



**Northwest Sportfishing
Industry Association**
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April 20, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent on them.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a valuable tool to keeping our public lands public for outdoorsmen and women. In Washington alone, sportfishing on public lands sustains over 10,000 jobs and generates \$407.9 million in salaries. And that is just sportfishing, with other outdoor recreation activities included, every dollar invested in LWCF produced \$4 in economic output.

On top of creating jobs and boosting the outdoor recreation industry, strategic LWCF investments can diffuse conflicts with private landowners and secure permanent access. With the changing land and ownership patterns, previously accessible lands are being blocked off. Similarly disruptive, public lands have been known to be separated from public roads and towns by narrow strips of privately owned land. LWCF has proven effective at connecting existing public lands.

LWCF also provides suitable conservation of waterways and backcountry habitat, ensuring healthy populations of fish and game for angling, fishing and wildlife viewing. River access acquisition projects, like the Lake Chelan National Recreational Area LWCF project, enhances recreation experience on effected public lands, and on neighboring lands.

LWCF is a well-oiled program that exemplifies how each state should address their recreation preservation needs. We hope the Senate on Energy and Natural Resource Committee resists any requests for unnecessary changes to LWCF as they work through this reauthorization process.

Sincerely,

Liz Hamilton
Executive Director
NSIA

cc. Senator Ron Wyden

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries
and the businesses dependent upon them. Call toll free: 1-866-315-NSIA