

MINORITY REPORT

Recommendation: Question #4—Special Meeting of 18 November 2016

Question #4: Should Clallam BOCC hire a staffer/consultant with forestry (December vote added “integrated resource management”) experience to act as liaison with DNR in order to monitor, engage, respond and question DNR management of the State Trust Lands?

Vote: Yes-6, Lea, Reandeu, Beauvais, Pacheco, Murray, Fleck
No-5, Scott, Doherty, Thaler, Sextro, Bork
Abstain-1, Byrnes

Minority Opinion: Scant information and discussion occurred during TLAC meetings on the rationale to hire such a forestry liaison for Clallam county, including the advantages and disadvantages. Although the Skagit County model was mentioned, the details of their staff liaison and their interaction and impact on DNR timber harvest activities were never fully presented and discussed, and representatives of Skagit county were not invited to present their information, in person or on the phone. Although several members had opinions supporting a Yes-vote for this question—opinions do not equate to facts—therefore a NO vote is in the best interest of the public and is the only rational decision.

Members of TLAC learned at the monthly meetings that DNR employs a large, highly trained and specialized staff. It also operates advanced computer programs to track forest inventory and conditions and to manage forests for consistent, long-term income. We do not believe that a county forester could match the DNR’s management expertise. Therefore, the hiring of a liaison is an unnecessary expense that further exacerbates the county’s budget shortfall and has the potential to complicate management of the State trust timber lands by DNR.

Also discussed was that by law, the DNR is required to treat all generations of trust beneficiaries equally -- a concept called intergenerational equity. They do this through the Sustainable Harvest Calculation which sets the volume of timber to be scheduled for harvest for the next planning decade. Over time, if DNR increases sales from the sustained yield, it will illegally favor current generations over future generations. If it undercuts the sustained-yield harvest, it will illegally favor future generations over current generations.

The 10-year Sustainable Harvest Calculation is constantly balancing these forces. No county forester can force the DNR to log more or less than the Sustainable Harvest Calculation for the planning decade. To do so would be illegal. DNR's compliance with both its trust and public interest obligations using industry standard inventory and analysis methods would not be improved by county staff/consultant forester."

Bibliography: none

Respectively submitted and signed,

Robert Sextro & Josey Paul

Robert Sextro, chair 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 Democratic Party

Brian Grad, alternate representative of Clallam County Democratic Party

Toby Thaler

Toby Thaler, representative of Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO)