

Riparian Forests:

The forests found beside rivers and streams, made of moisture-loving plants.



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. Protecting these forests is key to the restoration of salmon populations in the Dungeness River. You can help by following the guidelines within this brochure.

Protecting Dungeness River Water Quality and Habitats Who can you ask for help?



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Taking Care of the Dungeness River and its Riparian Forests

A Guide for Dungeness River Landowners and Neighbors

Presented by Clallam County,
the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
and the Dungeness River
Audubon Center

As a landowner or neighbor along the Dungeness River, you can assist in the care and protection of the river corridor, helping to maintain and improve the quality of riparian, or riverside, forests and the health of the river itself.

What do Riparian Forests do for us?

- They reduce the chance of flooding by slowing down the river and providing sidechannels for overflow.
- They provide woody debris to the river, creating fish habitat.
- They shade the river in summer, keeping the water cooler for salmon and other fish.
- They filter out sediments and pollutants, like fertilizers, pesticides, and animal wastes.
- They provide critical habitat and a migration corridor for many types of fish and wildlife.
- Recreational opportunities



Are there fish in the river right now?

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

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

- Chinook - Threatened
- Coho - Depressed
- Summer and Fall Pink - Depressed
- Summer and Fall Chum - Threatened
- Bull Trout - Threatened

What can you do to protect the Dungeness River Riparian Forest?

- 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 affects others.

