



## Dungeness River Management Team

*Cooperative Management of Our Watershed's Resources*

Coordinated by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County  
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February 17, 2015

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program  
600 Capitol Way N.  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear ALEA Volunteer Grant reviewers:

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) wishes to express its full **support of the "Volunteer Stream Biological Monitoring" grant application submitted by Streamkeepers of Clallam County**, a division of the Clallam County Road Department. The grant would cover Operating and Maintenance expenses for Streamkeeper volunteers' continued biological monitoring of streams across Clallam County, including the area of focus for the DRMT. Results will inform partners involved in restoration planning, as well as partners working toward water quality improvements.

Biological monitoring provides the most integrative assessment of freshwater ecosystem integrity, and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring using the Benthic Index of Biological Integrity (B-IBI) is the most precisely-calibrated and commonly-used form of biological assessment, recognized as a "Vital Sign" key indicator by the Puget Sound Partnership, and a metric of key interest to the members of the DRMT.

Unfortunately, lack of stable funding for water quality monitoring has only allowed for sporadic macroinvertebrate sampling in Clallam County. In 2012, only one out of eight DRMT priority sites could be funded, and in 2013-2014, a modest five sites in the county were monitored outside the Quileute drainage. In order to continue this important work and make comparisons with the data we do have, Streamkeepers needs funding for associated lab fees during the next biennium (July 2015 – June 2017).

Streamkeepers' B-IBI monitoring has helped inform numerous watershed protection and recovery efforts, including those of the DRMT, which in 2012 identified Streamkeepers' monitoring program as its highest priority for watershed-plan implementation funding for the 2013-15 biennium. We respectfully advocate funding this project so that Streamkeepers can continue to collect this important data and continue to share what is learned about the aquatic health in our priority area.

On behalf of the Dungeness River Management Team, thank you for considering this request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Scott Chitwood".

Scott Chitwood,  
Dungeness River Management Team, Chair