



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
950 Pacific Avenue
Suite 1230
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Representative Kilmer,

I am writing you in strong support of the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This proposed law would protect thousands of acres of Wilderness and create 19 new Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Olympic Peninsula.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages more than 5 million acres of uplands and aquatic lands in our state, including 2.2 million acres of forests, some of which are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, lands in the Wild Olympics proposal.

Of the rivers and tributaries under consideration for designation under this proposal, four cross DNR-managed uplands – the Dungeness, the Hamma Hamma, the Queets, and the Hoh rivers. The quarter-mile corridor created by those Wild and Scenic River designations include an estimated 3,900 acres of state trust lands and natural areas under my agency's management.

As Commissioner of Public Lands, I believe deeply in both protecting our wilderness areas and strengthening rural economies – a belief I know you share. We must be careful to enact policies that balance our obligation to protect Washington State's natural heritage with our need to support communities that depend on natural resource-based jobs.

That is why I am thankful to you and your team for working with my agency to add key language to clarify and protect the purpose of state lands within this landmark legislation. Though the Wild Olympics proposal would create wilderness areas on federal lands in areas that abut DNR-managed lands, it will not directly impact DNR's revenue generation on state-managed lands.

Due to our collaboration, I am confident that this proposal will not impact DNR's ability to manage state trust lands for their important purpose of providing sustainable revenue to state and local beneficiaries, including county services and public schools.

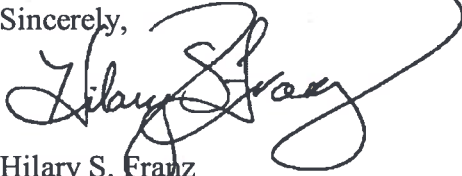
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Thank you for your leadership in protecting Washington State's wildlands as part of a rich legacy of conservation and stewardship that our residents can be proud of and enjoy for generations to come. I am pleased to support your efforts to recognize these important ecosystems for their national significance, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to support rural communities in this beautiful state we call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary S. Franz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right and loops back under the name.

Hilary S. Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands