

# APPROVED DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

August 14, 2024

Via Zoom, hosted by Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe/Dungeness River Nature Center

## Dungeness River Flows

RM 0.75, Ecology Gauge (Provisional).....76 cfs (*as of 4:30 AM*)

RM 11.0, USGS #12048000 (Provisional).....120 cfs (*as of 8:15 AM*)

Daily Mean (RM 11.0, USGS #12048000).....253 cfs (*based on 95 yrs*)

Median/50% Exceedance (RM 11.0, USGS #12048000) .....234 cfs (*based on 95 yrs*)

Dungeness SNOTEL: (Station Elev. 4,100’) SWE = 0 in, 30-year Median = 0 in, 30-year Ave. = 0 in

Chair: Hansi Hals, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

August Vice Chair: Ben Smith, Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association

## 2:00 Introductions / Review Agenda / Approve June 2024 DRMT Meeting Notes

### In Person

Hansi Hals- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Director, DRMT Chair; Shawn Hines- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Watershed Planner; Tony Corrado- Protect Peninsula’s Future Member; Stephanie Robinson- Graysmarsh Biologist; Montana Napier- Dungeness River Nature Center; Jamie Tippett- Sport Fisheries Representative; Bob Phreaner- Olympic Audubon Society; Lance Vail- Olympic Audubon Society; Ben Smith- Water Users Association; Robert Bebe- Guest; Meggan Uecker- City of Sequim Resource Analyst; Barbara Vanderworth- League of Women Voters; Ann Soule- League of Women Voters; Mary Foster- League of Women Voters; Paul Moore- Guest, Sami Greiger- WSU Extension; David Brown- League of Women Voters; Mike Dashiell- Sequim Gazette; Jackson Wilhite- Olympic National Forest; Rhiana Barkie- Clallam County Public Works Project Coordinator; Phil Martin- Guest, Powell Jones- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe;

### Online

Rebecca Mahan- Clallam County Habitat Biologist; Carrol Hull- League of Women Voters; Joel Green- Clallam County Streamkeepers; Clea Rome- WSU Extension; Jenna Ziogas- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; Bowen Kendrick- PUD Water & Wastewater Systems Manager; Enrique Valenzuela- Clallam County Planning; Scott Gerwood- Guest; Hannah McDonough- Washington Water Trust; Mike Gallagher- Ecology Southwest Regional Water Resources Section Manager; Judy Larson- Guest; Maren Halvorsen- League of Women, Sarah Dunn- USGS; Solvei Metcalf- Washington Water Trust; Lexi Wagor- North Olympic Land Trust

2:09: June notes approved

## 2:09 PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)

2:09: Judy Larson public comment

## USGS Base Flow Forecasting Tool/Dungeness Sarah Dunn, USGS

2:14: WaterAlert- stream gage phone application.

2:15: Base Flow Forecast tool-

[https://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/baseflows/BFS\\_forecast\\_index.html](https://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/baseflows/BFS_forecast_index.html)

2:17: How to read observed streamflow and forecast baseflow using Base Flow Forecast tool

2:19: Model update frequency requests

## **Questions**

2:21: Does this baseflow not include snowmelt? Ans: Model does include regular snowmelt, does not include snowmelt in abnormal conditions such as a heatwave.

2:23: Has there been a standard deviation of USGS data? Ans: The USGS does not provide a standard deviation statistic, but it does include the median streamflow and downloadable data that can be statistically analyzed.

2:24: Can we go back to previous forecasts and compare how the streamflow was forecasted?

2:27: Can we make the Qobserved data column retain it's data from past observations? Ans: Thank you for the feedback, as a point of clarification, anything in the Qobserved column is what is used to make the forecast, anything that was not used is N/A.

## **2024 Drought Impacts and Drought Response by Partners**

**Ag Impacts, Dungeness Dry Year Lease and Pulse Flow Programs and Status-  
Ben Smith, WUA; Hannah McDonough and Solvei Metcalf, Washington Water Trust**

2:31: Program overview; Dry Year Leasing, Pulse Flows

2:32: 2024 Dry Year Leasing: Paying irrigators to forbear irrigation on lands they would typically irrigate

2:35: Funding limitations

2:36: Pulse flow leasing: What is a pulse flow, 2023 overview, 2024 overview

2:38: First 2024 pulse flow event: 8/10

2:40: Pulse flow program coordination successes

2:42: Thank you for the pulse flow program

2:43: Monitoring the effectiveness of the pulse flow program in 2023 and 2024; JKT 2024 Low Flow Data Viewer

## **Questions**

2:49: Will you do this effectiveness monitoring again? Hansi: It depends on

2:50 for four pulse flow events Highland was paid around \$5,000

### **Olympic National Forest Impacts- *Jackson Wilhite***

2:53: Long term impacts of climate change on the Northeast Olympic Peninsula

2:56: Impacts of roads on droughts in the Northeast Olympic Peninsula

2:57: ONF actions for combating drought effects

2:59: ONF climate change resources: ONF region 6 website

3:01: Links to ONF resources

#### **Questions:**

3:03: Is the Canyon project going to happen? Ans: There is movement on the project, and it should be resumed in December.

3:04: Has the forest service shifted recommended planted species post logging to more drought tolerant species? Ans: I do not believe the FS has shifted recommendations.

3:05: Does the FS have individual evapotranspiration monitors in the forest?

### **PUD Drought Preparedness Planning- *Bowen Kendrick***

3:06: Current View of drought

3:08 PUD Drought response plan goals; Drought stages and targets

3:11: Drought response plan triggers for each water system

3:13: PUD Drought Notification information

3:14: Thank you USGS for the surface water forecasting data

3:15: Ground water level monitoring

3:16: Take-Aways

#### **Questions:**

3:19: What percentage of PUD water usage is the total of the watershed? Ans: A very small percentage.

3:21 How many people in the County does the PUD serve? Ans: About 5,100 connections.

### **2024 State/Regional Drought Status and Impacts- *Caroline Mellor, Drought Coordinator, WA Department of Ecology***

3:32: Drought declaration

3:33: Drought condition thresholds: Hydrologic threshold, hardship threshold

3:34: What does a drought declaration do?

3:35: Emergency response funding, drought impacts

3:36: Example drought response grant projects

3:37: Snowpack Conditions

3:39: Streamflow natural forecast as % of normal

3:39: Rank compared to historical record from 1949 onwards

3:40: USGS stream gauges

3:40: Soil Moisture

3:41 Current US Drought Monitor

3:42 Olympic Basin- Water year to date: Snowpack, SWE by month, precipitation by month, temperature by month

3:45: Conditions: Three-month outlook

3:48: Fall early outlook

3:49: Ecology resources

**Questions:**

3:50: How is Ecology monitoring soil moisture? NASA provides our soil moisture data, and some data comes from NRCS.

3:51: Does Ecology have any hopes of installing evapotranspiration monitors on the Olympic Peninsula? I will bring this idea to other folks in Ecology.

**Drought Outreach**

**2024 Drought Outreach Program- *Clea Rome and Sammi Greiger, WSU Extension***

3:55 Areas of focus of the drought outreach grant

3:55: Leveraging master gardeners for drought outreach and providing water conservation resources

3:57: Technical assistance to ag irrigators; soil moisture probes, focusing on small farms

3:58: On-farm workshops

3:59: How we are consistently preparing for droughts

4:00: Public outreach event pitch for the Fall

4:03: Offer for public outreach help from WSU Extension

**Questions:**

4:04: Have you thought about putting in nitrate probes into farms along with the moisture probes?  
No, currently we are monitoring soil moisture on ten farms

4:07: Are you or other partners planning on using the extended drought response funding to extend drought outreach through the year? We will reconsider the use of our funds to extend drought outreach.

4:10: Were you also interested in input from our group on public outreach events? Yes, in the Fall we would like to put together an outreach event and we welcome feedback on that idea.

4:13: Would WSU consider installing evapotranspiration monitors using the current grant funding or creating an online resource for determining how much water should be used per square foot of garden? I believe our Ag Weathernet stations do include evapotranspiration data.

#### **Low Water Alert Pilot Projects- *Ann Soule, Clallam League of Women Voters***

4:16: River Flow Alert Sign

Questions:

4:22: Perhaps the low category could be adjusted so there is no exhaustion from people that the river is regularly in the “low” category.

**4:33: Action Taken:** Motion to endorse League of Women Voter’s water group pilot project work

#### **4:34 Other Orders of Business, Standing Agenda Items, Announcements**

##### **Standing Item: Water Resources Planning Topics**

4:35: Drought preparedness plan funding

##### **OCR Update- *Rhiana Barkie, Clallam County***

4:37: Funds are being wired Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> and closing for the two parcels is no later than October 30<sup>th</sup>, Deed of rights has been signed, fault hazard analysis report available on Clallam County OCR website. Moved reservoir further south on parcel.

Questions:

4:40: Will water shares be transferred from DNR to Clallam County and can these shares be leased? The shares may be transferred as normal when buying property with water rights.

##### **Standing Item: Team additions to next agenda, or suggestions for future agendas**

4:45: Update from Protect Peninsula’s Future

**4:48 PUBLIC COMMENT** (10 minutes)

**4:49: Adjourn**