

Water Resources Management Program for the Dungeness Portion of the Elwha-Dungeness Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA 18)

The Department of Ecology is proposing to adopt Chapter 173-518 WAC, a water management program for the Dungeness Water Resources Inventory Area 18 (WRIA 18). The proposal notice will be published in the Washington State Register on June 6, 2012. Ecology is taking public comments on the proposed rule until 5:00 pm, **July 9, 2012**.

To better manage water resources in the Dungeness watershed, the local Watershed Planning Unit recommended that Ecology adopt, in rule, a water resource management strategy for the watershed, including protection of instream flows and mitigation requirements for new water uses. The Watershed Plan recommendations were approved by the Clallam County Board of Commissioners on June 7, 2005. The key rule elements include:

- Setting instream flow levels in the watershed to protect aquatic resources, including habitat for threatened salmonids;
- Closing surface waters to new withdrawals with the exception of seasonal water from the Dungeness River;
- Requiring mitigation for all new consumptive use of water, including permit-exempt withdrawals;
- Establishing reserves of water for future indoor domestic use;
- Setting maximum allocations of water from the mainstem Dungeness during the open period;
- Allowing storage projects; and
- Requiring measuring of new water uses.

Ecology has issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act, a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS), a Preliminary Cost Benefit and Least Burdensome Analyses, and rule language which are also available for review and comment until 5:00 pm, **July 9, 2012**.

INFORMATION

Open House and Public Hearing

EXTENDED HOURS

NEW LOCATION

Thursday, June 28, 2012
3:30 pm, Open House
6:00 pm, Presentation with Q&A followed by hearing

Sequim Community Church
950 North Fifth Avenue
Sequim, WA

Contact information:

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You can visit the web site at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/dungeness.html>

Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6872. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call (877) 833-6341.

Public hearing schedule

The open house and public hearing is being held on Thursday, June 28, 2012 at the Sequim Community Church, 950 North Fifth Ave. in Sequim. The open house begins at 3:30 with staff available at information stations to answer questions about your specific property. At 6:00 the presentation begins with a question and answer session followed by the public hearing. At the public hearing citizens will have the opportunity to provide oral comments.

How to submit your comments

Comment period ends **July 9, 2012**. Comments must be received by 5:00 pm.

You can give us your official comments in the following ways:

1. Testify or submit written comments at public hearings.
2. Visit our website and submit comments electronically at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/dungeness.html>
3. Email your comments to Ann Wessel at: awes461@ecy.wa.gov
4. Fax comments to (360) 715-5225, Attention: Ann Wessel
5. Mail comments to:

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office
Attn: Ann Wessel
1440--10th Street, Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028

Ecology's response to your comments

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record. We will publish responses to comments in a document called a Concise Explanatory Statement (CES). The CES is required by the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05) and is available after the rule is adopted. You will find your name listed in the document with a reference to where, in the document, Ecology responded your comments.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule no earlier than **August 31, 2012**.