

Know Your Watershed

The highest recorded instantaneous flow in the Dungeness was 7,610 cubic feet per second in January 2002.



Know Your Watershed

There is evidence
of human
habitation in the
Dungeness for
15,000 years
(Manis Mastadon)



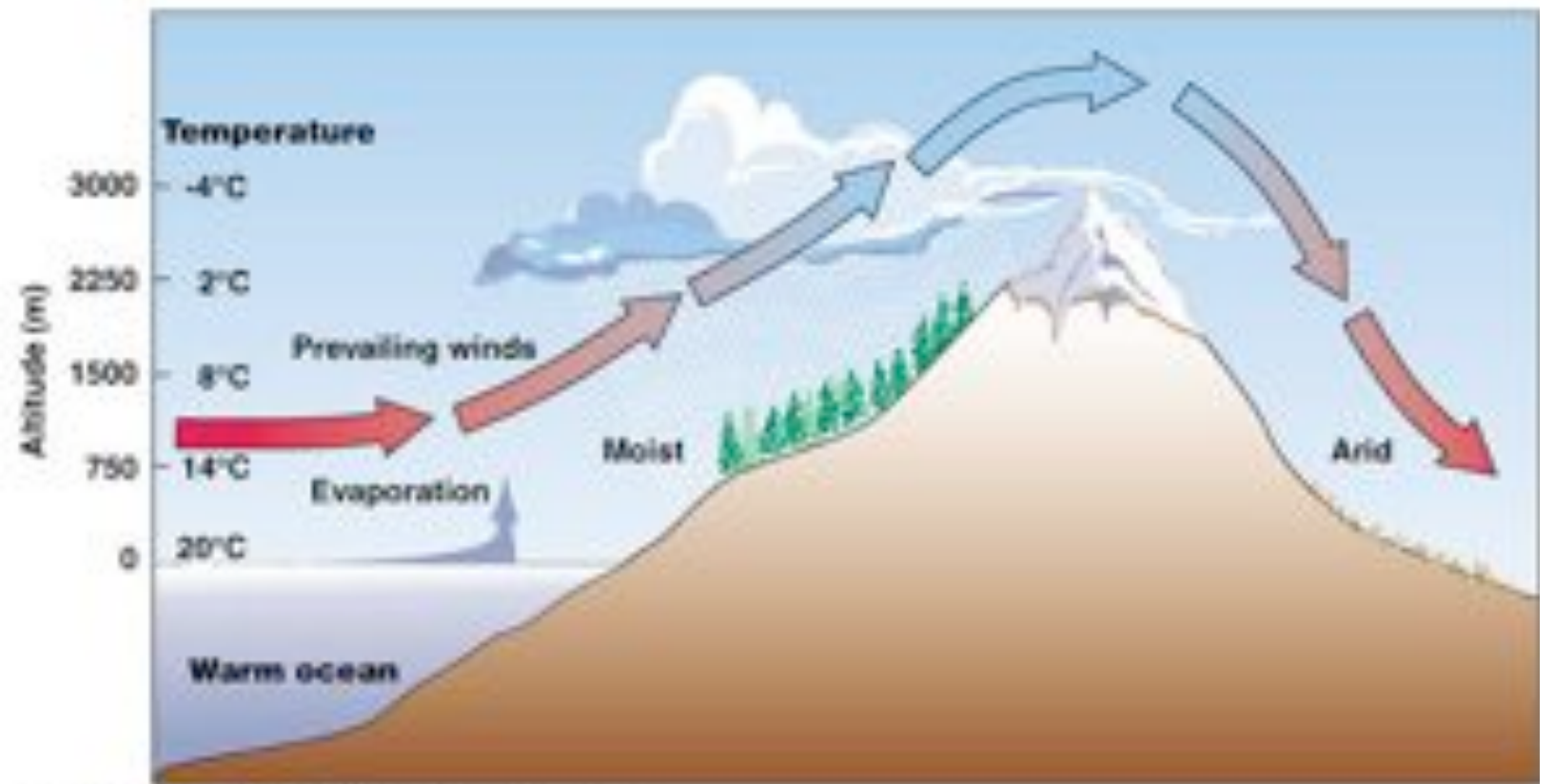
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No native granite occurs in the Olympic Mountains. Granite that is found in the Olympics was carried south from British Columbia by glaciers.

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Sequim averages between 14 and 17 inches annually. In a 15-year period between 1979 and 1993, the highest rainfall was 20.24 inches in 1983, and the lowest was 11.71 inches in 1987.



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There are seven stocks of salmonids in the Dungeness: Chinook; Chum; Coho; Pink; Steelhead; Cutthroat and Char.

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The lower 11 miles of the Dungeness River contain one of the largest remaining lowland riparian forests in western Washington, providing food and shelter for many species of fish and wildlife.



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Are There Fish In the River Now?



YES! Adult salmon are in the river from summer to winter, and young salmon are present the whole year.

There 9 species of salmonids in the Dungeness River that include:

Chinook - Threatened

Coho - Depressed

Summer & Fall Pink - Depressed

Summer & Fall Chum - Threatened

Bull Troat - Threatened

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What is a riparian zone?

A riparian zone is the forests found beside rivers and streams, made of moisture-loving plants.

What do they do for us?

- Reduce flooding by slowing down the river and providing side channels for overflow.
- Provide woody debris to river, creating habitat.
- Shade the river in summer, keeping the water cooler for salmon and other fish.
- Filter out sediments and pollutants, like fertilizers, pesticides, and animal wastes.
- Offer critical habitat and a migration corridor for many types of fish and wildlife.
- Provide recreational opportunities

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How do I protect the Dungeness River Flood plane riparian zone?



- Be careful where you build – Learn where the 100-year flood will occur on your property and plan accordingly.
- Leave as many native plants and woody debris as possible, and plant even more native plants that require less care and watering.
- Control and remove noxious weeds like Scot's Broom, Japanese Knotweed, and Butterfly Bush.
- Protect the river's floodplain and riverside forests - No motorized vehicles or livestock near the river.
- Minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- Inspect and maintain your septic system annually and throw pet waste in the garbage.
- Never dump pesticides, oils, paints, or other chemicals at the river.
- **ALWAYS THINK DOWNSTREAM!** Your actions affect others.

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The invertebrates found in the river like Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddis flies can be great indicators of river health.



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The number of crossings per day on Railroad Bridge over the Dungeness varied from 103/day in December 2008, with cold and snow for about half the month, to 502/day in the last week of July 2009, during a record heat wave.



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The Dungeness River is known as a “wild river,” braided into many side channels.

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The Dungeness watershed contains 97 miles of irrigation ditches.

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The opening of the first irrigation ditch was cause for celebration and the Sequim Irrigation Festival, is the oldest event of its kind in the state.



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The Dungeness River is the second steepest river in the U.S., dropping 7300 feet.

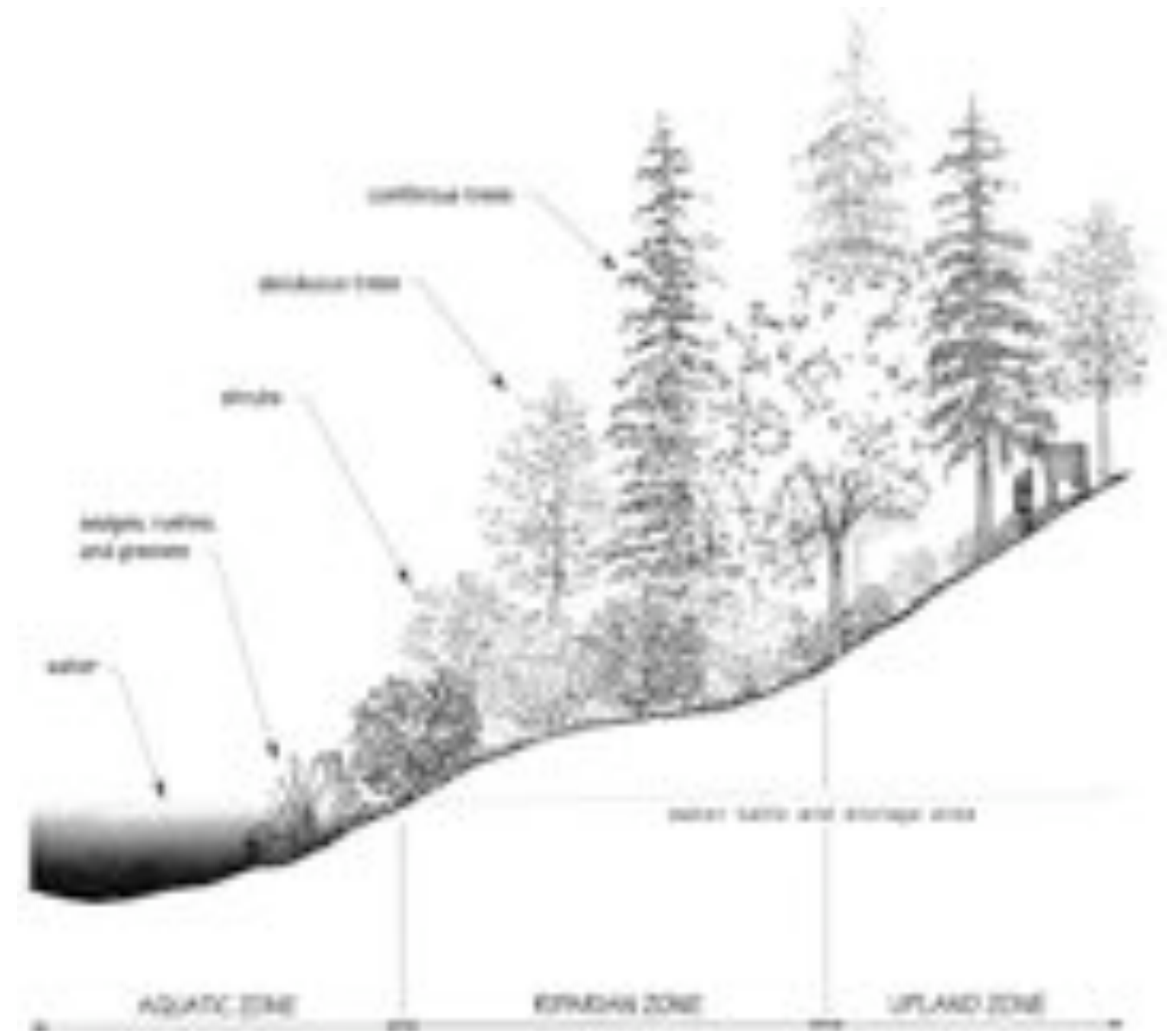
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A 100-year flood is projected from looking at annual flow records over time. Snow pack/ temperature/ weather/ land use all play into the probability that a flood of this magnitude will occur in any given year.



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What is a “riparian zone?”
The transition zone between a river channel and the adjacent upland, known as the “riparian zone,” is integral to a river’s health.



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The Dungeness River riparian zone, located near the Dungeness River Audubon Center, provides exceptional habitat for birds.

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Is a “salmonid species” the same as “salmon species?”

No, The Dungeness River has four salmonid species that are listed as Threatened under the endangered species act (Chinook, chum, bull trout, and steelhead).



Know Your Watershed

Population:
16,000+ people live
in the Dungeness
River Watershed
(74 people per
square mile).

