

Testimony for July 24, 2019 Board of Forestry Meeting

Hello, my name is Kathleen Sullivan, and I am a county commissioner from Clatsop County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

As you know, Clatsop County produces more timber and more revenue than any other state forest county. The Council of Forest Trust Land Counties 2018 Annual report to the counties shows that Clatsop produced approximately 36% of all state forest timber volume. This compares to approximately 27% from Tillamook County, the next highest producer.

Clatsop County did not join the destructive Linn County lawsuit. We do not believe greatest permanent value is achieved by promoting timber harvest over all other values. Our citizens and our board support a balanced approach that includes a mix of values. Timber and revenue for government are an essential part of our job base, but so is fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and tourism.

The Clatsop Forest provides drinking water to many residents as well. You have heard from some of those residents regarding a state timber sale directly above their homes on the coast. We do not believe the state should promote timber harvest over drinking water, as the Linn County suit would have you do. I certainly want strong and conservative management of our water supply resources.

And Clatsop's leaders also want to encourage the long-term protection of our native fish and wildlife, some of which do not have clear economic value, but preserving the complex web of life is vital. We owe that to the future.

Clatsop County supports the board's efforts to increase financial and conservation outcomes on the forest going forward.

Clatsop County is on record in favor of the Habitat Conservation Plan, which I prefer to call a Harvest and Habitat Security Plan, because the purpose of the plan is to provide stability and security in our forest management. What threatens our harvest revenue are lawsuits based on the Endangered Species Act, such as the one currently underway related to Coho salmon. Extreme approaches that promote timber over all other values not only ignore our commission's call for balance, but they also put our revenue at risk from lawsuits. We need a Harvest and Habitat Security Plan.

I came to testify today because at times the distinct Clatsop County perspective does not seem to come through in the testimony for the FTLAC. We do not receive the testimony ~~in~~ far enough in advance in order to comment. Clatsop County's view needs to be included.

I come today to remind you that Clatsop County believes that the greatest permanent value of state forests is to provide revenue, recreation and habitat.

One ending sad note, the destructive Linn County lawsuit has now cost the department more than a million dollars to fight.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer questions.