

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES



SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL, *Ranking Member*

@EnergyDems

Opening Statement Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) Business Meeting on Public Lands Legislation July 13, 2016

“Thank you, Madam Chair, and thanks to our colleagues for working on so many different pieces of legislation.

“I know that, consistent with the tradition of this committee, we have tried to work things out, and the vast majority of these bills here have been prepared to report *en bloc*. So I thank our colleagues for that.

“Even though it never is easy to take these issues and get consensus, we need to continue to work on things that are so important to our country and to our individual regions. I thank our colleagues for being willing today to continue to work on a variety of these bills that are going to be reported out, but we also need to further work on.

“I’m glad today we are able to consider the Senator from Montana’s legislation regarding Wild and Scenic Rivers. In addition to Sen. Daines’ support of this, I know that his colleague, Sen. Tester, also has this as a big priority. We have Sen. Alexander and Brown’s Civil Rights Network legislation here as part of the discussion—which was also very much in the cue on the energy bill as it moved forward—and Sen. Franken’s national park boundary bill. So I want to thank our colleagues for all of that work.

“I would also like to note three Washington issues: the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area and the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area.

“Outdoor recreation is one of the most spectacular parts of Washington state, and these bills continue to push forward on the outdoor recreation industry that is a major economic developer in our state.

“The third issue is agenda item #39, 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 of then Sen. Scoop Jackson – a former chairman of this committee – and he remained in the Senate until his retirement in 1989.



“During his time in the Senate, Sen. 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. That included the 876,000 acres of wilderness in 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 legislation was passed have sent a letter expressing their strong support for this designation.

“The designation of the Daniel J. Evans wilderness is a fitting tribute to a man who has done so much to help ensure the protection of our state’s premier wilderness areas.

“So I thank you for including this legislation on today’s agenda.”

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