

## DRAFT DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes July 8, 2020

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

**DRMT Members Present:** Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Shawn Hines/(alt) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Cathy Lear/Clallam County DCD, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Ben Smith/Dungeness Water Users Association, Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Jenna Ziogas/(alt) River Center, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Marc McHenry/USFS, Bob Phreaner/Dungeness Audubon Society

**Others Present:** Dana Butler/USFS, Phil Martin/citizen, Cheryl Baumann/NOPL for Salmon, Hilton Turnbull/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Robert Knapp/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Rich Carlson/USFW, John Stednik, Kelly Lawrence/USFS, Marlise Wierenga /Wild Earth Guardian

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### I. Introductions

Hansi called meeting to order. Introductions were made, brief Zoom instructions provided.

- Due to lack of quorum, approval of February and June 2020 notes was postponed.

### II. USFS Updates

Kelly Lawrence, former Naches District Ranger on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, introduced herself as the new Olympic National Forest Supervisor. Kelly is originally from Portland, and has been with the Forest Service in various capacities over the last 17 years. Welcome Kelly!

Cathy asked for Kelly's perspective on the future of Olympic National Forest. Kelly highlighted the Forest Service's partnerships and ability to continue and capitalize on connections with Olympic National Park, other Puget Sound agencies, etc. It's nearly impossible for USFS to complete projects on its own, so these continued partnerships are extremely important and Kelly sees them as continuing and getting even better.

Hansi asked about the mountain goat eradication project. Yewah responded that the efforts have been scaled back due to Covid. It's a continuing effort, still looking at opportunities for future.

*Dungeness Roads Management Project (Dana Butler, USFS Watershed Program Manager):* Please see his attached presentation for further info. Summary decision provided last October.

Summary of Decision:

- Treat and Store 18.9 miles of roads (convert to ML1)
- Decommission 11.8 miles of high risk or unneeded roads
  - Leaving foot access path where feasible
- Close 1.8 miles of ML2 roads to public access – (retain pvt.
- Relocate 2 trailheads and improve trailhead parking
  - Silver Lakes and Gold Creek trailheads
- Convert 1.4 miles of road to trail (2870230)- Gold Creek
- Protect Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly habitat (2870270)
  - Boulders to limit off road vehicle parking

Project timeline:

Decision Signed	October 2019
Implementation Phase I	Summer 2020
Implementation Phase II	Summer 2020* /Summer 2021*
Trailhead Design	Winter 2020/Spring 2021
Implementation Phase III	Summer 2021* / Summer 2022*
Implementation Phase IV	As Canyon Restoration EA allows
*As funding is secured	

Currently in Phase 1 implementation, occurring now (see presentation for details). Hope to initiate Phase II by end of this summer. Much is dependent on funding and potential impacts on project timeline related to Covid timeline.

Challenges and next steps: securing funding for 2021, completing Canyon Forest Restoration EA, Implementation of Canyon Restoration EA.

Hilton asked how the phased projects were prioritized; are they outlined by phase in the Watershed Action Plan? Dana said no, not via Action Plan. They looked at what would be needed for Canyon Restoration EA, and figured out logical

groupings. Making sure implementable, hopefully in 2022. Many unknowns still, as far as designs, may depend on engineering positions.

Hansi inquired about decommissions vs closures, and Dana said he would share previous year's presentation which goes over that (see attached 2019 presentation). "Decommissions": don't intend on going back into an area; deemed unnecessary. "Closures": storage; we expect to go back in there some time in future, so we leave road prism intact.

Cheryl mentioned potential funding. Marlise mentioned Legacy Roads and Trails Program funding which would fit this project's scope. That funding was eliminated two years ago, but working to get it reinstated. Various stimulus bills include funding for that program, but we will have to wait and see.

*Canyon Forest Restoration (Yewah Lau)*: Yewah provided an update. This project evolved out of the concern about management activities being curtailed due to roads project. Looking at whether we can time it such that we do restoration activities ahead of road decommissioning work. Evaluating areas for these kinds of opportunities. Estimated around 2,000 acres. Streamlined analysis, since roads decision already made. So a lot of the projects are tied to the roads. There will be a broader public outreach later this summer. Decision hopeful by late spring next year. Funding is an issue.

John Stednick: Is adaptive management area the desired future condition? Yewah: adaptive management area, still looking at moving forest towards more characteristic old growth forest, with the thinning.

Danielle: looking for resources about managing for forest condition vs managing for habitat. Yewah: looking to accelerate late successional habitat, late successional old growth species (marbled murrelet, spotted owls, the key ones that have lost a lot of habitat). Managing for habitat, but not specific species, but rather a suite of species.

*Engineered Log Jams (Hilton Turnbull/Marc McHenry)*: Marc presented on Phase II Large Wood Enhancement, to be implemented in September, again in partnership with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (Phase I of the project was implemented in 2016). Goal is to improve fish habitat in upper watershed on national forest land: Chinook, Steelhead, Bull Trout. Chronically low returns of these species in previous decades. For example, Chinook below 200 in majority of past 10 years. Phase I happened in 2016: 11 ELJs, all in Greywolf, above Dungeness Forks campground. Chinook spawner surveys have shown increased spawning in Lower Greywolf. Increased habitat complexity, and pushing flow into side-channels. All have stayed in place, per aerial photos. Have been functioning as designed. Have measured them in GIS.

Phase II is below confluence of Dungeness and Greywolf, first depositional reach, less confined part of River. Objectives to increase rearing habitat and reconnect relic or dry side channels. Have conducted hydraulic modeling, existing condition, one and two year conditions. Phase II includes next most logical restoration reach, a depositional reach. Trying to get water in side-channels. Lots of good over-wintering habitat and spawning gravels. Reconnecting the floodplain is the restoration goal. Annual monitoring of structures is part of the plan.

Hilton: conservative approach with regards to trying to assure that river doesn't take path of shortest length of flow. Don't want to create oxbow, but rather want to increase use of floodplain. Modeling images appear to roughly double two-year flow event. Can look in detail at modeling to see what the actual numbers look like.

Discussion about chains vs cables. Something to consider. Easier to remove chains than cable if they become detached from structure.

Timeline: August – push over trees, transport materials to helicopter landings. Mid-September, helicopter construction of log jams over two to three days.

Cheryl asked about potential for Phase III. Hilton said we've building them in phases as funding is available. Not sure where next phase will occur.

John asked about activity happening on FS Road 2880. Chinook broodstock program by Tribe and WDFW. Acclimating chinook and releasing yearlings further up in watershed. Also a pond just downstream of Greywolf Bridge. General idea is to release chinook juveniles as far up in watershed.

Hansi mentioned Chinook spawner surveys have shown that chinook are distribution themselves in upper watershed near logjams. So habitat complexity being utilized, which is good news. Acknowledgements and thank yous to USFS for all the work and updates.

### III. Other Orders of DRMT Business, Announcements and Standing Agenda Items

- Standing Item: Project Updates and/or Announcements:
  - Hansi mentioned low river flow for this time of year. Ann Soule commented on “wet year” in lowlands (above average for rainfall), but Dungeness SNOTEL showing cumulative precipitation as 80% of normal for period of record. Confusing to see ECY gage showing more flow than USGS gage. 342 upstream vs 393 downstream, which doesn’t make sense, given diversions. Ann commented on the 262 number on ECY flowchart, whereas graph shows it to be over 380. *[Follow up: ECY verified that the 262 number on ECY chart is not a flow value, but a category number ECY uses]*
  - Danielle indicated hatchery folks will be putting adult trap in for Chinook. There’s a goal for numbers. Once they get those, trap stops catching fish.
  - Cathy said County has submitted “indirect effects memo” to ACOE, another part of the 404 wetland permit.
- Standing Item: review next agenda for any suggested additions
  - Ben wondered about update on fish ladder on Canyon Ck. Has there been monitoring or studies on that?
  - Shawn said no agenda items for August as of yet. Stay tuned.
  - Hansi mentioned Tribe/State agency meetings regarding riparian strategies in WA state and inconsistencies across agencies regarding implementing riparian buffers. At some point may be able to summarize outcomes of those meetings; relevant to our work on DRMT. John S. mentioned project he’s involved in with DNR he’s involved with regarding temperature standards in non-fish streams as related to riparian management strategies.
  - Request for piping, aquifer recharge project updates.

#### Public Comment:

- Shawn mentioned that meeting is being recorded for note-taking purposes only.
- Dana will send both 2019 and 2020 presentations to Shawn to forward to Team.
- Yewah highlighted that the USFS plans are only draft that phases and schedules subject to change based on funding; this is a “working plan”.
- Hilton and Hansi gave much appreciation to USFS on Tribe/USFS ELJ project partnership, and today’s presentations and introductions.

### IV. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.

DRMT Website: <http://tinyurl.com/DRMTweb>