

LOCAL SUPPORT & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR WILD SKY WILDERNESS

(LAST UPDATED 3/21/05)

Locally-Elected Official Support: Forty-one locally elected officials representing Snohomish County have endorsed the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal (see below).

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| State Senator Dave Schmidt (R-44) | Marysville Mayor Dennis Kendall |
| State Senator Jean Berkey (D-38) | Mill Creek Mayor Terry Ryan |
| State Senator Paull Shin (D-21) | Monroe Mayor Donnetta Walsler |
| State Representative Hans Dunshee (D-44) | Monroe City Council Member Tony Balk |
| State Representative John Lovick (D-44) | Monroe City Council Member Jeff Frye |
| State Representative John McCoy (D-38) | Monroe City Council Member Ken Berger |
| State Representative David Simpson (D-38) | Monroe City Council Member Mark Mechling* |
| State Representative Brian Sullivan (D-21) | Monroe City Council Member Bruce Hansen* |
| State Representative Mike Cooper (D-21)* | Monroe City Council Member Penny Sopris Kegerries* |
| Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon (D) | Mountlake Terrace Mayor Jerry Smith |
| Snohomish County Council Member Dave Gossett (D) | Snohomish Mayor Liz Loomis |
| Snohomish County Council Member Kirke Sievers (D) | Snohomish City Council Member Chris Lundvall |
| Arlington Mayor Margaret Larsen | Snohomish City Council Member Lya Badgley |
| Brier Mayor Gary Starks | Snohomish City Council Member Melody Clemans |
| Edmunds Mayor Gary Haakenson | Snohomish City Council Member Cameron Bailey* |
| Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson | Snohomish City Council Member Steven Jenkins* |
| Everett City Council Member Bob Overstreet | Snohomish City Council Member Shawn Osborne* |
| Gold Bar City Council Member Steve Higgins* | Snohomish City Council Member Susan Palmer* |
| Index Mayor Kem Hunter* | Stanwood Mayor Herb Kuhnly |
| Lake Stevens Mayor Lynn E. Walty | Woodway Mayor Carol A. Nichols |
| Lynnwood Mayor Mike McKinnon | (*) <i>no longer in office</i> |

"We commend . . . the [Washington] delegation for its collaborative approach and local involvement that contribute to bi-partisan support for this bill... This is a good bill... and if it passes [the President] will be pleased to sign it."

-- USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Mark Rey, testifying on the Wild Sky Wilderness Act before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on June 4, 2003

Business Support: More than 30 local businesses located in the Skykomish River Valley – closest to the proposal, have endorsed the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal because of its importance to the local economy and their unique quality of life (see list below). Many of these businesses sponsored the Wild Sky Wilderness Festival held in Index on June 28. Other regional and national businesses that operate in western Washington have also shown their support, such as REI, Patagonia, Orvis Company, Montrail, Cascade Designs, Canoe and Kayak Magazine, Marmot Mountain Works, Feathered Friends, Ex Officio, Nikwax, The Avid Angler, Zumiez, Inc., K2 Snowboarding, Helly Hansen and Outdoor Research.

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| A Cabin in the Sky (Index) | Downstream River Runners (Monroe) | Skykomish Deli (Skykomish) |
| A River Runs Through It (Baring) | Fairground Inn (Monroe) | Steel Magnolias (Monroe) |
| A Stone's Throw B&B (Index) | Good Life Health Food (Monroe) | Sunset Falls Cabin (Index) |
| Alpine Adventures (Gold Bar) | Grey Fox vacation rentals (Index) | Washington Serpentarium (Monroe) |
| Beige Universe Computers (Monroe) | Hillbillies (Gold Bar) | WaveTrek, Inc. (Index) |
| Cascade Cottage (Skykomish) | La Michoacana Inc. (Monroe) | Werner Paddles (Sultan) |
| Cascadia Inn (Monroe) | Le Sports Junkies (Startup) | Whispering Waters Cabin (Baring) |
| Chinook Expeditions (Index) | Mysty Mountain Cabin (Skykomish) | White Knight Plumbers (Monroe) |
| Cottage Book Exchange (Monroe) | Simon's & Son Fine Dry Cleaning (Monroe) | Rose Hill at Mt. Index vacation rental (Index) |
| Frontier Services (Gold Bar) | Sky River Inn (Skykomish) | |
| Country Cupboard (Monroe) | | |

Public Support: More than 10,000 Washington citizens including more than 1,000 from the Sky Valley towns of Monroe, Gold Bar, Sultan, Startup, Index, Baring and Skykomish, have signed a petition supporting designating the Wild Sky as wilderness. On June 28, 2003, nearly 400 Wilderness enthusiasts attended the Wild Sky Wilderness festival in Index, WA. Senator Murray and Congressman Larsen have

"...certain people... say there has been no... local support for the proposal... There is considerable support for the Wild Sky here in Index, and I'd be glad to introduce these guys to some of those supporters."

-- William Cross from a Letter to The Editor published in the *Everett Herald*.

received thousands of letters and e-mails on the Wild Sky Wilderness over the last two years. In 2001, roughly 100 individuals participated in one of two public meetings focused on the Wild Sky proposal.

Editorial Support & Education Through Media Outlets: There has been extensive press coverage in local and regional media outlets informing the Snohomish County public about the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal. The *Everett Herald*, *Seattle Times* and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* have all editorialized on a number of occasions in support of the legislation. There have been more than 200 newspaper articles, editorials, OpEds or letters to the editor on the Wild Sky Wilderness issue over the last two years.

Public Meetings and Congressional Hearings: Public meetings have been held in local areas to allow opinion leaders and the general public to learn more about Wild Sky and comment on the proposal. Of particular note was the town hall meeting held in Index, WA, which is just outside the proposed wilderness area. A larger public meeting was also held in the City of Monroe, the largest city in the Skykomish Valley. Congressional hearings have been held on the legislation in both the 107th and 108th Congress.

7/16/01 Index Town Hall Meeting on Wild Sky Wilderness
9/6/01 Public Meeting on Wild Sky organized by Larsen and Murray (Monroe)
9/10/01 Public Meeting on Wild Sky organized by Larsen and Murray (Seattle)
7/30/02 U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 2565)
9/12/02 U.S House Resources Committee Mark-up on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (H.R. 4844)
10/8/02 U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Mark-up on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 2565)
3/05/03 Monroe City Council Public Meeting on Wild Sky (resulted in passage of supportive resolution)
6/4/03 U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 391)
7/23/03 U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Mark-up on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (S. 391)
9/2/03 Snohomish City Council Public Meeting on Wild Sky (resulted in passage of supportive resolution)
7/22/04 U.S. House Resources Subcommittee Hearing on Wild Sky Wilderness bill (H.R. 811)

Congressional Outreach: A variety of efforts have been made by Senator Murray's and Congressman Larsen's offices to reach out and meet with local stakeholders on the Wild Sky proposal. Both have been praised for their remarkable and tireless efforts to make the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal an inclusive one. Their staffs have had stakeholder meetings with the Washington State Snowmobile Association, the Seaplane Pilots Association, Longview Fiber, the Backcountry Horsemen Association of Washington, the Snohomish County Farm Bureau, Snohomish County Emergency Radio and Snohomish County Public Works.

07/02/01 Senator Murray and Congressman Larsen set up a tour of the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness to show local officials various aspects of the proposal. They were joined by Snohomish Council Member Dave Somers, mayors of the towns of Index and Skykomish, and members of the Index City Council.
12/05/01 Senator Murray's and Congressman Larsen's offices held a series of one-hour meetings in Everett with all constituents/interest groups and local stakeholders who had contacted Murray and Larsen's office. Stakeholders were identified by the Forest Service or contacted congressional offices directly.
05/21/02 Both legislators' offices briefed Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel and the Tulalip Tribes on the proposal.
05/29/02 Senator Murray and Congressman Larsen held a press conference in Everett on the introduction of the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2002.
10/22/02 Congressman Larsen's office was scheduled to brief the Snohomish County Council on the Wild Sky Wilderness bill. The County Council canceled the meeting that morning and has yet to reschedule.
02/25/03 Both legislators' offices conducted a 1 ½ hour meeting on the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal with the Snohomish County Farm Bureau.
05/27/03 Congressman Larsen's office met with both the WA State Farm Bureau and Snohomish County Farm Bureau. Repeated Meetings with the WA State Snowmobile Association, the Seaplane Pilots Association, Longview Fiber, the Cascade Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen, Snohomish County Emergency Radio and Public Works.
Ongoing: Meetings and communication with constituents continue.

"The bill has always had bi-partisan support and a great amount of work has been done to consider group and citizen input. Nothing should stop our elected officials from moving forward and making it official once and for all."

-- from an *Everett Herald* editorial on the Wild Sky Wilderness Act, June 9 2003.