

**From:** [Pelizza, Sylvia](#)  
**To:** [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: help with refuge issue  
**Date:** Friday, June 12, 2015 2:27:21 PM  
**Importance:** High

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FYI.

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**Sylvia R. Pelizza**

Refuge Supervisor - Oregon, Washington, Idaho  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Desk: 503-231-6175  
Cell: 503-201-9040

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dexter, Nathan** <[nathan\\_dexter@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_dexter@fws.gov)>  
Date: Fri, Jun 12, 2015 at 10:36 AM  
Subject: Re: help with refuge issue  
To: "Pelizza, Sylvia" <[sylvia\\_pelizza@fws.gov](mailto:sylvia_pelizza@fws.gov)>

Got it.

**Nathan L. Dexter**

*Native American Liaison*  
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Region  
o: (503) 736-4774  
m: (503) 780-8867  
[nathan\\_dexter@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_dexter@fws.gov)

On Fri, Jun 12, 2015 at 10:27 AM, Pelizza, Sylvia <[sylvia\\_pelizza@fws.gov](mailto:sylvia_pelizza@fws.gov)> wrote:

Yes, please talk with Jennifer. We will be sending a letter to the Solicitor for a review of who actually has jurisdiction.

The Army Corps is also involved.

We have an email that will be going to the tribe explaining everything that we will need to accomplish before they can begin operations.

We will send you a copy as well.

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**Sylvia R. Pelizza**

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On Fri, Jun 12, 2015 at 8:20 AM, Dexter, Nathan <[nathan\\_dexter@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_dexter@fws.gov)> wrote:

Looks like we may need to elevate this somewhat and have a conversation with the tribe. I'm speaking with Jennifer about this as well and will likely be calling Scott Chitwood.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Scott Chitwood" <[schitwood@jamestowntribe.org](mailto:schitwood@jamestowntribe.org)>

Date: Jun 11, 2015 9:05 AM

Subject: help with refuge issue

To: "Dexter, Nathan" <[nathan\\_dexter@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_dexter@fws.gov)>

Cc:

Nathan – I left you a voice mail message about this a few minutes ago. We could really use the Region's help in solving an issue that has emerged between the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge.

We have an ongoing tideland lease with the Washington Department of Natural Resources for areas inside Dungeness Bay and adjacent to the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge. WDNR has a "deed of use" or some other type of easement on the tidelands in Dungeness Bay but the USFWS controls activities near the Refuge. We are not sure how the WDNR-USFWS relationship currently works because we are basically subleasing.

For many years, dating back to the 1950's, there have been private aquaculture operations in Dungeness Bay. The Tribe purchased one of the businesses in the early 1990's and operated the Jamestown Seafood Company for about 15 years. During those 15 years pollution in the Bay increased to the point that health requirements resulted in closed seasons for shellfish production. This, in turn, caused our oyster growing operation to lose its profit margin and the business closed soon afterwards.

Since the seafood business closed, the Tribe has maintained a "holdover lease" with WDNR and we made sure that all those involved knew we would be coming back once the pollution issues were addressed. And we have worked very hard to clean up the Bay in the interim. Kevin Ryan was the Refuge Manager at the time and he was well aware of the Tribe's history in the Bay and our desire to re-establish the oyster growing operation once conditions improved.

Flash forward 10 years... conditions have improved. The seasonal shellfish closures are now less burdensome and the Tribe is ready to again utilize its lease in Dungeness Bay for

oyster production.

Evidently we have run into some issues with the USFWS' Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The new Dungeness Refuge Manager, Jennifer Brown Scott, of course has no knowledge of our previous oyster growing operations or the "hold over" lease we have with the WDNR. As a result we have come to a point where we need outside help.

I am not sure what is needed on the USFWS side but I would be grateful if we could figure it out fairly quickly. We need to be informed about what it is going to take to clear the way so that the Tribe may again utilize the tideland lease it has held with WDNR for the past 25 years.

Thank you for your help.

**Scott Chitwood**

**Natural Resources Director**

**Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe**

**1033 Old Blyn Highway**

**Sequim, WA 98382**

**360-681-4616**

"I love any discourse of rivers, and fish and fishing." Izaak Walton

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