
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke and Bauer

Read first time 01/12/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

8 WHEREAS, Washington state contains a rich diversity of forests,
9 rivers, seacoasts, grasslands, deserts, and other habitats, and an
10 equally diverse population of fish and wildlife, all of which require
11 by law some level of protection and responsible management by federal,
12 state, and local agencies; and

13 WHEREAS, Washington state also contains a large number and variety
14 of outstanding recreational facilities and opportunities, including
15 three national parks, a national volcanic monument, one hundred twenty-
16 five state parks, and many local parks, trails, water access areas,
17 swimming pools, and sports fields; and

18 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation and wildlife enjoyment are important
19 elements of the Northwest way of life. A large majority of
20 Washington's residents and visitors actively pursue and enjoy a range
21 of outdoor recreation activities, from active sports such as soccer,

1 softball, swimming, and bicycling, to outdoor and wildlife-related
2 pursuits such as hiking, camping, canoeing, and wildlife observation;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation and wildlife enjoyment are also
5 important elements of Washington's economy. For example, a 1996 survey
6 conducted by the United States fish and wildlife service showed that
7 annual wildlife-related recreation expenditures exceeded one hundred
8 billion dollars, almost three billion dollars spent in Washington
9 state. Wildlife viewing alone accounts for more than twenty-one
10 thousand jobs in Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington's population is one of the fastest-growing in
12 the United States, with an even faster-growing public demand for
13 wildlife conservation, wildlife-related recreation, and outdoor
14 recreation facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was
16 created in 1965 to preserve, develop, and assure that all Americans
17 have access to quality outdoor recreation. In the thirty years since
18 its creation, LWCF has funded the acquisition of almost seven million
19 acres of parkland, water resources, wildlife habitat open space, and
20 the development of more than thirty-seven thousand state, municipal,
21 and local parks and recreation projects. In recent years, LWCF funding
22 for federal projects has been reduced by more than half and funding for
23 state projects has been entirely eliminated; and

24 WHEREAS, Washington and other states lack adequate, dedicated
25 funding for fish and wildlife protection and management, especially for
26 those species which are not hunted and fished and which are not listed
27 as threatened or endangered. In 1980, Congress passed the Fish and
28 Wildlife Conservation Act (P.L. 96-366) which was intended to address
29 the protection and management of nonhunted wildlife species, but the
30 act was never funded, leaving the entire responsibility to the states;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
32 pass legislation to restore and revitalize federal funding for the Land
33 and Water Conservation Fund, as well as to create a new dedicated fund
34 for state-level fish and wildlife management, which would be
35 administered by the United States fish and wildlife service.

36 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
37 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
38 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker

1 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
2 State of Washington.

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