

Cannon Beach encourages 'opt out' of timber lawsuit

Councilors are split in 4-1 vote

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach City Council voted 4-1 on Tuesday, Jan. 3, to adopt a resolution that encourages the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners to opt out of a \$1.4 billion lawsuit against the state over timber revenue.

"This resolution that was drafted reaffirms the opinion that our forest has a lot of value outside of monetary, but is

also cognizant that our neighbors such as the school district and Clatsop County are dependent on our forest revenue at the same time," City Manager Brant Kucera said.

The resolution was drafted by former Cannon Beach Mayor Mike Morgan, who cited environmental concerns and the city's relationship with the Oregon Department of Forestry as reasons to take a stand against the lawsuit.

The class action suit, filed by Linn County on behalf of 15 counties, including Clatsop, claims the state has not maximized revenue from

timber harvests on more than 640,000 acres of state-managed forest lands.

Unless Clatsop County commissioners send notice that the county and the taxing districts it represents want to opt out, they will continue to be a part of the suit. The county has until Jan. 25 to make a decision and will accept written comments until Jan. 6.

The Cannon Beach resolution supports the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan. The plan is based on structure-based management, which is designed to

"produce and maintain an array of forest stand structures across the landscape" that provide social, economic and environmental benefits.

Councilor George Vetter voted against approving the resolution.

"My sense was that we had not decided to make that recommendation but rather state our perceived value of the forest land," he said. "This is not what I sensed came out of our work session."

Vetter said he would like the city to "set an example rather than telling people what they should be doing."



FILE PHOTO

Trees fill the city, like this reaching to the sky at Spruce and Harrison streets.

'Beach Hunters' comes to the South County

Homebuyers featured on national series

By Eve Marx
For EO Media Group

"Beach Hunters" showcases a Portland couple's hunt in and around the South County for the perfect beach home. Among the homes considered by buyers included one in Arch Cape and two in Gearhart.

Rinda Shea, a broker with Windermere Stellar in Gearhart, said HGTV reached out to her colleague Lynn Brigham, a principal broker with the agency, about Shea's oceanfront listings. Their quest debuted on New Year's Day at 6 p.m.

Nathan Charlan, executive producer with Warm Springs Productions, an independent company working with HGTV, said the producers were drawn to the Oregon Coast and Gearhart specifically.

"We were planning two special episodes for the 'Beach Hunters' series because we wanted to feature one episode on the West Coast and one on the East," Charlan said. "We were drawn to the Oregon Coast because the coastline itself provides a great contrast to coastlines in the East. The huge rocks that jut out from the waters and the dramatic cliffs, how the mountains meet the ocean — these are just some of the reasons we found Oregon to be such a special place."

The show travels to some of the most exquisite beach destinations around the world. The series was launched this year as buyers search for their dream homes on the sand.



HGTV

Realtor Rinda Shea and Alisa and Jamie Gaylord on the HGTV show "Beach Hunters."

Each episode follows a prospective buyer, usually a couple, as they work with an agent who shows them their choices before choosing a beach home in their budget where they can live their dream. Each episode is a journey as the buyers weigh their options.

Unsurprisingly, their choice often boils down to just one thing: location, location, location.

Quality time

The episode features Portland couple Alisa and Jamie Gaylord, searching for a beachfront home to enjoy quality time with their two young kids. The Gaylords discover it in Gearhart, with its shingled cottages and castles uncannily resembling New England's Cape Cod. Gearhart, the Gaylords learn, is the place to indulge and enjoy the family's favorite beach activities: surfing, whale watching, and, yes, watching storms.

Charlan said his production company's casting director discovered the couple through Windermere's Shea. "She replied to our casting call and recommended Alisa and Jamie," Charlan said. "She knew they were working on finding and purchasing a beachfront home in or around Gearhart."

Shea said it was her first time being part of any HGTV program. "The director and crew were fantastic to work with," Shea said. "From Day One of filming, they made me feel very comfortable and at ease."

Charlan described the production experience in Gearhart, Seaside and Arch Cape as "very fun. The weather was moody and the production crew battled with rainstorms, but overall they were able to work well inside and out."

A typical shooting schedule to create each half hour episode of the show is a four-day

affair where each day cameramen are rolling 12 to 14 hours. "The weather never got too bad," Charlan said. "The crew loved the community feel of the area. It's very small-town Americana with a nice West Coast style. There's a laid-back atmosphere. It's a welcoming beach community."

City mulls tree cutting changes

Trees from Page 1A

"Thinning will allow the healthy tree specimens that remain to branch out and fill in the upper canopy while creating a more park-like atmosphere versus dense forest," Grassick said. "The underground utility construction also will damage a few trees that likely will need to be removed as a result of the excavation. Those will be evaluated on a case-by-case."

The park was over-planted with the idea that not all of the trees would survive since it was too dense, but

nearly all the trees survived and were never thinned, Grassick said.

This has led to forest health issues, such as one pine species starting to die off, Grassick said. The overcrowding has also created challenges with RV sites since the RVs have become larger with more accessories.

The city is following the recommendations of licensed arborist Joe Balden, who was hired to evaluate the health of the park's forested area. More than 250 trees will remain, Grassick said.

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