

The letter from ODF notifying me that my property was subject to a Forestland Assessment contained the following definition:

"The Astoria District has one "class" of forestland. Forestland suitable for the production of timber is classified as Class 1..."

I live on a lake in the Clatsop Plains. My 5 acre property consists of a house, barn, landscaped grounds and grazing area for my cows. To the west is a lake, to the south are cattle and horse grazing properties, to the east are 1 acre residential properties and to the north is another 5 acre residence. There is no timber anywhere even close. In fact, Clatsop County has determined that my property (in fact our whole area) is "not suitable for timber production."

I don't know how the Classification Committee ignored or disregarded this definitional conflict. There are two reasons for my confusion; 1) the Committee did not keep minutes of the meeting where they allegedly discussed my property, and 2) they won't answer questions.

As an aside - In the Central Oregon District classification maps and committed meeting minutes were posted on their website for all to see. I had to file a Freedom of Information Act request and pay to get copies of the Clatsop County Forestland Classification Committee meeting minutes. As it turned out there were several Committee meetings for which no minutes were kept so the public has no idea of the basis on which decisions were made. Why wasn't the Astoria District as open and transparent as Central Oregon?

I ask that the board reject the proposed orders as they pertain to those of us who appealed the ODF decisions, and that we be given a fair and impartial review of our properties with the ability to ask questions of those performing the review.

Respectively,

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