



JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

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February 4, 2011

Ted Sturdevant, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Cooperator's Agreement, WRIA 18 East – Dungeness Watershed Guiding Principles for Managing Water

Dear Ted:

On behalf of our Tribe, I wanted to offer our support to the effort that you have undertaken to organize a local working group made up of your agency, Clallam County and the Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association. I understand that this group will generate locally-based, practical ideas for managing water within the eastern portion of WRIA 18. The Tribe believes strongly that a water resources management rule is needed for the geographic area between Sequim Bay and Morse Creek. If this Cooperators Agreement leads to an effective rule then we are in support of it.

As you know the Tribe has been an active participant in all the water resource management planning efforts for our region over the past 30 years. Our continued involvement is primarily linked to our Treaty-reserved rights to fish and wildlife and the habitat that supports these valuable resources. Our Tribe is an interested government and an active part of the local community.

Many plans concerning water management in WRIA 18 have been produced over the last 30 years. Most recently, in 2005, all participating governments approved the WRIA 18, Dungeness – Elwha Watershed Plan. Six years later we struggle to implement the watershed plan that we all approved. We still do not have a rule that guides management of water resources in our region. Four species of fish are now listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The State and the Tribe's fish and wildlife resources are in peril across the region. The time to advance effective and responsible management of our precious water resource is now.

The Tribe applauds the goals of the Cooperative Agreement. We do need to prevent flow reduction in all streams. We do need to recognize that new water users will be coming in the future. We do need to have agriculture in the valley. Stream flows in the Dungeness need to be restored and we need to do the same for other surface waters. If we can develop a rule that does all this within the 12 months that you have set aside then we will have spent the time wisely.

I have directed my staff to support the efforts of the Cooperative Agreement and to assist in completing its goals. I look forward to the product that this group will provide and the rule that is developed as a result.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (360) 681-4621 or email me at rallen@jamestowntribe.org if you have any questions or clarifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ron Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO