

ESCI Field Camp
Spring 2024

Elwha Restoration and Research Trip, April 16-25

Schedule and itinerary below subject to revision, contingent on project sampling designs.

Tuesday April 16

- 07:00 Meet at ES building, Parking Lot 12G
Rapid COVID antigen tests
Load all gear in van.
- 07:45 Depart WWU
- 10:15 Coupeville ferry; ~30 minute crossing time
- 10:45 Drive to Elwha River
- 12:30 Potential stop(s) at estuary and lower reservoir
Drive to Madison Falls trailhead.
- ~13:30 Hike to Whiskey Bend Trailhead, ~13 km (8 mi).
Stop at Glines Canyon Dam site; optional visit to reservoir restoration sites.
- ~16:30 Reach Whiskey Bend Trailhead. Begin hike up Elwha River Trail.
- ~17:30 Reach Geyser Valley, Humes Ranch backcountry camp, 3.8 km (2.4 mi).
Set up camp, cook & clean dinner, hang food.
Discussion: check-in; Elwha impressions.
- 20:08 Sunset

Wednesday April 17

- 06:17 Sunrise
Breakfast
- 09:00 Walking tour of Geyser Valley, scoping conditions and sample sites.
Assess restoration model, “missing baselines”
- ~17:00 Cook & clean dinner, hang food.
- 20:09 Sunset

Thursday April 18

- 06:15 Sunrise
Breakfast
- 09:00 Hike to Whiskey Bend Trailhead (3.8 km, 2.4 mi), then Mills Valley (1 km, 0.6 mi)
- ~10:30 Walking tour of dewatered Mills reservoir and restoration progress,
scoping conditions and sample sites.
- ~15:30 Return to Geyser Valley.
- ~17:00 Cook & clean dinner, hang food.
Discussion: Geyser-Mills valley comparisons; restoration progress.
- 20:11 Sunset

Friday April 19 – Wednesday April 24

- 06:13 – 06:04 Sunrise
Breakfast
- 09:00 Research groups implement research sampling design; collect data.
Potential hikes to upper Mills valley, as appropriate for research projects.
(Sampling schedule contingent on project needs and details.)
- ~17:00 Cook & clean dinner, hang food.
Discussions: Elwha restoration reflections
Assess sampling progress, data QA/QC, adaptation as needed.
- 20:12 – 20:20 Sunset (full moon Tuesday April 23)

Thursday April 25

- 06:02 Sunrise
Breakfast
Pack all camping gear and backpacks.
- 08:00 Return hike to Whiskey Bend trailhead (3.8 km, 2.4 mi).
- ~9:00 Reach Whiskey Bend trailhead.
Return hike back to Madison Falls parking lot (13 km, 8 mi).
- ~12:00 Arrive at Madison Falls Parking lot. Load gear and people into vans.
- ~12:30 Drive to Port Townsend; arrive ~ 14:30
Elwha trip debrief.
- 15:30 Port Townsend ferry; ≈30 minute crossing time
- 18:00 Return to WWU.
Check-in group gear.

Friday April 26

- 10:00 Elwha trip debrief, cont'd. Meet at campus at stair sculpture: ES/CF/AW lawn.
River rescue methods and practice.

Saturday April 27: River training trip

- 07:00 Meet at Outdoor Center, VU 150; get river gear, load vehicles
- 07:45 Depart WWU
- 09:30 Reach Skagit River, Goodell Cr. Access
Run shuttle; change into river gear, prepare rafts, safety talk
- 11:00 Launch onto Skagit River
Practice reading water, raft navigation
Rotate into/out of rowing position
Lunch stop along river
- 15:00 Take-out at Copper Creek, 8.9 miles
Run shuttle; load gear, change into dry clothing
- 16:00 Depart Copper Creek access site
- 18:00 Return to WWU
Unload and wash gear