



DOWNSTREAM DUNGENESS

2019 DUNGENESS WATER EXCHANGE ANNUAL REPORT

Collaboration Counts

The Dungeness River watershed continues to be at the forefront of sustainable water management.

While other watersheds across the state are now working to restore and balance the impacts on groundwater and streams, thanks to each mitigation certificate holder, and collaboration of watershed partners, **the Dungeness is leading the way.**

The Dungeness community continues to implement sustainable water management projects to protect this special place, from the Olympic Mountains to the *Downstream Dungeness*.



“What is the future of our water here? When you’re in charge of your own water system or of your own well, you need to know considerably more. What we do does affect our immediate environment.”

— Carrol Hull, Sequim Local



“Making sure we have abundant and clean water strikes to our very being. I think we all understand it’s a necessity for all life, including our own.”

—Hansi Hals, Natural Resource Director at Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Where Does Your Fee Go?

When obtaining a DWE indoor mitigation certificate, each applicant pays a one-time \$1,000 fee. Landowner fees help cover the costs of:

Groundwater Recharge managing sites to replenish groundwater and streams

Mitigation Certificate reviewing application, property records and issuing mitigation certificate

Water buying portion of water right in the DWE, to offset new water use

Monitoring meter data and groundwater recharge quantities

Although the mitigation fee is a one-time cost to landowners, maintaining a mitigation program requires ongoing monitoring and groundwater recharge.

Compared with other water mitigation programs allowing a similar amount of water use per certificate, DWE is the least expensive in the state. The next least expensive water mitigation fee in the state is more than three times the cost of DWE, in Kittitas County.

Since the DWE program began in 2013, public funding has been essential to

development of the DWE, significantly reducing the cost to landowners. To date, roughly 77% of total mitigation costs such as the purchase of mitigation water

to start DWE, construction of groundwater recharge sites and ongoing operations have been covered through public investment. DWE is not-for-profit.

TOTAL DWE FUNDING

23% 77%

Landowner Investment

Public Investment



30%
Groundwater
Recharge

30%
Mitigation
Certificate

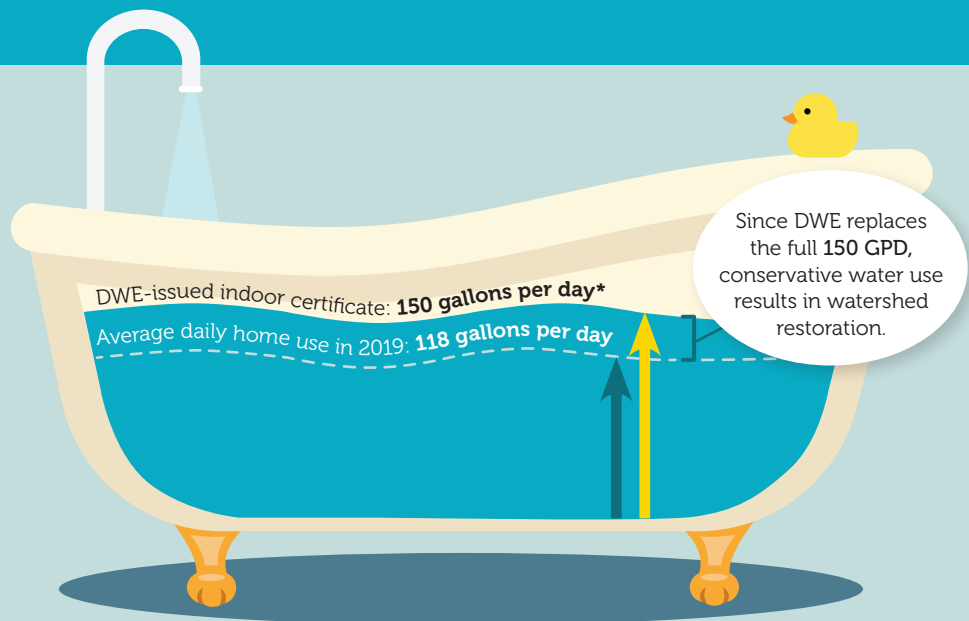
20%
Water

20%
Monitoring

This is an estimation based on historical trends.

How much water does a home use?

The Dungeness Water Exchange (DWE) issues indoor mitigation certificates for 150 gallons per day (GPD) as an annual average, based on a home of two people.* DWE has reviewed water meter data since 2014 and has found that the actual use in the majority of homes is below 150 GPD. In August of 2019—a month of peak demand for farms, fish and residential wells—an average DWE certificate holder used 118 GPD, according to new cellular meter data. For more information on free cellular meters contact info@clallamcd.org.

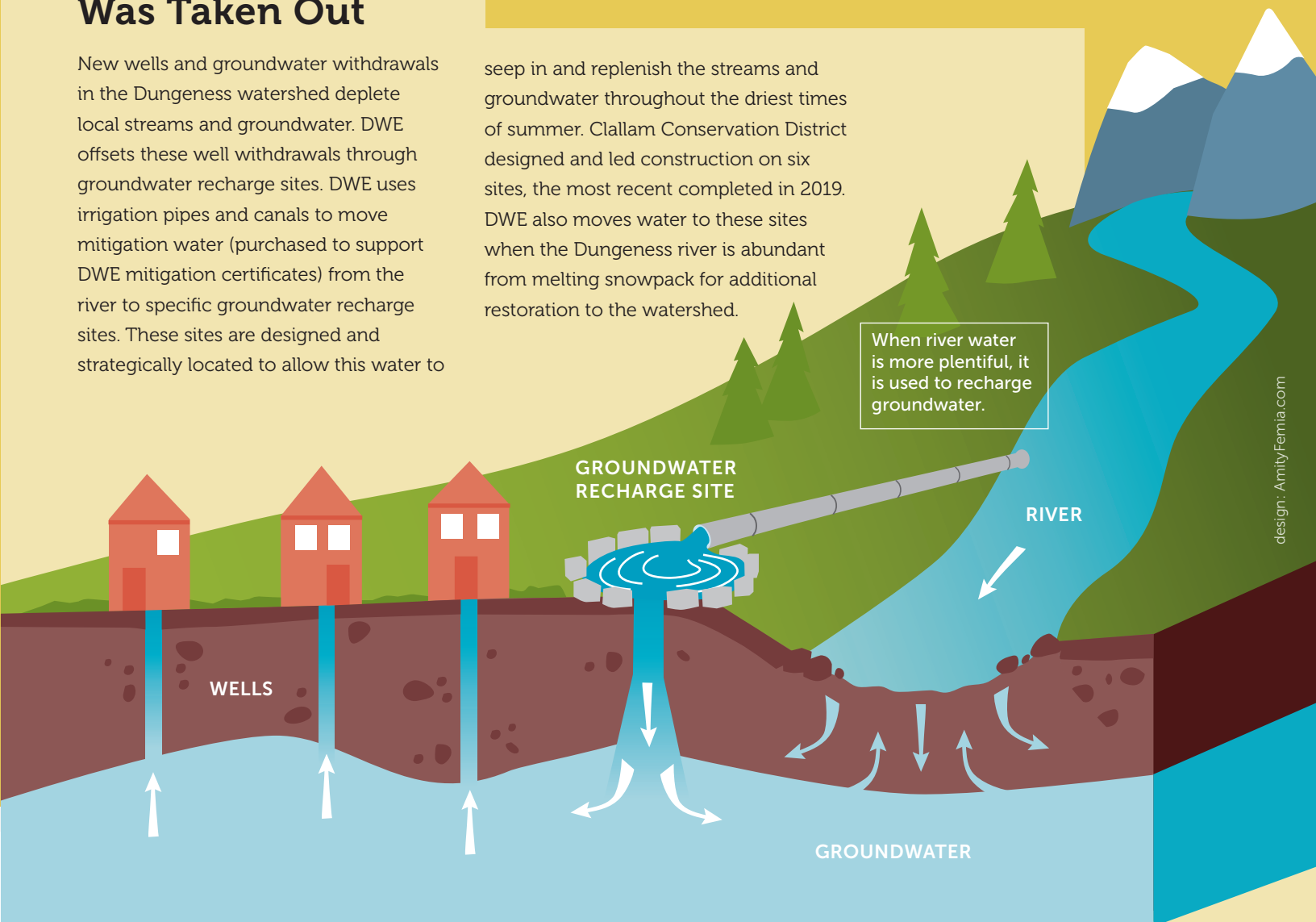


**It is recognized that with more than two home occupants, usage may differ.*

Replacing What Was Taken Out

New wells and groundwater withdrawals in the Dungeness watershed deplete local streams and groundwater. DWE offsets these well withdrawals through groundwater recharge sites. DWE uses irrigation pipes and canals to move mitigation water (purchased to support DWE mitigation certificates) from the river to specific groundwater recharge sites. These sites are designed and strategically located to allow this water to

seep in and replenish the streams and groundwater throughout the driest times of summer. Clallam Conservation District designed and led construction on six sites, the most recent completed in 2019. DWE also moves water to these sites when the Dungeness river is abundant from melting snowpack for additional restoration to the watershed.



design: AmityFemia.com

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Local Farmers Help Boost River Flows During 2019 Drought



Danny Smith on his farm talking over the drought program with Washington Water Trust Project Manager Emily Dick.

Twenty farmers across the Dungeness watershed agreed to stop irrigating their crops August 15th–September 15th. Participating irrigators were compensated with state drought funding. The result of this partnership was restoring more than 10% of Dungeness River flows at a critical time for endangered salmon.

In May 2019, drought was declared in 27 watersheds across the state, the Dungeness being one of them. By August 15th, when the participating farmers ceased irrigating, the Dungeness River had dropped to 90% of the minimum flow needed for fish. Flows continued to drop as low as 74% of the minimum flow needed for fish. Without these agreements, the Dungeness River would have seen levels similar to those in the historic 2015 drought.

The resilience of the Dungeness watershed is exemplified by these collaborative efforts.

DOWNSTREAM DUNGENESS, the annual report for mitigation certificate holders, shares information about the operations of the Dungeness Water Exchange (DWE) and the status of other local water conservation efforts. A mitigation certificate is one part of a host of projects to ensure water sustainability in the Dungeness watershed now and into the future.

Dungeness Water Exchange
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Questions or comments, please contact
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