



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Coastal Region • Region 6 • 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563-9618  
Telephone: (360) 249-4628 • Fax: (360) 249-1229

May 19, 2021

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

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing in support of the *Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir Project*. This project would capture winter and spring high flows in storage, and subsequently supply irrigators in the last 6 weeks of the irrigation season, replacing the water they could divert from the river at critical times for fish and wildlife. Every cubic foot of water provides ESA listed species such as Chinook and Steelhead, and many other salmonids, much-needed additional habitat. The *Dungeness Flow Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Off-Channel Reservoir Project* would also utilize additional storage of high flows and water rights to supply the aquifer recharge program.

The mission of Fish and Wildlife is “*To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities,*” and is crucial in the Dungeness watershed. The watershed is habitat to 4 of 5 pacific salmon, including ESA listed Chinook, Steelhead and Bull Trout.

As you know, the cooperative management approach in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley has been pivotal in achieving ecosystem successes. Over the years, many efforts in the Dungeness River have been directed at conserving water during late summer low flows and producing effective mechanisms for sustainable development. The *Dungeness Flow Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Off-Channel Reservoir Project* offers a solution that would restore roughly 50% of river flows in drought years, and support aquifer recharge for exempt well mitigation. Ensuring that fish and wildlife habitat is not only resilient to human impacts, but available as recreational and valued resources as well, is a vital byproduct of this project.

Our agency fully supports the *Dungeness Flow Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Off-Channel Reservoir Project* as it is a result of extensive collaboration, planning and study. We appreciate being part of the collaborative effort that has discussed the project merits and feasibility. This project is consistent with the goals of our state agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry Phillips", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Larry Phillips, Region 6 Director