

“Wild Olympics will protect our economic future.”



Roy Nott
President and CEO, Paneltech
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The son and grandson of Pacific County loggers, I was proud to take a well-paying job in the northwest logging industry when I finished college. During a long stint with ITT Rayonier, I developed the company's northwest forest business plan and managed its timberlands operations in Forks before I was sent east. But the magnificent forests and rivers of the wild coast eventually drew me back “home,” where I helped start Paneltech, a company that now employs 50 people at the Port of Grays Harbor.

This area badly needs new family-wage jobs. Some will come from our commercial forests. But we also need to attract more entrepreneurs that create more value-added jobs. They will need uniquely-skilled people, the kind drawn here, as I was, because our ancient forests and river watersheds provide clean water, healthy salmon runs, world-class hunting and fishing and an unrivaled quality of life.

The Wild Olympics plan will permanently protect these natural amenities vital to our economic future. But the plan also shows great sensitivity toward private property and the commercial timber base. Most public land considered in the proposal is already off limits to logging. It gives timber landowners an option to sell certain lands to the Park, but only if they want to. A healthier timber industry adding more value locally can contribute toward the restoration of our area's economic vitality. But we also need new companies with new ideas, new value-added jobs and new sources of raw material. With the Wild Olympics plan, we can have both.

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