

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Bob Lohn  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA Fisheries  
PO Box 7600  
Seattle, WA 98115

Ren Lohofener  
Regional Director, Pacific Region  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

May 2, 2007

Dear Regional Administrator Lohn and Regional Director Lohofener,

We are writing to follow up on our letter of support for the Family Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (FFHCP), dated April 11, 2007. We have received questions about the previous letter and would like to clarify a couple of points.

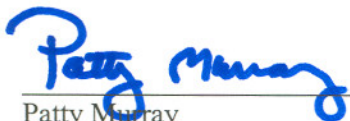
We urge your strong consideration of the FFHCP under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The FFHCP, developed by the Family Forest Foundation and Lewis County over the past ten years, represents the work of a broad, community-based coalition that has long been a grassroots effort. The efforts of the Family Forest Foundation and Lewis County in developing this HCP will help to relieve some of the pressures that small family foresters, who manage over 130,000 acres of forestland in Lewis County, face to convert their lands to development. We are proud to have been involved in this effort for several years, helping to secure federal funds for this project.

We fully support the goals and objectives of the FFHCP, and commend the Family Forest Foundation and Lewis County for their commitment to completing this project within current funding allocations. We applaud their efforts to work with local stakeholders, environmental organizations, and local, state and federal government agencies. We've heard time and again from the Family Forest Foundation about their commitment to developing a HCP that truly protects, over the long term, both their family farms and the fish and wildlife that inhabit those lands.

We are both strong supporters of the independent scientific review process of HCP applications. Our letter of April 11<sup>th</sup> urged your agencies to devote sufficient resources to this application so that your scientists can do their work effectively. We continue to ask that you provide the necessary staffing support to analyze this application.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Mindi Linquist in Senator Murray's Vancouver office at (360) 696-7797.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

Cc: Jeff Koenings Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Doug Sutherland, Washington Department of Natural Resources  
Jay Manning, Washington Department of Ecology