



Dungeness River Management Team

Cooperative Management of Our Watershed's Resources

Coordinated by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County
1033 Old Blyn Highway • Sequim, WA 98382 • (360) 683-1109

April 22, 2013

Senator Jim Hargrove
P.O. Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: DRMT Support - *Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains*

Dear Senator Hargrove,

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) writes to express its strong support for the *Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains*. Coupled with the *Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)* Capital Budget Request, these will fund high priority restoration actions on the North Olympic Peninsula and throughout Puget Sound. Specifically, the DRMT is eager for partners to continue momentum on *Lower Dungeness Floodplain Recovery*.

One of the top priorities for the DRMT and others continues to be the recovery of the lower floodplain of the Dungeness River in Clallam County's east end. Repairing this damaged habitat is a key component to recovering the ESA-listed Dungeness Chinook population, a priority species in the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. Improving habitat in the Dungeness is also important in the recovery of Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca-Hood Canal Summer chum, Coastal-Puget Sound bulltrout, and steelhead, all ESA-listed threatened species.

Actions needed to advance recovery in the Dungeness include engineering-design to set back a levee which currently keeps the river from accessing its floodplain, riparian planting on recovered areas to restrict noxious weed infestation, construction of the large scale restoration of the nearby Three Crabs nearshore, and preserving in-stream flows by piping area irrigation ditches to decrease water losses and leave more water in the river. These projects also significantly benefit local residents because restored natural habitats help reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and increase the possibility of shellfish and commercial harvest, and increased sport fishing and recreational opportunities.

While a number of sponsors take on different components of recovery, frequent communication ensures efficient and logical progress. Sponsors include the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Clallam County, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and Clallam Conservation District, and, along with the DRMT, work together with the North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon to advance recovery in a sequenced, efficient and coordinated fashion. In a similar fashion, the *Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains* will allow sponsors to access technical resources more efficiently, and allow for multiple floodplains to benefit simultaneously – for all of Puget Sound and its inhabitants.

Thank you for your efforts and your strong consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Chitwood
Chair, Dungeness River Management Team

Cc: Representative Kevin Van De Wege, Representative Steve Tharinger, Representative Hans Dunshee, Senator Jim Honeyford, Senator Andy Hill, Keith Phillips, Cheryl Baumann