



11/28/11

RESOLUTION AGAINST THE WILD OLYMPICS CAMPAIGN

The Wild Olympics Campaign (WOC) is a coalition of associations that would purportedly protect the Olympic wild lands for the benefit of future generations. They would accomplish this by seeking to control an additional 134,000 acres of wilderness, 450 miles of “Wild and Scenic River” and add 37,000 acres to the park.

Significantly, the membership of these various associations that seek increasingly greater control over the Olympic Peninsula lands is largely made up of out-of-state environmentalist groups. These groups are not representative of Clallam County ordinary citizens or local interests and are therefore unaffected by the edicts that they wish to enforce upon us.

It is noted that the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) stand in support of WOC and, moreover, in February 2010, wrote a letter to U.S. Representative Norm Dicks, urging him to lend his support as well.

While at first glance, WOC is an admirable goal well worth pursuing, a second look reveals it to be a not-so-subtle invasion of both public and private property rights as follows:

- Under the guise of protecting the lands for the enjoyment of future generations, it actually restricts entry to this so called public land to only the hardy few who are able enter it on foot or by horseback as all other means of access are forbidden.
- Any productive use of the “protected lands” is prohibited. Long the source of Washington’s economic hydro-power, our rivers could no longer be harnessed... timber, the former building block of Washington State’s economy, is off limits... grazing lands and crop-rich soil would lie fallow...
- The ever-increasing web of rules, regulations, and edicts inflicted on private property owners restricts their ability to use their land as desired or, at times, even access it. This diminishes its value to the point that they have no choice but to sell it to the only buyer available which is, of course, the government. There is no “Willing Seller” but, in reality, only a “Coerced Seller”.

Clallam County Republican Party

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Recognizing the harmful effects of the WOC on the local economy, local business organizations including the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Port Angeles Business Association and The North Olympic Timber Action Committee (NOTAC) have taken stands against the WOC.

If WOC is implemented, it is estimated that up to 225 jobs will immediately disappear, tax revenues of \$2-4 Million per year would not materialize, and, ultimately, the futures of five different mills with a yearly payroll of over \$40 million dollars would be endangered.

The Federal Government owns or controls over two million acres of Olympic Peninsula lands already and they now propose to acquire even more. This is land that cannot be put to productive use, cannot be enjoyed by any save the most physically able, and erodes the value of private property holdings. And to have this take place at a time when the government lacks the funds to care for the land it already has is sheer folly.

Accordingly, the Clallam County Republican Party strongly opposes the addition of any more private or public land into the “wilderness” designation and, also, stands against the designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Furthermore, the Party opposes the “Path Forward on Olympic Watersheds Protection Proposal” as proposed by US Senator Patty Murray and US Representative Norm Dicks because it is virtually the same program as the Wild Olympics Campaign but hiding under a different name.

Therefore, in accordance with the enclosed resolution and for the reasons outlined therein, the Party urges the Board of County Commissioners to rescind their request to US Congressman Norm Dicks to support the Wild Olympics Campaign.

The Party further urges this board to discontinue any support of the Wild Olympics Campaign, The Path Forward on Olympic Watersheds Proposal, or, indeed, any other program that would entail additional restrictions on the economic and productive use of land on the Olympic Peninsula.

RA Pilling
Chairman
Clallam County Republican Party