



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

September 2, 2014

Adam Sant
Floodplain Project Manager
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Washington State Department of Ecology
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RE: Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration Project (Clallam County)

Dear Mr. Sant:

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT), the watershed planning group for East Watershed Resources Inventory Area 18, offers this letter in strong support for the **Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration Project** sponsored by Clallam County.

Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration has been a priority for the DRMT for many years. In fact, the Team was originally formed (1988), in part, to foster communication among diverse groups interested in flood management for the Dungeness River. Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration has become a top priority for the DRMT, and the Team has consistently ranked the overall project as number one in importance for restoring the Dungeness Watershed. The Team is eager to see this next phase (construction) funded and implemented so that the following benefits can be realized:

- Risk eliminated of floodwaters overtopping and eroding the levee;
- Flood risk to immediate and downstream landowners reduced;
- River processes improved by reconnecting the River to 112 acres of its floodplain;
- Flow velocities reduced (reduced risk of scouring salmon redds);
- Floodplain storage provided for river-borne sediment;
- Wetland, floodplain and side channel habitat (all necessary to salmon for spawning, rearing, and migration) increased.

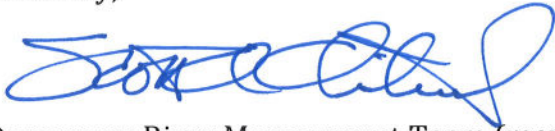
The project has been recommended in many watershed and restoration plans supported by the Team, including the Puget Sound Action Agenda (2012), the Dungeness chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan (2007), the WRIA 18 Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan

(2005), and more. The project will also fulfill many of the DRMT's adopted goals (attached), especially:

- Support actions designed to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from flooding while encouraging measures that improve ecosystem functions.
- Coordinate activities that help restore riparian and aquatic ecosystems within the Dungeness River Watershed and estuary areas to mutually benefit fish, wildlife and human residents.
- Support, promote, and facilitate implementation of relevant management plans and strategies developed for this area and endorsed by the DRMT.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Dungeness River Management Team (membership listed below)

Clallam Conservation District (Advisory)

Clallam County

Clallam PUD #1 (Advisory)

City of Sequim

Dungeness Beach Association

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) (Advisory)

Dungeness-Quilcene Watershed Planning

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

North Olympic Land Trust

Protect the Peninsula's Future

Riverside Property Owners

Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association

Sports Fisheries

US Forest Service (Advisory)

WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

WA Department of Ecology