

## COUNTY'S DECISION TO OPT OUT OF TIMBER SUIT UNDER MICROSCOPE

### The vote in 2017 was split

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

In January 2017, Clatsop County commissioners voted 3-2 to opt out of the \$1 billion class-action timber lawsuit against the state

because it did not align with their values of balanced forest management.

Clatsop forests make up nearly one-quarter of the state-run forestlands involved in the lawsuit, and Clatsop was notably the only county eligible not to join the legal challenge.

Other taxing districts in the county that stayed in the lawsuit stand to receive \$176 million for past damages and \$109 million for future damages after a Linn County jury

found in favor of the counties.

While Clatsop County leaders have so far declined to comment on the verdict, the decision to opt out is under scrutiny.

At the time, commissioners said they “support integrated and balanced management of state forests as found in the ‘greatest permanent value’ rule adopted by the Board of Forestry in 1998.”

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Clatsop County opted out of a timber lawsuit against the state.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



## Timber verdict a dilemma for state

Lengthy appeals are possible

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

SALEM — The \$1 billion award against the state in a class-action lawsuit over forestry practices will likely be subject to lengthy appeals, but it may also put pressure on the government to consider settlement talks.

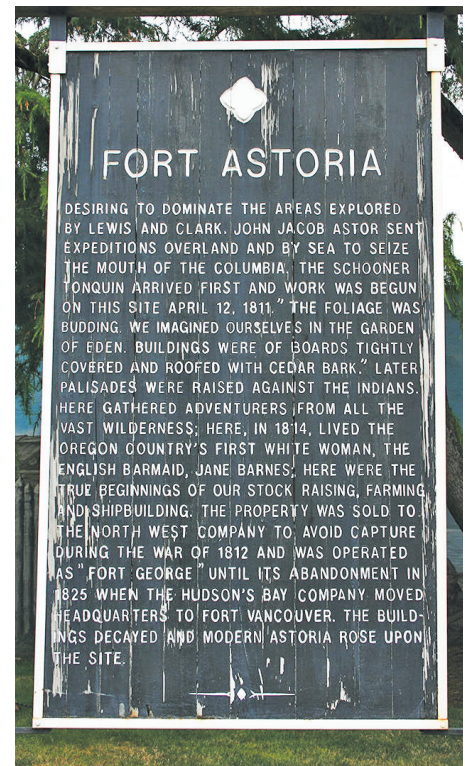
A jury in Linn County Circuit Court on Wednesday found Oregon liable for breaching contracts with western counties by logging an insufficient amount of timber from state forests, thereby costing them money.

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Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

A jury verdict awarding counties \$1 billion for the state's alleged breach of contract is expected to raise questions about forest management.



John Goodenberger

The Historic Landmarks Commission approved replacing a wooden sign about Fort Astoria with a plastic variant. Some dated verbiage in the sign will also be changed.

## Fort Astoria sign goes plastic

Some wanted the city to stick with wood

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

A group of community boosters known as the “Fort Astoria Defenders” hatched a plan in 1948 “to raise the memory of Fort Astoria from a patch of brambles at Fifteenth and Exchange” streets, according to a newspaper article at the time. The plan resulted in a beaverboard sign at the small park, with one side recounting the history of the fort, and the other detailing its layout.

The Historic Landmarks Commission on Tuesday approved of replacing the deteriorating wooden sign with high-density plastic, to the chagrin of local preservationists who argued the city should take care of its monuments.

Jonah Dart-McClean, the city’s parks maintenance supervisor, said the sign is in pretty poor condition from being in the

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## County counsel to step down

Reynolds has served the county for 25 years

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

Heather Reynolds, who has served as Clatsop County counsel for 25 years, has announced she will step down.

The recruitment and selection process to replace her is expected to take about six months. Reynolds plans to stay on until someone is hired.

“Heather has been an instrumental member of the county team for many years,” County Manager Don Bohn said in an email. “I am gratified that she will be staying on during the transition to new counsel. Her experience and sage legal advice will be missed — but thankfully she will be close by and we won’t be shy reaching out.”



Heather Reynolds

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## Comcomly canoe platform fixed at Column

Work was done without a permit

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

When Fred Pynes, a park host at the Astoria Column, noticed the sidewalk overlooking a 1961 cement replica of Chief Comcomly’s burial canoe cracking and creating a tripping hazard, his only thought was to get it replaced.

Pynes and the Friends of the Astoria Column spent May through September having a new platform overlooking the marker designed and constructed. They did not get a city permit.

The city’s Historic Landmarks Commission, while perturbed, nonetheless retroactively approved the project Tuesday, reminding Pynes to ask permission next time. The approval came with a condition to have the National Park Service survey the site for any disturbed historical artifacts.



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Local artist Roger McKay painted the cement replica of a burial canoe beneath the Astoria Column to appear wooden. The canoe honors Comcomly, a Chinookan chief who befriended the Corps of Discovery and the John Jacob Astor expedition.

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