

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Canoe Journeys have become a vital and monumental event for Native American families to revitalize their culture and to pass on traditional knowledge and canoe teachings to younger generations while bringing awareness to the importance of protecting and preserving fish, marine life and our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Canoe Journeys are journeys of healing, hope, honor, and hospitality, where relationships are strengthened, family ties are renewed, and traditions are reclaimed; and

**WHEREAS**, over 100 canoes representing more than 70 canoe families from numerous Tribes and Canadian First Nations from many locations in Washington, Alaska and British Columbia, as well as Indigenous people from other states and countries, will arrive at the mouth of the Elwha River in Port Angeles on July 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal canoes will travel the traditional highways of their ancestors to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for several days of celebration, culture sharing, storytelling, and renewing and strengthening relationships from July 31-August 5, 2025, journeying from all four directions to the Salish Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of this year's Paddle to Elwha, "Dams Removed, a River Reborn, Sprits Renewed," celebrates and upholds the rich traditions and unique cultural heritage of Coast Salish people and signifies the deep connections Coast Salish Tribes have with the land, water, salmon, and one another;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim July 31-August 5, 2025, as

### *Paddle to Elwha 2025 Week*

in Washington state, and I urge all residents to join me in celebrating this special observance and the rich heritage of our state's First Peoples.



Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025

*Bob Ferguson*  
Governor Bob Ferguson