



It's a Team effort!

FORESTS, FARMS, FISH & FRIENDS * SHARING A HOME TOGETHER

Dungeness River Management Team

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COLLABORATION!

Happy Anniversary to the DRMT, and thank you to the community for taking part in this journey! Maybe you attended a meeting, or otherwise provided input on relevant issues or projects. Perhaps you came along on a field trip, visited the River Center, and spent time on the river or watershed trails. All contribute to further understanding and better management of resources within the Dungeness watershed. In gratitude of community, and recognizing 30 years of teamwork on the Dungeness River, let's celebrate! The following pages show where we've been and recent work. Enjoy!



Public meeting, circa early 2000s.

ON COMMUNITY

We all strive to be a part of a strong and vibrant community. Many of us define *community* not only by the people and services or venues it accommodates, but include its natural systems —forests, animals, fish, streams, etc. — and our relationships with them and to each other. A thriving, connected community requires a sensitivity to how and what we take from and give to it, hopefully with an intention toward balance. This vision —of a healthy, balanced quality of life — involves a social component; It involves hearing each other out.



Dungeness River Festival opening with Community Welcome by the Jamestown S'Klallam Singers (2010).

It is this perspective that keeps DRMT members at the table discussing ways to achieve a healthy Dungeness Watershed. And the diversity of voices *around* the table, coupled with its commitment to meet with each other regularly (for 30 years!!), is what fuels the DRMT's success. Composed of farmers, shoreline property owners, governments, conservationists and a dozen other representatives, listening and collaborating has become second nature to this group.



Photo Credit: Linda Barnfather



Photo Credit: Sue Chickman



Photo Credit: Dave Shreffler

As former DRMT Chair and former Natural Resources Director for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Ann Seiter, puts it, "I think the reason that the DRMT has lasted so long is the commitment of the group to engage in civil discourse — something that seems to be all too rare these days". This collaborative approach has given the members and engaged citizens opportunities to coordinate their work, resulting in many projects to improve the health of the Dungeness River, and therefore the quality of life for *all* in this community — the 'forest, farms, fish and people'. This is the DRMT's vision.

- **COVER:** DRMT 30th Anniversary & Focus on Community
- **Pages 2, 3:** Dungeness Restoration Strategies and Projects
- **Page 4:** History & Purpose and Goals
- **Page 5:** Strategies and Projects (Cont) & Recent and Current Activities
- **Page 6:** Dungeness Bay Improvements & DRMT Meeting Info

WORKING ON THE DUNGENESS

A sampling of projects to help the river

Though individual members of the DRMT represent a variety of interests, the team has a common goal: restoring the river. The way to get there? By 'sharing the sacrifice' and working together. Below are ongoing **STRATEGIES** partners have worked together on with this mindset, along with examples of related projects:



Photo Credit: Sue Chickman

STRATEGY: RESTORATION OF LOWER RIVER FLOODPLAIN

The main emphasis of this multi-phased, multi-partnered strategy is on reconnecting at least 80 acres of floodplain to the river in the lowest reach (lower 2.6 miles). Routinely flooded properties on River's End Road have been purchased, decommissioned, and replanted, and designs are underway for partially setting back the 54-year-old Army Corps dike and moving Towne Road.



CURRENT CONDITION:
Red = dike.



ENVISIONED CONDITION: Dike set back to Yellow.
Floodplain reconnected to the river and replanted.

STRATEGY: PROTECTION OF EXISTING FUNCTIONAL HABITAT

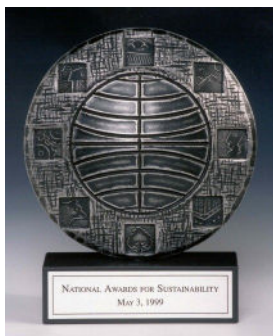
Recovering natural floodplain and protecting functional habitat along the Dungeness River Corridor remains a top priority for DRMT. Piece by piece, and with multiple project partners, conservation easements and land purchases from willing sellers, and land donations or swaps have helped this effort.

STRATEGY: FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION & CONSTRUCTION ABATEMENT (ABOVE RIVER MILE 2.6)

Lengthening bridges, removing fill or transitioning to "soft armoring" can help ease negative effects of these human-made constrictions in the river. Most recently (2015), the washed out trestle connected to the bridge at Railroad Bridge Park was expanded, allowing the river more room to move.



A total of 180 creosoted pilings were removed and replaced with an expanded, fish-friendly pedestrian bridge (attached to the old Howe Truss Bridge) at Railroad Bridge Park (2015).



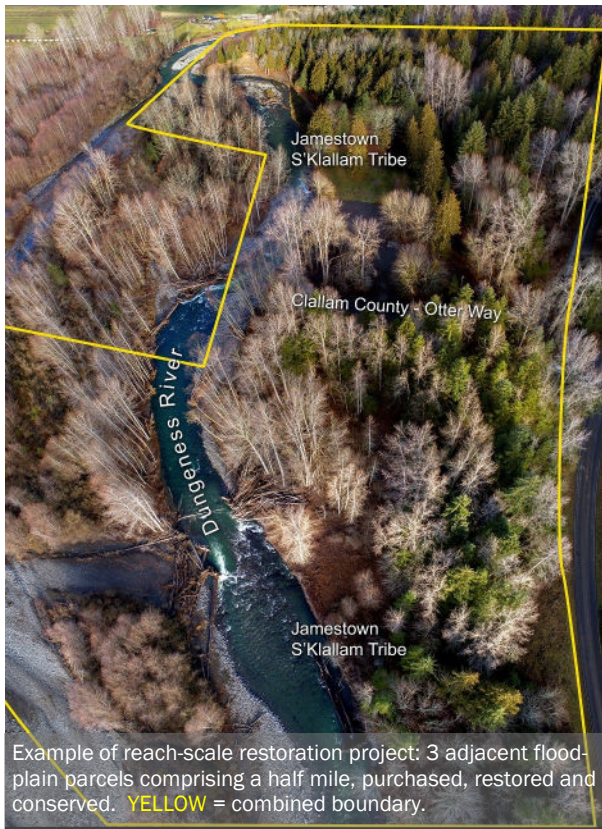
1999 National Award for water conservation efforts.

STRATEGY: WATER CONSERVATION & INSTREAM FLOW PROTECTION

Coordinated efforts have included piping 50 miles of irrigation ditches and reducing irrigation withdrawals by 25 cfs; Adoption of the Dungeness Instream Flow Rule, which set instream flow levels and other conditions for managing water for human- and fish-use; Agreements to conserve water and limit withdrawals at certain flow levels; Mitigation and restoration requirements for new water use; Preliminary plans for an off-channel reservoir that would collect flows during wet season for use in dry season.

WORKING ON THE DUNGENESS

A sampling of projects to help the river



Example of reach-scale restoration project: 3 adjacent flood-plain parcels comprising a half mile, purchased, restored and conserved. **YELLOW** = combined boundary.

STRATEGY: RESTORATION OF FUNCTIONAL RIPARIAN & RIVERINE HABITAT

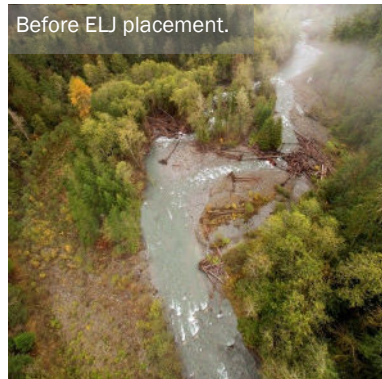
Much of the river corridor has been impaired by previous logging, clearing, roads or housing developments, often including diking or armoring. Steps to reverse these impacts have included over 270 acres of streamside habitat improvements to the Dungeness mainstem, tributaries, creeks and side channels. These areas all provide important habitat for salmon at different life stages and at different times of the year. Reach-scale riparian restoration efforts, i.e., focusing on several parcels in the same river reach together (rather than one parcel at a time), further facilitate the restoration of habitat and important river processes.

STRATEGY: WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & PROTECTION

Many of the water conservation/piping projects included a water quality component by eliminating pollutants that previously drained into open irrigation ditches. Outreach programs for landowners on natural and sustainable landscaping practices aim to improve best practices, such as on horse and livestock farms. The Clean Water Work Group also strategizes on septic identification and repair and facilitation of septic inspections.

STRATEGY: LARGE WOODY DEBRIS PLACEMENT

Large wood in the river is an ongoing need for salmon refuge and habitat. Assembly and placement of multiple engineered logjams (ELJs) has helped to restore important fish habitat and stabilize banks.



Before ELJ placement.



After ELJ placement (2016).



3 Crabs Estuary Restoration Project, post construction.

STRATEGY: NEARSHORE HABITAT RESTORATION & PROTECTION

Nearshore and estuarine habitats are important rearing and feeding areas for salmon. Impacts such as diking stream channels or shoreline armoring affect important habitat-forming and sediment movement processes. The 3 Crabs Estuary Restoration Project removed 800 feet of dike, a section of road and rip-rap, and 300 tons of contaminated soil, featured construction of a new, expanded bridge over Meadowbrook Creek, plus a massive planting of 4,150 dune grass plugs!

~ Continued on Page 5 ~

SOME DUNGENESS PLANNING HISTORY...

How it all started

The original DRMT formed in 1988 to foster communication among diverse groups interested in Dungeness River flood management. Over the years, related natural resources topics arose in the discussions, such as floodplain and riparian development, logging practices, water quality, water conservation, preservation of agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat and more.

In 1991, volunteers undertook a multi-stakeholder planning effort to cooperatively address the water needs of both wildlife and people, as envisioned under the 1990 *Chelan Agreement*. In 1994, participants of that planning process produced the *Dungeness-Quilcene Water Resources Management Plan*, or “the DQ Plan”. DQ Plan development was a locally driven and consensus-based process that helped set the stage for future successful collaboration among DRMT members. A highlight of that process included negotiations between the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and the irrigation association that eventually led to an agreement with Ecology to di-

vert no more than half of the flow of the Dungeness River during irrigation season. The Water Users adhered to this agreement regardless of their diversion rights.



Governor’s Award presented to Water Users Assoc. and Jamestown Tribe (early 2000’s).

Partners followed through with many DQ Plan recommendations in the years that followed, including: irrigation efficiency improvements, development of a habitat restoration plan, and formation of an ongoing watershed council, which led to a re-

newed DRMT in 1995. A joint resolution between the Tribe and Clallam County redefined the Team’s purpose: “to exchange information on watershed issues; coordinate implementation of the plans they supported, and promote public education on watershed processes and activities”.

“The issues were contentious from the start—irrigation and water rights, salmon enhancement, flood control, shoreline development, and timber harvest to name a few, but the group slowly focused the discussion on solutions instead of controversy”.

Ann Seiter, Former DRMT Chair & Former Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe NR Director



Public meeting, circa 1994.

The Team has also functioned as the watershed council (or, planning unit), reviewing proposals for salmon restoration projects. During 2000-2005, the planning unit worked on developing the *Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan* (2005) to address competing interests affecting water supply, in-stream flow, water quality, stream habitat and salmon recovery.

The contents of that plan formed much of the basis for the 2013 Dungeness In-stream Flow and Water Management Rule for protecting existing water rights, managing new uses of water, protecting fish resources, and protecting stream flows.

The DRMT has been nationally recognized for its work toward cooperative resolution of these watershed issues, and for partnering on related watershed projects. These efforts continue today with open meetings fostering ongoing communication, project coordination and information-sharing on critical watershed issues.

DRMT PURPOSE & GOALS

Purpose Exchange information about issues affecting Dungeness Watershed.

Goal Encourage cooperation, coordination and effective watershed management, emphasizing protection of ground and surface water quantity and quality.

Purpose Coordinate the implementation of plans and strategies relevant to the DRMT focus area and endorsed by DRMT.

Goal Coordinate efforts that help enhance and restore water quality, water quantity, and riparian and aquatic habitat in the planning area to mutually benefit current and future needs of human, fish, and wildlife.

Goal Support actions designed to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from flooding while encouraging measures that improve ecosystem functions.

Purpose Provide a forum for learning about and commenting on watershed projects, interests and concerns.

Goal Promote public participation, education and awareness of watershed processes and activities.

Goal Encourage a community stewardship ethic.



Dungeness River, from the Railroad Bridge.

WORKING ON THE DUNGENESS

A sampling of projects to help the river

~ Cont. from Page 3 ~

STRATEGY: STOCK RECOVERY/REHABILITATION



Counting smolts on McDonald Creek.

In 2005, a screw trap began assessing annual fresh-water productivity of naturally produced Chinook in the Dungeness, following an 8-year captive brood-stock program. Abundance peaked in 2006 as a result of the program, declined sharply after captive brood returns, then seemed to stabilize. Data suggest that the hatchery supplementation efforts are propping up the population in the Dungeness; thus, efforts are being made to bring back the broodstock program. Recently returning adult Chinook were planted in the upper watershed to facilitate upper reach spawning. Comanagers are also studying hatchery introgression in wild steelhead, and the influence of hatchery stocks on the wild population using DNA sampling.

STRATEGY: SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT / SOURCE CONTROL

Many examples of this strategy have occurred in Olympic National Forest. Numerous forest roads have been decommissioned and banks stabilized benefiting water quality for fish habitat and wildlife protection. In 2012, the Dungeness was identified as a one of three “focus watersheds” for restoration, and a collaborative process developed a prioritized list of remaining restoration, recreation, and vegetation management needs in the upper watershed.

RECENT ACTIVITIES ...

DRMT members, partners and subcommittees report the following strides in the last five years:

- ◆ The Dungeness Water Exchange began operating, following enactment of the Dungeness Water Management Rule.
- ◆ Partners produced and began implementing a Pollution Identification and Correction Plan.
- ◆ While portions of Dungeness Bay are still closed to shell-fishing during part of the year, hundreds of acres were upgraded (see Page 6).
- ◆ The DRMT co-sponsored the first Community Drought Forum in Washington State.
- ◆ Several emergency drought projects for water supplies and fish were implemented in our focus area following the 2015 drought declaration.
- ◆ The Railroad Bridge trestle was replaced and expanded following a winter storm that blew out the original trestle.
- ◆ A fish ladder was installed at Canyon Creek, allowing spawning salmon to access two miles of previously blocked stream channel.
- ◆ The “Dawley Restoration Project” restored a 1,400-foot section of Sequim Bay shoreline via removal of shoreline armor, bulkheads, fill, and other structures.
- ◆ City of Sequim adopted its first surface water/stormwater management plan.
- ◆ 13 engineered log jams were installed in the upper watershed, and more are currently being planned.
- ◆ A workgroup continued to coordinate on an off-channel reservoir project, to store water in the rainy season for use in the dry season.
- ◆ Partners purchased multiple parcels along the River corridor and removed structures from floodplain, including toxic clean ups and native plantings.
- ◆ Partners continued to refine plans for levee setbacks, and implemented projects in the lower river nearshore, including the 3 Crabs/ Meadowbrook Creek Nearshore Estuary Restoration.



DRMT Mission :

To preserve and enhance the Dungeness River Watershed Planning Area through an ecosystem approach to restoring its physical and biological health.

2018 DRMT

VOTING REPS

City of Sequim

Clallam County

Clallam PUD #1

Estuary Property Owners

Dungeness Beach Association

Dungeness River Audubon Center

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

North Olympic Land Trust

Oly. Peninsula Audubon Society

Protect the Peninsula's Future

Riverside Property Owners

Sports Fisheries

WA Department of Ecology

WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

ADVISORY REPS

Clallam Conservation District

Dungeness Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Forest Service

ALL THINGS LEAD.....TO DUNGENESS BAY

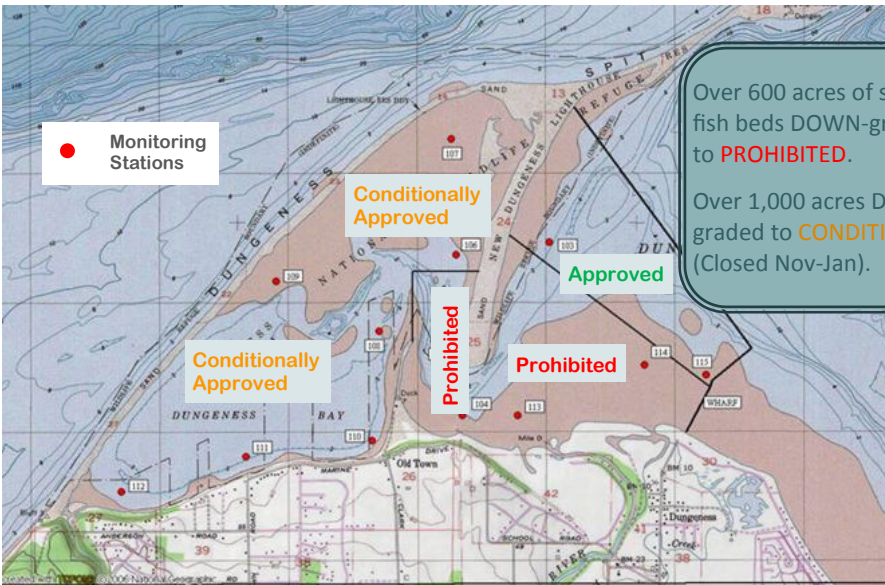
Strides in water quality improvement



While the DRMT and technical partners work on improvements in the river and its watershed, the Clean Water Work Group (CWWG), a sub-committee of the DRMT, focuses on clean-up of Dungeness Bay. There is definitely cause for celebration, as partners have successfully reversed multiple downgrades to hundreds of acres of shellfish harvest area, as depicted below in the classification changes since 2003:



DUNGENESS BAY—2003:



GET INVOLVED!

DRMT meetings are open to the public and all are welcome!

WHAT:

DRMT Monthly Meetings

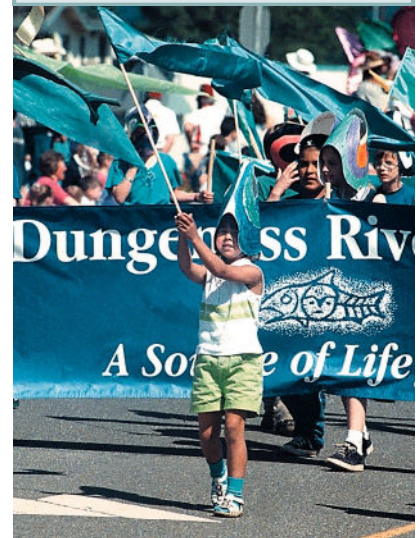
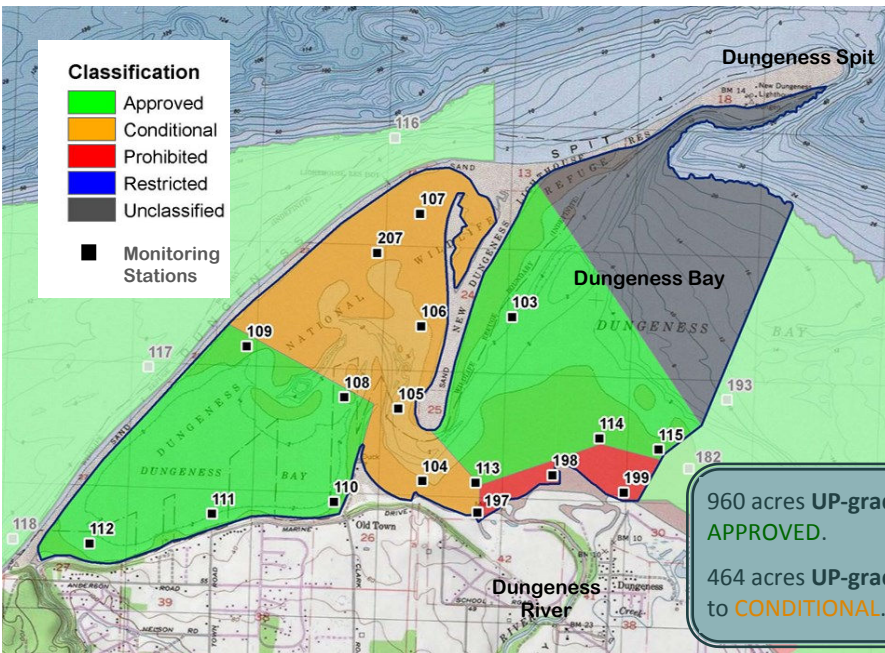
WHEN:

2:00-5:00PM
2nd Wednesday of month

WHERE:

Dungeness River Center
@ Railroad Bridge Park

DUNGENESS BAY—2018:



FOR MORE INFO:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/DRMTweb>