

MINORITY REPORT

Recommendation: Question #3—Regular Meeting of 18 November 2016

Question #3: Should Clallam BOCC seek a trust accounting/performance audit of the DNR's management of its forest board trust lands (FBTLs)?

Vote: Yes-10, Bekkevar, Lea, Reandeu, Beauvais, Pacheco, Murray, Scott, Swanson, Cross, Fleck
No-5, Doherty, Merideth, Byrnes, Sextro, Bork
Abstain-2, Blum, Thaler

Minority Opinion: There was no evidence or detail presented or considered during TLAC meetings as to whether the DNR was managing our timber lands and performing its fiduciary responsibilities in an unsatisfactory manner (while there were lots of opinions on DNR's performance again there were no negative facts). Also, there was scant information and discussion during TLAC meetings regarding the cost of such an accounting/audit compared to the benefits or return-on-investment (ROI) from the outcome (see next paragraph). The discussion leading up to the vote on the question was fraught with uncertainty as to any real positive outcome to the county plus it was clearly stated that this type of evaluation was not commonly done or asked for. We are opposed to this because of the high cost to the county with no clear indication as to the ROI from the outcome and the lack of facts presented and discussed that could be used to judge DNR's accounting and performance. So a NO vote is in the best interest of the public and is the only rational decision.

What was discussed was "inventory" and we learned that DNR tracks its vast tracts of forest using a computer model. That model predicts future forest conditions and projects habitat conditions into the future. The DNR spot checks the model by going to individual stands and doing a fine-grained analysis of forest conditions. The DNR testified that these spot checks have been consistent with the projections established by the computer model. Therefore, it doesn't need to do a more expensive, widespread and fine-grained analysis or accounting because it would be wasting the trust beneficiaries' money while providing no added value. Further, increased detail assists the private timber interests in their evaluation of additional timberland exchanges, such as that done in 2013 (Foothill Land Exchange between DNR and Green Crow) which in many aspects was not in the best interests of the public and Clallam county.

Bibliography: none

Respectively submitted and signed,

Robert Sextro & Josey Paul

Robert Sextro, chair of North Olympic Group (NOG) of the Sierra Club

Josey Paul, representative of NOG of the Sierra Club

Mike Doherty & Brian Grad

Mike Doherty, representative of Clallam County Democratic Party

Brian Grad, alternate representative of Clallam County Democratic Party

Coleman Byrnes & Robert Phreaner & Mary Porter-Solberg

Coleman Byrnes, representative of Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)

Robert Phreaner and Mary Porter-Solberg, co-chairs of Conservation Committee of OPAS