

# KNOW YOUR PORT:



## Why the Port Supports Timber

***Your Port is committed to sustainable economic development. The timber industry has always been an important contributor to job creation in Clallam County. It provides a renewable resource to produce green energy and materials that support family wage jobs for local families.***

Timber has been a major revenue source to the Port for many decades, even during periodic cycles of high and low market demand. In recent years, new impacts have affected the economics of timber and its ability to create jobs.

These impacts to job creation include work-flow mechanization and environmental restrictions, resulting in fewer timber-related jobs on the Olympic Peninsula than there were 50 years ago. In Clallam County, most of the federal forests and half of the state forest lands are designated as conservation habitat and so are off limits to harvest. Also, it is illegal to export logs harvested from any state or federal lands.

And like other industries, technology and mechanization has replaced much of the work in sawmills and some of the work in logging that used to be done by human labor. For instance, instead of needing a crew of 8 to 10 men to log a forest unit, it now takes as few as a crew of two or three. The same is true for mills, which have become highly efficient. However, today's jobs require a much higher skill level and more training. They also pay more than previously.

But although there are fewer timber-related jobs now than decades ago, they remain a significant part of the County's economy. ***In 2016, every direct job in the forest products industry supported 1.3 indirect and induced jobs in the County.***

This shows that many timber-dependent jobs are not all in the woods. These include accountants, marketers, machine operators, truckers, scalers, yard operators, longshoremen, tug and towboat operators, agents and repair services. Although the amount of working forests is at an all-time historical low, there are still a lot of jobs available. According to several sources including the Washington State Department of Revenue, ***the timber industry in Clallam County provides 1,446 direct, indirect and induced jobs.*** This generates total annual wages of nearly \$62 million annually. (Source: Olympus Consulting study, 2017)

One way your Port has provided the opportunity for the timber industry to create jobs has been to build docks and a log yard for loading forest products onto ships bound for domestic and global markets. In building the log yard, the Port established log handling facilities on the waterfront for transporting logs by water to mills in Puget Sound and overseas destinations. The log yard is a global hub of the international log market, further strengthening job creation.

In spite of economic pressures on the timber industry, as when domestic housing starts diminish or demand wanes in other countries, the Port of Port Angeles is able to adjust its resources to respond productively to changed market conditions.

***As long as there are markets for wood products, your Port will have an important role to play and the County's economy will benefit.***

