

**LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE**




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<b>Project Title:</b>	Establishing Baseline Ecological Information on Roosevelt Elk to Improve Regulatory Ability of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$443,789
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Environmental
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2008 – March 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Tribe

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**PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- 4 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 31 youth involved
- \$148,367 in resources leveraged
- 16 individuals trained
- 5 partnerships formed
- 1 environmental regulation developed
- 1 environmental regulation implemented

**BACKGROUND**

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is located on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. The Tribe’s reservation was established west of Port Angeles during the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934; the Tribe received federal recognition in 1968.

Prior to this project, the Lower Elwha Klallam lacked information on culturally important Roosevelt Elk that reside on lands within the Tribe’s Usual and Accustomed (U&A) hunting grounds. The Tribe’s 1994 strategic plan listed a radio-telemetry study of elk as a top wildlife-related priority; however, the Tribe lacked funds to complete

such a study. Tribal hunters exercise their treaty rights to hunt elk across their U&A grounds on the North Olympic Peninsula, but the Tribe’s regulatory ability over elk harvest is limited by a lack of data on elk population size, structure, and status.

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this 3-year project was to enhance the regulatory ability of the Tribe by establishing baseline information on the status of the Roosevelt Elk population. This information will be used to ensure that elk harvests are managed effectively for long-term sustainability, and to benefit current and future generations of tribal hunters.

The first objective was to capture and radio-collar five to 10 cow elk in each of the first two years of the project to gather data on spatial use patterns, habitat use, seasonal movement patterns, fidelity of individual members to the herds, and population size and structure. During the first quarter of the project, the project director hired two wildlife technicians from Lower Elwha Klallam, and created a Microsoft Access database to house collected data. Staff used tranquilizer darts to safely capture and apply

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GPS collars to 12 cow elk during the project period. The GPS collars sent automated emails to project staff on a daily basis with location data of the collared elk. Staff mapped these location data in ArcMap, which is a GIS software program used to view, edit, create, and analyze geospatial data. At the end of each project year, staff compiled progress reports with preliminary analysis and provided updates at Community Council and Hunting Committee meetings.

The second objective was to conduct ground and aerial-based surveys of elk or elk feces to test the efficacy of these methods for monitoring elk population size, composition, and status. To achieve this, project staff used a variety of survey methods, including: a pellet group survey protocol for providing an index of relative elk abundance; collection of 235 elk fecal pellets for extraction of DNA to estimate population size; and completion of 32 replicated aerial surveys of elk to perform composition counts. Aerial surveys provided visual confirmation of between 80 and 220 elk.

#### **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Five of the 12 GPS collars that were originally attached were not operational by the end of the project due to faulty hardware and/or deceased elk. The Tribe still has seven elk collars that transmit useful data. Different methodologies were used to conclude that there is a very low elk population in the eastern portion of the study area. The cumulative information gained has provided the basis for developing a monitoring program of elk population structure, size, and status. Before the project ended, the Tribe was able to use data to inform existing Tribal harvest regulations, which have already been revised as a result. By gaining a deeper and broader understanding of elk numbers and behavior, the Tribe can now make more biologically-

based decisions regarding hunting regulations. This will allow for long-term subsistence of the elk population, and will ensure a sustainable food supply for Tribal hunters.

This project also resulted in significant professional development for the staff and increased capacity for the Tribe. Staff members received training in safe wildlife capture techniques and scientific field methods; additionally, the Tribe has secured darting rifles, binoculars, spotting scopes, radio telemetry equipment, elk capture gear, and GPS units to maintain these efforts. The increased expertise and equipment will benefit the Tribe in future related projects.

Through this project's activities, staff members were successful in forming strong relationships with Washington State's Department of Fish and Wildlife, neighboring Tribes, Olympic National Park, and nearby landowners that will continue after the project. Lastly, the capacity gained from this project greatly increased the Tribe's ability to participate in Inter-Tribal and State-Tribal discussions regarding questions of harvest management. According to the project director, prior to this project, the Tribe could not meaningfully participate in those discussions. This project has given the Tribe a voice.

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## NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE




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<b>Project Title:</b>	Revitalizing Fatherhood Program
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$524,161
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	SEDS - Strengthening Families
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2009 – Nov. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Tribe

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 5 youth involved
- \$1,576,986 in resources leveraged
- 7 individuals trained
- 15 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

The Nooksack Indian Tribe has 1,933 members, most of who live in Whatcom County. Tribal lands are fragmented, and include a 2.2-acre reservation, 298 acres of fee and trust lands, and 2,000 acres in private allotments. Tribal administration, three Tribal business, and most Tribal services are located in Deming.

In 2009, 1,179 Tribal members (61 percent) were 30 years old or younger. According to 2006 Nooksack Tribal TANF records, over 70 percent of Tribal children grow up without a father in the house for at least 2 years. Youth living without their fathers face social issues, such as poverty, low educational attainment, substance abuse, criminal behavior, suicide, and premarital pregnancy, at higher rates than those with fathers present. Through community needs assessments, the Tribe identified violence

prevention, educational support, job training, parenting and life skills classes, cultural reunification, and parent-child activities as critical for the improvement of family. Tribal planners therefore developed this project to provide these services and foster greater involvement by Nooksack fathers in their children's lives.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to increase the responsible, positive participation of Nooksack fathers in their children's lives. The first objective was to provide a coordinated effort to help fathers address their individual needs and overcome obstacles that limit their potential as responsible parents.

In the first year, project staff met with staff from several Tribal departments, securing their participation as facilitators in a series of 8-week workshops (with one workshop per week). Workshop topics included domestic violence awareness, child support, Native fatherhood, financial management, child safety, drug and alcohol prevention, and communication skills. During the course of the project, staff augmented the curriculum with trainings on communicating with children, conflict resolution, leadership,

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child discipline, life skills, and personal empowerment. Project staff also hosted monthly family fun nights with an average of 40 adults and 75 children, father/child nights, outdoor movie nights, a back to school breakfast, and several other events, each of which were attended by fathers, their children, and other family members.

In the second year, the project confronted staff turnover and low attendance at workshops. Recognizing that the community was not large enough to support ongoing quarterly sessions, project staff provided additional stipends and adjusted the training schedule to make it less structured. With a more flexible schedule and new staff, the project saw greater community involvement, and was able to serve a total of 36 fathers and 29 mothers (with 25 fathers attending at least two sessions) through the workshops over the course of the project.

The second objective was to identify early parental communications breakdowns and promote cooperation on matters impacting children. To accomplish this, the project team held “Positive Indian Parenting” (PIP) and “Why Child Support?” classes. Staff experienced challenges with this objective due to staff turnover, a lack of partners to facilitate workshops, and scheduling conflicts, but a total of 52 parents attended PIP sessions, and 29 parents attended child support workshops. Additionally, 39 mothers and fathers participated in discussion groups, and 44 individuals, representing 38 families, reported improvement in parenting skills and communication on children’s issues.

The third objective was to provide services to help fathers address barriers limiting employment. In the first year, participants took classes from project partner Bellingham Work Source in resume writing, interviewing, job search techniques, and

portfolio building. Throughout the life of the project, caseworkers also provided classes, career counseling, and personal assistance to participants who were applying for employment, preparing for job interviews, getting GEDs or pursuing higher education, or receiving treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues.

#### **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Though attendance was lower than expected, the “Why Child Support?” classes were useful in helping participants navigate personal situations with respect to child support. PIP workshops, as well as the third year Native Wellness healthy relationships workshops and parenting classes hosted by project partner Bellingham Technical College, provided participants ways to create dialogue with partners and actively take part in their children’s lives.

Both fathers and mothers who participated in workshops or met with caseworkers learned a great deal about the meaning of responsible and positive parenting, healthy communication and cooperation with present and former partners, what it means to provide child support, and what it means to be a role model. As a result of this project, 16 fathers applied for employment, 23 fathers and 14 mothers received job-specific training, two fathers and one mother gained a GED or pursued higher education, and 18 fathers and four mothers gained full or part-time employment. Furthermore, six fathers and six mothers received treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues, and there were 58 total meetings between participants and case managers to address personal issues.

The project coordinator stated, “Many Nooksack children have a more stable father presence in the home, and this project has led to better relationships, and less domestic abuse. Hopefully it will enable children to grow into healthy, stable adults.”

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE**



<b>Project Title:</b>	Squaxin Island Integrated Youth Development Project
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$728,703
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Tribe

**PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- 6 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 4 Native American consultants hired
- 10 Elders involved
- 50 youth involved
- \$93,140 in resources leveraged
- 40 individuals trained
- 6 partnerships formed

**BACKGROUND**

With 1,022 members, the Squaxin Island Tribe descends from seven bands of maritime people who for millennia lived along the southernmost inlets of Puget Sound. In 2009, 49 percent of Tribal members were 24 years old or younger.

Staff from Tribal youth service agencies identified many challenges facing Tribal youth, particularly in transitioning to adulthood. These include detachment from the community, poor job-seeking and vocational skills, and inadequate social skills needed to overcome prevalent community conditions, such as low educational achievement, substance abuse, and high teen birth rates. When the project began, there

were no life skills programs being offered for young adults ages 19-24.

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The project’s purpose was to develop the Tribe’s capacity to prepare youth ages 15-24 to successfully transition to adulthood by providing culturally appropriate, integrated, services. The first objective was to improve communication between youth service agencies. To accomplish this, staff formed the Squaxin Youth Council, bringing together members from the legal, education, law enforcement, and behavioral services departments. Later renamed the Family Wellness Team (FWT), this group conducted regular meetings throughout the project period to provide more efficient, comprehensive wellness services for youth.

Project staff and FWT members formed a Youth Service Team (YST) to address the truancy problem among Tribal youth by drafting a new policy. In addition, with involvement from the information services and planning departments, project staff created an education department database, which led to the creation of a larger, integrated Tribal wellness database of key service, educational, and health information.

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The second objective was to provide integrated services for 18 youth ages 15-18 to improve school outcomes and reduce delinquency. Although staff turnover and scheduling conflicts with the 2010 Paddle to Makah Canoe Journey hindered the delivery of services in the first year, project staff worked with 21 youth over the course of the project, 18 of whom developed individual service plans (ISPs) defining their educational and personal goals.

According to the youth services coordinator, “The ISPs helped them organize themselves and think about the future, assess where they were in relation to where they wanted to go, and map out their futures.” Using the ISPs, staff helped youth pursue goals by aiding them in registering for SAT tests, taking them on college visits, and assisting them in dealing with personal issues.

The third objective was to provide integrated services for 12 young adults ages 19-24 to improve educational, employment, and social outcomes. Activities under this objective served a total of 15 young adults, but according to project staff, participants in this cohort “had difficulty overcoming the perception that once they were out of high school, they were on their own.” After the first year, only three young adults were recruited, although some Young Adult Assessment Team (YAAT) members continued informally.

Seeking to increase Tribal knowledge on the needs and goals of the cohort, project staff recruited 12 young adults to serve on the YAAT. After receiving training in participatory research methods, YAAT members developed and conducted two community surveys to assess community attitudes on social and economic issues, collecting 142 surveys from community members and 40 surveys from youth ages 14-21. The lessons learned through this research influenced the project’s direction

and enabled YAAT members to see the effects of their efforts.

The fourth objective was to boost the independent life skills of project participants. After determining the original curriculum did not meet the cultural needs of participants, project staff developed a new life skills curriculum with chapters on topics such as healthy relationships, communication, Tribal culture, money management, job skills, and visioning. Eight participants completed the course and incorporated aspects of the training into their ISPs, and a total of 28 participants received a combination of classes and other vocational, educational, or cultural training that increased their independent life skills.

#### **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Ultimately, this project enabled 39 youth and young adults to receive intensive, integrated services, life skills training, or research experience, and allowed 11 additional youth to take part in cultural activities and develop life skills. According to project staff, youth learned how to communicate better, actively listen to others, better understand their Tribal and Native identities, manage money and time, and set short and long-term goals.

These youth were less likely to drop out of school, use drugs and alcohol, or be involved in the Tribal justice system. Participants also demonstrated improved academic achievement, interest in higher education, and a better tie to the community via social and cultural involvement.

Additionally, the creation of the wellness database greatly enhanced the efficiency of Tribal departments. Despite challenges with staff turnover, by project’s end the Tribe had in place the personnel and organizational capacity necessary to continue providing culturally appropriate, integrated services for Tribal youth on their way to adulthood.