

**DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM
REVIEWER/MEMBER COMMENTS (7/11/12)
2012 NOBLE Project Proposals**

There was only one project within the DRMT focus area, so the following comments are all related to that one project: **Dungeness Flow Enhancement-Recharge and Storage**.

REVIEWER 1:

Responses to the 5 criteria: (Criteria 1) This project seems very ready to proceed if funded. (Criteria 2) I am not certain that this project has as high a benefit for salmon as the other projects being proposed to the Lead Entity, though this is the only one in the Dungeness Area, which is why I ranked it Medium benefit to salmon. (Criteria 3) WWT has a good track record with other projects around the State, and I believe there is a high likelihood of success with the design phase, and implementation, if funded. This is another concern of mine - what is the likelihood that the implementation will be funded. (Criteria 4) The science shows that salmon need a certain amount of water and this project would result in that sufficient quantity of water in the Dungeness, if project implementation were funded after design. That science is why I gave it an H for #4. (Criteria 5) Regarding Socio-Political Benefits, those are uncertain to me, so I gave it an M. Scoring: I gave it a 7 because, overall, I think it's a good project with a lot of merit, but it does not have as much benefit to salmon as the other projects that are competing for funding.

REVIEWER 2:

I understand the necessity for the flow enhancement and think it is a worth-while project. I believe that the project could benefit and enhance the salmon in the long-term. However, I would like to express concerns about the possibility of fecal coliform build-up from the water fowl that almost assuredly will inhabit the water storage pond. If it directly drains in to the river, there would be contamination as a result--what would the impact on the salmon be? If the stored water is re-absorbed back into the soil, would the fecal coliform be a concern to the aquifers?

REVIEWER 3:

The approach has not been perfected. However, water = habitat...and keeping water in river during low flows is critical. The amount of water to be delivered back to the river is uncertain...this review understands that aspects of the work can be classified as research and development. The project is costly with uncertain results.

REVIEWER 4:

- 1) Status/Urgency: phased (as noted on application, to be phased study, planning)
- 2) Low benefit to salmon: (unknown for results on instream flow, but could reduce water supply use of nearby properties...)
- 3) Low certainty of success (need metrics; recall ambiguities of last Clallam County storage/recharge project)
- 4) Low for promoting ecosystem function (application timeframe insufficient/unknown)
- 5) M (intent consistent with DRMT mission)

SCORE: 5

COMMENT: Projects that can test/measure possible water savings of off-stream storage for later recharge use (during critical low flow periods) may be worthy of additional public investment. However, despite the "promising" abstract and application improvements to address SRFB inputs/concerns, there remain questions about costs associated with this "planning" project -especially in view of limited restoration dollars. Perhaps some spending should be directed toward a project consistent with

**DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM
REVIEWER/MEMBER COMMENTS (7/11/12)
2012 NOPLÉ Project Proposals**

implementing a Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan -one that restores damaged infrastructure/leaky pipes? – one that promotes/supports LID, rain-gardens, low-water-use landscaping/crops - something that reduces withdrawals from our watershed in general (and at critical low flow periods especially?).

REVIEWER 5:

1. Status and urgency -- this project is ready to go and has in fact been reduced in scope per earlier discussions with NOPLÉ. 2. Benefit to salmon is high, since this type of project is necessary to move forward with aquifer recharge projects to benefit stream flow and aquifer levels at specific sites. This is part of a larger flow restoration program for the mainstem Dungeness, Matriotti, Siebert and McDonald creeks. 3. Certainty of success - because this in the early stages of study and implementation, scoring it M or MH seems fair. 4. Promotes ecosystem function: this project will increase stream flows in a small watershed, which will be evaluated for its ability to predict outcomes of similar projects. 5. Socio-economic benefits - these ought to be rated 'high', since this project moves forward on the type of project widely supported across the watershed -- storage.

REVIEWER 6:

While benefits may not be immediate (since this is a planning/design project), this project is coming at an appropriate time, as it will implement elements of the Dungeness Instream Flow Rule, which is currently under review for adoption by Ecology. As the sponsor notes, there are few ways to restore stream flows after the end of the irrigation season; aquifer recharge is likely the best bet for enhancing flows after September 15th. We need to better understand how recharge projects will work, and the feasibility study should provide important information for moving forward. A few concerns, which hopefully will be addressed by the feasibility study, are: How will saved water be tracked? And how will assurances be made that the saved flows stay in the River (that the flows become actual restored flows and not part of the Water Exchange to be used for development)? It is unfortunate that the planning phase may be more expensive than the actual construction/implementation, if I understand correctly.

REVIEWER 7:

It is essential to provide some stored water to offset low river/stream flows during the usually dry summer season, to provide improved salmonid survival. While it is fairly easy to provide storage areas, the recharge effectiveness needs to be demonstrated. Water storage areas will provide some other benefits to wildlife during the storage period, as well as possible benefit to farm animals. Possible detriments include a risk of people using the storage areas for play or even possible drowning. The storage areas may also provide increased habitat for insects like mosquitoes that harm both wildlife and people. It is not clear that adequate precautions are being planned to offset these risks during the demonstration period.