



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

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation - Restoration Center
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Support for Clallam County Public Works Culvert Removal Project

Dear NOAA Technical Grant Reviewers and Staff,

The Dungeness River Management Team is a community watershed council that has been working collectively for more than three decades to enhance and restore water quality, streamflows, and habitat for human, fish and wildlife of the Dungeness Watershed. This has included efforts that help advance and support restoration along the Dungeness River. We are thrilled about all the ongoing restoration currently underway and the possibility of future work that will further expedite the health of the river and its salmon populations.


This is a letter of support for a proposal by Clallam County Public Works to multiple culverts on Matriotti Creek, Sequim WA, the largest low elevation tributary to the Dungeness River. These are high priority culverts in the Dungeness Watershed, as identified in the North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon's Inventory of more than 2,000 county culverts.

Matriotti Creek is home to the following salmon which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act: Dungeness Chinook which are included in the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan, Summer Chum which are included in the Hood Canal/Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, and Steelhead which are part of the Puget Sound Steelhead Salmon Recovery Plan. There are also Coho, Pink Salmon, Fall Chum, and Cutthroat as well. Jamestown S'Klallam and WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife data indicate that significant juvenile salmon rear in Matriotti Creek.

Tackling Fish Passage Barriers is an important action in this area and the time is now. Besides opening up fish passage, replacing these culverts will also help considerably with hydrology and sediment transport. These benefits will do much to further advance salmon recovery and Dungeness River health.

We are excited about this proposal and hope you will give it serious consideration.

Sincerely,


Digitally signed by Hansi Hals
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S'Klallam Tribe, ou=Natural Resources,
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c=US
Date: 2022.08.11 07:40:57 -0700

Hansi Hals, Chair, DRMT
On behalf of the DRMT

2022 DRMT Membership

City of Sequim

Clallam County

Clallam Conservation District

Clallam PUD #1

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge

Dungeness River Nature Center

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

North Olympic Land Trust

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Protect the Peninsula's Future

Riverside Property Owners

Sports Fisheries

US Forest Service

WA Department of Ecology

Water Users Association