



CLALLAM COUNTY REVENUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2025

MEETING OF THE REVENUE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

Chair Connie Beauvais called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m., November 10, 2025. Also present were Commissioner Johnson, Lynne Kastner, Gregory Bellamy, Drew Rosanbalm, Noah Glaude, Michael Mingee, John Nutter, Dan Huff, Sandra Lyons, and Scott Horton. David Bingham, Janine Leford, Michelle Olsen, Diana Reaume, Regan Nickels, Dave Gedlund, Steve Burke, and Nerissa Davis were absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN: Approved as presented

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 22, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Johnson moved to approve, Bellamy seconded, mc

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Taxing District 301, Cape Flattery attendance, Doc Holliday presentation, item c
- Ellen Menshew, Joyce, commented on cash for counties, Doc Holliday timber sale
- Wendy Rae Johnson, Port Angeles, commented on Doc Holliday timber sale, Saddy Creek Campground
- Steve Kohler, Clallam County, logging, forest wood products, CO2
- Mary Minton, Port Angeles, commented on junior taxing districts, looking at options
- Tim Wheeler, Sequim, commented on forest fires, legacy forest, Doc Holliday timber sale (see attached)
- Jake Seegers, District III, commented on Doc Holiday timber sale, legacy forest, cash for counties
- Ron Richards, Port Angeles, commented on Department of Natural Resources, forest, climate change
- Carole Sholl, Port Angeles, commented on cash for counties
- Julia Carrol, Port Angeles, commented on forest, go-bag, Doc Holliday timber sale
- Charles Creed, Clallam County, commented on financial gain, lands, Doc Holliday timber sales

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Doc Holliday Presentation

- Earth Law
- Jim Buck
- AFRC

Elizabeth Dunn, Brel Froebe and Bill Bryant with Earth Law provided a presentation regarding Doc Holliday timber sale. RAC Members held discussion.

Connie Beauvais provided a presentation regarding Jim Buck's Doc Holliday timber sale. RAC Members held discussion.

Matt Comisky, AFRC provided a presentation regarding Doc Holliday timber sales. RAC Members held discussion.

b. Recommendation from RAC to the County Commissioners

Beauvais briefed the RAC on the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. RAC Members held discussion. Copy of letter has been attached to minutes.

ACTION TAKEN: Kastner moved to approve the letter to the Board of Commissioners, Beauvais seconded, mc

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c. Committee for County Trust Land Public Comment

Beauvais briefed the BOCC on the public comment group. She will send out SEPA notices to everyone and ask for comments as she receives them.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Department of Natural Resources presentations

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on Fire District 5, arrearage, purchase of lands
- Ellen Menshew, Clallam County, commented on item b letter of recommendation to the BOCC, disappointed in the RAC
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on item b letter of recommendation to the BOCC
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on revenue, carbon, forest
- LaTrisha Suggs, Clallam County, commented on living wages, disappointed in the RAC
- Brell Froebe, commented on the item a Earth Law presentation

NEXT MEETING — January 12, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. (January date change due to holiday on 1/19)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting concluded at 5:10 p.m.

Public comment

RAC

Tim Wheeler

11/10/25

COMMENTS TO CLALLAM COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Clallam County Courthouse

Nov. 10, 2025

Good afternoon. My name is Tim Wheeler and I live on our family farm near Sequim.

I urge you Commissioners to write to the DNR nominating the Doc Holiday Timber Parcel for protection from logging. These forests are a major factor in our struggle to combat global warming.

The Bear Gulch forest fire destroyed 31.6 square miles of forest, mostly inside the Olympic National Park, the worst forest fire since the Great Forks Fire of 1951. I was 11, living on a farm in Sequim when that fire destroyed 38 square miles of timberland and almost destroyed Forks.

The forest fire in Okanogan incinerated 304,782 acres of forest land in 2015.

Planet Earth is getting hotter, forest fires more frequent and devastating.

To cool our planet, we must end our reliance on fossil fuels. Also, we must preserve legacy forests. This deal includes a trade by the Timber Company that won the bid to log Doc Holiday, for another parcel of equal value. There is a fund approved by the Legislature of \$23 million that will provide funds to pay for the trade and fully fund all the services provided by the county. It is a win, win, win deal!

Hand in hand with the forest fires, are President Trump's Executive Orders calling for the immediate expansion of logging. With the stroke of his pen, Trump stripped 60 million acres of National Forest timberland of protections from clearcut logging. Couple the forest fires and Trumps plan for speeded up logging and we are looking at massive deforestation 10 years in the future.

I support the timber industry producer of a vital raw material. But if the policy is unregulated in a decade there will be no more trees to log! Gifford Pinchot must be turning in his grave. So please, protect Doc Holiday...and while you are at it, protect the Elwha Watershed from all logging.

Thank you,

Tim Wheeler

164 Honeybee Lane

Sequim, WA 98382



Item b
letter
11/10/25

Clallam County Revenue Advisory Committee

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To: Clallam County Board of Commissioners

From: Revenue Advisory Committee (RAC)

Re: Doc Holiday Timber Sale

The Revenue Advisory Committee (RAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Clallam County Board of Commissioners regarding the proposal to modify the Doc Holiday Timber Sale. At its November 10 meeting, the RAC heard from proponents advocating for modifications to the sale. We understand their proposal and presentation were similar to those given to the Board of County Commissioners in October. The RAC also heard from former State Representative Jim Buck who spoke as a Clallam County taxpayer. Matt Comisky representing the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) reported on the impacts from an economic and industry perspective. After hearing from the three presenters,

The RAC strongly urges the Board of Commissioners to continue support the Doc Holiday Timber Sale as planned, auctioned, and contracted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Context

During 2025, DNR paused eight timber sales in Clallam County, representing more than \$8 million in appraised value. These sales were delayed due to concerns about harvesting stands of a particular character. Had they been sold earlier this year, the likely return to Clallam County and its junior taxing districts would have approached \$12 million.

Despite earlier assurances that paused sales would return to market, only one of these sales—the Sooeey sale—has been presented to the Board of Natural Resources for approval (approved in October). DNR has provided no timeline for bringing the remaining sales forward, jeopardizing millions of dollars in revenue to Clallam County, local school districts, fire districts, and other junior taxing districts that depend on these funds to provide essential services.

Moreover, Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove's announcement of plans to protect an additional 77,000 acres of DNR-managed land—if implemented—would place these pending sales, and many others, at further risk.

The Doc Holiday Timber Sale

The Doc Holiday sale has been carefully designed, reviewed, and implemented. Specifically, it:

- Complies with the federal Endangered Species Act through adherence to DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan, as amended by the Marbled Murrelet Plan.
- Meets all standards established under Washington's Forest Practices Act, including those protecting water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Follows riparian protection standards under both the Forest Practices Act and DNR management policies.
- Was analyzed under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), with ample opportunity for public comment.

Given the thorough planning, scientific review, and compliance with multiple layers of environmental regulation, the RAC believes it would be inappropriate to substitute the professional expertise of DNR's field team with external opinion or judgment.

Concerns with the Proposed Modifications

The proposed changes would curtail harvest on approximately 46.5 acres, with vague assurances of substituting this volume in other, undefined areas or future sales. The proposal also suggests placing the 46.5 acres into the Trust Land Transfer Program, which would permanently remove those lands from future active management.

Such modifications threaten vital revenue streams for Clallam County and its junior taxing districts. The 2025 DNR timber sale program in Clallam County has already been severely disrupted—no other county in Washington has more than one sale affected by DNR's pause, while Clallam has eight. The resulting impacts on local mills, loggers, foresters, suppliers, truckers, businesses and families have been profound, rippling through businesses that depend on forest-based economic activity.

Clallam County cannot depend on assurances that "substitute" harvest areas will be found or that lost volume will be made up in future sales. DNR's process for designing and approving timber sales is highly structured, and it is doubtful that such substitutions could be implemented without substantial delay. Furthermore, groups opposing harvests in so-called "legacy forests" have pursued an aggressive, statewide strategy of appeals and litigation aimed at halting DNR timber sales. While most appeals have been rejected by the courts, the ongoing legal challenges continue to delay and complicate the sale process. Meanwhile, DNR remains millions of board feet behind its sustainable harvest target for the current biennium.

Accordingly, Clallam County and its junior taxing districts cannot rely on any future substitute sales or assurances of replacement volume.

Clallam County Transfer Lands Are Not Owned by the State

Proponents of the modification have suggested using current budget funding mechanisms to set aside certain lands, with the idea that replacement lands elsewhere in the state could generate revenues to be shared with Clallam County. However, this approach is inconsistent with the legal and historical foundation of Clallam County's forest trust lands.

Under a 1935 statute, Clallam County deeded approximately 93,000 acres of tax-foreclosed forest lands to the State of Washington, to be held in trust for the benefit of Clallam County and its junior taxing districts. The terms of this trust require that these lands be managed for the sustainable production of wood products.

These lands are not owned by the state in the ordinary sense. Therefore, the state—or any other stakeholder group—lacks the authority to unilaterally designate these lands for uses inconsistent with the trust's purpose, or to "replace" them with other lands elsewhere in the state.

The RAC recognizes that the legal status of Clallam County's transfer lands is not widely understood. We therefore urge the Board of Commissioners to take all necessary actions to uphold the trust's original purpose and protect these lands as critical assets for the people of Clallam County.

Conclusion

The RAC appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal to modify the Doc Holiday Timber Sale.

We urge the Clallam County Board of Commissioners to continue supporting implementation of the sale as currently approved, without modification.

Kindest Regards,



Connie Beauvais, Chair

Clallam County Revenue Advisory Committee (RAC)