

S. 47 – The Natural Resources Management Act

S. 47, The *Natural Resources Management Act* (also known as the “Murkowski-Cantwell lands package”), is the largest bipartisan package of public lands bills assembled by Congress in more than a decade. Containing over 130 individual bills from dozens of senators on both sides of the aisle, the package has the bipartisan support of both the Senate and House leadership. At the center of the package is Senator Cantwell’s legislation to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which expired on September 30, 2018.

By The Numbers:

- More than 130 individual bills included in the package
- Designates 1,340,000 acres of new wilderness, 367 miles of new Wild & Scenic Rivers, and 2,600 miles of new National Trails
- Creates four new National Monuments

LWCF:

- The package permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Since its creation by Scoop Jackson, LWCF has supported more than 600 projects in Washington state, including popular recreation sites like Olympic National Park, Lake Chelan, Gas Works Park, and Riverside State Park
- In that time, the LWCF has invested \$675 in Washington state’s economy

Other Important Washington State Provisions:

- The *Methow Headwaters Protection Act* permanently protects the Methow Valley watershed by removing 340,000 acres of Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from potential mining development.
- The *Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Phase III Act* authorizes an integrated and collaborative approach to addressing water challenges in the Yakima Valley to restore ecosystems and fisheries, ensure communities have access to water, help rehabilitate and repair the Wapato Irrigation Project, and extend water supplies for farmers in times of drought.
- The *Wildfire Management Technology Advancement Act* increases safety for firefighters and brings firefighting agencies across the country into the 21st century through the use of GPS and unmanned aircraft systems.
- The *National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act* improves the nation’s volcano monitoring and early warning capabilities and strengthens existing monitoring systems, including the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Washington state and Oregon, to help keep communities and travelers safe.
- The *Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act* designates 1.5 million acres of land stretching along the Interstate 90 corridor from Seattle to Ellensburg as one of the Pacific Northwest’s first National Heritage Areas.
- The *Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Act* would establish a National Heritage Area that consists of lighthouses, historic vessels, parks, and other landmarks located within one-quarter mile of the shoreline in 13 counties – Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, Island, King, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, Clallam, and Grays Harbor – to preserve and promote the state’s maritime history and culture for future generations.
- The *National Nordic Museum Designation* designates the Nordic Museum in Seattle as the National Nordic Museum, recognizing the museum’s unique work to preserve, celebrate, and educate the American public about Nordic history, culture, and art.