



**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 30, 2017

Board of Clallam County Commissioners  
223 East Fourth Street, Suite 4  
Port Angeles, Washington 98362

**RE: Pet Waste Stations**

Dear Clallam County Commissioners:

As you know, Clallam County initiated a new outreach and education effort last summer to keep bacteria from the estimated 2 tons per day of cat- and dog-waste generated in Clallam County from entering our waterways. The effort included collaborating with the Boy Scouts of America, who installed pet waste stations at four county parks (Pillar Point, Salt Creek, Dungeness Landing, Port Williams) in July and August 2016. It also involved a corps group of volunteers, who regularly monitored the stations, replaced supplies, picked up pet waste and reported their observations to Clallam County. Additionally, the County Road Shop cooperated by allowing the volunteers use of their receptacles for used pet waste bags the volunteers collected from the parks. The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) commends these pollution prevention actions, and notes that establishing pet waste disposal stations is explicitly recommended in both the *Clean Water Strategy for Addressing Bacterial Pollution in Dungeness Bay and Watershed* (2004), and the *Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Plan for the Sequim Bay-Dungeness Watershed Clean Water District* (2014).

Recently, the County Parks Department removed all of these pet waste stations and supplies. It appears this action occurred after the project's volunteer coordinator transferred to a new position outside of Environmental Health. One of the volunteers stated the reason given for discontinuing the project was due to lack of funding to support the monitoring and volunteer efforts. However, this volunteer also stated that from his perspective, prior to the sudden removal of the equipment, only minimal effort was needed by the County to replenish pet waste bags when needed, and to occasionally make tweaks to improve the program, such as incorporating signage.

Maintaining pet waste stations, especially in public areas near water bodies, is a relatively inexpensive way to prevent bacterial pollution from entering streams, and to protect human health. Preventing bacteria from entering waterways is significantly less expensive than extensive and studies and cleanup efforts. (See [http://www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/pdf/7124\\_mutt\\_mitt.pdf](http://www.kitsapgov.com/sswm/pdf/7124_mutt_mitt.pdf)). However, in order to successfully promote picking up pet waste as the "norm", pet waste stations need a permanent presence. The fact that the volunteers for Clallam's program had only been organizing starting in December suggests the pet waste stations likely were removed prematurely.

Pet owners are now entering the prime months for visiting parks with their pets. Please consider reinstalling the pet waste stations and supplies (at minimum, to the Port Williams and Dungeness Landing sites) and continuing the pet waste management program *with* the volunteers as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Scott Chitwood, Chair, DRMT

**2017 DRMT Membership**

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