Irene Charles preparing salmon traditionally.
With the passage of 1884 Indian Homestead Act, ten Klallam families acquired land in the Lower Elwha Valley and around Freshwater Bay. The total acreage of these ten homesteads was 1,295.84 acres held in trust in 1895.

Some of the Indian homestead lands were taken out of trust status and became fee lands (taxed lands). They subsequently went out of Indian ownership by 1953. This happened despite efforts of the Indians to maintain their holdings.

The land that became the reservation in 1937 included the homestead issued to Alberni Jack in 1886 and part of the homestead issued to Shingle George in 1878.
On June 18, 1934, the Indian Reorganization Act was passed and money appropriated for the purchasing of land for Indians. As a result, 372 acres of land and 15 houses were purchased in the Elwha River Valley for the Clallam Tribe of Indians. Land was issued in two units. Unit one was issued in 1936 and unit two was issued in 1937. The Articles of Association and Bylaws of the Elwha Valley Indian Community Association were approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on March 23, 1939. This was the beginning of the Lower Elwha Reservation.
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