



**Northwest Sportfishing
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The Honorable Patty Murray
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: Public lands and conservation funding

Dear Senator Patty Murray,

Thank you for your leadership in keeping public lands in public hands and supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA) believes that the legacy of being able to access our rivers and streams and forests must continue for our children. Additionally, access to public lands creates robust opportunities to enjoy natural areas and has a distinct and measurable benefit on the Washington economy.

In 2011, during "The Great Recession," Washington anglers still pumped more than \$1.1 billion into the local economy, according to a study by Southwick Associates funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With the multiplier effect, counting money that was spent on food, gas, lodging, boats and other vehicles, it generated more than \$1.9 billion for Washington. More than 16,000 Washington jobs rely on healthy fisheries, which generate more than \$119 million in local and state tax revenue. With the down economy, many Washingtonians stayed in state to enjoy public lands, meaning, access to nearby public lands circulates money in the local economy.

The Outdoor Industry Association has found that all outdoor recreation generates \$22.5 billion annually in consumer spending in Washington. This spending supports 226,600 jobs across the state, which generates \$7.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.6 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 3.1 million people participated in hunting, fishing and wildlife watching in Washington, contributing more than \$4.5 billion to the state economy.

The Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, in conjunction with the undersigned businesses, thanks you for your leadership in support of reauthorizing and fully funding LWCF. The Trust for Public Lands has found that every \$1 spent on LWCF projects returns \$4 in economic value. We hope you will continue to work with Congress to secure full funding for LWCF to provide added angling and hunting opportunities.

Past experience has taught us how difficult and expensive recovering lost habitat, fish and wildlife species, as well as watersheds, can be. We are far better off providing those protections today, such as through the LWCF and the Antiquities Act, and avoiding the impact of imprudent decisions decades from now. Please continue to protect our industry and ensure public lands are maintained for public use and access with abundant room for our fish and wildlife resources.

The undersigned businesses and individuals,

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries
and the businesses dependent upon them. Call toll free: 1-866-315-NSIA