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MAR 04 2025

BOARD of CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES for the week of February 24-28, 2025

WORK SESSION – 9 a.m.

The work session convened at 9 a.m., Monday, February 24, 2025. Present were Commissioners French, Johnson, and Ozias and Administrator Mielke.

Items of discussion per the agenda published February 20 were:

- Calendar/Correspondence
- Clallam County Law Library relocation project update
- Memorandum of agreement with North Olympic Library System for the Clallam County Law Library
- Parks and Recreation Board membership removal
- Agreement amendment 1 with Department of Health for diseases and outbreak response, rabies testing, and reporting during outbreaks
- Agreement amendment 1 with Washington State Health Care Authority for Reentry Demonstration Initiative Project – Juvenile Services
- Agreement amendment 1 with Washington State Health Care Authority for Reentry Demonstration Initiative Project – Sheriff's Office
- Agreement with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for boating Safety events and reporting
- Letter to the Office of Emergency Operation Center Grant Administration for the Emergency Operations Center
- Agreement amendment 1 with Washington State University Extension for program services
- Agreement with Jefferson County Public Health Department for nurse family partnership
- Certification of the 2025 Road Levy & Estimated Revenue Produced/County Road Administration Board
- Agreement with Department of Health for Bullman Beach water system
- Agreement amendment 1 with Cascadia Consulting Group for Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Resiliency Plan
- Discussion and recommendation to appoint an alternate to the Board of Equalization
- Legislative session update
- Review the "How Did We Do" reports comparing each month's actual performance

Meeting concluded at 11:31 a.m. and continued to an Executive Session to be held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 12:15 p.m. regarding litigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – February 24, 2025 at 12:15 p.m.

The Board convened in open session at 12:15 p.m. to discuss litigation. Present were Commissioners Ozias, French and Johnson, Administrator Mielke, Risk Management Sullenger, IT Department Anderson and Major, Department of Community Development Emery and Havel, and Prosecuting Attorney's Office Reno and Boughton.

The Board may recess into Executive Session to consider employment or dismissal of personnel, to review the performance of a public employee, to consult with legal counsel, to consider the position to be taken in collective bargaining, to consider acquisition or sale of real estate, or other matters per RCW 42.30.110.

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to moved to executive session for 1 hours, CMOs, mc

The Board recessed into executive session at 12:15 p.m.

The Board convened in open session at 1:15 p.m. and CMF noted no action will be taken.

Meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m. and continued to an Executive Session to be held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. regarding real estate.

BOARD of CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES for the week of February 24-28, 2025
Page 2

EXECUTIVE SESSION – February 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

The Board convened in open session at 1:30 p.m. to discuss real estate. Present were Commissioners Ozias, French and Johnson, Administrator Mielke, Real Estate Capps, Public Works Department Gray, Finance Lane and Prosecuting Attorney's Office Reno.

The Board may recess into Executive Session to consider employment or dismissal of personnel, to review the performance of a public employee, to consult with legal counsel, to consider the position to be taken in collective bargaining, to consider acquisition or sale of real estate, or other matters per RCW 42.30.110.

ACTION TAKEN: CMom to moved to executive session for 30 minutes, CRJs, mc

The Board recessed into executive session at 1:30 p.m.

The Board convened in open session at 2 p.m.

CRJ requested that there be further investigation of the real estate opportunity described in executive session.

Meeting concluded at 2:01 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair French called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Johnson and Ozias and Administrator Mielke.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt the agenda as presented, CMOs, mc

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on item 2h
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on item 2h
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on item 2e
- Jeff Tozzer, Sequim, commented on item 2h (see attached)

CONSENT AGENDA

1a Approval of vouchers for the week of February 17

The Following warrants and electronic payments are approved for payment:

Accounts Payable:	Total
Warrant numbers: 9935537-9935586; 9935642-9935749; 9935767-9935819	\$1,344,886.67
Electronic payments dates: n/a	\$0.00
Total Accounts Payable:	\$1,344,886.67

1b Approval of minutes for the week of February 17

1c Proclamation recognizing March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month

1d Certification of the 2025 Road Levy & Estimated Revenue Produced/County Road Administration Board

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt the consent agenda, CMOs, mc

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- CRJ recognized March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month
 - Kelley Lawrence, Health and Human Services, provided comment
- CMO commented on economic, Salish BHO Advisory Board, Sequim School District ballot passage, Sequim City Council Meeting, Eagle Scouts, Flaura's Acres septic and water system meeting
- CRJ commented on Washington Forest Products Roundtable, Commissioner of Public Lands, Revenue Advisory Committee Meeting, Clallam Bay Sekiu Sewer, school field trip to Olympia
- CMF commented on Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Meeting,

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- 2a Agreements (2) with Department of Ecology **AND** Washington State University for general public and technical assistance to farmers

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

- 2b Sublease agreement with City of Port Angeles for shared storage facility

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

- 2c Agreement amendment 2 with Washington State Department of Transportation for S. Airport Road Resurfacing Project

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

- 2d Agreement amendment 1 with Washington State Department of Transportation for Clallam Slough Bridge Replacement Project

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

HEARING(S)

- 5a Consideration of resolution adopting the following Debatable Emergencies:
General Fund Reserves – Fund transfer from Parks & Facilities Professional Services to General Fund Reserves for Parks Master Plan project approved in the 2025 budget (2 of 3)/\$150,000
NonDept-Opportunity Fund – Carryover of 2024 budgeted revenue and expenditures that will now occur in 2025 for Clallam Bay/Middle Point pump station/\$10,484

- ATM, briefed the Board

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to open the public hearing, CMOs, mc

- CMF noted no testimony was provided

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to close the public hearing and adopt, CMOs, mc

- 2e Agreement with Natural Systems Design, Inc. for natural design and coastal geologic serves

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

- 2f Agreement amendment 1 with Washington State Health Care Authority for Reentry Demonstration Initiative Project – Juvenile Services

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

- 2g Agreement amendment 1 with Washington State Health Care Authority for Reentry Demonstration Initiative Project – Sheriff's Office

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

- 2h Agreement amendment 1 with Cascadia Consulting Group for Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Resiliency Plan

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

ADMINISTRATION

- 3a Request for waiver of bid/RFP/quote requirements and purchase order with Pacific MicroRem, Inc. for courthouse security project

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to approve, CMOs, mc

BUDGET

- 4a Resolution for consideration to adopt the following Budget Revisions:

Community Development-Permit Center – Budget correction moving Land Use/Environmental Permits funding from Permit Center to Long Range Planning/\$4,000

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt, CMOs, mc

- 4b Resolution for consideration to adopt the following Budget Reductions:

Parks & Facilities – Reducing professional services line to transfer to General Fund Reserves for Parks Master Plan approved in the 2025 budget (1 of 3)/\$150,000

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt, CMOs, mc

- 4c Resolution for consideration to adopt the following Supplemental Appropriations:

Parks & Facilities – Capital Projects – Funding approved for 2025 Parks Master Plan (3 of 3)/\$150,000

Public Works – Clallam Bay Sekiu Sewer – Carryover of 2024 budgeted revenue and expenditure that will now occur in 2025 for Clallam Bay/Middle Point pump station/\$10,484

Health & Human Services – Operations – Adding funding to the HHS operations budget from the opioid settlement for indirect costs occurring in 2025/\$22,897

Sheriff – Emergency Services – Carryover of previous years recurring grants where expenditure reimbursements will now occur in 2025/\$112,835

Community Development – Environmental Quality – Reimbursement for expenditures incurred by Scarsella Brothers for violation monitoring & corrections at Lower Dungeness Floodplains/\$40,000

ACTION TAKEN: CRJm to adopt, CMOs, mc

HEARING(S)

- 5a Consideration of resolution adopting the following Debatable Emergencies:

General Fund Reserves – Fund transfer from Parks & Facilities Professional Services to General Fund Reserves for Parks Master Plan project approved in the 2025 budget (2 of 3)/\$150,000

NonDept-Opportunity Fund – Carryover of 2024 budgeted revenue and expenditures that will now occur in 2025 for Clallam Bay/Middle Point pump station/\$10,484

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Frank O'Neil, Port Angeles, commented on budgets, property taxes
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Revenue Advisory Committee, Elwha timber, paused sale System, Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest
- Mark Hurist, Sequim, commented on logging income, taxing districts
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on Cascadia, Clear Path
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on logging, Poet Laureate Program, mill closure
- Casey unknown, Port Angeles, commented on taxes, pay per mile
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on how the Board looks, school field trip to Olympia, Comp Plan public engagement
- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on taxes
- Stephanie Day, Sequim, commented on City Council, taxes
- Jeff Tozzer, Sequim, commented on taxes, transparency (see attached)
- Mike Doherty, Port Angeles, commented on sea level rise, 3 Crabs Road, wildfires, tanker traffic

The Board of Commissioners attended a WSAC virtual update, Revenue Advisory Committee Meeting, Board of Equalization Meeting, William Shore Memorial Pool District Meeting, Coffee with Colleen and WSAC virtual legislative update during the week of February 24, 2025.

BOARD of CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES for the week of February 24-28, 2025
Page 5

Meeting concluded at 11:22 a.m. and continued to a Board of Equalization Meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of March 2025

ATTEST:


Lori Gores, MMC, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mike French, Chair

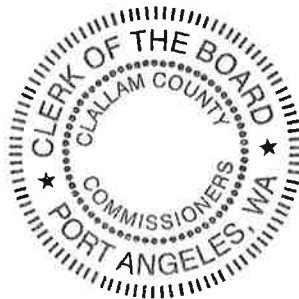

Randy Johnson


Mark Ozias

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:

ATM Administrator Todd Mielke
CMO Commissioner Mark Ozias
CRJ Commissioner Randy Johnson
CMF Commissioner Mike French

m moved
mc motion carried
s seconded



Public comment
Jeff Tozzer
2/25/25

It's time to address the concerning web of relationships between Cascadia Consulting Group, Commissioner Mark Ozias, the North Olympic Development Council (NODC), and Clallam County. These entities significantly shape public policy, but their ties raise serious questions about fairness, transparency, and special interest influence.

Cascadia, a Seattle-based firm hired to help Clallam County develop its Hazard Mitigation Plan. On paper, Cascadia's mission is to provide sustainability solutions and climate action, but the firm uses a tool developed by ICLEI, a German NGO with a global agenda that many argue undermines local control. Commissioner Ozias has worked closely with both Cascadia and the NODC, which is also an ICLEI member. Ozias is the NODC president, an NGO heavily involved in shaping county policies, including the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The NODC, under Ozias' leadership, partnered with Cascadia to craft a "Final Report" on Natural Disaster Resiliency. The report recommended projects that favor the Jamestown Tribe, Ozias' top campaign donor. This creates a clear conflict of interest. The report prioritized projects like the Dungeness River Off-Channel Reservoir, heavily influencing local government decisions without proper transparency or public input.

To make matters worse, the NODC and Cascadia bypassed standard government oversight. They've been able to draft county policy behind closed doors, and Clallam County officials have made decisions based on these drafts while denying any involvement with Cascadia despite the \$370,000 contract the County holds with them. This lack of transparency is worsened because the NODC, a private nonprofit, and the Jamestown Tribe are not bound by the same public accountability laws that apply to government bodies. This system obscures influence and limits public participation.

What does this mean for Clallam County citizens? It means policies are being shaped by a small group of individuals and organizations with little regard for the broader public's voice. Public funds are being spent on consultants like Cascadia, who work closely with Ozias' nonprofit, the NODC, to implement policies that may serve special interests over the general public.

This is both unfair and inappropriate. As public officials, you must ensure taxpayer money is used transparently and that decisions serve all citizens, not just a select few with access to power.

When a county commissioner has such strong ties to organizations shaping policy, it raises concerns about whose interests are truly being served.

As the commissioners vote to extend Cascadia Consulting's contract, please ask: Are we fostering an open, democratic process, or allowing a small group to wield disproportionate influence over our community's future? It's time for a reckoning—one that puts fairness, transparency, and the public's interest back at the center of decision-making.

Jeff Tozzer, Sequim

Public comment
Jeff Tozzer
2/25/25

Why are taxpayers paying a nonprofit to raise our taxes? Why is Clallam County's hard-earned money being funneled into an organization that's actively working to **triple the property tax cap** without asking the voters first? It's simple: **you're dodging transparency and subverting the will of the people.**

Last month, Commissioners approved a **\$39,335 payment** to the **Washington State Association of Counties (WASAC)**, an Olympia-based nonprofit, while Commissioner Ozias sits as First Vice President of its Executive Committee. And what's the result?

WASAC is actively lobbying for a **pay-per-mile tax** and for a **higher property tax cap**, neither of which has public support. In fact, **99%** of the public rejected the **pay-per-mile tax** proposal in testimony. Yet here you are, pushing it forward with our taxpayer dollars.

If you truly wanted to raise property taxes by 3%, you could do it the **right way—ask the voters**. But instead, you're using **backdoor deals** to push policies that don't serve the people of this county. Instead of listening to the concerns of your constituents, you're giving a **nonprofit**—and by extension, special interests—a **free pass** to advocate for higher taxes.

Commissioner Ozias recently sent out a letter full of **deflection**. He tried to justify his position by blaming rising costs—like public defense and insurance—while completely **avoiding wasteful spending**. He failed to mention the **mismanagement** of taxpayer funds, the inefficiencies in how county services are run, and the **tax loopholes** that could provide millions without asking Clallam County citizens for more money.

Instead, **he hides behind the excuse that there are “no good options” other than raising taxes**, implying that we, the people, just don't understand how county finances work. This is a classic case of **gaslighting**. You're manipulating the narrative to make it seem like tax hikes are the only way forward. But the reality is that there are plenty of **real solutions** that you and your fellow commissioners are too afraid to explore because they might challenge your priorities.

Let's talk about those priorities. Rather than addressing **financial mismanagement**, you're choosing to **fund WASAC**, which in turn supports policies that **raise taxes**. And let's not forget about the **Jamestown Tribe**. While they keep 75% of the gas taxes they collect, a simple fix to make them pay their fair share would go a long way in funding transportation projects and easing the burden on regular taxpayers. But this solution doesn't fit with your agenda, so it's conveniently ignored.

It's time for a wake-up call. The people of Clallam County are not your piggy bank. You work **for us**, not for special interest groups or lobbyists in Olympia. We deserve **transparency**, we deserve **accountability**, and most of all, we deserve the **right to decide** how our money is spent.

Stop trying to **subvert the will of the voters**. Stop pushing for higher taxes behind closed doors. And start being accountable to the very people who pay your salary. The people of Clallam County are watching. And we're tired of being ignored.

Jeff Tozzer, Sequim

BOCC Mail Correspondences Received from other Jurisdictions



CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE

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

Jake Patterson
Fire Chief

Keith Cortner
Commissioner

Steve Hopf
Commissioner

Dan Huff
Commissioner

February 18th, 2024

Board of Clallam County Commissioners
Commissioner Randy Johnson
Commissioner Mark Ozias
Commissioner Mike French

RECEIVED
CLALLAM CO. COMMISSIONERS
FEB 19 2025
1...2...3...A...
BOLL
Finence
Anchor
Treasurer

RE: Proposal for PILT revenue sharing

Commissioners,

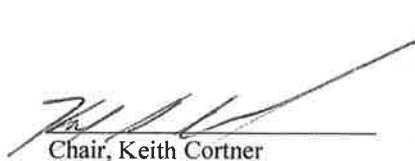
The Board of Fire Commissioner for Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue are requesting a distribution of funding received by Clallam County from the Department of Interior in the form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). This PILT funding is designed to assist local agencies in providing vital government services either 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.

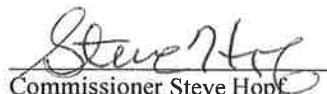
We believe that PILT funding should be proportionately distributed to local agencies, including junior taxing districts, who provide vital services to Olympic National Park and the millions of visitors who come through Clallam County each year. Receiving a portion of the PILT funding will ensure that we are able to continue to provide fire and EMS responses to Olympic National Park.

This request for funding is based on actual emergency responses and uses the Washington State Department of Natural Resource Wage and Equipment rates for 2024 as guidance for reasonable cost estimates. In total Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue is requesting an allocation of \$25,759 from Clallam County for service provided in 2024.

Thank you for your consideration,


Chair, Keith Cortner


Vice-Chair Dan Huff


Commissioner Steve Hopf

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 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.

Proposal

Clallam 2 Fire-Rescue would like to propose 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.

Providing a monetary value to providing services can be challenging as there are impacts that extend beyond simply providing the services on a response by response basis. The taxpayers of the fire district support the personnel and infrastructure to provide emergency services when needed. When resources are pulled out of the fire district to serve ONP, it provides coverage gaps to local residents. It is challenging to quantify those impacts into a dollar value so the fire district is proposing at this time to calculate cost on a response number basis with a understanding this may not encompass all the impacts.

The response for 2024 have been tabulated to include the number of fire engines, ambulances, and personnel who responded to each incident. To determine a cost for fire engines and ambulances, the 2024 Washington State DNR Wage and Equipment rates were used. The cost was broken down into length of call and applied to the actual hours required of each incident from dispatch to retuning into service.

The cost for personnel was determined using the hourly rate of our firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics using the same Washington State DNR Wage and Equipment rates. This was then calculated using the total number of fire or EMS personnel assigned to each call.

In total, the fire district is requesting \$25,759 in reimbursement from Clallam County using the Department of Interior PILT funding. This represents the cost of emergency responses in 2024. Attached is a spreadsheet for each of the emergency responses and breakdown of expenses related to each cost for apparatus and personnel.

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. 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 2024 the fire district responded to a total of 55 emergency call for assistance within Olympic National Park. This represents all EMS, fire, and rescue responses.

The 55 emergency responses for the fire district in 2024 represent approximately 3% of the fire district's total call volume, 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 26 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 emergencies within ONP.

In 2022 the fire district had 51 emergency responses into ONP, in 2023 there were 75 responses and in 2024 there were 55 response. The summer months tend to be the busiest months with June, July, August, and September accounting for over 55% 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."

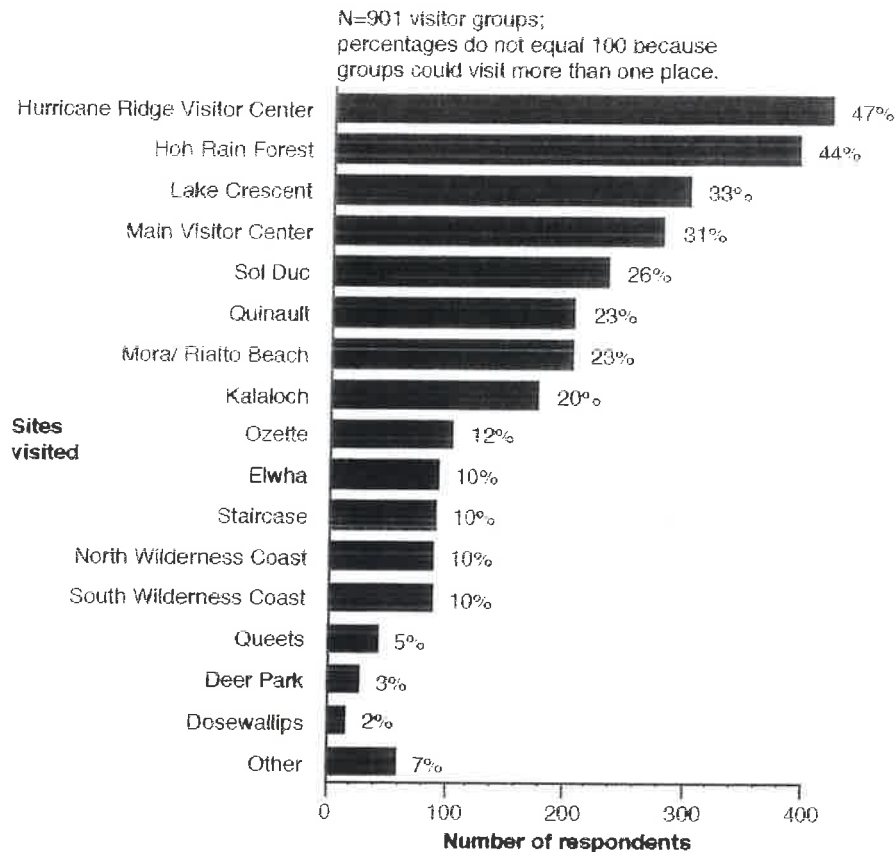
In a press release issued by Congressman Derek Kilmer on June 25, 2021 he states “The Payments in Lieu of Taxes program supports critical local services in rural communities across our region – including essential community **public health programs**, job-creating infrastructure, and **firefighting**,”

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.



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 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 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.