

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen  
Chief, U.S. Forest Service  
Sidney R. Yates Building  
201 14th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Christiansen:

We are writing in strong support of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' application to the FY2021 Forest Legacy Program (FLP) for the Dewatto Headwaters Forest, Phase III project. The project would secure timber production jobs, fish habitat, and U.S. Navy operations in Hood Canal while preserving recreational opportunities.

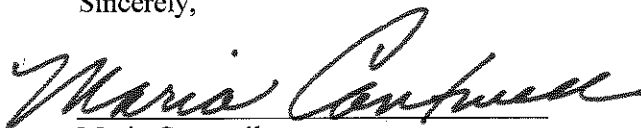
The Dewatto Headwaters Forest project is a large-scale, multi-phase initiative to conserve 11,467 acres of working forests on Hood Canal. In partnership with Pope Resources and the Trust for Public Land, the Washington Department of Natural Resources is seeking \$5.775 million to purchase a conservation easement on 4,304 acres in Kitsap and Mason counties.

Completion of the Dewatto Headwaters Forest project would support the ecological health of the Hood Canal while promoting the economic welfare of the families who rely on its timberland and shellfish beds for their livelihoods. Conservation easements throughout these working forests would protect the headwaters of the Dewatto River, Tahuya River, and Anderson Creek, supporting migration and spawning of several federally-listed salmon species. The project will also ensure continuation of sustainable forestry in the area and the availability of recreational access for hunting, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and horseback riding, all of which benefit the local economy.

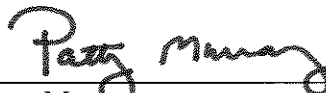
The multiphase project is intended to protect a total of 11,467 acres of working forest in the area, leveraging a total of \$13.025 million from FLP and a nearly \$5 million match by the U.S. Navy through the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program. The U.S. Navy supports the protection of forestland around Hood Canal to ensure that its submarine training conducted from nearby Naval Base Kitsap is not impacted by incompatible development. The Dewatto Headwaters Forest project helps the Navy maintain its mission-critical operations.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support this project and we urge the Forest Service to give full and fair consideration of Washington State Department of Natural Resources' application for the Dewatto Headwaters Forest, Phase III project.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator