barns, sheds, garages, and other structures were of simple design, constructed of wood, and have an unobtrusive, restrained physical appearance. Using available materials (primarily wood with some stone or brick for chimneys), individuals constructed buildings with limited knowledge of design or construction techniques. Windows and doors, and possibly other architectural components, might have been special ordered in the 1920s-30s, giving an otherwise simple, straightforward structure a more up-to-date appearance. Elements of other styles, particularly the Craftsman/Bungalow style, might be incorporated if the carpenter was so inclined to include some of its features, such as knee braces, thus combining materials and textures to provide more interest.

**Significance:** All of these structures are representative building types or styles associated with important themes and events in the history of the Elwha River Valley and the Olympic Peninsula (Criteria A and C). Specifically, the log and pole and shake structures represent historic settlement and early recreational development by both private individuals and the USFS. The Bungalow/Craftsman style is found in the USFS administrative complexes in the 1910s-30s. Elements of the Bungalow/Craftsman style

were incorporated into the NPS Rustic Style that evolved, matured and ultimately declined between the early 1920s and the early 1940s. Representatives of this style are seen in remaining government buildings and structures and in those erected by private citizens built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Vernacular buildings represent the local community at its very essence, reflecting the skills and design capabilities available at the time to create and construct residences, barns, and other structures in the Elwha River Valley. The styles of architecture in the Elwha River Valley represent the prevailing styles of the day, and reflect the taste and values of the settlers, managers, and users of the lands now comprising Olympic National Park. This built environment and these cultural resources enhance our understanding of the people and government agencies living in and managing these nationally important lands and how the architectural expression of the day was manifested here in this remote region of the Pacific Northwest.

**Registration Requirements:** Structures eligible for listing under this category must be able to be documented as being built within the Elwha River project APE between 1910 and 1942, retain the basic features of the style they are identified with, including form, details, materials, and siding (architectural integrity), and be in fair or better condition (structural integrity). They are the best of the surviving examples of their particular group and have integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association, and continue to exhibit the qualities and character that define their respective styles of architecture. They will be significant under Criterion C, for their method of construction or architectural expression.

The Elwha Ranger Station Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is comprised of fourteen buildings and some small-scale and landscape features located on both sides of the Elwha River Road, within Olympic National Park. Organized into a residential (east side of road) and utility/maintenance area (west side), the buildings are a variety of shapes, sizes, and functions. It is a cohesive complex of milled wood construction, with (primarily) shake-covered gable roofs. The buildings are in good condition and continue to function and appear much as they did historically after their construction in the 1930s by the United States Forest Service. The complex is a fine example of two property types identified in the Multiple Property Documentation form for the Historic Resources of Olympic National Park: Government (Forest Service); and Architecture (Bungalow/Craftsman). Only one building has been moved from its original location but remains within the district. Overall, the district has integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation form.

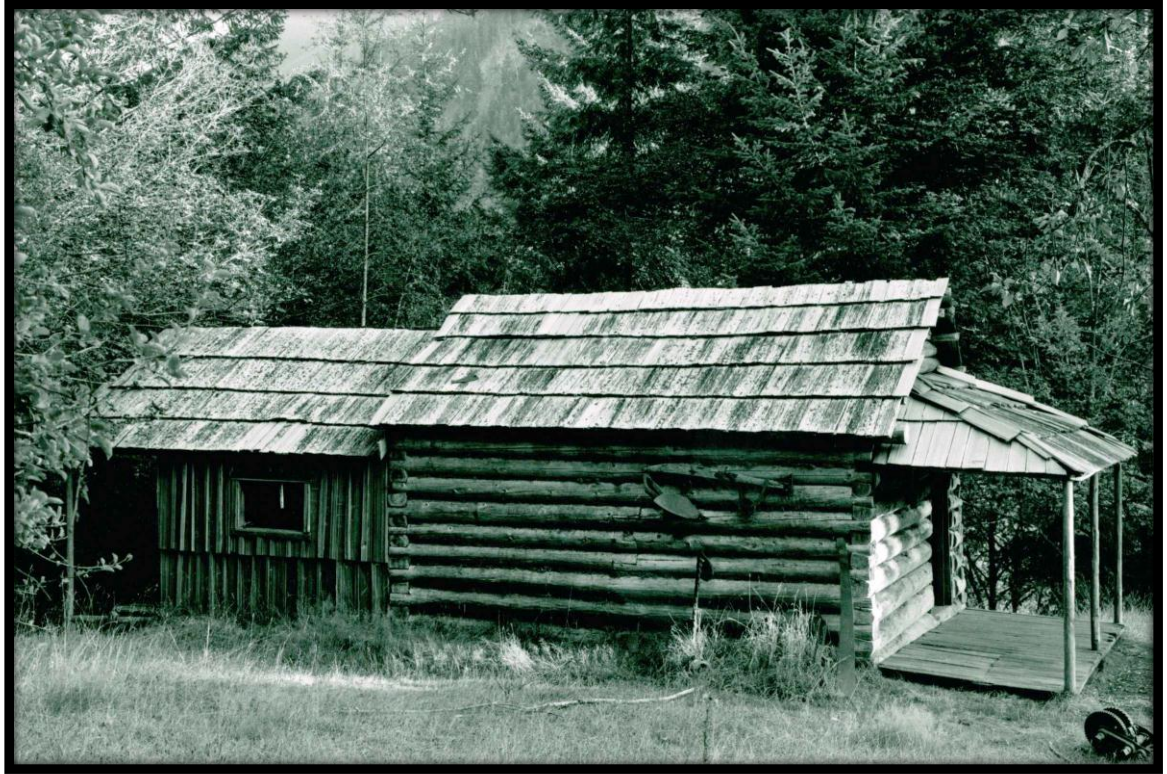


**Figure 59**  
**Grant Humes Cabin on the Elwha (OLYM18381070)**



**Figure 60**  
**USFS pine tree design. Blown up from figure 65**



**Figure 61**  
**Elwha Historic Ranger Station (OLYM18381009)**



**Figure 62**  
**Elwha Ranger Station Historic District, main house (OLYM18381010)**



**Figure 63**  
**Elwha Community Kitchen (OLYM18381079)**



**Figure 64**  
**Altair Community Kitchen (OLYM18381078)**



**Figure 65**  
**Elwha Ranger Station Historic District Oil, Storage, and Service building**  
**(OLYM18381015)**



## ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup> A separate ethnographic study has been prepared by Barbara Lane and Karen James for the Elwha Klallam Tribe (Lane and James DRAFT 2005).

<sup>ii</sup> The terms "pre-historic" and "historic" are typically used to distinguish between groups who did and did not have a written historical record. From the tribal perspective, this does not adequately describe chronology because their extensive and comparable oral history predates Euro-American written history. The terms "pre- and post-treaty" are used here to describe a transition of major cultural change for the tribe.

<sup>iii</sup> Ravages on the population in the 1850s from epidemics may have had a death toll of up to 90% on coastal populations.

<sup>iv</sup> This locale is known historically as "The Place" and is on Place Road.

<sup>v</sup> Olympic National Forest Detail Map of Roads, in TWP.s 28-29N. R.s 6-7 WWM (drawn by J. D. Baker), blueprint, Forestwide Road Development, Olympic National Forest, RG 95, National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Alaska Region - Seattle.



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