



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LERNER PUBLISHING**

***A River's Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn***  
by Patricia Newman, shows how a river, dammed for a century, was restored by a determined community.

Patricia Newman, activist and Sibert Medal Honoree, writes inspiring nonfiction books for children that show how actions for environmental justice can ripple around the world. Free-flowing rivers nourish our environment and more than 1700 dams have been removed in the U.S., since 1912. In ***A River's Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn*** (Sept. Lerner Publishing), for the first time, she tells the story of how this free-flowing river was restored.

The book explains how the original ecosystem of the river, which fed salmon, plants, trees, elk and The Strong People, was destroyed in the 1800s by frontiersmen, who brought the miracle of electricity through the new dam. It also shows how human relationships with the river evolved over time. As the dam became obsolete, a desire to restore the river eventually brought together the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (The Strong People), local townspeople, environmentalists and even Pres. George Bush.

***A River's Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn***, a 2022 Junior Library Guild Selection, is illustrated by Natasha Donovan, a native Métis, who lives in northern Washington, like the Klallam Tribe. There is a feeling of "home" about her visuals, which vividly show the work behind the restoration. Scientists study how the original river flowed, geologists learn how to refurbish the riverbed, engineers figured out how best to dismantle the dam, and biologists identified the original plants, trees and, of course, the salmon, which all hoped would return with the river.

***A River's Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn***, is a wonderful conservation story that children can enjoy with hands-on learning, such as classroom "stream" tables and identifying river basins near them. This book, a new classic, joins Newman's previous award-winning books; ***Planet Ocean*** (Orbis Picture Award Recommend, The Best Children's Books of 2021), ***Sea Otter Heroes*** (Robert F. Sibert Honor, ALA Notable, Green Earth Book Award); ***Eavesdropping on Elephants*** (NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book), ***Zoo Scientists to the Rescue*** (Eureka! Gold Award, Banks Street Center Children's Books of the Year); ***Plastic, Ahoy!*** (Green Earth Book Award, AAAS/Subaru Science Books and Film Prize, finalist); and ***Neema's Reason to Smile*** (Parents' Choice Recommended).

Book trailer: <https://youtu.be/wEAsEYWS18Y>

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