

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Robert Lundahl's aerial images of the Elwha River watershed provide a glimpse of an altered ecosystem in advance of dam removal and ecosystem restoration.

***Over the Elwha*—Opening Reception 1/10/08, 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Seed Gallery, Thoreau Center for Sustainability, San Francisco.**

SAN FRANCISCO AND PORT ANGELES, WA—For almost 100 years, the Elwha River watershed has borne the scars of hydropower development. With the introduction of two industrial power dams in the early 20th century, the Elwha River, once a prolific salmon producer, was decimated.

For the past 30 years, stakeholders, including the National Park Service, Olympic National Park, The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the City of Port Angeles, James River Corp., conservation groups and others have negotiated the decommissioning and removal of the dams, and restoration of the riparian ecosystem and fisheries, to begin in 2012.

Lundahl's photographs, commissioned by the National Park Service, document the characteristics and features of the altered river ecosystem, as it has existed for almost 100 years since the construction of the Lower Elwha and Glines Canyon dams. Robert's large scale (11" x 17") and (17" x 23") archival glossy prints shimmer with deep blues, greens and reds. Photographed in September 2005, the images reveal the turning of maples and a sandy riverbed. Armchair hikers will appreciate views of the upper river, normally a strenuous 35-mile hike up the Elwha Valley from Port Angeles, in Olympic National Park. Here, images of the "Elwha Snowfinger," show a scoured land feature with little ice or snow to be seen.

There are twenty images total, spanning from the river estuary, across the watershed to the peaks. Photographs are archivally laminated on panels, offset from the wall with a box frame. Framed and unframed prints are available by order from the artist's studio during the course of the show.

Gallery hours following the opening are 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Contact Bruce DeMartini at 415.561.6300. Exhibit continues through 3/07/08.

Bio—Robert Lundahl

Born in Pasadena, California, Robert Lundahl received his B.F.A. from the University of Oregon (Fine Art), and studied at the University of Southern California (Cinema Studies). While a student, Lundahl produced a short documentary titled *The Burden of Proof*, on the use of Agent Orange in National Forests, which was screened for a U.S. Senate subcommittee on the environment in 1979.

Lundahl developed his skills as a location cinematographer during three years shooting nationally syndicated sports and entertainment programs for John Fabian Productions. He also produced more than 100 public relations, consumer marketing and training programs and campaigns, and created several high-end films for the investor community.

In 1989, he formed Robert Lundahl and Associates LLC, a San Francisco company creating innovative communications products and strategies. Beginning in 1997, Lundahl moved to series production with *Digital Journey*, an award-winning series of 39 short (3:30) programs exploring the human side of technology, its cultural, environmental and social contexts. The series was filmed around the globe for broadcast on U.S. public television and Canada's TVO. Lundahl also directed and photographed key episodes including an Emmy Award-winning trilogy on *E-Commerce in China*.

Lundahl also develops independent programming for television. Filmed in Washington State from 1993 to 1999, *Unconquering the Last Frontier* explores the causes and effects of the ongoing "salmon crisis" in the Pacific Northwest, focusing on the Elwha River. The film was released in 2001/2 and has been honored by film festivals around the world. The film tells the story of the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe's struggle to survive in the shadow of hydropower development.

Lundahl's documentary, *Song on the Water (2005)*, takes viewers along with 50 indigenous canoes, their crews and communities on a modern-day voyage to a traditional potlatch. Filled with beautiful photography and inspiring Coast Salish songs and cultural expressions, the one-hour film explores what the voyage means to the "pullers," ground crews and elders who share the waves, the traditions and a vision of a positive future for Coast Salish youth. The film has been aired on public television stations across the U.S.

Beginning in 2007, Lundahl's fine art photography, including *On the Road to Little America*, *Over The Elwha*, and other series exploring the American West, have been exhibited in venues such as Patagonia headquarters in Ventura, CA, BC Space in Laguna Beach, CA, and The Seed Gallery, Thoreau Center for Sustainability, San Francisco.

Lundahl's work has earned numerous awards, including the Emmy, the International Television Association's "Golden Vision" Award, the U.S. International Film and Video Festival's "Silver Screen," I.A.A.V.C.'s "Cindy," and the "Telly" Award. His productions have been screened at festivals including the EarthVision International Environmental Video Festival (First Place), the Columbus International Film & Video Festival (Honorable Mention), the International Wildlife Film Festival (Finalist), the American Anthropological Association Film & Video Festival, Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Festival, REAL2REEL Documentary Film Festival, El Festival del Riu (Spain), Great Lakes Independent Film Festival, Moab Film Festival, Anchorage Film Festival, The Northwest Folklife Documentary Film Festival, and the International Film Festival of the Americas.

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