
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8021

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Oke, Drew, Spanel and Snyder

Read first time 03/24/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE UNITED STATES
5 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The Skagit River is famous as a location to
10 recreationally fish for the sea run rainbow trout, commonly known as
11 steelhead; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a long tradition of steelhead fishing on the
13 Skagit River, and fishing from a boat is an important part of that
14 tradition; and

15 WHEREAS, The Skagit River is also a wintering and nesting area for
16 bald eagles, a threatened species; and

17 WHEREAS, The Skagit River bald eagle population is one of the
18 largest populations of bald eagles in the southern United States, and
19 the population of bald eagles on the Skagit River has steadily
20 increased over the last twenty years; and

1 WHEREAS, The bald eagles that make their home on the Skagit River
2 have adapted to the activities of the human population in the area; and

3 WHEREAS, The human population of the Skagit River valley, and those
4 persons who recreate on the Skagit River, have made great efforts to
5 assure that the bald eagle population will increase, and in fact, the
6 population has increased markedly; and

7 WHEREAS, The Skagit River bald eagle population has shown that
8 mankind and bald eagles can coexist without extreme restrictions upon
9 mankind's activities; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has unilaterally decided
11 to place a boating ban on the upper Skagit River ostensibly for the
12 protection of bald eagles; and

13 WHEREAS, The bald eagle population was flourishing under conditions
14 that allowed free boating access and use of the river; and

15 WHEREAS, The Forest Service has no scientific proof that the free
16 use of boats on the Skagit River harms the bald eagle population in any
17 way;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
19 States Forest Service repeal their rules for boating restrictions on
20 the upper Skagit River to allow for steelhead boat fishing.

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
23 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
24 the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the President of the
25 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
26 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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