



**For Immediate Release**

November 22, 2022

**For More Information Contact:**

Carol Creasey, Clallam County  
360.417.2424  
web\_reservoir@clallamcounty.wa.gov

**Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Preliminary Design Presented at Community Open House  
Benefits Include Up to 50% Improvement in River Flows & a New 400 Acre Clallam County Park**

**Sequim, WA (November 15, 2022)**— Clallam County Department of Public Works, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Dungeness Water Users Association, and other project supporters will present preliminary design for the Dungeness Flow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir at a Community Open House on December 6, 2022, at the Dungeness River Nature Center in Sequim.

This multi-benefit project will improve late summer flows in the Dungeness River by up to 50% for salmon restoration, secure late summer irrigation water for farmers, protect the city of Sequim's storm water infrastructure, and establish a new 400-acre Clallam County park along River Road in the Sequim area.

"This preliminary design represents a significant step forward on this critical project to address climate change impacts on our limited water resources," said Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias, "and we look forward to sharing this design with the community at the Open

House." The meeting will be held at the Dungeness River Nature Center and will feature a presentation by project sponsor Clallam County and design engineers from the engineering firm, Anchor QEA.

The project was envisioned more than ten years ago by the Dungeness Reservoir Work Group, a coalition of partners that includes Clallam County, City of Sequim, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Dungeness Water Users Association (7 Irrigation Districts and Companies), Clallam Conservation District, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Water Trust, as the greatest opportunity to improve streamflows in the Dungeness River.

"The off-channel reservoir is an important community project which will increase river flows in the late summer, when the fish need it most, and ensure water is available for irrigation to help maintain a healthy agricultural community in the valley," noted Ben Smith, President of the Dungeness Water Users Association.

The preliminary Off-channel Reservoir design (also known as 30% design) proposes a 42-acre reservoir located on a parcel 1 mile south of Highway 101 on River Road, which is currently owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The project will capture late winter high river flows from the Dungeness River and store them in the 1600-acre foot reservoir. Clallam County conducted extensive investigation at the proposed reservoir site - including geotechnical, environmental hazards, land surveying, and cultural resources and wetland surveys. The preliminary design incorporates the highest level of safety features to protect landowners downstream.

"Based on our field work," said Carol Creasey, Clallam County Project Manager and Hydrogeologist, "the proposed reservoir location has shifted east and south closer to River Road and the footprint of the project has been reduced by as much as 50% from the 2016 conceptual design."

Water from the reservoir will be used for irrigation to offset diversions from the Dungeness River during the late summer season (August 15-September 15) when Dungeness River flows can fall as low as 50 cubic feet per second (cfs). By using the reservoir instead of the river for

irrigation, the streamflow can be increased as much as 50% in the late season, allowing salmonids to migrate and thrive. Reservoir water will also be used to support groundwater infiltration/aquifer recharge sites to offset new groundwater well use.

“This project can help us address increasingly frequent low snowpack years, which are exacerbated by climate change and threaten to compromise our existing restoration work,” observed Ron Allen, Chair and CEO of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. “These conditions promise that there will not be enough water for instream and out of stream needs in the future if we fail to act.” The Dungeness River has experienced official drought declarations in 2015, 2019, and 2021 and an extreme low flow year in 2016.

The proposed Dungeness reservoir will store as much as 1600-acre feet of water, which in comparison is 8 percent the capacity of the approximately 20,000-acre feet in Lake Sutherland. The flow restoration benefits from reduced agricultural diversions will improve the health of the Dungeness watershed.

Jason Hatch, Program Director of the Washington Water Trust, noted that “improving late Dungeness River summer flows by as much as 50% is proportionally among the largest flow restoration projects ever in this state and another important example of collaborative water supply planning in the watershed.”

The Preliminary Off-channel Reservoir Design will be presented at the Community Open House at the Dungeness River Nature Center located at 1943 W Hendrickson Rd, Sequim, WA 98382 from 6pm-8pm on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The community is encouraged to attend.

Additional information regarding the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir is available at <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/188/Dungeness-Off-Channel-Reservoir>.

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