

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES



SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL, *Ranking Member*

@EnergyDems

Opening Statement Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) Subcommittee Hearing on National Parks June 15, 2016

“Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing and for including three bills that concern the state of Washington.

“Two of the bills would establish national heritage areas in our state:

- S. 1623, the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, which includes most of coastal shoreline in the state, and
- S. 1690, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, which includes land in Kittitas and King Counties extending from the Cascades to Puget Sound.

“So the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has worked for many years with local communities, area businesses and interested individuals to conserve and promote the scenic beauty of the Greenway and to better educate the public about the region’s deep heritage and the numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“I don’t need to go into the details, but we believe in an outdoor recreation economy in the state of Washington, and it has provided great dividends. We think that enhancing some of those resources also increases that economic activity.

“Similarly, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation has developed the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area proposal that will tell the story of the culturally diverse maritime heritage of our state. I see my dear colleague from Maine, who’s told me that he’s been to places like Port Townsend, so he understands what I’m talking about when I talk about the maritime heritage in our area.

“Our state’s many outdoor recreation opportunities and spectacular natural resources provide a quality of living that attract businesses, and the outdoor recreation industry is a major economic contributor.

“In our state alone, outdoor-recreation-related consumer spending generates more than \$22 billion per year, more than \$7 billion in wages and salaries, and 227,000 direct jobs.



“Mr. Chairman, the committee considered these proposals during the previous Congress and ordered them to be favorably reported. I hope that we can again move these bills the same way.

“The third bill I would like to briefly discuss is S. 3028, which would rename the Olympic Wilderness in Olympic National Park as the ‘Daniel J. Evans Wilderness’ in honor of former Washington Senator and Governor Dan Evans.

“Dan Evans served in the Senate beginning in 1983, filling the term following the death of Senator Scoop Jackson – former chair of this committee – and he remained in the Senate until his retirement in 1989 but is most popular for being a three-term governor.

“During his time in the U.S. Senate, Evans was a leader in the passage of two major wilderness bills in our state that together protected more than 2.5 million acres of wilderness.

“He was the lead sponsor of the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988, which designated more than 1.5 million acres of national park wilderness, including the 876,000 acres of wilderness in the Olympic National Park that would be renamed by this bill.

“The seven members of the Washington Congressional delegation who were in office when the Olympic Wilderness bill was passed have sent a letter expressing their strong support for this designation.

“Designation of the Daniel J. Evans wilderness is a fitting tribute to a man who has done so much in so many areas, including so much on the protection of our state’s premier wilderness areas.

“I am pleased to be joined by Senator Murray, who has cosponsored all three of these bills, and I hope that we will report them out of the committee favorably.

“Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

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