
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8022

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 1st Special Session

By Senators Anderson, McDonald, Snyder, Amondson, Owen, Metcalf, L. Smith, Craswell, Conner, Sutherland, Barr, Thorsness, Cantu, Oke, Bluechel, Johnson, Sellar, McCaslin, West and Matson.

Read first time June 28, 1991.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, 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:

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 forest products industry is the second largest
9 manufacturing sector of Washington's economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Trees are a renewable resource capable, through proper
11 stewardship, of providing benefit to present and future generations of
12 wildlife, as well as consumers and families who depend on forest
13 products; and

14 WHEREAS, The forest products industry directly and indirectly
15 accounts for 8.9 billion dollars -- or ten percent -- of total gross
16 state product; and

1 WHEREAS, The forest products industry directly employs 62,000
2 people in family wage-earning jobs in Washington state; and

3 WHEREAS, One out of every eleven jobs in Washington, or some
4 226,000 jobs, are dependent on the forest products industry; and

5 WHEREAS, 190,000 of these 226,000 jobs depend upon the harvesting
6 of timber from commercial forest lands in Washington state; and

7 WHEREAS, Many rural areas of Washington state are highly dependent
8 on the industry for their economic livelihood; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 100,000 people employed in the urban Puget Sound
10 area are dependent on the forest products industry for their
11 livelihoods; and

12 WHEREAS, There are more than 17.7 million acres of commercial
13 forest land in Washington providing the raw material which the forest
14 products industry is dependent upon; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly fifty-one percent -- more than 8.8 million acres --
16 of this land is publicly owned, with 5.2 million acres owned by the
17 federal government; and

18 WHEREAS, 2,337,000 acres of this commercial forest land managed by
19 agencies of the United States have been statutorily withdrawn from
20 timber management activities for wilderness areas and national parks;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, On June 26, 1990, the northern spotted owl was listed as
23 a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act; and

24 WHEREAS, On February 26, 1991, a Federal District Court judge
25 ordered the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to propose critical
26 habitat for the northern spotted owl by April 29, 1991; and

27 WHEREAS, On May 6, 1991, the United States Fish and Wildlife
28 Service proposed the designation of more than 11.6 million acres --
29 more than 18,000 square miles -- of forest land in Washington, Oregon,
30 and California as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl; and

1 WHEREAS, The proposed area of critical habitat is larger than the
2 combined states of Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and New
3 Hampshire, and larger than the individual states of Hawaii, Maryland,
4 New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal
6 includes over 3.2 million acres of Washington commercial forest lands
7 outside of existing wilderness areas and national parks as follows:

8	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>
9	U.S. Forest Service	2,319,070
10	Bureau of Land Management	320
11	Tribal lands	62,260
12	State lands	344,620
13	Military lands	78,135
14	<u>Private</u>	<u>476,665</u>
15	Total	3,281,070; and

16 WHEREAS, The proposed area of critical habitat in Washington state
17 is larger than the combined area of King, Pierce, Thurston, and Kitsap
18 counties; and

19 WHEREAS, The recent historic average level of timber harvest from
20 the national forests of Washington has been approximately 1.2 billion
21 board feet per year; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has estimated that timber
23 harvesting from the national forests in Washington will be reduced by
24 more than 66 percent -- or 800 million board feet -- to a level of 401
25 million board feet per year because of the designation of critical
26 habitat; and

1 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of the revenue generated from the sale
2 of national forest timber is returned to the local counties for schools
3 and roads; and

4 WHEREAS, In fiscal years 1988, 1989, and 1990, counties in
5 Washington state received 43 million dollars, 46 million dollars, and
6 36 million dollars, respectively, from the sale of national forest
7 timber; and

8 WHEREAS, Those funds will be reduced by at least 66 percent -- or
9 approximately 27 million dollars -- per year, due to reductions in
10 timber sales from federal lands; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's critical
12 habitat proposal includes 344,000 acres of state and county trust
13 lands, including the second growth Capital Forest and areas of second
14 growth in southwest Washington; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Natural Resources predicts that timber
16 harvesting on state and county trust lands may be reduced by 220
17 million board feet due to the designation of critical habitat and other
18 spotted owl restrictions; and

19 WHEREAS, The revenue from timber sold from state lands is directed
20 largely to the school construction fund and the spotted owl protection
21 measures could result in a 55 million dollar annual reduction to school
22 construction and county funding and a 550 million dollar shortfall over
23 the next ten years; and

24 WHEREAS, Revenue to the school construction and county funds is
25 expected to be reduced by 919 million dollars over the next decade due
26 to the implementation of the Forest Resources and Shortage Relief Act
27 of 1990; and

28 WHEREAS, Timber harvesting will be impeded on 476,000 acres of
29 private lands designated as critical habitat; and

1 WHEREAS, The annual reduction in timber harvests due to regulatory
2 constraints imposed for the protection of the spotted owl is
3 conservatively estimated to exceed 477 million board feet; and

4 WHEREAS, The combined reductions in timber harvests due to
5 regulatory constraints imposed for the protection of the spotted owl
6 will result in a loss of 20.1 million dollars per year -- 201 million
7 dollars over the next decade -- in state excise taxes; and

8 WHEREAS, The combined reductions in timber supply in 1.6 billion
9 board feet per year represents 26 percent of the historic supply of raw
10 material to the forest products industry in Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, The combined impacts would reduce revenue to state and
12 local governments by 194 million dollars per year -- 1.94 billion
13 dollars over the next decade; and

14 WHEREAS, Recent estimates of job losses in Washington submitted to
15 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service suggest that 14,527 jobs
16 will be lost due to the critical habitat proposal alone; and

17 WHEREAS, An additional 8,831 jobs will be lost in Washington due to
18 timber supply curtailments associated with the recently enacted federal
19 forest plans for a total of 23,358 jobs lost; and

20 WHEREAS, The total payroll reduction due to timber supply
21 curtailments will exceed 677 million dollars per year in Washington
22 with associated losses in tax revenues and income flows to dependent
23 sectors of the economy; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is obligated
25 under the Endangered Species Act to consider social and economic
26 impacts in any proposal to designate critical habitat; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service failed to
28 consider social and economic impacts in its proposal to designate
29 critical habitat for the northern spotted owl; and

1 WHEREAS, The listing of the northern spotted owl as a threatened
2 species, and the subsequent chaos resulting from decisions by three
3 federal district court judges, three federal agencies, and three
4 individual states has resulted in injunctions, uncertainty, and
5 economic dislocations; and

6 WHEREAS, These dislocations and social disruptions will greatly
7 increase demands upon the state and local governments to provide, among
8 other services, unemployment assistance, job retraining, health and
9 education assistance, welfare, relocation services, alcohol and drug
10 abuse counseling, family counseling, child care, increased criminal
11 justice facilities, community infrastructure investment, food
12 assistance, and many other social services;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray:

14 (1) That the current proposal to designate 11.6 million acres of
15 critical habitat be immediately set aside, and a new proposal developed
16 which incorporates and recognizes:

17 (a) The results of the spotted owl recovery planning process
18 currently underway;

19 (b) The wealth of scientific and population data that has been
20 amassed since 1989, but has been neglected by the United States Fish
21 and Wildlife Service in its analysis to list the spotted owl as a
22 threatened species, and the proposal to designate over 18,000 square
23 miles as critical habitat;

24 (c) The human impacts of any critical habitat proposal and balances
25 those human impacts with the biological needs of the northern spotted
26 owl consistent with the Endangered Species Act; and

27 (2) That Congress and the President of the United States
28 immediately work to enact fair and balanced legislation that will
29 remedy the chaos in Washington state's public forests, including
30 measures which must:

1 (a) Recognize the economic needs of people, communities, and
2 consumers, and grant them equal status and consideration in federal
3 decision-making processes with the needs of environmental protection;

4 (b) Recognize the distinct differences in mission, objectives, and
5 goals of federal, state, and private forest lands in Washington and be
6 particularly cognizant of the rights of private property owners;

7 (c) Appropriate such federal funds as may be necessary to hold
8 harmless state trust lands from the revenues lost as a result of
9 spotted owl habitat conservation areas.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
11 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
12 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
13 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress.