

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

April 11, 2007

Dear Regional Administrator Lohn and Regional Director Lohofener,

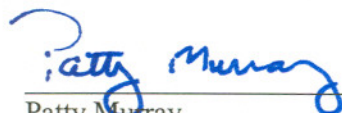
We are writing to urge your strong consideration of the Family Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (FFHCP), developed by the Family Forest Foundation and Lewis County, in issuing permits under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. This plan represents the work of a broad community-based coalition that is thoroughly committed to its successful implementation. Over ten years and \$3.2 million have been invested in the plan, with significant efforts and innovative achievements obtained as a result. Both Lewis County and the Family Forest Foundation are committed to completing the project with current funding allocations. Your support is essential in completing this project while achieving an agreement that works for Lewis County, family forest landowners, and both NOAA Fisheries and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The FFHCP is a grassroots effort led by Lewis County and the Family Forest Foundation to secure habitat for 65 fish and wildlife species while providing regulatory certainty through long-term planning. The Family Forest Foundation is a six-member organization comprised of small family forest landowners in Lewis County. Their mission is to foster economically and ecologically sustainable family forests.

With the completion of the FFHCP, more than 2,200 Lewis County family forest landowners, managing in excess of 130,000 acres of forest, will have a more-efficient means to ensure the long-term viability of the family forests while providing habitat for wildlife under the Endangered Species Act.

We fully support the goals, objectives and scientific merit of the Family Forest Habitat Conservation Plan. We ask that you provide the necessary policy and staffing support to complete this project within its current timeframe and funding constraints. With your help, Lewis County landowners will be able to start enrollment in the FFHCP plan in 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Mindi Linqvist in Senator Murray's Vancouver office, (360) 696-7797.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Brian Baird
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress

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