



March 30, 2017

Re: [S.513](#), a bill to designate the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area in the State of Oregon. (Mr. Wyden)

Trout Unlimited supports S. 513, "The Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Designation Act," which will designate a special management area along Steamboat Creek in the world famous North Umpqua River drainage of Douglas County, Oregon.

S.513 honors Frank Moore, a World War II veteran and legendary steward of the North Umpqua River, and his wife, Jeanne, a tireless advocate for protecting this landscape and its emerald waters. The bill will permanently protect roughly 100,000 acres of public lands in south west Oregon, safeguarding drinking water, critical wildlife habitat, and cultural resources in a watershed identified as one of the most important ecological areas in the Pacific Northwest, and would preserve world-class opportunities for fishing and other types of outdoor recreation, boosting the local economy which depends on safeguarded public lands and waters.

This bill enjoys wide spread support from the timber industry, veterans groups, area tribes, local businesses, conservation, environmental and sportsmen groups. In fact, there is no known opposition to this bill. It protects a true Oregon treasure and honors two of America's greatest citizens.

The rural outdoor economy of Oregon depends on protecting its natural resources. People from around the United States, even from around the world come to the North Umpqua River to test their angling skills on the Steelhead that ascend this majestic river. The steelhead depend on the cold, clean water that flows from these forests. Without it, they would perish, and without the steelhead, area businesses would cease and our way of life would come to an end.

This bill ensures that for generations to come, all our citizens will enjoy the privilege of wading the cool waters of the North Umpqua river and perhaps encounter the prized native steelhead that call this place home.

We thank Senators Wyden and for introducing legislation and stand ready to work with the bill's sponsors and members of the committee to help advance this legislation.

For questions related to these comments, please contact the following:

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March 30, 2017

Re: [S.566](#), a bill to withdraw certain land in Okanogan County, Washington, to protect the land, and for other purposes. (Ms. Cantwell)

Trout Unlimited strongly supports S. 566, the Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2017, which protects specific lands within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from mining development.

The Methow River, which flows from its headwaters on Flagg Mountain to meet the Columbia 80 miles later, is one of Washington State's most iconic rivers and serves as a Pacific Northwest mecca for hunters, anglers, recreationists, and conservationists.

The Methow provides key habitat for a myriad of native fish species, including three species of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmonid species: Upper Columbia spring Chinook, Upper Columbia steelhead trout, and bull trout. The salmon and steelhead that return to this river must navigate past 9 dams and endure countless impacts through an over-stressed ecosystem in order to reach their spawning grounds. Trout Unlimited's Western Water and Habitat Program has invested millions of dollars and thousands of staff hours to work hand-in-hand with the community on projects to improve trout and salmon habitat throughout the Methow River watershed. On a larger scale, the Federal government has also invested hundreds of millions to repair and restore these populations—both in the Methow, and throughout the Columbia Basin. Protecting the Methow headwaters will safeguard these investments prevent the unavoidable damage to water resources associated with large-scale mining on Flagg Mountain.

The Methow Valley has built its economic success upon two main industries: Agriculture and Recreation - both of which rely heavily on healthy waters. A large-scale mine in the headwaters of the Methow River watershed would (1) pose an unacceptable risk to ESA-listed fish species that are already on the brink of extinction, (2) undermine millions in taxpayer dollars spent on fisheries recovery in this watershed, and (3) devastate the local recreation-based economy, which relies on sustained ecosystem health (and fisheries) in the Methow River watershed.

The campaign to withdrawal the Upper Methow from mineral entry has amassed an impressive coalition – a large and diverse group partners, including over 100 local businesses and organizations, tribes, local and state elected officials, and numerous sportsmen and recreational organizations. The prospect of an industrial-scale mine on Flagg Mountain or anywhere else in the Upper Methow Valley represents a direct threat to the very values at the heart of success in the community and the quarter-billion-dollar investment private landowners, tribes, and state and federal agencies have made in conservation, restoration, and recreation efforts over the years.