

April 5, 2022

Re: Support for Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe fully supports Clallam County's Streamflow Restoration Grant application for the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Project. The Dungeness Watershed lies within our Tribe's traditional homelands on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Dungeness River at one time provided our citizens bountiful fishing opportunities and, together with other abundant natural resources, shaped our rich social and spiritual culture. In 1855, our Tribe entered a Treaty with the United States specifically reserving rights to these resources.

Our Tribe has deeply appreciated collaborating with the County, City of Sequim and others on many efforts to regain the habitat necessary for the four ESA-listed fish species in the Dungeness to survive and thrive. We have worked for decades on collaborative solutions to low stream flows, especially during dryer months, which coincides with Chinook spawning at a time when already low flows are compounded by irrigation diversions. Partnerships have included those with the irrigation community to reduce water withdrawals, and with the Dungeness River Management Team on the Dungeness Instream Flow and Water Management Rule, following many years of related planning.

One of the ideas discussed in detail during that rule development was to collect water during the wet part of the year, store it, and then use that stored water for irrigation during the dry part of the year. This concept is a result of extended discussions, planning and study, and is becoming increasingly important as we experience more periods of drought, such as occurred in 2015 and which is expected to be "the norm" for our future.

The Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Project will collect water during times of ample flow, and then be used to supply irrigation needs at low flow times, leaving more water in the river when the need of fish is greatest. Every cubic foot of water provides additional habitat as well as preferable habitat, as the margins are less susceptible to potential redd scour during peak flows.

We appreciate being a part of this collective effort.

Sincerely,

Hansi Hals, Natural Resources Director

Attachment: Res #42-18 JST Support for Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir



JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim, WA 98382

360/683-1109

FAX 360/681-4643

RESOLUTION #42-18

Support for the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir

WHEREAS, the Jamestown S'Klallam Indian Tribe (herein after referred to as "the Tribe") was Federally acknowledged by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America on February 10, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council ("Council") is the governing body of the Tribe, in accordance with its Constitution adopted on November 19, 1983, pursuant to the provisions of Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as such Constitution is amended from time-to-time; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, and regulation of treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering practices of the Indian people of the Tribe is the responsibility of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe actively works toward the protection and restoration of its natural resources for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, the Dungeness River watershed is flow-limited most years during the late summer when both agricultural irrigators and ESA-listed salmonids rely on adequate streamflow; and

WHEREAS, reservoirs of water held in annual snowpack and ancient glaciers are decreasing over time, and extreme low-flow conditions on the River are becoming more frequent and exacerbated during drought years; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and local water resource managers have worked for decades on collaborative solutions to low stream flows, especially during dryer months, which coincides with Chinook spawning at a time when already low flows are compounded by irrigation diversions; and

WHEREAS, partnerships have included those with the irrigation community to reduce water withdrawals, and with the Dungeness River Management Team on the Dungeness Instream Flow and Water Management Rule, following many years of related planning; and

WHEREAS, local water resource managers and stakeholders have identified water storage via reservoirs and aquifer recharge as a key recommendation in multiple plans, policies and studies; and

WHEREAS, state funding for streamflow restoration projects will be made available to certain basins in Washington state including the Dungeness as allowed in ESSB 6091 (January 2018) and documentation of support from stakeholders and initiating governments is requested; now

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe supports the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir as its highest priority to implement flow restoration, water storage and aquifer recharge because of its scale, location, cost/benefit and feasibility.



W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman

Certification

I, Lisa M. Barrell, Secretary of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council on October 9, 2018 where a quorum was present and approving the resolution by a vote of 4 FOR and 0 AGAINST with 0 ABSTAINING.



Lisa M. Barrell, Tribal Council Secretary