

## **DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Meeting of October 12, 2005

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

### **Team, Alternate, and Advisory Members Present**

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County	Randy Johnson, WDFW
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners	Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association	Virginia Clark, Quilcene Planning
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries	Cynthia Nelson, DOE
Hansi Hals, Alt. North Olympic Land Trust	Dennis LeFevre, City of Sequim
Peter Schroeder, Riverside Property Owner	Cathy Lear, Alt. Clallam County
Walt Blendermann, Sports Fisheries	Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect the Peninsula's Future	Pam Sanguinetti, Alt. USFW
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District (advisory)	Tom Martin, AWRA (advisory)

### **Others Present**

Robin Stoddard, Sloan Piper, Welden Clark, Daniel Witzak, Selinda Barkhuis, Margaret Duncan and Dave Shreffler, Mary Peck.

## **I. Introductions / Review Agenda / Approval of September 14, 2005 Minutes**

Steve Tharinger, Chair, opened the meeting, and introductions were conducted. Chair Tharinger indicated three (3) additions: 1) Circulation of a Certificate of Appreciation to the Water Users Association from the Team for taking an extra step in shutting down irrigation during September 9-11, 2005 to allow additional water in the Dungeness River to aid salmon in reaching safe spawning areas; 2) Discussion regarding Burnt Hill Draft Plan; and 3) Virginia Clark will provide some information regarding low flows.

Cathy Lear indicated that she would be introducing the new Clallam County Salmon Recovery Planner.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of September 14, 2005 were approved as submitted.

### **Public Comment Period**

Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Center, indicated that parking for the facility should be on the asphalt, and to please respect other facility users. Chair Tharinger supported Bob's views, and indicated that the Team should follow the parking rules, and pointed out the River Center has been very accommodating to the Team's schedule.

## **II. Slab Camp Collaborative Stewardship**

Susan Piper, Forest Wildlife Biologist/Olympic National Forest (project lead for Slab Camp Collaborative Stewardship), indicated that solicitations will be made following the presentation for DRMT members that would like to participate with the team that is to develop the project. The project has a one-year window.

Robin Stoddard began by presenting an overview of stewardship contracting, and indicated that the main goal of stewardship contracting is to achieve land management goals for national forests and the public lands that meet local and rural community needs.

Ms. Stoddard reviewed the following in her presentation:

- Key Elements of the Law;
- New Policy on How to Use the Stewardship Contracting;
- Key Line Officer Responsibility;
- Government Contracting 101;

- Things to Remember When Deciding to do a Stewardship Contract;
- Selecting Appropriate Contract Type; and
- Traditional Service Contract.

Ms. Stoddard discussed the differences between a stewardship contract and a traditional timber sale contract. Further discussion was had regarding best value contracting and examples of best value criteria were given.

Ms. Stoddard discussed goods for services, retention of receipts, and multi-year contracts. Ms. Stoddard explained collaboration vs. multi-party monitoring, what is required for collaboration, stewardship project planning, project selection and design, as well as planning and collaboration. Further discussion was had regarding roles of community collaborators and potential contractors in collaboration.

Ms. Stoddard indicated that the Flat Stewardship Project was the first stewardship project on the Olympic Peninsula in which a flat timber sale was developed into a stewardship contract in a streamlined effort. The Project consisted of commercial thinning of 200 acres of 60-year old trees. The trees were thinned utilizing a variable density thinning prescription, and restoration work includes approximately 40 acres pre-commercial thinning, 7.4 miles road decommissioning, 1.3 miles of road-to-trail conversion, and noxious weed removal and forage habitat enhancement associated with road work. Partners of the Stewardship were identified.

Ms. Stoddard introduced the Dungeness Collaborative Stewardship as an elk habitat and aquatic habitat restoration, and provided some background information.

Ms. Stoddard indicated potential collaborative group partners, and reviewed the timeline. Collaborative group Forest Service contacts include Dean Yoshina, District Ranger, Hood Canal Ranger District, (360) 765-2201, and Susan Piper, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Supervisor's Office, (360) 956-2435.

A question & answer period was had, and discussion was had regarding soliciting Team members to participate in the stewardship program.

### **III. Chinook Broodstock Update**

Dan Witczak, WDFW, began his presentation which included historical Chinook escapement in the Dungeness, the formation of a restoration committee, funding of the broodstock program, project goals, and objectives.

Mr. Witczak discussed spawning survey data, survey index sections, tagging fish, releases, strategies, and future releases. Mr. Witczak indicated that it seemed as though the early spawning August fish wanted to go to the upper watershed, and the later spawning fish tend to want to spawn in the lower River. They seem to be predisposed geographically by spawn timing. Active discussions are continuing to create new strategies in order to get more fish into the upper watershed, where there is better habitat.

Mr. Witczak reported that the average length of Dungeness Chinook goes up to 46 inches which was recorded this year. Age composition indicates that the fish are 4-7 years of age, which is older than what was assumed when the program began.

Mr. Witczak discussed number of tags that have been recovered, and talked more about escapement. The younger age class of those recovered that were seen this year is very encouraging for the future, and we seem to be on an upward trend.

Mr. Witczak indicated that the hope is that funding will continue for a smolt trap each year to have a clearer idea of what is occurring in natural habitat. Discussion was had regarding the captive brood program, however that program has phased out. "Plan B" includes a second phase of low-level supplementation of Chinook to the Dungeness. Current work includes capturing wild Chinook as they

return to the Dungeness. The last cycle was pretty successful in trapping adults due to the drought conditions. Right now, we have about 230,000 eggs taken from adults, and we captured approximately 110 adults – the first one in June and ongoing through September.

The plan is to continue some low-level supplementation to assist the Chinook along, along with habitat work. The goal is for the stock to sustain itself, and supplementation to back off.

In summary, Mr. Witczak indicated that the number of returning adult Chinook has increased over the last 4 years. All program goals were met in the first phase.

#### **IV. Proposed Rezone Request of Land within Siebert Watershed**

*Note: Steve Tharinger announced that he would step out of the room during this presentation on the Siebert rezone to avoid any conflict of interest. Steve was not present for any of the presentation and discussion.*

Randy Johnson began with a brief overview of the zoning patterns in the subject area, and indicated that most of the Commercial Forest zoning is owned by Department of Natural Resources. There is also a small percentage of DNR land that is not zoned Commercial Forest.

Tim McNulty reiterated the historical planning process, and indicated that he was present at one of the Clallam County public hearings with regard to this issue, and shared some thoughts on the conversion. Years of planning and public review went into the County's Comprehensive Plan. Timber companies, Washington Parks, and DNR took an active part in the negotiations. As a result, the plan was a compromise. Mr. McNulty referred to displayed maps and stated that the Comprehensive Plan was developed to ensure that the numerous benefits of forestry to our community would be well distributed across the developing areas of the county. Most of the high density parcels of forest lands have been developed. Currently, there is pressure to develop what is left.

Mr. McNulty indicated that Siebert Creek provides critical habitat for diversity of wildlife, and is a seasonal migration corridor for a host of species, etc. He also noted that the largest threats to areas such as the subject proposal, is residential development. This rezone proposal would set a terrible precedent with regard to conservation of forest lands.

Dave Shreffler indicated that he has been working in Siebert Creek since about 2001 on a variety of different research, restoration, and education projects. The subject area was displayed to the Team in maps and aerial photos. Critical areas were pointed out, as well as critical aquifer recharge areas, topography, landslide hazard and erosion hazard areas. What remains is a mass that is not able to be developed. If development did occur, there would be various problems associated with it.

Mr. Shreffler reported that in 2003 and 2004 he lead a study team of the Siebert Creek Watershed, as it was evident that residential development was coming, and there were concerns about what we could do in order to establish priorities. Mr. Shreffler provided an overview of Siebert Creek, and emphasized one of the key findings of the watershed assessment is that most of the habitats and ecological processes in Siebert Creek are intact. There is only approximately 5% of the watershed that is currently in residential development.

Mr. Shreffler referred to a graphic which outlined the landslide hazards that were mapped throughout the entire watershed, including the proposed rezone area. Seven (7) potential landslide sites were mapped within the subject area. Watershed assessment was conducted by volunteers at various flow events, and photos were taken. The key is that Siebert Creek responds very quickly to relatively minimal rainfall events because it is very steep. Mr. Shreffler noted that one of the key findings of the Siebert Creek Watershed assessment is that stormwater is a very significant concern, in fact it was such a big concern to the project sponsor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that the grant administrator wanted information included in the recommendations that the watershed may be a good place for Clallam County to implement LID guidelines, and to work to reduce any further stormwater effects that may occur.

Mr. Shreffler emphasized that \$4,000,000 - \$5,000,000 has been spent during the last 7 to 8 years upon various restoration, educational, and recreational improvements within the watershed, many of which would be directly or potentially compromised by significant residential development in the middle to upper portion of the watershed.

In closing, Mr. Shreffler reviewed five (5) criteria for why the rezone should be denied, and he recommended that the Team consider submitting a letter in writing to the Board of County Commissioners opposing the proposed rezone application.

Al Moore made a motion that the Team draft a letter in opposition of the proposed rezone request, and be forwarded via email for approval. The motion was seconded. Discussion was had. Following a vote, the motion passed. Cathy Lear and Steve Tharinger abstained from the vote. Randy Johnson, Hilton Turnbull and Cynthia Nelson were to work on the letter and circulate.

## **V. DRMT Ground Rules / Procedures**

Discussion was had regarding the draft modified and approved ground rules which were distributed, and the following amendments were made:

Page 1, Background: Years were updated.

Page 3, Goals: Goals and Mission Statement were updated with approved language from 2002.

Throughout document: The term “consensus” was changed to “mutual agreement.”

Page 6, Section VI, Public Comment, Item 3: At least 10 minutes at beginning and end ...reserved for public comment.

Page 7, Membership: The list of Team Members and Alternates was updated.

Page 5, Section IV. Geographical Focus of DRMT:

It was noted that Sequim Bay and drainages were missing from the focus area, and should be inserted.

*Note: Shawn added language to describe the history of how the geographic area was chosen. The section now reads: On March 12, 1997 the DRMT adopted a Geographic Focus Area to include the Dungeness Watershed and those waters influenced by it through the irrigation system. This includes the area encompassed by Bagley Creek on the west to the west edge of Sequim Bay on the East, and includes the Dungeness and Gray Wolf Rivers, Siebert, McDonald, Matriotti, Meadowbrook, Cooper, Cassalery, Gierin, Bell and Johnson Creeks and their tributaries. At the same time, the DRMT has also focused on restoration strategies for the Sequim Bay Watershed, and in 2001 officially acknowledged it as a part of DRMT's watershed planning efforts. Thus, Sequim Bay and its drainages are included in the DRMT's Geographic Focus Area.*

Page 9, Section IX, Ground Rules, Item (c):

“This written dissent will go forward with the recommendation in an appendix.”

Page 10, Item 3. Members at the Table:

The first sentence should be amended to read, “*Regular and alternate DRMT members sit at the table*”.

The second sentence should read, “*Other persons in the audience must be called upon by the Chairperson to speak*”.

A motion was made to approve the draft modified and approved ground rules and procedures, as amended. The motion was seconded. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Announcements and/or Other Updates**

### DOE Grant Proposals

Cynthia Nelson announced that the County applied for an Ecology grant to hire someone to assist DRMT, for example in typing up more thorough minutes.

Cathy Lear announced that Carol Creasey is no longer the County's salmon recovery planner, as she has accepted a position with the County as a Senior Planner, Long Range Planning. Ms. Lear introduced the new salmon recovery planner, Shelly Solomon, who has 5 years background with Jefferson County, and has done a lot of work on the Hoh River. Ms. Solomon holds degrees in biology and landscape architecture, and has done some interesting restoration work on polluted lakes in California.

### NASA Proposal

Ms. Lear indicated that in terms of NASA, the pre-proposal that some folks began working on last spring was accepted by NASA, and now will go onto the proposal stage with the proposal due on November 22, 2005. Ms. Lear requested that the committee that worked on the pre-proposal be reconstituted for continued work of the proposal, and will also be asking for a letter of support from the Team.

Tony Ingersoll, U.S. Department of Agriculture provided some additional information.

## **VII. Adjourn**