

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

March 12, 2025

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

Meeting Recording and Notes: https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/?category_id=55

Dungeness River Flows

RM 0.75, Ecology Gauge (Provisional).....217 cfs (as of 7:30 AM)
RM 11.0, USGS #12048000 (Provisional).....205 cfs (as of 8:15 AM)
Daily Mean (RM 11.0, USGS #12048000)..... 292 cfs (based on 94 yrs)
Median/50% Exceedance (RM 11.0, USGS #12048000).....234 (based on 94 yrs)
Dungeness SNOTEL: (Station Elev. 4,100’) SWE = 11.2 in, 30-year Median = 8.4 in, 30-year Ave. = 8.9 in

Chair: Hansi Hals, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

March Vice Chair: Robert Phreaner, Olympic Peninsula Audubon

In Person

Hansi Hals- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Chair); Shawn Hines- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Alt); Tony Corrado- Protect the Peninsula’s Future (Member); Frank Lowenstein- Dungeness River Audubon Center (Alt); Meggan Uecker- City of Sequim (Member); Ben Smith- Water Users Association (Member); Stephanie Robinson- Estuary Tidelands Property Owner (Member); Scott Chitwood- County Resident (Guest); Cheryl Baumann- North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon (Guest)

Online

Mark Ozias- Clallam County (Guest); Matt Warbritton- Natural Resources Conservation Service (Guest); Rhianna Barkie- Clallam County (Guest); Jackson Wilhite- U.S. Forest Service (Adv. Member); Rebecca Mahan- Clallam County (Alt.); Cathy Lear- Clallam County (Member); Rich Havel- Resident (Guest); Solvei Metcalf- Washington Water Trust (Guest); Isaiah Krutak- Natural Resources Conservation Service (Guest); Jen Garcelon- Clallam County Environmental Health (Guest); Jenna Ziogas- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Guest); Enrique Valenzuela- Clallam County (Guest)

Introductions / Review Agenda / Approve Draft February 2025 DRMT Meeting Notes

2:10: Ben Smith moves to approve February meeting notes as presented, Megan Uecker seconds, no objections, the **motion is passed**.

2:11: Public comment: Paul Moore: Comment regarding Dungeness Off Channel Reservoir

2:15: Public comment: Virginia Shogren: Comment regarding Clallam Conservation District

NRCS SNOTEL Network/Tools- *Matt Warbritton, Supervisory Hydrologist/NRCS*

- 2:21: Introduction to the NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecast Program
- 2:23: Current network in and adjacent to the Dungeness River, station locations
- 2:24: Tools and products to assess conditions and streamflow outlook
- 2:25: Basin and site view interactive map overview
- 2:29: Data reports available in basin and site view interactive map; current conditions at the Waterhole SNE
- 2:31: Climate Center webpage, apps page (NWCC apps)
- 2:33: Site conditions plots; daily average temp in Olympic, SWE, precipitation accumulation
- 2:34 Other plots; water year projection data, reservoir data, SWE elevation plots, stacked accumulation plots
- 2:37: Site plot: snow to flow
- 2:39: Olympic water supply forecasts, Dungeness forecast evolution plots
- 2:42: Water supply outlook report
- 2:43: New forecasting model and platform: M4: Multi-model machine-learning system

Questions:

- 2:47: Ben Smith: If my goal is to know when the Dungeness River will be at 120cfs, which data forecast should I be using?

Local SNOTEL Refresher- *Scott Chitwood, country resident (and retired JST NR Director and DRMT Chair)*

- 2:55: SNOTEL
- 2:57: Waterways that are more affected by snow melt
- 3:02: March 1 2009-2025 Buckinghorse, Dungeness, Mount Crag, and Waterhole SNOTEL data

Questions

- 3:09: You mentioned that we might not need Dungeness SNOTEL data to predict summer Dungeness River water flows as snow packs are reduced, can you elaborate on that?
- 3:10: April 1st is the date that NRCS uses to predict summer flow, should this date be modified to April 15th?

3:14: You mentioned Anderson glacier and a few glaciers or at the headwaters of the Dungeness that have disappeared, how was this determined?

Chinook Recovery Plan – Dungeness Chapter Update- *Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon and Kara Nelson, Conservation Planner/Biologist and Consultant*

3:23: Why now, by who, and funding

3:25: Organizational partners in chapter update

3:25: Project importance

3:26: Dungeness chinook salmon

3:27: Current Dungeness Chinook Recovery Chapter

3:28: Dungeness Chinook recovery strategies

3:31: Dungeness chinook recovery update outline

3:35: Restore & Protect Floodplain Connectivity

3:38: Restore instream mainstem and side channel habitat (LWD)

3:41: Restore and protect riparian buffer habitat

3:44: Dungeness Estuary and salt marsh

3:44: Restore and protect nearshore habitat

3:47: Maintain minimum instream flow in the Dungeness River

3:48: Restore and protect water quality

3:49: Regulatory updates, effectiveness & enforcement

3:51: Education and outreach

Questions:

3:52: How do you balance what is priority for change over what currently exists?

3:55: How do the salt marshes such as Graysmarsh relate to the chinook recovery?

3:58: How do eelgrass populations relate to the recovery plan?

Standing items

4:17: Review DRMT 2018 resolution RE: Off Channel Reservoir

4:20: Future agenda item suggestion regarding OCR

4:26: Clarification on the Anchor QEA memo from Clallam County

4:38: League of Women Voters: River flow conditions digital version: a few proposals have been submitted for the RFP over budget, we will be seeking additional funding

4:40: Off Channel Reservoir Update: We presented at the parks advisory board __ we are proceeding with the park name Dungeness Trails. We have not received the third request for information (RFI) from FEMA. This RFI is for the construction grant, we are currently spending money on acquisition, planning and design through a state grant. We have proceeded with the old Sequim dump cleanup.

Questions:

4:43: How much funding are we expecting from FEMA? Answer: We applied for an approximately \$30 million grant from FEMA for construction of the Off Channel Reservoir

Public Comment

4:46: Public Comment: Judy Larson: Comment regarding Clallam Conservation District 2025 board of supervisors election

4:53: Meeting adjourned