

## **Dungeness Watershed Action Plan Conference Call Notes, November 7, 2011**

Participants (10): John Woolley, Mike Anderson, Judith Morris, Susan Piper, Ross Krumpe, Scott Chitwood, Rebecca Wolfe, Tim McNulty, Bob Metzger, Dean Yoshina

### October 17 Workshop Debrief

- Mike thanked the Tribe for hosting the workshop. Scott said that the Tribe was happy to bring together people to improve the health of the Dungeness watershed and that he thought the workshop's objectives were achieved. Tim said that the workshop was well organized and informative. Judith said it was one of the better such events that she has attended. John thought that it drifted away from restoration focus toward the end. Jeff and Ross said that recreation is an important part of the long-term future of the watershed. Susan said that she was pleased with the diversity of people who attended.
- The Forest Service has prepared a transcript of workshop proceedings that will be shared with participants and posted on the Dungeness WAP webpage.

### New Public Comments

- Susan said that the Forest Service received 11 comment letters between October 17 and 31. Comments dealt with the following:
  - Silver Creek Trail – some concerns about decommissioning the road, access to the lake;
  - Eddy Creek Trail – some people like the trail system, others are concerned about cost;
  - Suggestion to restore the Gold Creek shelter. Jeff said that the old shelter was removed after a tree fell on it more than a decade ago. WTA and BCHW support restoring it;
  - WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is supportive of the plan, especially wildlife enhancement;
  - Lower Gray Wolf Bridge – concern about location on unstable ground;
  - Recreation trails study – some point out volunteer advantages, others are concerned about large scale of proposal.
- Rebecca suggested that the action plan should reference the Watershed Condition Framework information about each sub-watershed.
- Tim said that the DNR developed a mixed-use recreation plan for the Burnt Hill area near Sequim, but litigation and lack of money for enforcement have slowed down implementation.
- In response to Ross's question about the DNR's Discovery Pass, Rebecca explained that, due to lack of funding for trail design, engineering, maintenance, and enforcement on the motorized and non-motorized trails on WA State's DNR-managed lands, the state passed the bill to implement this users' fee. It can be used on any state lands. Ross added that he had not heard of this previously and was glad to know why this users' fee was being charged.

### Next Steps

- Dean joined the call and asked for the group's thoughts on how to move forward.
- Mike said that he thought there was 90-95% agreement on the projects proposed at the workshop and would like to keep the positive momentum going toward a final plan.
- Jeff that there are lots of roads with no potential for trail conversion and that the plan should prioritize those for decommissioning.

- Dean said that he would like to meet with Jeff, Ross, John and others about the recreation proposals later this month. He suggested having a final public meeting in December or January.
- Ross thought there might be smaller public turnout if the meeting was during the holiday season.
- Jeff said that Secretary of Interior Salazar recently selected the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail as one of two America's Great Outdoors projects in Washington State. The trail route goes through the Dungeness watershed.
- Scott asked if a Forest Service representative would attend this month's DRMT meeting. Dean said he would try. DRMT's financial woes continue to grow, due to reduced county funding.
- Dean said that the National Forest Foundation has a grant program to support community groups' capacity to collaborate. Tribes are eligible to apply. Application deadline is December 13. More information about the grant program is available at <http://www.nationalforests.org/conservation/grantprograms/capacitybuilding/ccls>.

Next conference call will be scheduled after the Forest Service has conferred about potential dates for a public meeting.