

Draft Response to Place Community Questions November, 25, 2019

On Nov 25, 2019 CWI invited the Place Rd community to come visit the recently conserved CWI parcel to talk about access and restoration. The intent of this open site field meeting was to incorporate community input early into the planning process to help scope how this property could be managed to help alleviate some of the ongoing challenges specifically identified as priorities by the Place community including parking and access associated with current public use of the shoreline. We also addressed a few 'late breaking' questions provided by the community a few days before the meeting.

To honor the request that these questions be addressed, CWI initiated the Nov 25 meeting with a presentation that included answers to specific questions and slides that spoke to the questions. Questions also came up during the presentation and throughout the site visit, so this summary is intended to provide additional context beyond the slides, which are provided below. In addition, on Dec 3, CWI was provided with a list of additional questions from individuals unable to attend the meeting. Those additional questions and responses are included at the end of this document.

CWI is thankful for the interest of this community and the longstanding stewardship and collaboration of Place Road property owners for this ecologically important shoreline. As a neighbor CWI, will continue to be an ecosystem advocate and interpreter, but is also able to be a land manager in the public access and restoration aspects of this shoreline. Our recent work has foremost focused our efforts on the purchase of this property (which we closed on mid-summer 2019) and we are now moving to the next step of incorporating community input prior to initiating any actions or contracts.

Below are summaries of the questions discussed at the site visit, followed by the slides presented and lastly, the questions raised after the meeting that we have responded to.

Questions Presented Prior to the Meeting

Q. Recent aerial views of the Elwha estuary (as that of October 25th 2019) show an increased number of substantial lagoons on the East side of the Estuary. When compared to photos or territorial depictions (maps) of the area back in the early 1900's and in the 1930's it appears that there is currently more riparian terrain to the East and in total than back then. Several of those are not as vegetated and conducive to the sustaining processes, but could be improved. Why is it then that CWI is concentrating so much effort in restoring the approx. 6 acres on the West side and at such elevated cost, when so much improvement to existing areas to the East could be attained quickly and at far reduced costs and no risk to existing structures/residences?

A. Nearshore, including lower river and estuaries are one of the most important habitats to the life history of salmon-which are in turn the heart of the Elwha dam removal project-and critical for southern resident killer whales. Estuaries are where young chinook, chum, coho and steelhead spend a significant amount of time feeding, growing and getting strong before venturing out into the ocean. Research shows that functional intact estuaries are essential to help a river system produce greater numbers of larger, healthier salmon. \$350 million was invested to restore salmon to the Elwha watershed, without investment into the estuary until now. Salmon returns to the Elwha to date have not occurred anywhere close to the pre-dam salmon abundance. One key limiting factor of the rate of salmon recolonization is the lack of high functioning estuary habitat. A century of dam impacts constricted the estuary and the removal of the dams brought about ~80 acres of new deposits that are being reshaped by natural processes, but those processes take time. Although vast areas of new delta have established on the east side of the river, these newly formed areas are unstable and lack vegetation cover, making them less capable of providing cover for young salmon to escape predators and prepare for the ocean phase of their life. CWI, along with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, has been monitoring fish use of the lower west side of the estuary for more than 12 years. We have documented that stable established lower river/estuary habitats provide consistently high levels of fish use. Newly formed areas provide intermittent levels of fish use, but do not offer the same benefit. It will take time for newly formed habitats to naturally achieve full potential. CWI does know that the habitat directly adjacent on the river side of the levee has consistently provided significant levels of use by young salmon. For these reasons, we know that large amounts of salmon are adjacent to the levee and would immediately benefit from access to historic estuary habitat west of the Place levee. The focus on estuaries is not just a CWI project, but is a multi-agency Puget Sound wide effort to restore abundant salmon populations and reinvigorate fishing economies and the marine food web to support southern resident killer whales.

Q. Has any consideration been given to the possibility of moving the Federal East Levee farther East so the flood plain could increase to the East?

A. Yes, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe did extensive pre-restoration actions prior to dam removal to reconnect ~200 acres of lower river floodplain by removing 4 push up dikes, removing ¼ mile of asphalt road, planting >50,000 trees and installing >50 engineered logjams.

Q. Who is conducting the study of Project Number 18-1313? Will the study address the impact of modifications to the West levee on the bluffs to the South end of the levee? As we know this bluff has lost some 70 mts to the South in the past 50 years. This erosion will probably continue and would most likely be exacerbated further by potential changes to the levee. The neighborhood requests the opportunity to review the findings of the study (once available), perhaps with the support of their own expert geologist.

A. CWI will be hiring an experienced river engineer/hydrogeological team to characterize and understand the evolution of the lower river as a result of the levee to determine the levee's influence on lower river processes, including the feeder bluffs in the lower river. These feeder bluffs are critical for sediment contribution to the lower river. We do not anticipate a change in this function of lower river feeder bluff now that dams are removed. In early 2020, we will submit a request for proposals for this assessment to be completed. Once hired, the hired consultant's scope will include any specific

questions/concerns raised by the community. Once we have a report from a hired river engineer/hydrologist team (likely 2021), we will share the results with the community and begin discussions to determine if there is an opportunity to provide fish passage into the 6 acres of habitat west of the levee without increasing flood risk to the adjacent landowners. If there would be any increased flood risk, NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN. We do not know the result, but we believe that this is an extremely important question to ask if there is a win-win balance that works for both landowners and salmon.

All information/reports produced with this grant will be publicly available information.

Q. What are the updated plans regarding the recently acquired [CWI] property? Specifically, what is being considered for the long term (in perpetuity) management of the property, specifically regarding probable increased flow of people and traffic in a public setting: bathrooms, emergency access needs, adequate parking for vehicles and buses (note that historically not even school buses come down Place Rd due to the fragility of the road as it comes down the bluff - kids are picked up at the top of the bluff), likely increased use by the homeless, litter receptacles and pick up services.

A. We are at the front end of the planning process and met with the Place community at the front end to gain community input prior to any decisions being made. We will be establishing an access working group and invite community members to join. We will also intend to meet with the broader community as we reach decision points in the planning process. The property has 2 recorded Deed Restrictions that stipulate that the property be managed in perpetuity for natural ecosystem conservation.

Currently, access to this shoreline is informal without active management. We have assisted with community access concerns over the years and are now able to assist as a land manager/neighbor. The exact configuration of the re-naturalized site will be determined through the planning process over the next year. School busses, do indeed come down the hill and are documented in photos in the presentation below showing multiple Port Angeles School District and Naturebridge busses parked on Place Rd this past summer/fall. At previous community meetings we were informed by the Place community that the bus use is unsafe with the existing parking configuration, so we have purchased this property in part to alleviate the parking bottleneck and improve traffic flow. The exact configuration of parking is to be determined and we will work closely with the community, Port Angeles School District and Clallam County Roads department to determine the most appropriate solution.

Q. In light of the expected future impact of climate change (with increased volatility and probability of extremes of flow - above 30,000 CFS -, storm surges, log jams and natural landslides and dam-break occurrences), the existence of the 9800 ft Federal East Elwha Levee (which also was increased in height by 3 ft just before the Dam removals and further extended on its Northern end, thus reducing the Elwha flood plain at the estuary), what is being done to ascertain that the Place Road neighborhood is adequately protected (at current or lesser levels of risk) from potential flooding from the Elwha?

A. In ~ 2010, dike modification was conducted to prevent any enhanced flooding risk due to dam removals, which ended over 4 years ago. As far as we know, no one is looking at the current, post dam removal, effectiveness of the Place levee. Our assessment of the levee interaction with the lower river will include a determination of the level of flood protection offered by the existing west levee now that the dams are gone.

Q. With the intent of providing greater transparency to the neighborhood on the works, plans and goals of CWI for the Restoration of the Lower Elwha Estuary, would CWI consider placing a member of the Advisory Committee of the Place Dike Flood Control Zone on CWI's Board of Directors?

A. We will be establishing an access working group and we invite one or two community members to join the team.

Other Questions Raised at the Meeting

Q. "Does CWI plan to remove the Place levee?"

A. No. We have no set objective relating to the levee other than to understand how it influences lower river process and to quantify what level of flood protection it may provide. In early 2020, we will submit a request for proposals for this assessment to be completed. Once we have a report from a hired river engineer/hydrologist team (likely 2021), we will share the results with the community and begin discussions to determine if there is an opportunity to provide fish passage into the 6 acres of habitat west of the levee without increasing flood risk to the adjacent landowners. If there would be any increased flood risk, NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN. We do not know the result, but we believe that this is an extremely important question to ask if there is a win-win balance that works for both landowners and salmon.

Q. "What is going to be happening and when?"

A. Over the next year, CWI will be working to permit actions that will re-naturalize the CWI property. The CWI property will remain closed to public use until the site is fully restored and ready for public use. CWI does not predict that significant on the ground work will begin until the latter half of 2020 at the soonest and that the property will likely not be ready for public use until at least 2021. CWI is establishing an access working group. We will have more information in early 2020, but we invite a member (or two) representative of the Place community to join this team. We intend for this team to meet at least twice in 2020.

In early 2020, CWI will also submit a request for proposals for expert river engineering/hydrologist teams to submit a proposal for a study that will assess how the lower river is influenced by the Place Rd levee and what level of flood protection the levee provides. It is anticipated that this report will take at least one year to evaluate and prepare. When the results are complete, CWI will provide a draft to the community for the community to provide any additional feedback, such that the hired consultant can specifically address any community questions.

Q. "How is the establishment of a parking area consistent with conservation?"

A. The CWI property was purchased with state and federal conservation funds. Providing the public an opportunity to visit lands conserved with public funds is consistent with the conservation intent of the funding programs and creates opportunities to educate the public about the ecologically unique areas.

Q. *"How will we know what is happening?"*

A. CWI is a small organization and we are working earnestly to be efficient and transparent. If questions arise, please reach out to us and we will do our best to promptly respond to your question.

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We will upload this Q&A and the slides from our November presentation to our website www.coastalwatershedinstitute.org under the Resources page and Place Road Heading. As important information comes to us, we will also post it there on the website for your review.

Place Road Community meeting 25 November 2019



Ricardo Fleischfresser 18 November
2019 email points, in reverse order

"Public outreach is a key component of Coastal Watershed Institute's mission. CWI has worked extensively with the community adjacent to the historic west Elwha Estuary to help interpret ecosystem response to dam removal. We regularly present findings or research to these landowners and offer technical assistance when requested.

Place Road community meetings (at least one a year): 2006, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016-2019

Elwha Nearshore Consortium (ENC)
meetings 2008-2015

Various technical assistance dialogs and
sampling 2004ish to present

CWI will work with the project stakeholders and the nearby community to assure the community that this is a long-term vision and that no on the ground action will be taken without willing landowners." - Taken from Appendix C-2: Elwha Estuary Levee Assessment



Q. Recent aerial views of the Elwha estuary (as that of October 25th 2019) show an increased number of substantial lagoons on the East side of the Estuary. When compared to photos or territorial depictions (maps) of the area back in the early 1900's and in the 1930's it appears that there is currently more riparian terrain to the East and in total than back then. Several of those are not as vegetated and conducive to the sustaining processes, but could be improved. Why is it then that CWI is concentrating so much effort in restoring the approx. 6 acres on the West side and at such elevated cost, when so much improvement to existing areas to the East could be attained quickly and at far reduced costs and no risk to existing structures/residences?

Elwha nearshore 25 October 2019. Photo by Lindsey Howard and CWI. All rights reserved. Flight provided by Lighthawk.



CWI Place Rd Presentation Nov 25, 2019

Fish abundance within Elwha estuary

East estuary:
75% of habitat,
30% of all fish
9% of all
salmon

West estuary:
15% of habitat,
40% of all fish,
91% of all
salmon

Impounded
estuary: 10% of
habitat, 20% of
all fish, 0 % of
all salmon

Anthropogenic changes to hydrodynamic processes, including sediment delivery, are important in defining habitat function (Shaffer et al 2009)



Elwha nearshore 29 August 2019 Photo by Anne Shaffer and CWI. All rights reserved.



Nearshore ecological response to dam removal results

I. Areal extent of estuary mapping (Shaffer et al 2017;
Anderson pers comm)



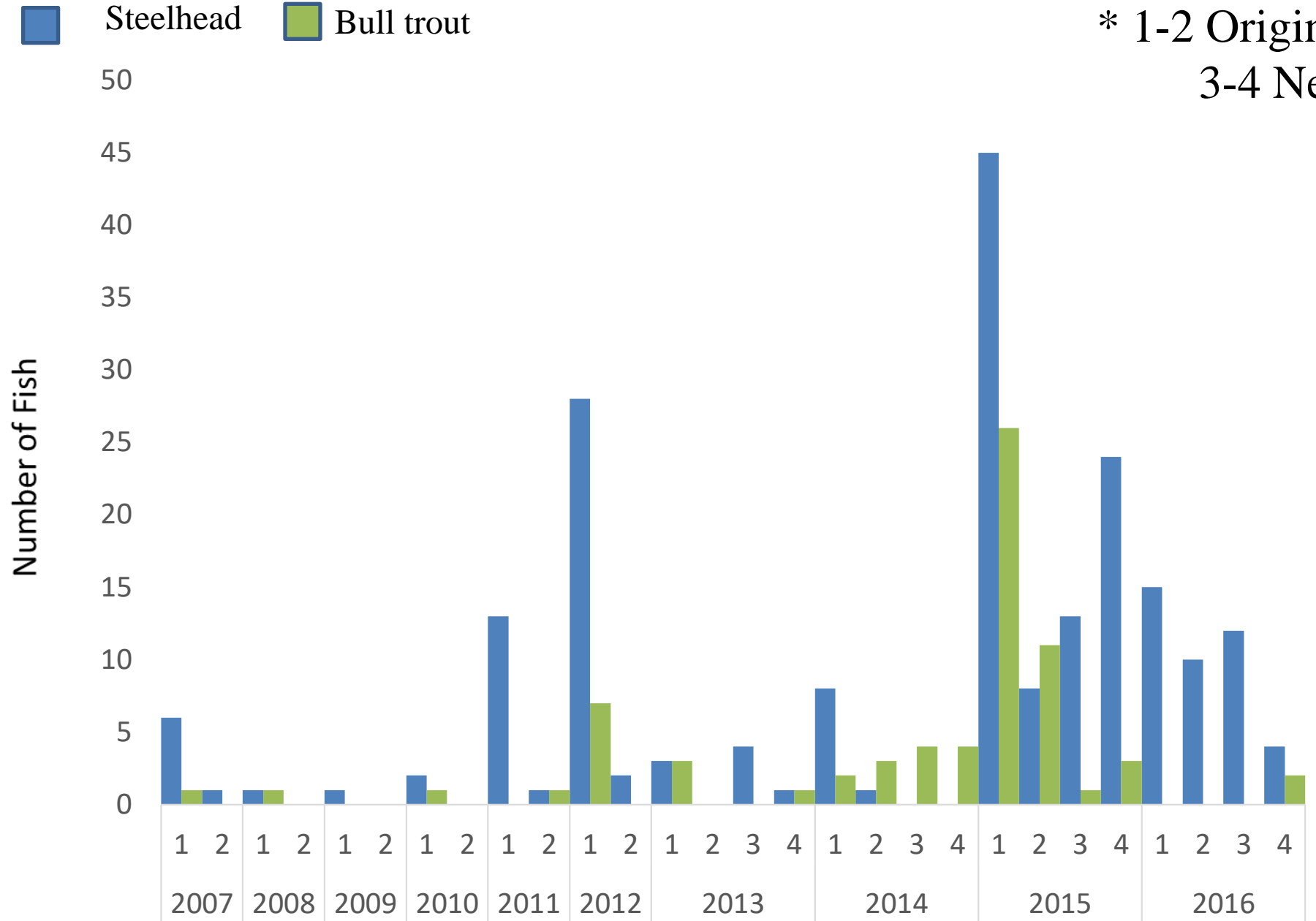
An aerial photograph of a coastal estuary system. Two cyan arrows originate from a central point and point towards the coastline, labeled '1.0 km' and '0.5 km' respectively, indicating the areal extent of the estuary mapping. The landscape shows a mix of forested land, open fields, and the estuary itself, which is surrounded by water. In the background, mountains are visible under a cloudy sky.

Date	Area(ha)
1939	120.18
1953	121.30
1965	121.80
1974	119.98
1981	115.90
1990	116.85
2003	122.30
2006	120.63
2009	114.72
2011	115.42
2013	116.81
3/2014	149.13
9/2014	136.46
8/2015	157.63

Abundance in Elwha west estuary by site

* 1-2 Original

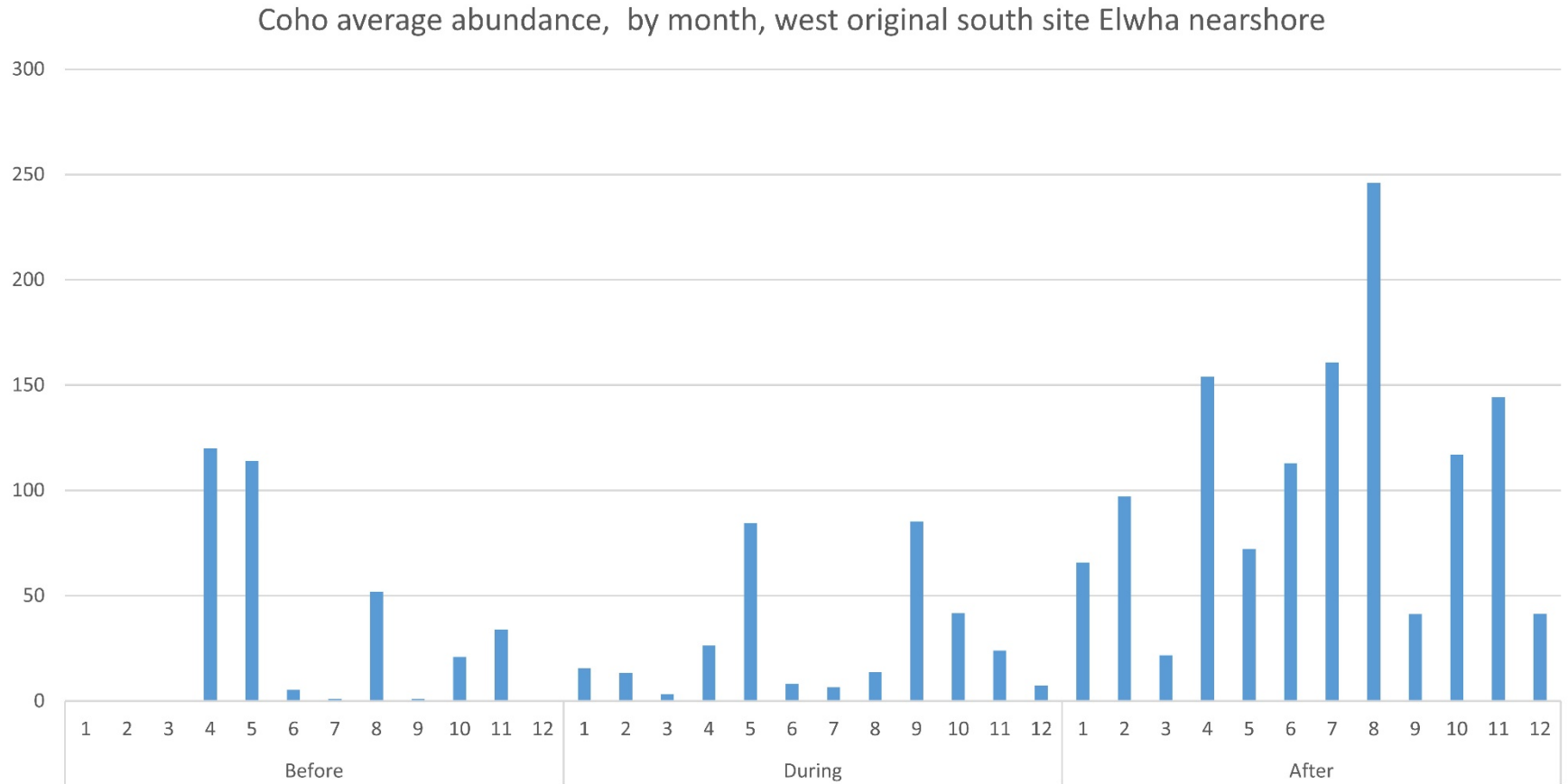
3-4 New



Data provisional and subject to change

Report received from Olympic National Park 2019:

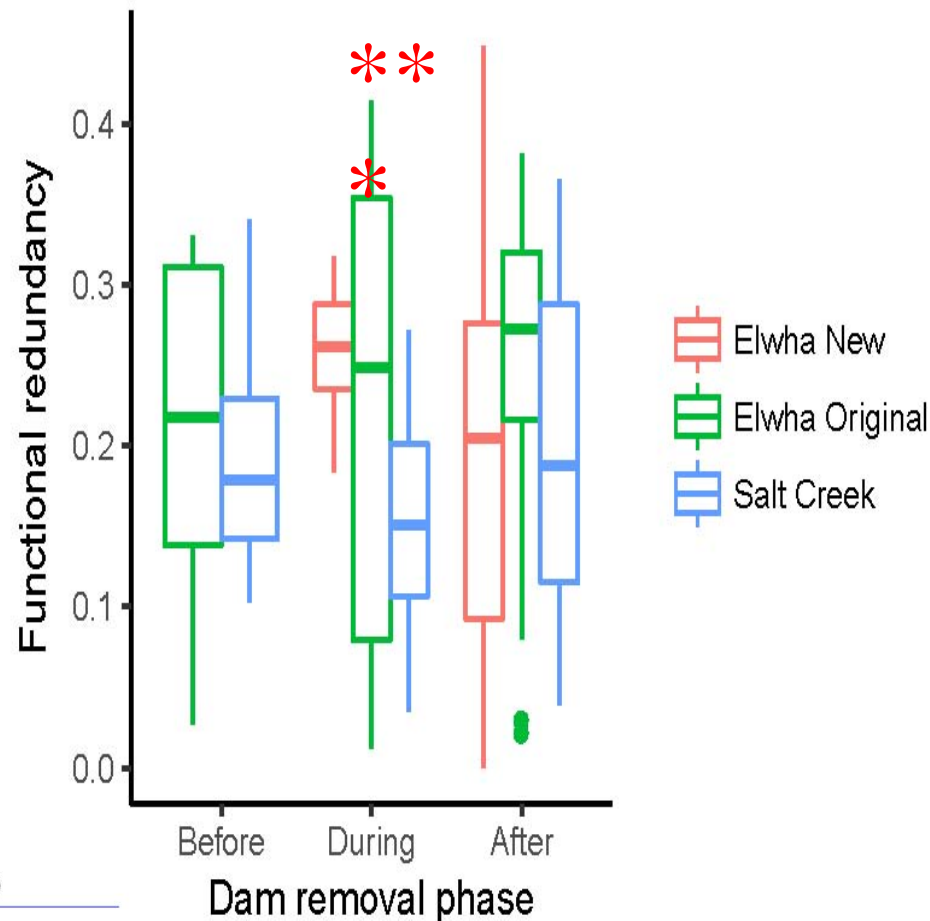
....26 coho returned to the LEKT hatchery and only 6 redds were identified over the entire survey period in 2015-2016 (McHenry et al 2017)



Dam removal phase

Functional redundancy

Indicator of community stability and resilience



Q. Recent aerial views of the Elwha estuary (as that of October 25th 2019) show an increased number of substantial lagoons on the East side of the Estuary. When compared to photos or territorial depictions (maps) of the area back in the early 1900's and in the 1930's it appears that there is currently more riparian terrain to the East and in total than back then. Several of those are not as vegetated and conducive to the sustaining processes, but could be improved. Why is it then that CWI is concentrating so much effort in restoring the approx. 6 acres on the West side and at such elevated cost, when so much improvement to existing areas to the East could be attained quickly and at far reduced costs and no risk to existing structures/residences?

Answer:

More habitat has always been available on the eastern delta.

Fish, and salmon in particular, have always used the west delta disproportionately.

Since dam removals, fish continue to use the west estuary heavily.

Newly created habitat functions at a lower level ecologically than established habitat.

The west estuary is critical for the species that are at the heart of ecosystem restoration.

Based on fish use and habitat, the highest best potential restoration action is the west impounded estuary.



Q. Has any consideration been given to the possibility of moving the Federal East Levee farther East so the flood plain could increase to the East?

A. LEKT Has Removed:

- 4 push up dikes
- -Old hatchery outfall
- ¼ mile of asphalt road

Installed:

>50 Engineered Logjams

Activated:

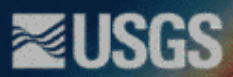
-4 Side channels

Planted:

-50,000 trees and removed invasives

To restore > 200 acres of lower river floodplain by levee setback

Q. Recent aerial views of the Elwha estuary (as that of October 25th 2019) show an increased number of substantial lagoons on the East side of the Estuary. When compared to photos or territorial depictions (maps) of the area back in the early 1900's and in the 1930's it appears that there is currently more riparian terrain to the East and in total than back then. Several of those are not as vegetated and conducive to the sustaining processes, but could be improved. Why is it then that CWI is concentrating so much effort in restoring the approx. 6 acres on the West side and at such elevated cost, when so much improvement to existing areas to the East could be attained quickly and at far reduced costs and no risk to existing structures/residences?



Elwha River 2011

Elwha Estuary Conservation, Restoration, Levee Assessment

NOPLE Workplan Ranking # 2 Elwha River Estuary/Nearshore Conservation and Restoration



Supporting Plans

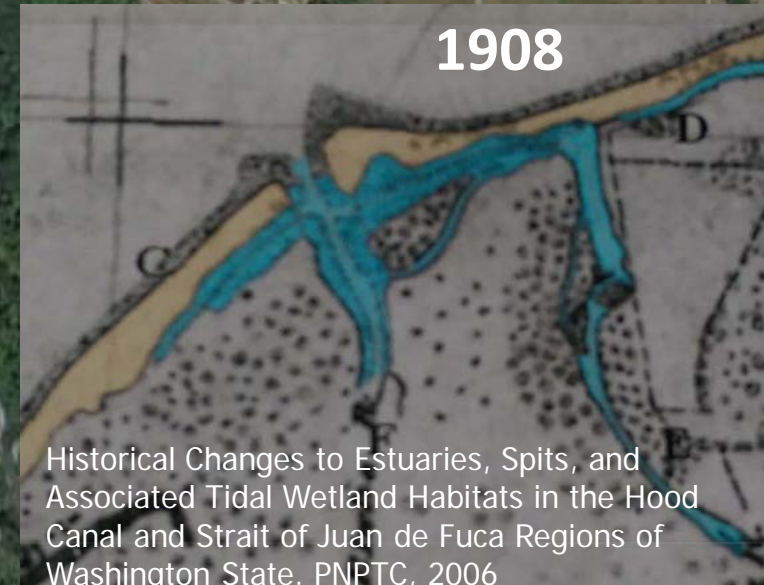
2018 Ocra Recovery Task Force, 2018 Puget Sound Action Agenda, WRIA 18 Limiting Factors Analysis, 1999; Clallam SMP Restoration Plan, 2013; NOAA Elwha Fish Restoration Plan, 2008; Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan, 2005; Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan; North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy, 2011; Elwha Nearshore Consortium Proceedings 2015, Nature's Value in Clallam County, 2013

We just received grants to begin this work.



Q. Who is conducting the study of Project Number 18-1313? Will the study address the impact of modifications to the West levee on the bluffs to the South end of the levee? As we know this bluff has lost some 70 mts to the South in the past 50 years. This erosion will probably continue and would most likely be exacerbated further by potential changes to the levee. The neighborhood requests the opportunity to review the findings of the study (once available), perhaps with the support of their own expert geologist

Project will evaluate the effects of the Place Rd Levee on lower Elwha River habitat and habitat-sustaining processes and will develop restoration concepts to modify the levee to improve habitat function while maintaining existing level of flood protection



Historical Changes to Estuaries, Spits, and Associated Tidal Wetland Habitats in the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca Regions of Washington State. PNPTC, 2006

4. Who is conducting the study of Project Number 18-1313? Will the study address the impact of modifications to the West levee on the bluffs to the South end of the levee? As we know this bluff has lost some 70 mts to the South in the past 50 years. This erosion will probably continue and would most likely be exacerbated further by potential changes to the levee. The neighborhood requests the opportunity to review the findings of the study (once available), perhaps with the support of their own expert geologist

- A. CWI will be hiring an experienced river engineer/hydrogeological team to characterize and understand the evolution of the lower river as a result of the levee to determine the levee's influence on lower river processes. All information/reports produced with this grant will be publicly available information.

This is a preliminary assessment to better understand the role of the levee and if there is a manner in which it can work for fish and people.

Q. What are the updated plans regarding the recently acquired Lamb property? Specifically, what is being considered for the long term (in perpetuity) management of the property, specifically regarding probable increased flow of people and traffic in a public setting: bathrooms, emergency access needs, adequate parking for vehicles and buses (note that historically not even school buses come down Place Rd due to the fragility of the road as it comes down the bluff - kids are picked up at the top of the bluff), likely increased use by the homeless, litter receptacles and pick up services.

A. This is why we are here today - to gain community input early in the planning process. Currently access is informal without active management, we have assisted with community concerns over the years and are now able to assist as a land manager/neighbor.

School Bus Use Summer/Fall 2019





Removing Scotch Broom Fall 2019.
Thanks to the Beach, Gillette and Dudley
families for your partnership.



Sampling Place Pond
Summer 2019.
Abundant Stickleback.



Q. With the intent of providing greater transparency to the neighborhood on the works, plans and goals of CWI for the Restoration of the Lower Elwha Estuary, would CWI consider placing a member of the Advisory Committee of the Place Dike Flood Control Zone on CWI's Board of Directors? .

Q. In light of the expected future impact of climate change (with increased volatility and probability of extremes of flow - above 30,000 CFS -, storm surges, log jams and natural landslides and dam-break occurrences), the existence of the 9800 ft Federal East Elwha Levee (which also was increased in height by 3 ft just before the Dam removals and further extended on its Northern end, thus reducing the Elwha flood plain at the estuary), what is being done to ascertain that the Place Road neighborhood is adequately protected (at current or lesser levels of risk) from potential flooding from the Elwha?

A. CWI will establish an access working group and we invite community members to join.

Questions Submitted Following the Meeting

Q. Restoration: The beach access on the [CWI] property is a man made road that buries and constricts the old estuary. I am wondering if there are plans to restore the estuary to a natural state and eliminate the man made beach access.

A. A road on the CWI property bisects the coastal wetlands. We will be working on the planning effort with the community to balance public shoreline access and coastal restoration. In 2020, we will likely present a suite of scenarios for community input as conceptual plans for re-naturalization of the CWI property are developed.

Q. Who is the [CWI] property going to be deeded over to after the restoration project is complete? Who would the remaining 5 of 6 parcels be deeded over to, if and when CWI acquires them and restoration has been complete?

A. At present the CWI property is owned by CWI. The property has 2 recorded Deed Restrictions that stipulate that the property be managed in perpetuity for natural ecosystem conservation. We have no immediate plans to transfer ownership of the property and are currently focused on planning for the restoration of the CWI property. The Elwha estuary shoreline, and lower river, (the collective nearshore), are an extremely important ecosystem. We have advocated for the conservation and stewardship of this area for decades. We are working with the community and state/federal/tribal/non-governmental conservation partners to conserve and restore important habitats as opportunities arise. The Elwha estuary and lower river (collectively the nearshore) that includes the 6 properties adjacent to the west levee, have significant ecological value, so CWI has made the case that when properties in the vicinity come up for sale, we have funding capacity and are best able to negotiate with the property owner for a conservation purchase. CWI is working with landowners on their timelines as we did for the recent CWI purchase and we encourage any landowners considering conservation options (conservation purchase, conservation easement, conservation life estate) on their property to reach out to us.

Q. In Planning Area photo #18-1313, has CWI gotten permission from each landowner shown in this photo to do a study on their property? If so, to what extent? If not, then why not?

A. The primary area of interest for this study is the lower river and the levee. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe owns half of the levee and the floodplain east of the levee. The Tribe's Habitat Biologist has stated that the establishing fish access to the west estuary is the most important restoration action on the Elwha in the post dam removal era (McHenry, personal communication) and the Tribe is supportive of this study. The scope of work will likely task an engineering consultant to survey the river topography to develop a computational model of lower river hydrodynamics to better understand the level of flood protection that the levee provides and the levee's influence on lower river processes. If useful to inform the study, CWI may approach additional landowners if collection of topographic or water elevation data would be useful on their property. Additionally, if a property owner has specific concerns about their property, we are happy to include that in the scope of the work.

Q. What exactly would these 6 parcels look like after restoration? What would be installed on these properties (structures, bathrooms, trash receptacles, museum, roads, boat launch, etc)? What purpose would these additions and parcels serve? Will there be parking installed? If so, how many parking spaces? Would this become public access land? Who will maintain these parcels and keep them clean?

How will you prevent fires and overnight stays by drug users, vagrants, and homeless? Who will maintain the volatile Place Road bluff road hill up and down to the bottom of Place Road and Elwha Dike Roads? Will it be reinforced to prevent damage from over access and potential future land slides?

A. We have advocated for the conservation and stewardship of this area for decades. We are working with the community and state/federal/tribal/non-governmental conservation partners to conserve and restore important habitats as opportunities arise. The Elwha estuary and lower river (collectively the nearshore) includes the 6 properties adjacent to the west levee have significant ecological value, so CWI has made the case that when properties in the vicinity come up for sale, we have funding capacity and are best able to negotiate with the property owner for a conservation purchase. CWI is working with landowners on their timelines as we did for the recent CWI purchase and we encourage any landowners considering conservation options (conservation purchase, conservation easement, conservation life estate) on their property to reach out to us. With the exception of the CWI property, the remainder of these properties are in private ownership. We intend to work together with the owners of all these properties to find a balance that works for the property owners and the ecosystem that is on their timelines.

We are at the front end of the planning process on the CWI property and we met with the Place community at the front end to gain community input prior to any decisions being made. We will be establishing an access working group and invite community members to join. We will also intend to meet with the broader community as we reach decision points in the planning process. The CWI property has 2 recorded Deed Restrictions that stipulate that the property be managed in perpetuity for natural ecosystem conservation.

Currently, access to this shoreline is informal without active management. We have assisted with community access concerns over the years and are now able to assist as a land manager/neighbor. The exact configuration of the re-naturalized CWI property will be determined through the planning process over the next year. At previous community meetings we were informed by the Place community that the bus use is unsafe with the existing parking configuration, so we have purchased this property in part to alleviate the parking bottleneck and improve traffic flow. The exact configuration of parking is to be determined and we will work closely with the community, Port Angeles School District and Clallam County Roads department to determine the most appropriate solution.

Q. Regarding Near-shore / Delta area: Where & how the ecosystem could benefit from some conservation help? Where is the ecosystem most vulnerable to set-backs due to too many of our human species and other influences?

A. Removal of invasive vegetation species helps to improve habitat function. On the CWI property there is fill that has constricted coastal wetlands. Conserving the shoreline from armoring is also critical for continued surf smelt, and possibly sand lance spawning habitat. These forage fish are critical for the salmon species recolonizing the Elwha watershed. These salmon in turn are critical to Southern Resident Killer Whales. Foot traffic can also be a concern-we will be developing plans to ensure the site management is prioritized for conservation. We will be conducting a study of the levee and lower river that includes providing continued foot access to the delta, as well as to better understand the role of the levee in lower river process and the level of flood protection that the levee offers.

Q. Preservation: I am also curious about preservation. In my experience the most harmful damaging activity in a natural area is people especially high volumes of people. Right now almost no one disturbs the deer, otter, heron, eagles, osprey, fish, frogs etc that reside in and around the the estuary in front of the [CWI] property. More people and vehicles on that property is going to inevitably create more noise, pets, litter, pollution etc and disturb the delicate wildlife that use it as a home, feeding/nesting grounds and sanctuary.

A. We share your concerns and we are experienced at balancing habitat function with public use. At the Beach Lake Conservation Area on the east side of the Elwha nearshore, we have clearly defined areas appropriate for public and areas that are not to be disturbed. We have prohibited dogs to reduce litter and prevent harassment of birds and wildlife. We have sited parking in an area that is appropriately set back from aquatic habitat. At the Beach Lake Conservation Area, we have made it clear that use of the site is a privilege and if the public use becomes disrespectful or compromises the integrity of the site, that the site would be closed. We will develop a separate management plan for the CWI Place Rd property, but feel that it is important to illustrate that we are attentive to these concerns and have active experience managing for those concerns.

Q. I resent the intrusion in my life and serenity. I resent organizations who "live" on grant money while telling the rest of the world how to behave.

A. We respect your serenity and the beautiful shoreline that we both own land upon. Through many years of community engagement and dialogue, we have helped to resolve community concerns to help ensure continued serenity and natural beauty. We hope that our efforts to provide community based interpretive signage that informs visitors of appropriate use has earned your trust and respect. Now that we are a landowner, we feel that we can provide an additional level of assistance.

As an organization, we do not "live" on grant money. Our base funding comes largely from corporations, businesses, private foundations and donations from individuals. Some of our individual funders live on Place Rd. Grant funding is project specific and is an agreement for specific actions. In this case, a national competitive process was used to award funds that are managed for conservation projects under an Act of Federal Congress. We bring a high level of professionalism to our work. To that end, we have recently completed the #1 ranked habitat restoration project in Puget Sound (out of more than 400 projects reviewed by Puget Sound Partnership). Our work has been featured by National Geographic (twice). We have been recognized with the Ocean Conservation Research Award by the Seattle Aquarium, Conservation Organization of the Year, Restorationist of the Year and Conservationist of the year by American Fisheries Society, Society of Ecological Restoration, and other professional societies. We don't have time or interest in telling others how to behave. We focus on understanding how these ecosystems work, where the priorities for conservation and restoration are, and provide this information as the best available science, so that the community, and, we, can make informed decisions.

Q. Where we have shared goals we would indicate our support in working together to achieve these mutual goals. When the proposed project runs counter to our community goals we would tell the organization that we could not support that project as it runs counter to our community goals and preferences. CWI owns one property and has the same input as any other individual property owner. What they do with their single property, if consistent with county ordinances, is their business, but they are not in a position to force something upon the entire community. They are not a governmental agency with the power to force changes upon the entire community.

A. Fully agreed. We work with willing landowners to provide expertise and assistance.

Q. With respect to the current CWI proposed study we can indicate our support of the goal to enhance the return of the salmon population, and feel there are opportunities to achieve that goal, but are opposed to any modification to the dike. There is a much larger estuary to the east of the dike that can serve that purpose. In this way we are a community that is open to working with others on mutually agreed upon goals, and at the same time are committed to opposing projects that potentially are detrimental to the area.

A. Understood. We respect the will and desire of private property owners. We seek to provide expertise and assistance. We seek to conserve important habitats when opportunities arise. We seek to understand the Place Rd levee and the role it plays in lower river processes and the level of flood protection that it provides now that dam removal is complete-this is the first time this has been assessed. We believe that this will provide useful information for local residents and an improved understanding of river habitat.

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