

DOWNSTREAM DUNGENESS

2020 DUNGENESS WATER EXCHANGE ANNUAL REPORT

Sunny Skies Impact Our Water Supply

The Dungeness River basin is located in the Olympic Rain Shadow where the mountains act as a barrier that trap precipitation events from reaching the Sequim area. While other regions of the Olympic Peninsula receive the largest amounts of rainfall in the state, Sequim's annual rainfall (16 inches/year) is more similar to that of Spokane, WA.

Less annual rainfall means less water to replenish groundwater, which is important for healthy, flowing rivers and streams in the summer months when people and fish need water the most.

"Water management in the Dungeness watershed has a long-standing history. What's new is that our natural reservoirs in mountain glaciers are disappearing. As a water supply professional, I am grateful for the groundwater recharge that the Exchange has made possible."

—Ann Soule, Resource Manager
at the City of Sequim



Olympic Rain Shadow

Your Mitigation Certificate Protects Rivers

DWE is a water bank that provides water mitigation for residents in the Dungeness Water Rule Area. DWE allows for new water uses while protecting river and stream flows in the Dungeness watershed long into the future.



Your mitigation certificate fee covers the cost of

Mitigation Certificate: application processing and certificate issuance

DWE Water Right: buying a portion of the water right held by DWE to offset new water use

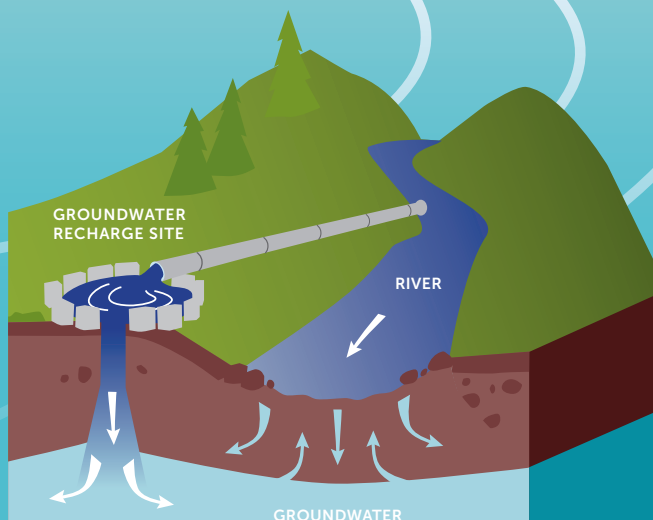
Groundwater Recharge Program: program that actively replenishes groundwater, rivers, and streams

Monitoring: tracking meter data and groundwater recharge quantities

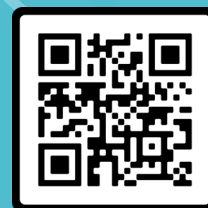
It's All Connected

Groundwater, rivers, and streams are all hydrologically connected in the Dungeness Basin. This means that, without mitigation, new wells and water withdrawals can negatively impact local river and stream flows.

DWE replenishes groundwater through the recharge program, designed to return the same amount of water to the Dungeness River and streams as is taken out by new water uses. DWE uses existing infrastructure to move water from the Dungeness River when water is plentiful to groundwater recharge sites. This program replenishes groundwater, streams, and the River throughout the driest periods of summer.



To learn more
about your watershed,
scan this code
to watch
From Source to Sea:
Dungeness
Watershed.



Dungeness Water Exchange
c/o Washington Water Trust
1500 Westlake Avenue N
Suite 202
Seattle, WA 98109



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*.

Restoration Projects in My Watershed

The Dungeness River provides vital habitat for bull trout, steelhead, chinook and pink salmon. However, decreasing flows in the Dungeness River has led to habitat loss and threatens the survival of these species. There are two ongoing projects that seek to address the issues facing the Dungeness River:

Dungeness River Floodplains and Farmlands Project

This restoration project will set back nearly a mile of constructed embankment to restore, permanently conserve, and reconnect 62 acres of historic floodplain to the Dungeness River. The project will

support existing farmlands while restoring river and estuary health for the benefit of salmon, birds, and shellfish.

Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir

This reservoir represents the greatest flow restoration opportunity in the Dungeness basin, increasing late season flows up to 50% as well as restoring up to 35% of habitat area for fish in the lower 11 miles of the river. The reservoir will provide a reliable and resilient irrigation water supply for farmers and reduce local flood hazards from upland storm events.

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 River Restoration Projects



Dungeness Water Exchange
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Questions or comments, please contact
dwe@washingtonwatertrust.org