



Pope Resources
A Limited Partnership

November 22, 2019

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Pope Resources Reach Historic Agreement

Land purchase, environmental conservation, and partnership in redeveloping Port Gamble part of final deal that sets stage for positive future

POULSBO — Leaders from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Pope Resources today announced an historic agreement, embarking on a path for stewardship of land, forest, and water to anchor the futures of the Town of Port Gamble and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

This agreement comes after a long history, fraught with conflict, that began 166 years ago when the founders of the companies preceding Pope Resources first arrived to the area. The signing of this agreement is a significant moment that sets the two neighboring communities on a mutually positive course for the future.

The details of the final agreement include:

- Pope Resources will sell approximately 937 acres of timberland to the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, adjacent to the tribe's existing reservation
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is securing funding for the purchase of a conservation easement on approximately 18.4 acres and adjacent tidelands along the former mill site's shoreline in Port Gamble to protect the site for the purpose of restoration. Instead of being developed, this site is slated for restoration and rehabilitation of ecological processes and conservation values and will be accessible to the public.
- Pope Resources will lease portions of its tidelands in Port Gamble Bay to the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Pope Resources will work together with Kitsap County, other tribes, and the North Kitsap community for the redevelopment and restoration of Port Gamble to ensure this process includes modern, environmentally responsible infrastructure and design,

protections for water quality and shoreline habitats, and acknowledgement of cultural heritage and history in the area.

This agreement is the result of five years of discussions between the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe and Pope Resources, which have included a wide range of issues dating back to when the founders of Pope Resources arrived in Port Gamble Bay in 1853. While this was not the first point of European contact for the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, it had a profound impact on the community, which relied on fish and shellfish for subsistence, as it still does today.

“The Port Gamble S’Klallam have a long history with Pope Resources. The Mill played a big role in our lives as a source of employment as we adapted to European settlement, but also hurt Port Gamble Bay and its shoreline,” said Jeromy Sullivan, Chairman of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. “The last several years have brought good things: the cleanup work on the Bay and, of course, our conversations with Pope Resources that led to this deal. We look forward to the future and watching this area—that we call "nəx^wqíyt" or Noo-kayet—continue to heal and come back to life. Our culture and traditions depend on it.”

According to tribal oral history, the S’Klallams complied with the request that they relocate across the bay to Point Julia, with the promise that they would always have work at the mill and lumber to build their new homes. From the day the mill first opened in 1853 until it closed in 1995, S’Klallams worked in the sawmill. During this period, water quality in Port Gamble Bay deteriorated, limiting the historic livelihood of Tribal members and impacting the ecological functions of the bay and shoreline.

The closure of the mill began a new chapter in the relationship between Pope Resources and the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. Pope Resources had significant environmental clean-up obligations, and interest in redeveloping the historic town of Port Gamble. The Tribe wanted Port Gamble Bay cleaned and restored and the footprint of future development limited to respect the environmental and cultural significance of the area. The 106-acre aquatic cleanup has removed over 8,500 mainly creosote pilings and 110,000 cubic yards of wood waste and sediments.

“Pope Resources deeply appreciates the long history our company has with the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. The actions agreed to today will set a visionary path to a future of mutual responsibility and environmental stewardship, and we look forward to continuing our partnership as neighbors,” said Tom Ringo, President and CEO of Pope Resources. “This agreement is not only good for the S’Klallam people and Pope Resources; it will benefit all people in the region.”

Other details of the mediated agreement include:

- Regular meetings between Pope Resources and the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe to discuss ongoing plans for the area.
- Development of a Recreation Plan for public water access and passive recreation opportunities, such as trails.
- Development of a Stewardship & Restoration plan to design shoreline restoration.

- Measures to protect streams, wetlands and shoreline in the area.

For further information from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, please contact Jeromy Sullivan, Tribal Chairman (jeromys@pgst.nsn.us or 360-297-6243) or Roma Call, Environmental Program Manager (romac@pgst.nsn.us or 360-297-6293) and from Pope Resources, please contact Adrian Miller (amiller@orminc.com or 360-394-0595).