



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

Honorable Kevin Van De Wege
P.O. Box 40424
Olympia WA 98504-0424

RE: Support for PSAR and Floodplains by Design

Dear Senator Van De Wege,

The Dungeness River Management Team seeks support for two worthy programs that fund high priority restoration actions in the Dungeness area and throughout Puget Sound. The programs are the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), and Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains (Floodplains by Design). These programs play a key role in restoration projects here and elsewhere in Puget Sound.

In addition to leveraging other funding sources to recover salmon and provide local jobs, the projects funded by PSAR and Floodplains by Design significantly benefit local residents. Restored natural habitats help reduce flood risk, improve water quality, improve the chance for shellfish harvest, and offer recreational fishing opportunities.

Salmon play a vitally important economic and environmental role on the North Olympic Peninsula. The many salmon restoration projects under way create local jobs and significantly affect our economy. Repairing damaged habitat is critical to recovering the Dungeness' four ESA-listed salmon species: Puget Sound Chinook; Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca-Hood Canal Summer Chum; Puget Sound Steelhead; and bull trout.

One example of the work made possible by these programs is the Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration. Clallam County has submitted a funding request for the restoration project to PSAR large cap, which funds projects of \$1 million and greater. This large-scale, multi-partner, high priority project reconnects 0.8 miles of the Dungeness River with 110 acres of its floodplain. The expanded floodplain and reconnected habitat will reduce flood risk while improving fish habitat and water quality in the lower Dungeness River. The proposal ranks #1 on the PSAR large cap list, and is funded in Governor Inslee's budget.

The Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir and Floodplain Restoration project is another important and collaborative effort included on both PSAR and Floodplains by Design proposed funding lists. This endeavor will yield multiple benefits, including significantly increasing low instream flows, capturing stormwater and preventing flooding in the City of Sequim, providing opportunities for aquifer recharge, creating public river access and recreational opportunities, ensuring the sustainability of agriculture in the Dungeness Valley while promoting floodplain restoration and protection, and providing climate resiliency for people, farms, and fish.

We request that PSAR be funded at \$80 million and Floodplains by Design at \$70 million, to effectively move forward with these important local projects. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Chitwood, Chair, DRMT
CC: Representative Steve Tharinger
Representative Mike Chapman
Senator Jim Honeyford
Senator Karen Keiser
Representative Richard De Bolt

2017 DRMT Membership

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