November 25, 2015

The Honorable Ron Allen, Chair
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
1033 Old Blyn Highway
Sequim, Washington 98382

The Honorable Jeromy Sullivan, Chair
Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
31912 Little Boston Road
Kingston, Washington 98346

Dear Chairmen Allen and Sullivan:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitted the "Review and Critique of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Methodology and Conclusion Regarding S’Klallam Hunting, Including Additional Evidence of S’Klallam Hunting on the Western Olympic Peninsula," report by Dr. Josh Wisniewski and reference materials provided to us to Historical Research Associates (HRA) for review.

Per our process for review of tribal traditional hunting information, we also provided copies of Dr. Wisniewski’s report with the affected tribes and solicited their comments. We received comments back via e-mail from the Quileute Tribe on October 21, 2015, which included reports from Dr. Powell and Dr. Boxberger, and a subsequent report from Dr. Boxberger on October 30, 2015, which had been prepared for the Quinault Indian Nation. We forwarded these reports to HRA for their consideration, and noted that Ms. Rasmussen, attorney for the Jamestown and Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribes had received them directly.

We have enclosed a copy of the report we received from Dr. Gail Thompson of HRA, which describes her review methods and considerations, and her conclusions based on all of these reports and reference materials. After our careful review of Dr. Wisniewski’s report, we agree with Dr. Thompson’s conclusions, which are also consistent with the findings of Drs. Powell and Boxberger, that information in the report supporting the traditional hunting use of the Sol Duc and Dickey Game Management Units (GMUs), outside of the Point No Point Treaty ceded area, by the Jamestown and Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribes is insufficient to justify not enforcing state law in these areas.
Therefore, in our opinion, state law would apply to Jamestown and Port Gamble S’Klallam tribal members hunting in the Sol Duc and Dickey GMUs, outside of the Point No Point Treaty ceded area, and individuals may be cited by WDFW Enforcement if there is a violation of state laws and regulations.

As we have noted on several occasions, WDFW sincerely appreciates the co-management relationship we have with the Jamestown and Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribes, and we would certainly be open to considering a Hunting Co-Management Agreement with a geographic scope limited to the Point No Point Treaty ceded area.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule additional discussions, please contact Michele Culver, Regional Director, at (360) 249-1211 or Michele.Culver@dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James Unsworth, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosure

cc: Clallam County Prosecutor
    Joe Shorin, AG’s Office
    Neil Wise, AG’s Office
    Steve Crown, WDFW
    Michele Culver, WDFW
    Nate Pamplin, WDFW