



Clallam Conservation District

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November 2, 2021,

Re: Support for Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir

To Whom It May Concern:

Clallam Conservation District strongly supports the Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir project.

Over the past two decades, we have contributed considerable financial and technical assistance to the Dungeness Water Users Association (DWUA) to implement many water conservation projects. These projects have enabled irrigators to reduce water diversions from the Dungeness River by nearly half, while maintaining a viable agricultural economy. We have also partnered with the Washington Water Trust to implement shallow aquifer recharge projects in the basin. These water conservation projects are not enough to offset with increasing water shortage issues that the Dungeness valley is facing. More help is needed to address the annual low flow conditions in the Dungeness River.

Over the past few years, we have partnered with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and numerous other organizations to develop plans for the Reservoir. We are fully invested in seeing this project to completion. The Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir will provide solutions to several critical environmental issues.

1. It ensures sustainable agricultural land use as it will provide irrigators with water during late season, low flow months without drawing on the Dungeness River. Late summer river diversions will be significantly reduced.
2. It will improve instream flow habitat for salmon. With irrigators using less water from the Dungeness River it will help the recovery of ESA listed salmon species such as Chinook and Summer Chum.
3. It helps to mitigate climate impacts by providing water storage. Currently, the only form of storage is snowpack, which is becoming increasingly less reliable due to climate change pressure. Stream flow restoration in the Dungeness River can most efficiently be made through off channel water storage.
4. In addition, the nearly 400-acre reservoir property, which is currently under Department of Natural Resources management, will be developed into a county park creating a valuable recreation area and enjoyment for the community.

Dungeness watershed agencies and organizations have a long history of successful collaboration to address water management issues. As water resources become critical, The Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir is an important step to mitigate future water shortage issues. We ask for your support for this important project.

Respectfully,

Kim Williams
CCD District Manager