Elwha River Dam Removal — Reconnecting 70+ Miles of Salmon Habitat and Restoring Sediment Flow (USA)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Two century-old dams (32 m and 64 m) were removed in 2011–2014, reopening 70+ miles of habitat; salmon have recolonised upstream reaches and sand is rebuilding coastal habitats. Recovery is gradual and still monitored.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-29

National Park Service / Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe / U.S. Department of the Interior — accessed 2026-09-29

NOAA Fisheries — Dam Removals on the Elwha River — accessed 2026-09-29

USGS — Elwha River dam removal: Rebirth of a river — accessed 2026-09-29

Cite this — Evidoria. *Elwha River Dam Removal — Reconnecting 70+ Miles of Salmon Habitat and Restoring Sediment Flow (USA)*. Persistent ID: 6bdf086f-be09-41c6-bcc3-14a9fd7c17a3.