



Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe



Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

September 2, 2022

Representative Derek Kilmer
2059 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Maria Cantwell
717 Senate Hart Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Email: Heather.Painter@mail.house.gov
Megan_Thompson@cantwell.senate.gov

Re: Support for the Transfer of Lands to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in Trust and Reservation Status

Dear Representative Kilmer:

As the Chairmen of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, we continue to support and encourage Congress to transfer to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, in trust and reservation status, the lands outside of Olympic National Park boundaries that the Interior Department acquired to carry out the removal of the two Elwha River dams. For generations, the Lower Elwha Klallam have worked toward the removal of the dams that decimated the once legendary salmon runs on the Elwha River. As sister tribes, we rejoiced with Lower Elwha Klallam when the dams were breached in 2011 and fully removed in 2014.

The Klallam/S'Klallam are 'Salmon People' and the Elwha River is part of the historical fishing grounds for all three S'Klallam Tribes. Our support is thus contingent on retaining the right of the Port Gamble and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes to continue to have access to and the ability to fish, hunt and gather the Elwha River in this basin area of proposed trust and reservation status. Absent this explicit recognition, the Port Gamble and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes would have concerns that this land into trust transfer could abrogate their treaty fishing rights and access rights to the banks of the river. In addition, the lands transfer would implicate the other Tribes treaty hunting and gathering access rights. Thus, these issues must be resolved for the legislation to move forward with our support.

The Treaty of Point No Point of 1855 recognized all three Tribes reliance on fishing for our livelihoods and promised to protect our access to our fishing grounds and our fish. That promise was broken in 1911 when the Elwha Dam was built and 45 miles of upstream river habitat was cut *off*.

The land acquired by the National Park Service for the removal of the Elwha Dam encompasses this reach of the Elwha River valley. We wholeheartedly support our sister Tribes desire to protect the river and urge the passage of this legislation provide our concerns are addressed.

Representative Kilmer & Senator Cantwell
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Our support is contingent on the following language be inserted into the legislation to assure protection of these lands and the Treaty Rights associated with them for all S'Klallam/Klallam people:

Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as affecting Treaty rights of the Jamestown S'Klallam or Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes described in the Treaty of Point No Point. 12 Stat. 933. These Treaty Rights of the other bands of S'Klallam/Klallam to hunt, gather, fish in lands described as 1082.63 acres in the map numbered 149/178020, are explicitly reserved for the Jamestown S'Klallam and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes and are not extinguished or impacted in any way by this legislation.

Sincerely,



W. Ron Allen, Chairman
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



Jeromy Sullivan, Chairman
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Cc: Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Council