

Who Makes Decisions About Dams? Stakeholder Role Play

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Grades or Range: 6-8th grade

This is lesson 4 of 4 of the educator's Unit: [Future Needs of PNW Hydropower System](#)

Lesson 4: Who Makes Decisions About Dams? Stakeholder Role Play	
Lesson Preparation	This lesson empowers students to explore the roles of the stakeholders who are at play. Through role-playing, students will learn about the varied opinions regarding the dam removal and will ultimately have to reach a compromise as a class after a mock public forum. Photocopy one or two sets of the 16 role-playing cards. It might be helpful to photocopy these on colored paper. The 16 cards represent the voices of the stakeholders in and around the Snake River Dams. Students will also need a Scenario Pro/Con Chart worksheet
Lesson Sequence	Students will be randomly assigned roles. Distribute copies of the Scenario Pro/Con Chart to each student. Give them a background statement (Come up with something to recap the concerns and interests of the general public). Ensure students understand their responsibility to review each scenario your character would most likely choose and defend during a public hearing. Give students one class to come up with their arguments. (See student examples here) In the second class, they can go over their salient points and hold a public forum. The public forum should be entirely student-run, with the Congress Members calling on students and facilitating the discussion using the script provided. In the end, the congress members should decide on the scenario they think best serves the greater community.
	LINKS: https://www.elwha.org/departments/natural-resources/fisheries/

Additional
Links from
the Elwha
Tribe's
Science
Outreach
Coordinator

<http://www.thememoryoffish.com/#intro>

StoryMaps:

[A river reborn \(arcgis.com\)](#)

[The Elwha River \(arcgis.com\)](#)

[This bibliography](#) of all of the published literature on Elwha river research is a great database to find specific items. Also, I know you are focusing on Chinook with respect to resident orca populations, but this short documentary about steelhead on the Elwha is promising for other species that have yet to demonstrate the same level of recovery (https://youtu.be/9t_m1myVBBQ). If you have not yet watched [the Memory of Fish](#), it is a bit outdated now but I think could be useful if you are addressing stakeholders in your curriculum.

Additional articles:

<https://snakerivercanyonspark.com/acitivities/exploring/>

<https://fisheries.org/policy-media/recent-policy-statements/statement-of-the-american-fisheries-society-afs-and-the-western-division-afs-wdafs-about-the-need-to-breach-the-four-dams-on-the-lower-snake-river/>