



PORT ANGELES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
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7/24/12

Representative Norm Dicks
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell

The Port Angeles Business Association (PABA) opposes the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2012 and requests all of our elected representatives to discontinue their support of this legislation.

We contend that this act would substantially reduce working forests and, therefore, in our view, would be detrimental to the best interests of Port Angeles as it would serve to add further burden to an already struggling economy.

Several economic impact studies have documented the tragic loss of family wage jobs that resulted from the North West Forest Plan. This proposal does nothing to increase the federal working forests that would mitigate that impact.

Moreover, we further contend that working forests are healthy forests whereas forests that are not actively managed are prone to deterioration.

In the words of Robyn Thorson, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region, "Active forest management is needed to make forests more resilient to the effects of environmental change that can result from catastrophic wildfire, invasive species, disease, insect outbreaks, and climate changes anticipated and already documented. We believe, based on the best data available, that a hands-off approach to managing forests is not the best way to promote the overall health of the ecosystems or the broader Northwest forest landscape."

The healthy working forest concept is further supported by Jerry Franklin, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources who states *"Thinning can be good, but the openings in the forest canopy created by regeneration harvest are increasingly scarce. There is a deficit of early-successional habitat that can only be eliminated by allowing federal forest managers to do more than thinning."*

In our opinion, we do need the forests to support us but, on the other hand, the forests need us to support them. Accordingly, we view this act to be harmful both economically and ecologically and insensitive to our economic challenges. We urge you, our elected representatives, to join us in opposing this act.

RA Pilling
President PABA