

MINORITY REPORT

Recommendation: Question #2—Special Meeting of 18 November 2016

Question #2: Should Clallam BOCC continue its current role with DNR management of State Forest Lands, without any changes?

Vote: Yes-1, Sextro

No-9, Lea, Reandeau, Beauvais, Pacheco, Murray, Scott, Doherty, Fleck, Byrnes

Abstain-2, Thaler, Bork

MINORITY OPINION:

Sierra Club believes that the Clallam BOCC should not change its current role with DNR regarding DNR's continued management of our Trust/Forest lands because of 2 primary factors—1) the TLAC was never formed because of a "mandate" from the public and 2) through the yearlong meetings of the TLAC, no evidence (only opinions) was presented — much less evaluated — to show that the DNR is improperly managing our trust lands for income, as Commissioner Mike Chapman (the longest serving of the current commissioners) has stated publically many times—the DNR has been a reasonable partner and the county has always received adequate revenue from them.

1) The outcome of the 2015 charter review commission (CRC) presented a false view of a citizen mandate in April 2015 with 14 form letters to the CRC signed by Clallam citizens recommending (or requesting) reconveyance. These petitions were the basis for the claim that the public was demanding reconveyance. CRC voted to send a letter to the BOCC recommending the formation of the TLAC. The 2015 BOCC readily agreed in a 2-1 vote (Chapman voting No). Resolution #70 passed by the BOCC that formed TLAC stated that this committee should focus on the question of reconveyance. The official TLAC vote on Question #1 asking the BOCC to seek reconveyance of the state forest lands was Yes-3 and No-9. Additionally, during the public comment period prior to that vote on 18 November 2016, 62 citizens expressed (either verbally or in writing) a No to reconveyance and only 2 commented Yes to reconveyance—**hardly a public mandate**.

2) Sierra Club believes that DNR has the expertise, management and legal resources to professionally manage our forest trust lands with generational equity for the benefit of our schools, fire districts, hospitals and other special tax beneficiaries (income mandate). Since no evidence (only opinions) was presented — much less evaluated — during TLAC meetings to show that the DNR is improperly managing our trust lands for income and since opinions do not equal facts, we heard no compelling reason to ask the BOCC to change their role and interactions with DNR. However, what we also learned from DNR is that their record of protecting our county's environment and listed species therein (implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan—their environmental mandate) is rather spotty. While DNR's spotty

environmental record is of concern to the Sierra Club it was not addressed and considered by TLAC so it was not part of the question voted on.

What we also learned from DNR testimony during the TLAC meetings was that there is NO net arrearage. We specifically asked DNR about the arrearage that was added to the current 10-year period from the previous 10-year period? DNR responded “that the arrearage carried forward from the previous 10-year period exceeded the negative arrearage”, hence NO net arrearage rather a positive outcome. This was contrary to the misleading campaign by the timber industry that repeatedly claims that arrearage was/is the cause for the loss of jobs, tax revenue and economic vitality in our county. The real cause for economic malaise in Clallam county is exports of whole logs. All the local mills that closed down were the result of the export to Asia of raw logs off private timber lands. Clallam county’s jobs went to China. Additional losses in timber-related employment were caused by over-harvesting in previous years, mechanization in the woods, short harvest rotations and modernization of mills.

Finally, it is truly unfortunate that representatives from Grays Harbor county and Skagit county were not able to either attend a TLAC meeting or call into one to provide us with their insights and experiences on timber-lands management or DNR interactions (Skagit). These other county’s officials might have had valuable information and facts regarding the pros and cons of differing management techniques for our forest lands or that different interactions with DNR could produce favorable outcomes to Clallam county and the various tax districts while maintaining consistency with the Habitat Conservation Plan. Since these interactions with other counties did not happen during the year-long TLAC meetings, again we heard no compelling reason to ask the BOCC to change their role and interactions with DNR.

Bibliography:

<http://portocallpublishing.com/2016/12/twice-told-timber-tales/>

<http://portocallpublishing.com/2016/10/timber-arrearage-the-real-story-by-john-woolley/>

Respectively submitted and signed,

Robert Sextro Et Josey Paul

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