



Community Development - Dungeness Reservoir 30401.311.

Mission Statement

Construct a Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir to restore flows to the Dungeness River in late summer by storing water from the Dungeness River during winter and spring when flows are plentiful. This stored water will be used in late summer in place of water withdrawn directly from the river when flows are at their lowest to restore streamflow to the River, provide for a stable, drought-resistant and climate-resilient water supply for local agriculture, and other benefits.

Function

The Dungeness River is an important water supply for local farms, communities, and four Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species. Dungeness salmon and steelhead numbers have decreased significantly over the past 150 years. A significant contributor to decreased fish numbers is low streamflow in the late summer. Agricultural users withdraw up to 50% of river flows in late summer. Climate change is projected to further decrease summer season streamflow. Low streamflow means dangerously high water temperatures and passage challenges for fish. This project is intended to provide the following environmental and community benefits:

- *Streamflow Restoration* - The project will restore between 15-25 cfs of flow in the Dungeness River during late summer, greatly improving low streamflow's and fish passage, restoring habitat, and reducing water temperature for ESA-listed salmon, steelhead and bull trout.
- *Agriculture/Irrigation* - The reservoir would benefit agricultural needs by providing greater water supply reliability in late summer.
- *Aquifer Recharge* - Stored water from the reservoir can be used for aquifer recharge to increase groundwater levels in the heavily tapped shallow aquifer as well as augment flows in local streams, and offset the impact of new domestic well development.
- *Climate-Resilient Water Supply* - Decreasing water supplies for both people and the environment is a significant climate concern for eastern Clallam County. This project will use water storage to provide a reliable climate-resilient water supply for farmers, help offset the impact of new domestic wells, and leave more water in-stream for fish.
- *Floodwater Management* - The project also provides a space for the City of Sequim to construct a stormwater retention facility that will alleviate downstream flooding in the City.

- *Recreation* - The Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir facility would be located on a portion of an approximately 400-acre of lands previously owned by the WA Department of Natural Resources, but now owned and managed by the County as a Clallam County Public Park. These lands are popular for hiking, biking, equestrian, river access and other outdoor activities.

The Clallam County Public Works Department facilitates project management, grant writing and administration, project design, public outreach, and consultant services to address the above functions.

Trends/Events

The concept for and planning of an off-channel reservoir started over a decade ago. In 2019, the County became project lead in partnership with the City of Sequim, Clallam Conservation District, Dungeness Water Users Association, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, WA Dept. of Ecology, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Water Trust. Key project milestones include, but not limited to:

- Secured nearly six million of state grant funding to support land acquisition, design, permitting, public and partner outreach, water rights, and other related work.
- Completed preliminary seismic/geohazard, environmental, and cultural resources site assessments.
- Conducted preliminary soil borings, monitoring well installations, surveying, and geophysics work.
- Completed Draft Preliminary Basis of Design Report (March 2022).
- Completed a Draft 30% Preliminary Design (March 2022).
- Held a December 6, 2022, Public Open House on the Preliminary Design, and another Public Open house in October 2024.

Developed and maintain a project website at: www.clallamcountywa.gov/188/Dungeness-Off-Channel-Reservoir <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/188/Dungeness-Off-Channel-Reservoir>

- Initiated work on preparing local, state, and federal permit applications.
- Initiated and continue regular partner and stakeholder project outreach and meetings.
- Cleanup of Old Sequim Dump in Summer of 2025
- County land purchase and transfer completed in Fall 2024.
- Completion of a Fault Hazard Evaluation Report resulting in a recommended area of construction and 4 preliminary configurations.
- Awarded federal appropriation of \$2,727,870 to support needed piping improvements of the Highland Irrigation Ditch main canal that will convey water from the Dungeness River to the reservoir facility.
- Awarded a federal grant of ~ \$1.8 million to support upgrades to the irrigation water intake/diversion facility, additional irrigation ditch piping improvements, and other infrastructure improvements needed to support the reservoir project.

- Pending award of ~\$30 million from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for design and construction of the reservoir. Award will include an extra ~\$1.2 million for the design and construction of the Stormwater Capture, Aquifer Recharge, and Infiltration Facility (SCARIF), a project originally being executed by the City of Sequim but will now be executed by the County.

Project objectives in 2026 include finalizing off-channel reservoir and related infrastructure needed improvement designs (e.g., water intake/diversion upgrades), securing or submitting all required local, state and federal permits, and administration of the FEMA HMGP funding.

Goals

- Capture high flows and store it in the reservoir for late summer mainstream flow restoration, exempt well mitigation, and small stream restoration by managed aquifer recharge.
- Restore 15-25 cfs of Dungeness River flows by substituting irrigation water supply (typically diverted from the river) with reservoir water.
- Capture floodwater that can damage infrastructure in the City of Sequim and Clallam County.
- Create a new county park.
- Provide climate resiliency for people, farms, and fish in the Dungeness Valley.

Workload Indicators

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual
Hours worked on Dungeness Reservoir:	1,048	2121	1221.5

Grant Funding Sources

2019 WA. State Department of Ecology Streamflow Restoration Grant
 2021 WA Irrigation Efficiencies Grant (Completed)
 2022 WA Irrigation Efficiencies Grant (Completed)
 FY 2022 US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Grant
 FY 2023 Federal Congressional Directed Spending Award

Revenues

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	693,919	1,403,995	1,346,010	1,093,548
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	972,114	592,597	215,475	3,452,782
Charges for Goods and Services	145,420	0	0	0

Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funding Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	800,000	0	0	0
Total	2,611,453	1,996,592	1,561,485	4,546,330

Expenditures

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Ending Fund Balance	1,403,995	1,346,010	1,274,286	548,580
Salaries and Wages	0	0	0	0
Personnel Benefits	0	0	0	0
Supplies	0	0	0	0
Other Services and Charges	1,171,779	579,714	266,056	3,399,252
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	35,679	70,870	21,143	67,660
Transfers Out	0	0	0	530,838
Total	2,611,453	1,996,594	1,561,485	4,546,330

Staffing

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	6/30/25 Actual	2026 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00