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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8031

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

Read first time 01/13/2006. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND 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 SECRETARY OF  
5 AGRICULTURE:

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, Washington state contains over nine million acres of  
10 national forest land; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington state has an interest in preserving,  
12 protecting, and perpetuating the wildlife and fish resources of the  
13 state and in protecting the quality and quantity of water resources  
14 within the state; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 12, 2001, the Department of Agriculture adopted  
16 regulations, hereafter known as the 2001 roadless rule, generally  
17 prohibiting road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest on  
18 certain national forest lands, known as inventoried roadless areas,  
19 because of the likelihood such activities would impact resources that

1 provide such values as clean drinking water and habitat for threatened  
2 and endangered species; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington state contains a total of roughly two million  
4 acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Olympic, Mount Baker-  
5 Snoqualmie, Gifford Pinchot, Wenatchee, Okanogan, Colville, and  
6 Umatilla National Forests; and

7 WHEREAS, On May 13, 2005, the protections for inventoried roadless  
8 areas adopted in 2001 were repealed and replaced by a process under  
9 which individual states may petition the Secretary of Agriculture to  
10 adopt requirements for the management of all, or any portion of,  
11 inventoried roadless areas within the state; and

12 WHEREAS, The petition process adopted by the Department of  
13 Agriculture requires that all petitions be submitted by November 13,  
14 2006, and that such petitions include analysis of the impacts of  
15 present and recommended federal land management practices on states and  
16 state policies, including effects on state conservation policies and  
17 fish and wildlife resources; and

18 WHEREAS, On November 1, 2005, the Governor of the state of  
19 Washington requested that the Secretary of Agriculture create a  
20 streamlined process by which states can opt to retain the protections  
21 of the 2001 roadless rule for inventoried roadless areas within the  
22 state. Such a process would simplify the protection of inventoried  
23 roadless areas and save administrative costs to both states and the  
24 federal government;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
26 federal government, by legislation or by regulation, either reinstate  
27 the protections of the 2001 roadless rule for all inventoried roadless  
28 areas or adopt a streamlined process by which states can opt to retain  
29 the protections of the 2001 roadless rule for inventoried roadless  
30 areas within their boundaries.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
32 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
33 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,  
34 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
35 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
36 Washington.

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