

Dungeness River Flow Status: Background

Dungeness River Flow Status sign boards were created to provide the river's condition at a glance. The reported flow is measured at the USGS gage at River Mile 11.8.

Flow categories have been set as follows:

Flow (cfs) FROM	Flow (cfs) TO	Threshold Label/Colors <i>Recommended Actions</i>
0	62.5	Extreme LOW <i>Restrict all water uses, as practical</i>
>62.5	120	Critical LOW <i>Restrict outdoor water uses</i>
>120	238	Low Flow <i>Conserve water</i>
>238	582	Adequate Flow
>582	2,700	High Flow
>2,700	4,275	Flood Alert <i>Take action to reduce flood risks</i>
>4,275	6,200	Minor to Moderate FLOOD <i>Property damage/ public threat possible</i>
>6,200	99,999	Extreme FLOOD <i>Evacuations may be necessary</i>

Sign boards are displayed from spring to fall to inform residential water users and facilitate responsible water management, especially when the Dungeness River is running low. Anyone interested in tracking the real-time flow year-round can download the “Dungeness River Flow Status” APP, available as a widget from Google and Apple Play Stores.

The Dungeness River flow rate varies within a normal range by season. Flow also varies by the hour; for example, when the river rises quickly during a rainstorm. Rainfall and snowmelt have the most influence on streamflow, while tributary inflows and irrigation withdrawals increase and decrease flow, respectively.

In recent decades the average summer streamflow has decreased due to shrinkage of glacial ice and reduced average annual snowpack in the uppermost slopes of the Dungeness River watershed. (A watershed is the land draining to a single stream.) Summer flows that are lower than historical averages can be a problem for salmon migrating upstream to spawn as well as for farmers accustomed to diverting river water for irrigation. Recommended actions listed above, for example when summer flows are in a Low category, can help maintain healthy flows in the Dungeness River.

Sources of Information on the Signs:

The Dungeness River Flow app transmits the flow level as measured by the USGS continuous stream gage located at Dungeness River Mile 11.8. More information about this monitoring location and available flow data/tools can be found at the [Dungeness USGS gage webpage](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/USGS-12048000/#dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&period=P7D&showMedian=true&compare=true): <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/USGS-12048000/#dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&period=P7D&showMedian=true&compare=true>

The app's **low flow category thresholds** are based on WAC 173-518, the instream flow and water management rule for the Dungeness River, as well as formal agreements between Washington State Department of Ecology and Dungeness River irrigation water right holders.

The app's **flood flow category thresholds** are based on flow estimates translated from NOAA's flood-stage categories, at the National Water Prediction Service page for the upper Dungeness gage (<https://water.noaa.gov/gauges/DRSW1>; click "Scale to Flood Categories" under the chart).

For detailed water conservation recommendations please consult these local experts:

- WSU Extension: <https://extension.wsu.edu/clallam/water-conservation/>
- Clallam Conservation District: <https://clallamcd.org/conservation-around-the-house>
- Your Irrigation Manager if you live in a district or are a company shareholder

ABOUT THE APP (now available from Apple and Google Play Stores)

The Flow Status App is an expansion of the "Low Flow Alert" physical sign boards installed near the Dungeness River starting in 2024 by the League of Women Voters of Clallam County's water committee. **Arrows on physical sign boards are adjusted following the same key as the app widget, above (summer only).**



For further information, browse to: <https://lwvccla.clubexpress.com/water>

Funding to develop the app in 2025 was provided by a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce administered by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.



The WA Department of Commerce Tribal Climate Resilience Grant program is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.wa.gov.

Website and instructions for downloading the app: <https://dungenessflow.org/>

>> Please report problems with the app's function to: support@prophetechs.com