



# CLALLAM 2 FIRE-RESCUE

P.O. Box 1391, Port Angeles, WA 98362 • 360-457-2550 • [www.clallamfire2.org](http://www.clallamfire2.org)

**Jake Patterson**  
Fire Chief

**Keith Cortner**  
Commissioner

**Steve Hopf**  
Commissioner

**Dan Huff**  
Commissioner

## RESOLUTION 2026-08

**A RESOLUTION of the Commissioners of the Clallam County Fire Protection District No. 2 authorizing the District to participate with other public agencies and affected parties in the filing of an Amicus Brief in Thurston County Superior Court Cause No. 25-2-05763-34, *Washington Farm Forestry Association et al. v. State Forest Practice Board et al.*, expressing concern with and describing adverse impacts of a new buffer rule imposed for non-fish bearing streams.**

**WHEREAS**, Clallam County Fire Protection District No. 2 is a Fire Protection District under the laws of the State of Washington, and

**WHEREAS**, on November 12, 2025, the Forest Practices Board adopted a new buffer rule for non-fish bearing (Type Np) streams, the effect of which removed over 200,000 acres of private forestland removed from productive use, equating to an estimated \$1–1.8 billion value of trees, and

**WHEREAS** the buffer expansion action results in an estimated **decrease** in revenues to various Counties in Washington as follows:

County	Np rule Upland acres removed from production	County Excise Tax Impact calculated at 4%	Total Excise Tax Impact calculated at 5%
Lewis	(43,961)	\$(14,846,806)	\$(18,558,507)
Pacific	(32,136)	\$(10,386,108)	\$(12,982,635)
Cowlitz	(28,029)	\$(9,815,192)	\$(12,268,990)
Grays Harbor	(24,123)	\$(8,641,365)	\$(10,801,707)
<b>Clallam</b>	<b>(9,726)</b>	<b>\$(3,220,655)</b>	\$(4,025,819)
Skagit	(9,083)	\$(3,937,629)	\$(4,922,036)

**WHEREAS**, the buffer expansion action results in reduced timber harvest which lowers county trust revenues, disproportionately impacts rural and economically vulnerable counties, and adversely affects funding for roads, schools, hospitals, and local services, and

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Practice Board's adoption of the new buffer rule is legally problematic for at least the following reasons:

- There is no finding that the existing Forests & Fish buffers were failing or impairing resource protection objectives.
- The Board applied a new legal standard not required by law.
- The Board disregarded exiting science which showed that the existing buffer dimensions were working, and
- The Board did not consider less-burdensome alternatives, and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the new buffer rule will set a precedent for future forest, agriculture, and land-use regulation, further adversely affecting counties and their junior taxing districts, such as ports, fire services, and schools, and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington Farm Forestry Association and the Washington Forest Protection Association has petitioned the Courts for relief from this rule and seeks affected parties to join in by being signatories to an Amicus ("Friend of the Court") brief in support of the legal action, and

**WHEREAS**, the Clallam County Fire Protection District No. 2, located within Clallam County is a party adversely affected by the rule and seek to support the litigation challenging the rule,

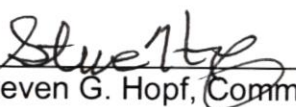
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 that:

1. The Clallam County Fire Protection District No. 2 Board of Commissioners authorizes the Fire Chief to take such actions necessary for the District to participate as an amicus party in the case of *Washington Farm Forestry Association et al. v. State Forest Practice Board et al.*, Thurston County Superior Court Cause No. 25-2-05763-34.

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2, CLALLAM COUNTY, WASHINGTON, on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.**

  
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Keith C. Cortner, Chairman

  
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Dan Huff, Vice Chair

  
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Steven G. Hopf, Commissioner