
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8022

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Rossi, Benton, Oke, Jacobsen, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Finkbeiner, Hochstatter and Stevens

Read first time 01/22/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

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, The citizens of Washington State place great value upon
9 their natural heritage and desire to protect and enhance it; and

10 WHEREAS, The growing population of Washington State is placing
11 growing demands on the state's natural resources available for
12 recreation; and

13 WHEREAS, Because of this growing demand and its attendant impacts
14 on the environment, the federal government is considering restrictions
15 on public access to popular recreation sites in Washington's central
16 Cascade Mountains; and

17 WHEREAS, Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. presently owns numerous
18 sites near the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area which are of surpassing
19 recreational and environmental value; and

20 WHEREAS, Such lands are located in a "checkerboard" pattern of
21 alternating sections, a configuration that presents both private and

1 public land managers with difficulties in meeting their respective
2 objectives; and

3 WHEREAS, Both sectors have stated a willingness to exchange lands
4 to accommodate mutual interests; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal government and Plum Creek Timber Company are
6 completing an environmental impact statement for an exchange of private
7 and public lands in the Cascade Mountains; and

8 WHEREAS, This process has involved extensive public participation;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, This exchange complements the President's Forest Plan; and

11 WHEREAS, This exchange, if completed as currently proposed, would
12 transfer into public ownership up to 60,000 acres of private land while
13 transferring into private ownership up to 40,000 acres of public land;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber
16 Company L.P., have worked toward this land exchange for over a decade,
17 expending more than two million dollars in environmental studies and
18 land analysis; and

19 WHEREAS, Time is of the essence because the longer it takes to
20 complete the exchange, the less private land will be precluded from
21 harvest activities; and

22 WHEREAS, Absent an act of Congress to complete the exchange,
23 litigation and procedural delays will very likely reduce the potential
24 public benefits of this exchange;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
26 States Government promptly complete the proposed Interstate 90 land
27 exchange, thus securing the greatest possible environmental,
28 recreational, and land-management benefits at the earliest possible
29 time.

30 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
31 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
32 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
33 of the House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of
34 Agriculture Dan Glickman, and each member of Congress from the State of
35 Washington.

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