



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

March 13, 2019

Kaleen Cottingham
Director, RCO
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Revisions to Application Process Needed to Fund Greater Number of Salmon Projects

Dear Ms. Cottingham,

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) writes to urge the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to consider updating the current process for funding salmon projects to allow more flexibility with regard to project lists.

The DRMT's purpose, for over 30 years, has been to exchange information on projects and issues in the Dungeness watershed, to coordinate implementation of relevant strategies (including the Puget Sound Recovery Plan and the Puget Sound Action Agenda, among many others), and to provide a public forum for related discussion. One of its tasks related to *coordinating implementation* is to score and rank East Water Resource Inventory Area 18 salmon projects into a prioritized list for consideration by the North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon.

At the DRMT's January 9, 2019 monthly meeting, members and attendees discussed the deterrent to salmon recovery associated with delays in funding salmon projects. A specific problem discussed at the meeting dealt with the fact that Lead Entities may only submit a project for inclusion on one list or the other: the Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) *base funding list* (for *locally* selected projects), or the PSAR *Large Cap list* (for larger-scale, *regionally*-ranked projects). In some cases, having to choose between the two lists has resulted in significant delays to implementing eligible, high priority projects, ultimately to the detriment of salmon.

A prime example of an unintended consequence of the current process is the case where a Lead Entity's top-ranked project locally, likely to have achieved at least partial funding on the PSAR *base list*, receives zero funding because of its submittal under a PSAR *Large Cap list*; even as a highly-ranked, shovel-ready project of regional significance. In such a case, the rule prohibiting projects from being on both lists could result in unnecessarily holding up construction of a top ranked project.

In short, we support a project proposal strategy that allows for more flexibility; one that results in distributing funds to the greatest number of projects on both lists. We encourage PSP and RCO to consider revisions to the rules about project lists in order to make this happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hansi Hals, Chair, DRMT

Cc: Sheida Sahandy, PSP
Laura Blackmore, PSP

2019 DRMT Membership

City of Sequim	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Clallam Conservation District	North Olympic Land Trust
Clallam County	Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Clallam PUD #1	Protect the Peninsula's Future
Dungeness Beach Association	Sports Fisheries
Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge	US Forest Service
Dungeness River Audubon Center	WA Department of Ecology
Estuary Riverside Prop Owners	Water Users Association