

RESTORING RIVERS: DAM REMOVALS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Over the next few years a total of 8 dams are scheduled for removal on rivers that include the Clark Fork, Elwha, Hood, Rogue, Sandy, and White Salmon.

American Whitewater has been a party to several of these agreements that will restore rivers where dam removal is more cost effective than bringing the dams up to modern environmental and safety standards. While hydropower will continue to be an important source of energy for the region, these dams produce only small amounts of power with significant environmental, recreational, and social impacts.

UPCOMING DAM REMOVALS

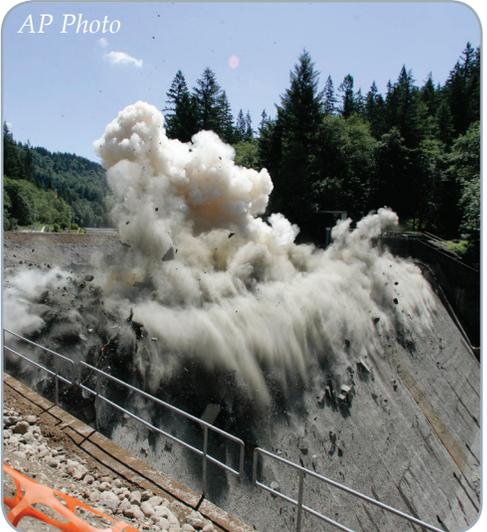
SANDY RIVER, OR **Marmot Dam: removal in summer 2007**
Little Sandy Dam: removal in summer 2008

Ecosystem Benefit: Winter steelhead, spring and fall chinook, and coho will have improved access to over 100 miles of habitat.

Recreational Benefit: Restored flows will result in an extended paddling season on one of the nation's most scenic kayak runs near a major city. Lands currently owned by the utility will be transferred to the BLM for public use and enjoyment.

Current Status: With the removal of Marmot Dam during summer 2007, this represents the first successful restoration effort in the region for this tributary of the Columbia River.

AW's Role: AW volunteer Keith Jensen represented paddlers in the negotiations leading to a settlement for removal of the dam which we signed.



WHITE SALMON RIVER, WA **Condit Dam: removal in fall 2008**

Ecosystem Benefit: Fish will have restored access to 33 miles of steelhead habitat and 14 miles of Chinook habitat.

Recreational Benefit: The potential exists for a new whitewater run from the current Northwestern Reservoir to the Columbia. The White Salmon Narrows below the dam will be restored with the full flow of the river.

Current Status: While the dam is scheduled for removal in 2008, some permitting steps still remain and the local county government continues to be opposed to the project.

AW's Role: AW was a stakeholder in the settlement for dam removal and signed the agreement. We continue to provide technical assistance on the project and focus on outreach and education.

ELWHA RIVER, WA

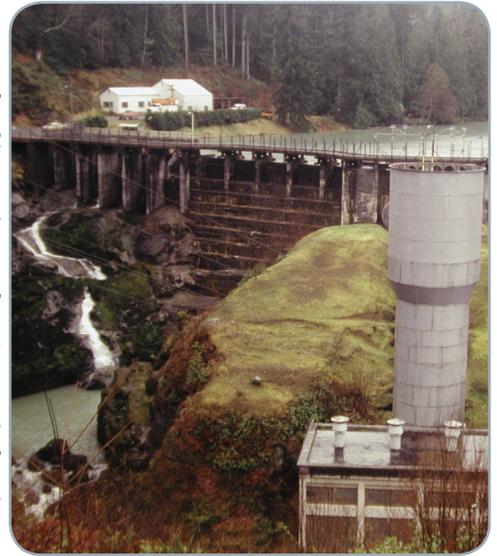
Elwha Dam: removal in 2012
Glines Canyon Dam: removal in 2014

Ecosystem Benefit: This river was once home to fish runs of over 400,000 salmon. With the majority of its habitat protected in Olympic National Park, fish runs can be restored within 20 years.

Recreational Benefit: Two dams that now block navigation on the river that will be restored all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Current Status: Construction will start shortly on a new water treatment plant that can handle increased sediment loads generated from the dam removal process.

AW's Role: AW provided formal comment on dam removal in 1992 and we have been an engaged stakeholder since that time. Our primary focus is currently on outreach and education that extends well beyond the paddling community.



ROGUE RIVER, OR

Savage Rapids Dam: removal in 2009

Ecosystem Benefit: Fish ladders and screens are currently outdated and not effective. Removing the dam and replacing it with pumps will significantly improve fish passage.

Recreational Benefit: A barrier to navigation will be removed opening up a new stretch of river just minutes from Grants Pass.

Current Status: Pumps are being installed to divert water for irrigation without the need for a dam.

AW's Role: AW has focused on education and advocacy for removal of other outdated dams upstream.

HOOD RIVER, OR

Powerdale Dam: removal in 2010

Ecosystem Benefit: Restored flows to the river and removal of a fish passage barrier. Riparian lands along the river will be protected.

Recreational Benefit: Removal of a barrier to navigation.

Current Status: The project was extensively damaged in floods that took place in 2006. The removal is scheduled for 2010 to allow completion of a fisheries study.

AW's Role: AW has been represented by our coalition partners in the Hydropower Reform Coalition on this project although we are active in outreach and education.



CLARK FORK RIVER, MT

Milltown Dam: removal in 2008

Ecosystem Benefit: Restored fish passage for native trout species and removal of toxic mining waste that is impacting water quality.

Recreational Benefit: Restored navigability to a beginner stretch just minutes from downtown Missoula.

AW's Role: AW provided technical expertise when the future of the hydropower license was under discussion. AW also assisted with outreach and education to the Congressional delegation.