



CLALLAM COUNTY REVENUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2024

MEETING OF THE REVENUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

Chair Connie Beauvais called the meeting to order at 1 p.m., October 30, 2024. Also present were Commissioner Johnson, Marty Brewer, Noah Glaude, Michael Mingee, Ben Pacheco, Gregory Bellamy, John Nutter, Ryan Amiot, David Bingham, Sandra Lyons, Scott Horton, Dan Huff, Diana Reaume, Regan Nickels, and Drew Rosanbalm. Steve Burke, Janine Ledford, and Davis Gedlund were absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Beauvais requested to move agenda item e to the top of the agenda.

ACTION TAKEN: Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as modified, Brewer seconded, mc

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 19, 2024

ACTION TAKEN: Pacheco moved to approve, Mingee seconded, mc

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Cape Flattery School District, Department of Natural Resources correspondences
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on the Comprehensive Plan, North Olympic Development Council, grants, Tribes

BUSINESS ITEMS

e. Forestlands in Clallam County – Connie Beauvais

Beauvais provided a report on forestlands in Clallam County. RAC Members held discussion.

a. Presentation – Duane Emmons, Department of Natural Resources

Duane Emmons, Department of Natural Resources provided report. RAC Members held discussion.

b. Timber Sales – Department of Natural Resources

David Hurn, Department of Natural Resources provided an update regarding timber sales. RAC Members held discussion.

Beauvais read a draft letter to Board of Natural Resources regarding Clallam County trust lands timber sales – Parched, Tree Well, and Alley Cat into the record (see attached).

ACTION TAKEN: Huff moved to approve the letter to DNR, Reaume seconded, mc

c. Legality of the County Forest Board Land Trusts – Jim Buck

Jim Buck provided a presentation on legality of the County forest board land trusts. RAC Members held discussion.

d. PILT Funds Discussion

Commissioner Johnson provided a report on PILT Funds. RAC Members held discussion.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- DNR Report
- Arrearage discussion
- Letter to Board of Natural Resources regarding December timber sales
- Secure Rural Schools Title III funding

CLALLAM COUNTY REVENUE ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES of October 30, 2024
Page 2

- Encumbered lands
- Legal discussion regarding trust lands

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Mary Clark Road park, opposed to unified trust
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on forest, products, tax,

NEXT MEETING

- Monday, November 18, 2024 at 2 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting concluded at 3:45 p.m.



Clallam County Revenue Advisory Committee

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2256 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov

October 30, 2024

WA Board of Natural Resources

RE: Clallam County Trust Land Timber Sales - Parched, Tree Well, Alley Cat

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Clallam County Revenue Advisory Committee, composed of county-wide and junior taxing district representatives and non-voting DNR staff, this letter is sent **in support** of the above-named timber sales before you for approval at the November 2024 Board of Natural Resources meeting. These three sales had been paused by DNR.

Based on DNR estimates, these three sales are expected to bring the following revenue to the listed taxing districts:

Clallam County Roads	\$ 334,392
Port Angeles School District	1,207,618
Port of Port Angeles	47,479
Conservation Futures	7,660
Clallam County	331,228
Fire District #2	359,622
North Olympic Library System	126,148
Hospital District #2	136,493
William Shore Memorial Pool	138,397

These dollars are vitally important to each of these taxing districts, and each of them have a story to tell about how the dollars will be used.

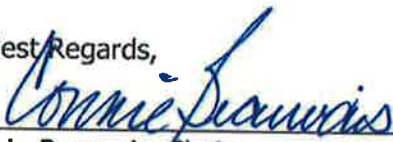
As a reminder, 88,000+ Clallam County acres were conveyed by deed to the State during the 1930's, 40's and 50's, to be managed for forest management and logging by the State Forest Board (now the Board of Natural Resources). After set asides for old growth, the spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, steep and unstable slopes, riparian dependent species, and habitat for future endangered species, the beneficiaries were given surety that no further acres would be set aside for the duration of the habitat conservation plan. Over fifty percent of Clallam County trust lands have been set aside. Of the remaining acres, the 491 acres comprising these three timber sales equals approximately 1% of the total timberland acres available for harvest.

These stands are second or third growth and they are now prime timber acres to be harvested for the beneficiaries. This is exactly what was planned for timberland management under a sustained harvest regime.

DNR staff are to be complimented for their diligence in setting up these sales. They marked large trees not to be cut, set side groups of trees through the units, and are certain that water quality in the Elwha River will not be adversely affected by the harvests.

We ask that these sales be approved as presented and without further delay.

Kindest Regards,



Connie Beauvais, Chair
Clallam County Revenue Advisory Committee (RAC)

cc: Representative Mike Chapman
Representative Steve Tharinger

**REVENUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET
(1ST SESSION)**

General Public Comment – October 30, 2024 – 1st Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

Nº	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Ed Bowen		POB 111 CB
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

**REVENUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET
(1ST SESSION)**

General Public Comment – October 30, 2024 – 2nd Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

No	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Ed Bowen	Ed Bowen	POB 111 CB
2	Jim Bach		
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			



Correspondence

CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE

P.O. Box 1391, Port Angeles, WA 98362 • 360-457-2550 • www.clallamfire2.org

Jake Patterson
Fire Chief

Kelth Cortner
Commissioner

Steve Hopf
Commissioner

Dan Huff
Commissioner

October 30th, 2024

Chair Connie Beauvais
Clallam County Revenue Advisory Committee
223 East 4th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

RE: Proposal for PILT revenue sharing

Chair Beauvais,

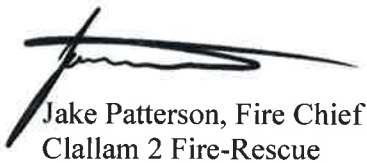
On behalf of the Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue Fire Commissioners, we would like to present a proposal to the Revenue Advisory Committee to consider the distribution of funding received by Clallam County from the Department of Interior in the form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). This funding is meant to offset the loss of taxable property mainly due to the boundaries of Olympic National Park. In turn, the PILT funding is designed to assist local agencies in providing vital government services either directly, or indirectly to Olympic National Park.

Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue provides fire and emergency medical services to several areas within Olympic National Park, but does not receive any of the PILT funding allocated each year to Clallam County. The attached proposal provides a brief overview of the services provided and impact of providing those services has on the fire district.

We believe that PILT funding should be proportionately distributed to local agencies, including junior taxing districts, who provide vital services to Olympic National Park and the millions of visitors who come through Clallam County each year.

This proposal is intended to generate discussion and become a starting point for establishing a framework where Department of Interior PILT payments reach all of the impacted agencies and jurisdictions.

Thank you,



Jake Patterson, Fire Chief
Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue

Executive Summary

Clallam County is home to a large portion of Olympic National Park which generates millions of visitors each year. This has a tremendous positive impact on the local economy, while at the same time it does generate a strain on local government entities to provide essential government services. In an effort to offset some of those impacts, the Department of Interior, which manages the National Park system, provides funding in the form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

Over the last several decades, Clallam County has received millions of dollars in PILT funding, however some of the cost of vital government services that this funding is intended to offset, are not being provided by Clallam County. Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue provides fire and emergency medical services to several, highly visited areas of Olympic National Park but does not received any of the PILT funding dedicated to Clallam County. These areas are located at Deer Park, Hurricane Ridge, Elwha, Lake Crescent, and Sol Duc.

As one of the agencies providing government services to several areas of Olympic National Park, Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue is requesting the Clallam County Revenue Advisor Committee and Clallam County Board of Commissioners consider a revenue sharing agreement for PILT funding. The purpose of this revenue sharing agreement would be to ensure there is an equitable distribution of funding to support all agencies who are impacted by providing services directly, or indirectly to Olympic National Park.

Background

Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue (Fire District) provides fire suppression, technical rescue, and emergency medical services to several areas within Olympic National Park (ONP). This includes the Deer Park, Hurricane Ridge, Elwha, Lake Crescent, and Sol Duc regions of the Park. This is due primarily to the proximity of the Fire District to these areas, and a response agreement which is in place between ONP and Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue to provide those services as the closest emergency response agency.

The services provided by Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue include;

Structural Fire Suppression

ONP does not have any structural fire suppression program and the Fire District provides structural fire response and suppression to the previously designated areas within ONP. This includes not only response to actual fires, but also other emergency responses such as fire alarms, power lines down, vehicle fires, smoke investigations, and other various types of fire emergencies.

Wildland Fire Suppression

While ONP does have a wildland fire program, typically the Fire District is called as the first response agency to provide initial attack on fires within ONP that are accessible by roads. Often Fire District crews spend several hours on a wildland fire before operations are transferred over to ONP personnel.

Technical Rescues

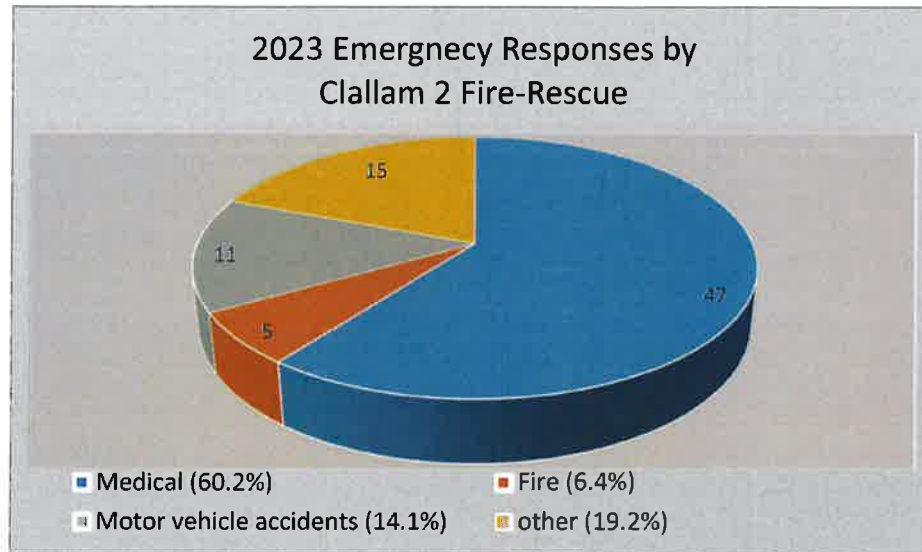
A few times a year, crews from the Fire District are called either to perform, or assist with technical rescues within ONP. The most frequent types of technical rescues involve high-angle/rope rescue operations. Fire District crews have performed these types of rescues along the Hurricane Ridge roadway, usually after a motor vehicle accident. The Fire District's technical rescue team has also been involved in several successful rescues of persons who have fallen over Sol Duc falls. The Fire District also has performed "pack-outs" from various trails and roadways in ONP.

Emergency Medical Services

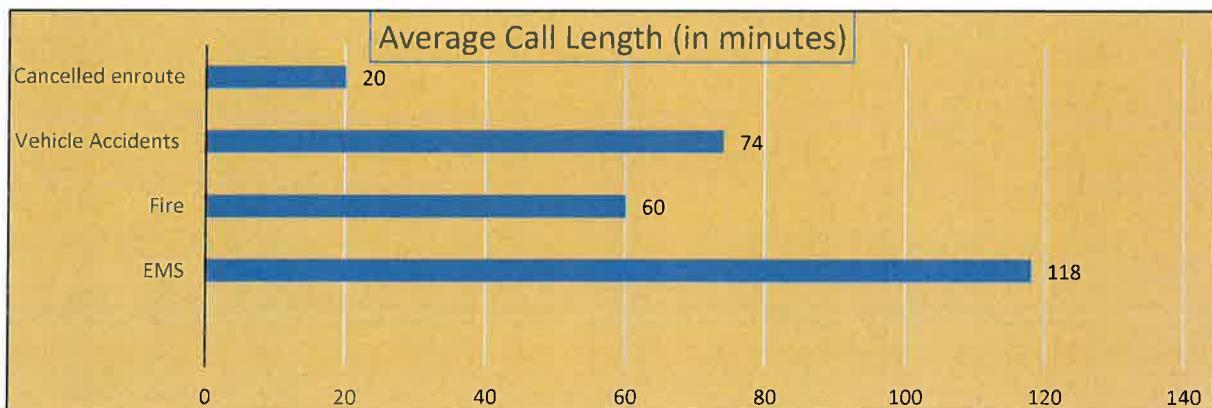
The Fire District provides both basic and advanced life support EMS response and transport for the designated areas within ONP. This includes responses to all types of medical emergencies, both near roadways and sometimes several miles up a trail. The Fire District and ONP crews work together to deliver the best patient care possible and transport either ground or air to the appropriate receiving hospital. This also includes motor vehicle accidents along several miles of roadways within ONP.

Emergency Response Statistics

In 2023 the Fire District responded to a total of 78 emergency call for assistance within Olympic National Park. This represents all EMS, fire, and rescue responses. Over 60% of the responses were for emergency medical services and rescues.



The 78 emergency responses represent 3.9% of the total annual call volume for the fire district in 2023, however these calls often have a disproportionate impact because of the remote nature of the incidents and length of time dedicated to the incident. The response, on-scene, and transport times often are over 2 hours in length. The average EMS call into ONP is 1 hour and 58 minutes. Vehicle accidents average 1 hour and 14 minutes and fire calls are typically 1 hour long. Even calls that are cancelled while units are still responding are 20 minutes in length. This takes Fire District units out of position and often leave the Fire District with limited resources while crews respond to emergency within ONP.



In 2022 the Fire District had 51 emergency responses into ONP and as of September 30th, 2024 the Fire District has responded to 47 emergencies within ONP. The summer months tend to be the busiest months with June, July, August, and September accounting for over 65% of the annual emergency responses into ONP. This is also the busiest time for regular Fire District responses which compounds the impact of providing services to ONP.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Clallam County receives Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds which are Federal payments that help local governments offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The law recognizes the financial impact of the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on federally owned land.

PILT payments are made annually for tax-exempt Federal lands administered by Department of the Interior agencies, including the National Park Service. PILT payments are one of the ways the Federal Government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities.

The following describes the purpose for these PILT payments;

The Department of Interior website describes the purpose of PILT payments as a way to "...help local governments carry out such vital services as **firefighting** and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and **search-and-rescue operations**."

The National Association of Counties states that "PILT payments are necessary to support essential local government services such as education, **emergency services**, transportation infrastructure, law enforcement and **health care** in over 1,900 counties in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

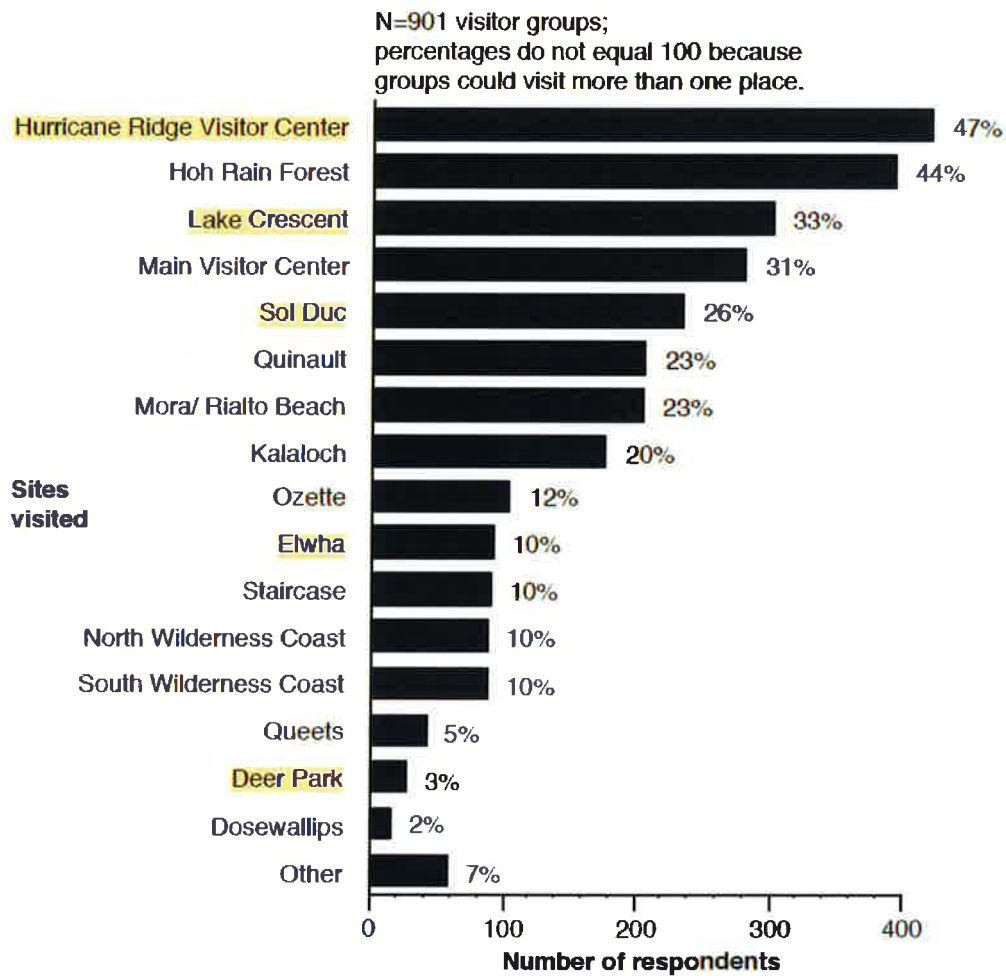
In a press release issued by Congressman Derek Kilmer on June 25, 2021 he states "The Payments in Lieu of Taxes program supports critical local services in rural communities across our region – including essential community **public health programs**, job-creating infrastructure, and **firefighting**,"

Clallam County has been the recipient of PILT funds from the Department of Interior for decades. Over the past 10 years Clallam County has received the following annual PILT payments;

2024	\$1,346,072.00
2023	\$1,236,499.00
2022	\$1,225,189.00
2021	\$1,155,238.00
2020	\$1,101,485.00
2019	\$1,043,662.00
2018	\$1,368,211.00
2017	\$978,411.00
2016	\$969,665.00
2015	\$913,951.00

10-Year total \$11,338,383.00

A study conducted by Olympic National Park in 2020 shows Hurricane Ridge, Lake Crescent and Sol Duc as some of the most visited areas of the park.



The Fire District provides emergency services to these highly visited areas of ONP. As noted, the purpose of PILT funding is to offset or address the impacts that areas such as ONP have on local agencies which provide essential government services.

Proposal

Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue would like to propose to the Revenue Advisor Committee and Clallam County Board of Commissioners, the development a revenue sharing agreement to offset some of the impact of providing services to ONP. To date, the Fire District has not received any portion of the PILT funding which is designed to reduce the burden on smaller, local agencies that are providing services either directly, or indirectly to ONP.

The Fire District understands that PILT funding must be appropriated each year by the Federal government and is not a guarantee. However, history shows that this has been a reliable and consistent source of revenue to Clallam County. Keeping this in mind, the Fire District recognizes that if no PILT funding is received from the Department of Interior, any revenue sharing agreement would not be implemented for the impacted year(s).

As part of a revenue sharing agreement, the amount would be negotiated between the Fire District and Clallam County using data that shows the impact of providing these services to ONP has on Fire District operations.

Conclusion

The Fire District believes that the purpose and intent of the PILT money received from the Department of Interior should benefit the agencies tasked with providing vital services. It is understood that Clallam County does provide many of those services and would receive the bulk of the annual PILT payments. Other other agencies that are not part of County government, who are impacted by ONP and also provide services, should receive an appropriate amount to offset those impacts.

The fire service will always continue to strive and ensure that the local communities and region are a safe place to live and visit. This includes both our permanent residents, and those who choose to visit our area. As one of the premier destinations within the National Park Service, Olympic National Park contributes to millions of visitors each year to the region. A National Park Service report shows that 2,947,503 visitors came to Olympic National Park in 2023. A large portion of those to areas receive emergency services from Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue. This revenue sharing proposal is intended to offset the impact of providing those services to Olympic National Park that are currently being funded primarily by local taxpayers.