

KNOW YOUR PORT:

Why There is a Log Yard on the Waterfront

The Port of Port Angeles was established by the State of Washington in 1923 as a public benefit for the citizens and businesses of Clallam County.

Since its inception, the Port of Port Angeles has played an important role in building infrastructure to support the timber industry and create jobs.

Log exports have been a major revenue source to the local community for many decades even as the industry has gone through cycles of high and low demand, domestically and globally.

At one time, logs occupied about 500 acres of waterfront property, compared to 25 acres today. The Port constructed docks for loading forest products onto ships for domestic and global markets. It established log handling facilities and provided log booming services on the waterfront so logs could be transported by water to mills in Puget Sound.

Over the years, the Port has become a global hub for moving forest products from both local and non-local sources to domestic and international markets.

Logs from Olympic Peninsula forests are shipped to mills in Puget Sound and west coast destinations by barge, as well as to markets around the Pacific Rim. Logs originating from Alaska and Canada reach American markets by traveling through the Port.

The Port of Port Angeles is one of the key centers of the global and domestic forest products markets. These markets are in constant flux due to trade policies, currency fluctuations, market supply and market demand.

The log yard is a major transportation link that serves many interests beyond the Olympic Peninsula, bringing their business to our county. It is one of only two such waterfront operations in the state.

Maintaining log yard operations at the waterfront allows for barging of logs, rafting of logs and other water-dependent



Ships loaded with logs come into and leave from the terminals in Port Angeles harbor for domestic and international destinations.

opportunities that can make the difference in extending forest product activity as a cycle ends or a new cycle starts. Strategic development of diversified products can compensate for the ups and downs of market cycles. The log yard also offers a major import point for further development of a green energy and materials industry.

The log yard directly employs seven workers, and makes possible hundreds more jobs throughout the timber sector in Clallam County such as foresters, accountants, loggers, marketers, machine operators, truckers, tug and tow operators, pilots, agents and repair services.

Having a functional log yard facilitates timber commerce which generates living wage jobs, creates additional jobs in the supply chain, and lifts the whole economy of our county through the spending of wages and proprietor income.

There are many independent businesses that form a complex interdependent relationship within the forest products industry, from growing trees to finished wood products to residual fiber.

The log yard is a public good that supports business and community needs and is available to all timber businesses on an equal basis.