

Good Morning

My Name is Jeff Cox and I represent the Coalition for Sustainable Land Management who's mission statement is to *facilitate citizens of Clark County being involved in all aspects of land use planning, implementation, oversight and seek to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels of government.*

As we speak construction continues in Chelatchie. This was the focus of last week's public testimony. The county manager indicated at that time a communication was sent to the railroad operator to cease construction. I am questioning the ability of the county to manage the lease of property owned by the hard-working taxpayers of Clark County.

In a recent email to the county council, the railroad operator again asserts the construction is to maintain an existing logging road. One only need look to Google Earth July 2018 through July 2, 2023, and see this is patently false. One can see once crossing the railroad track on the Warnke access road there is a clear-cut area split by the Warnke road. It is approximately 10 acres in size with 2 acres east of the Warnke road. Through the miracle of time lapse satellite imagery we see in July 2018 the beginning of the clear cut and no logging road. In July 2023 we see sapling fir trees growing in the clear cut and again no evidence of a logging road. The railroad operator had the audacity to submit grainy out of focus pictures of what appear to be ruts in the ground on the 2-acre parcel of land seemingly the 2018 clear cut. The operator pictures do not come close to matching the quality of Google earth pictures and Apple maps. However, looking at my iPhone in Apple maps I can obtain a picture similar to Mr. Temple's. My Apple maps shows ruts in the ground proceeding east from the Warnke home access road 272 feet then paralleling the clear-cut boundary south by southwest 450 feet to rejoin the Warnke road. Comparing vegetation between Google Earth and Apple maps it is clear the Apple maps dates to 2020. If one looks mere feet to the west of the Warnke road (interestingly not in the operator picture), we do see what an actual logging road looks like. 272 feet of ruts in the ground does not make a 1900-foot-long road we see today. By all indications this is another blatant attempt to deceive and obfuscate an already busy and overworked council and county employees. I hope the county manager and council, particularly my representative from district four is as insulted as I am by this shameless attempt to deceive all involved. If this is going to be the behavior of the railroad operator on a 1/2-mile stretch of railroad, what can we expect on the remaining 32- and one-

half miles where environmentally sensitive areas, residential subdivisions, and preemption of city of Battleground laws and ordinances are involved. This is just another reason why the county cannot trust an individual that continues to deceive, and not take accountability for his actions. The county should terminate their relationship with railroad operator within 30 days.

It is impossible to understand how the county could even consider proceeding forward with implementation of FRDU when 77-79% of 600 responders of the 2018 survey were very dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the current proposed overlay or 1 mile overlay. Particularly telling was 91% of responders would want their property removed from any overlay. One could only imagine what the survey would reveal if they knew the railroad operator had asked of the county and I quote "My ask is to change the zoning on the entire corridor to IH (heavy industrial) or at least IR (railroad Industrial) please. To which district 4 representative replied on January 27, 2023 "I see this as an astute observation"

Councilors this is an opportune time to rid the tax payers of Clark County a lead ball on their ankle that could last 30 years.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

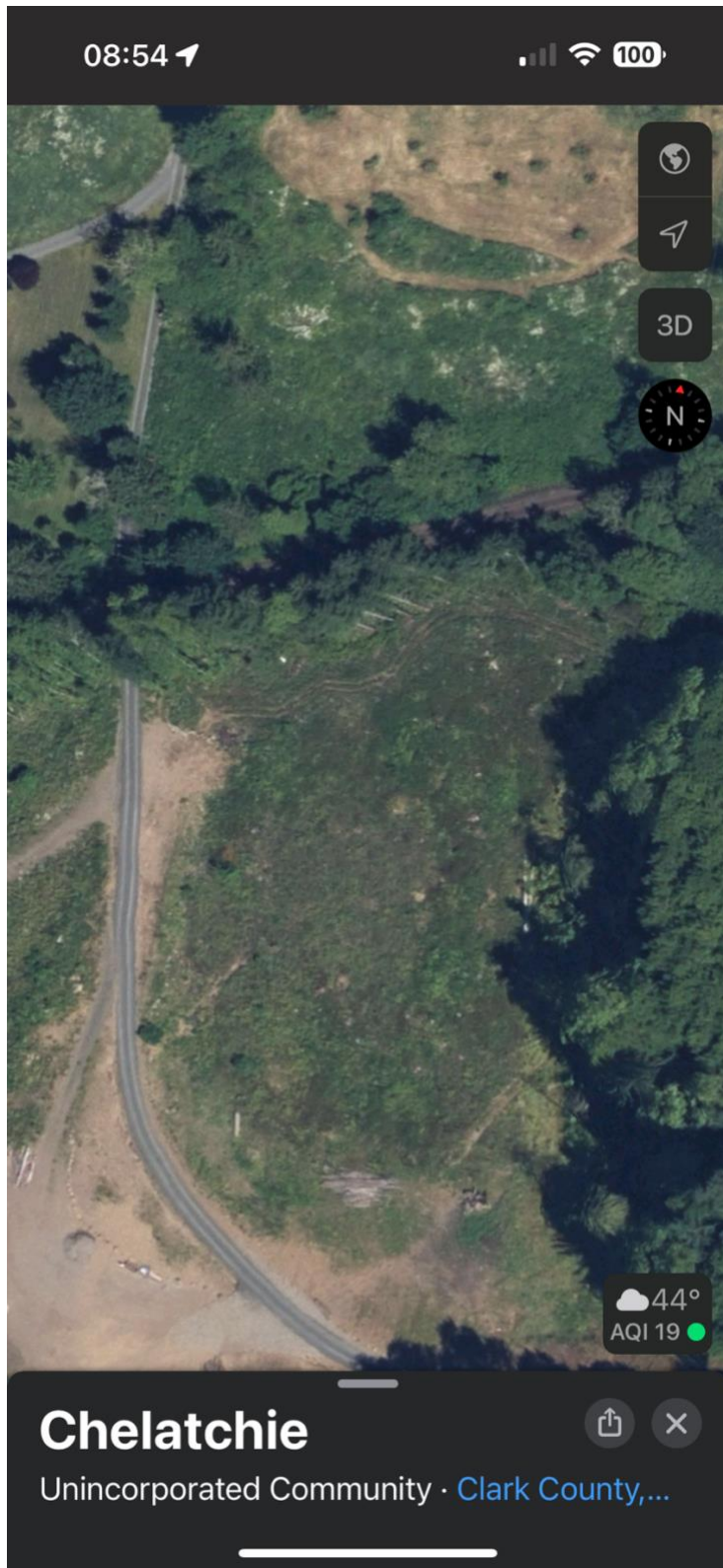
July 2018



August 2020 Likely source of Apple Maps picture



Apple iPhone Apple Map Picture



July 2023 Google Earth with saplings growing on clear cut.



