

Olympic National Park News Release

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NPS Awards Contract for Water Treatment Upgrades at Mill: Project to Protect Nippon Paper Industries USA's Water Supply from Increased Sediment Levels Expected During Removal of Elwha River Dams

The National Park Service's Denver Service Center (DSC) has awarded the contract for Nippon Paper Industries (NPI) Water Treatment Improvements and Outfall Phase 2 to Erick Ammon, Inc. of Anderson, Calif. and Silverdale, Wash.

DSC announced award of the \$4,092,700 contract today.

Construction is being contracted and funded by the National Park Service as part of water quality mitigation for the Elwha River Restoration project. The majority of construction will occur at the mill under an agreement with NPI.

"This project will provide the mill with increased water treatment capabilities to account for higher levels of sediment expected to occur during and after dam removal," said Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin.

The contract includes completion of a new outfall pipe that will provide improved dispersion of sediment from the mill's incoming water treatment process, improvements to clarifiers, and addition of chemical feed capability for iron and manganese removal from water going to the plant during the dam removal impact period.

The project is expected to be completed over the course of the coming summer and early fall.

Dam removal work will begin on September 17, 2011. Removing the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams will allow fish to access spawning habitat in more than 70 miles of river and tributary stream, most of which is protected inside Olympic National Park.

The 45-mile long Elwha River is the historic home of all five species of Pacific salmon and has been legendary as one of the Northwest's most productive salmon streams. Because neither dam provided passage for migratory fish, salmon and other fish have been restricted to the lower five miles of river since dam construction. Once underway, the removal process will take up to three years.

Dam removal will release large amounts of sediment now impounded in reservoirs behind both dams. In a draft report based on reservoir surveys conducted last year, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation estimates that 24.3 million cubic yards of sediment have accumulated in the Lake Mills and Lake Aldwell reservoirs combined.

Work stoppages will be built into the dam removal schedule in order to limit the amount of sediment released at any given time, particularly when adult fish are in the river.

As the largest dam removal in U.S. history and one of the National Park Service's most comprehensive restoration projects, Elwha River Restoration is made possible by collaboration among many partners, including NPI USA, the City of Port Angeles, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and many others.

For more information on Elwha River Restoration, please visit the Olympic National Park's website at www.nps.gov/olym or share information and interact with "Elwha River Restoration" on Facebook.