

(Type Date Here)

The Honorable (full name)

United States (Senator House of Representatives) Washington, DC (20510 or 20515)

Dear (Senator or Representative)

I am writing to voice my support for a \$2 million appropriation for the Smith River from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY2005. The Smith River appropriation will allow the U.S. Forest Service to acquire and manage over 9,000 acres of forests along Goose Creek, the largest tributary to the Smith.

The Smith River offers an unprecedented opportunity to protect a globally important stronghold for salmon, steelhead and trout. The Hoh River has an unusually high diversity of salmon and char species with eleven species of anadromous fish. Four of those species maintain their strongest populations across the entire Pacific Northwest in the Hoh River. With healthy salmon runs, no dams and little hatchery influence, the Hoh River may present the best opportunity in the Pacific Northwest to create a wild salmon sanctuary.

The Hoh is quite simply one of the nation's great wilderness rivers, and efforts to conserve this national treasure will benefit more than fish. The Hoh basin is world-renowned for its beauty, receiving thousands of visitors annually. People come to visit the National Park, climb Mt. Olympus, hike the Hoh Rainforest trail or fish for the Hoh River's legendary salmon and steelhead. Some of the world's finest temperate rainforests are located in the Hoh valley, along with large herds of Roosevelt elk. Expanded protection and public access to the lower half of the Hoh River will greatly increase the area's recreational appeal and contribute significantly to the local economy.

I urge you to please support a \$2 million request from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Hoh River. The people of Washington and Hoh River salmon and steelhead will benefit from public ownership and management of lands along the lower Hoh. I want to thank you for your commitment to the Hoh River.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

(Your address)

(city, state zip)