



Celebrating 25 Years of Accomplishments!

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

# Dungeness River Management Team

## Have you ever attended a DRMT Meeting? Then this is for You!

The Dungeness River Management Team is proud to be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We would like to take this opportunity to thank DRMT participants, past and present, for the many, occasionally contentious but always insightful, conversations about issues surrounding the Dungeness watershed and making it a healthier place for people, fish and wildlife.

No one representative group can address all of the complexities impacting the state of our watershed. But each voice, including members of the public who have sat through hours of team meetings to convey their knowledge, ideas and concerns, has made an important contribution to the understanding, restoration and management of the Dungeness River watershed.



The DRMT has come to be thought of as a valuable community forum for sharing information about and working to cooperatively solve the watershed's problems. Such collaboration has resulted in many agreements and partnerships, and work on a wide variety of issues over these two and a half decades. Former and current members, alternates and public participants, whether you supported a restoration project, provided input at a planning session, made your voice heard at one of the monthly meetings, subcommittee meetings, or annual field trips, or were otherwise involved, — to you we express our heartfelt gratitude.

## Collaborative Approach, Key to Success

Though DRMT meeting agendas often include challenging topics, and sometimes involve lengthy debates, DRMT members are committed to searching for opportunities to develop group solutions and to focus on resolving substantive issues. This collaborative approach has given governments and citizens opportunities to coordinate their work, resulting in many projects that have helped improve the health of the river and quality of life in the community. The following pages reveal some of these activities from the past 25 years (page 2), describe the Team's history (page 3), and show a timeline of some DRMT and partner highlights (back page). Enjoy!

"One of the keys to the Dungeness River Management Team's success on the broad array of issues that come before it is the diversity of voices and the sense of collaboration around the table."

*Steve Tharinger, former Clallam County Commissioner*

2012-13 DRMT

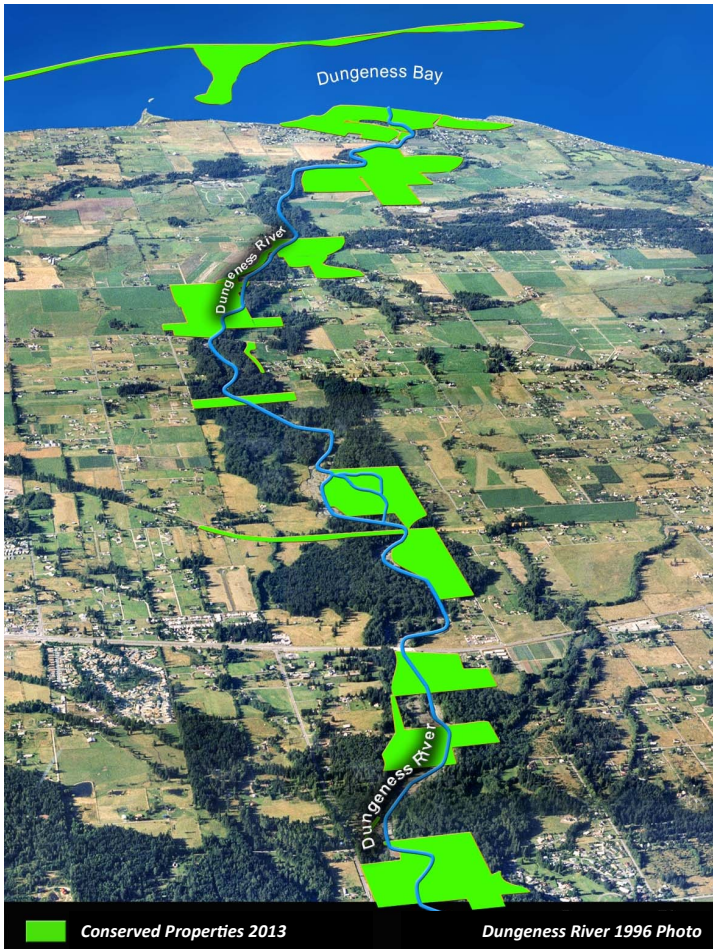




# DRMT Accomplishments

A *PARTIAL* list only (all that would fit in this small space!)

Recovering natural floodplain and/or protecting properties along the Dungeness River Corridor from development has been a top priority of the DRMT. Piece by piece, conservation easements and purchases from willing sellers, donations, mitigation agreements, as well as land swaps have helped the effort, which is the work of many partners: Clallam Conservation District, Clallam County, Dungeness River Audubon Center, Ducks Unlimited, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, North Olympic Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Transportation.

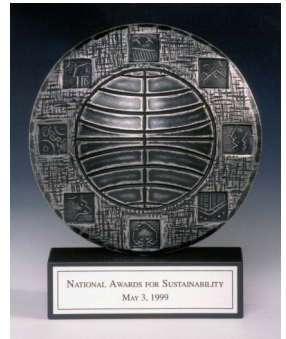


At least 50 engineered logjams have been built in the Dungeness watershed by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Clallam Conservation District, Clallam County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and riverfront property owners to protect and restore fish habitat and stabilize eroding banks. Additional large woody debris structures will be installed in 2013.



5 logjams upstream of Railroad Bridge (2008). Photo courtesy of Greywolf Aerial.

The Dungeness River Agricultural Water Users Association has cut their average withdrawals from the Dungeness River by 25%. With help from Clallam Conservation District and others, at least 47 miles of irrigation ditches have been piped to conserve water, reduce the amount of irrigation tailwaters, and prevent pollutants from entering the irrigations system since the late 1990s.



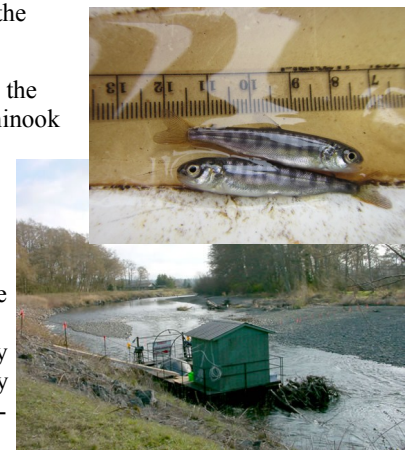
1999 national award for water conservation Efforts.

Work by the Clallam Conservation District has resulted in over 80,000 feet of stream fencing, 56,910 feet of in-stream habitat restoration, and over 200 acres of restored streamside habitat. Additionally, over 4,300 people in the Clean Water District have participated in workshops about natural landscaping, water conservation, stormwater management, and live-stock management.

The Olympic National Forest has completed numerous forest road decommissioning and stabilization projects for water quality and wildlife protection, following an updated Watershed Analysis in 2001. In 2012, the Dungeness was identified as one of three “focus watersheds” for restoration. A collaborative process developed a prioritized list of remaining restoration, recreation, and vegetation management needs.

Following studies of pollution sources in Dungeness River and Bay by WA Department of Ecology and others, Clallam County has helped to repair 158 failing septic systems, 20 of which discharged sewage directly into the Bay, or waters that drain to the Bay. Since 2008 the focus has been on assisting homeowners with routine septic inspections. 1,483 systems have been inspected in the MRA, which includes, but is broader than, the Dungeness watershed area.

Between 1997 and 2004, with the help of many volunteers, a Chinook captive broodstock program was operated by WDFW in cooperation with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. A screw trap operating in the lower river since 2005 was the final piece needed to assess annual freshwater productivity of Chinook produced naturally in the Dungeness. In conjunction with the Tribe's smolt trapping operations in Matriotti Creek, the screw trap is also able to assess the annual freshwater production of steelhead and coho smolts that migrate to sea each spring. Abundance of Dungeness Chinook peaked in 2006 as a result of the captive brood program, declined sharply following the end of captive brood returns and now seems to have stabilized. Current data suggest that the hatchery supplementation efforts are propping up the Chinook population in the Dungeness.



Top: Chinook fry. Bottom: Screw trap in lower Dungeness River. Photo courtesy of WDFW.



# How it all started...

## A DRMT History

The original DRMT was formed in 1988 to foster communication among diverse groups interested in flood management for the Dungeness River. This group helped the County produce its *1990 flood control management plan (updated 2009)*, and the *Dungeness River Area Watershed Management Plan (1993)*.

Over the years, additional discussions and organizing by local residents occurred, on issues such as floodplain and riparian development, logging practices, water quality, water conservation, preservation of agricultural lands, and related natural resource issues. In 1994, the Team produced the *Dungeness-Quilcene Water Resources Management Plan (DQ Plan)*. DQ Plan development was locally driven and consensus-based, helping to set the stage for future successful coordination among members of the Team.

One of the highlights for the Dungeness area during the DQ process included negotiations between the Jamestown Tribe and the Dungeness River Agricultural Water Users (Water Users) Association that resulted in an agreement between the Water Users and Ecology that the Water Users would not take more than half of the flow in the River during the irrigation season (half for the fish and half for the people). Other significant recommendations from the DQ Plan were implement-

ed in the years that followed, including a trust water rights agreement, improvements to the efficiency of the irrigation system, the development of a habitat restoration plan by a technical team, and continuation of a Watershed Council to provide more coordinated and integrated natural resource planning for the Dungeness River Watershed area.

### DRMT Mission Statement:

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

In response to the latter recommendation, the DRMT reactivated in 1995 through a joint resolution between Clallam County and the Tribe. The Team's purpose as redefined in the 1995 resolution was to: "exchange information on technical studies, issues, and projects occurring in the Dungeness Watershed; pursue implementation of the *Dungeness River Comprehensive Flood Control Management Plan (1990) (updated 2009)*, *Dungeness River Area Watershed Management Plan (1993)*, and the *DQ Water Resources Management Plan (1994)*; coordinate the use of staff, funding and other resources among agencies and representatives; and promote public education on watershed processes and activities."

The Team has also functioned as the watershed council (or, planning unit) for East Water Resources Area 18 (WRIA 18) and reviews project proposals for salmon restoration projects in WRIA 18 (and portions of WRIA 17). Between 2000 and 2005, the planning unit participated in development of the *Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan (WRIA 18 Plan) (2005)*, which includes strategies to address competing interests affecting water supplies, in-stream flows, water quality, stream habitat and salmon recovery. Recommendations from the WRIA 18 Plan formed the basis for what was included in the 2013 *Dungeness In-stream Flow and Water Management Rule*, which was designed to protect existing water rights, manage new uses of water, protect fish resources, and protect stream flows in the Dungeness Watershed.

The DRMT has been nationally recognized for its work in cooperative resolution of these watershed issues, and collaborating on projects to restore the watershed's health. The Team continues these efforts today and functions as an important, ongoing forum for communication, coordination and information-sharing about critical watershed issues.

"The Dungeness River and the fish resources it produces are integral to our Tribal history and culture. We are honored to be part of the Dungeness River Management Team, working with our community to restore this unique river and the natural resources that depend on it."

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

## Some Recent Activities...

DRMT partners and subcommittees report the following strides since 2008:

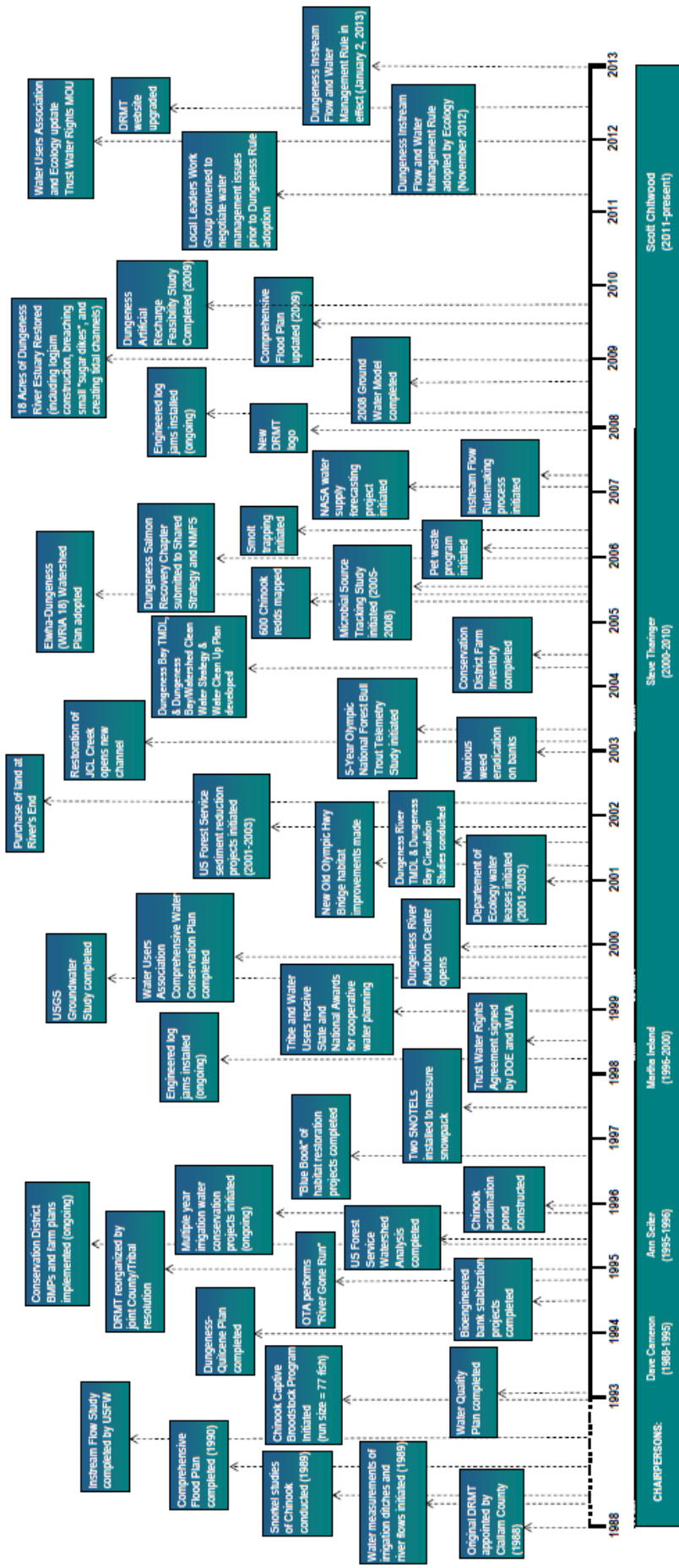
- ◆ The River Restoration Work Group continued to refine plans for levee setbacks and partnered on several projects to restore and protect additional floodplain and estuary, including 18 acres of river estuary restored in 2009 to enhance critical habitat for fish and other river functions.
- ◆ A subcommittee updated the flood hazard management plan in 2009.
- ◆ The Clean Water Work Group continued to meet quarterly, focusing on implementing clean up plans for the Dungeness River, and other streams and ditches draining into the Bay. While a significant portion of the Bay is still closed to shell-fishing during part of the year, an area was upgraded March 2012 from prohibited to conditionally-approved.
- ◆ A Local Leaders Work Group convened to address mitigation through a Dungeness water exchange, water supplies, agriculture sustainability, a restoration strategy, future protection of stream flows and other rule issues. A Summary Report was produced in 2012, along with related monthly newsletters for the public from October 2011 to August 2012.
- ◆ On November 16, 2012, Ecology signed a new water management rule for the Dungeness watershed that secures water supplies for current and future uses in the Sequim area for the benefit of people, community development, agriculture and fish. The rule went into effect January 02, 2013.



Logjam being constructed in a side-channel of Dungeness River. Photo by Tiffany Royal.

# Dungeness River Management Team 1988 — 2013

*(An approximate and incomplete timeline of projects, plans and studies by DRMT partners)*



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The DRMT's website has been upgraded! Check it out!  
<http://www.olympus.net/community/dungenesswc/>

