

Resolution #25  
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

## **SUPPORT PROHIBITION ON FISH STOCKING IN NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK**

Submitted by: Wilderness Watch

**Background:** After a lengthy environmental study and years of public input, the National Park Service (NPS) has ended fish stocking in the Stephen Mather Wilderness in North Cascades National Park. This decision falls in line with the agency's long-standing policy prohibiting the introduction of non-native species into the parks, and the Wilderness Act's requirement for agencies to preserve an area's natural conditions.

The NPS has allowed fish stocking in North Cascades for many decades, but in recognition of the significant environmental effects to aquatic ecosystems of introducing fish into naturally fishless waters, and in order to comply with agency policy, the NPS prepared an EIS for the Park and declared the practice would be ended on July 1, 2009.

Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA) has introduced legislation (H.R. 2430) directing the National Park Service to allow continued stocking 42 lakes in the Park. The bill has passed the House of Representatives and been referred to the U.S. Senate.

Stocking of fish in naturally fish-less lakes runs counter to the NPS mission of preserving natural conditions and to both NPS policy and Wilderness Act requirements. Congress should allow the NPS to end this practice and restore natural conditions in North Cascades National Park.

**Resolution:** The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports the cessation of the stocking of fish in North Cascades National Park and the Stephen Mather Wilderness. The FWOC opposes efforts, including H.R. 2430, that would mandate or otherwise authorize stocking fish in these naturally fishless waters. The FWOC further urges its member clubs, especially those in the State of Washington, to contact U.S. Senators Murray and Cantwell urging them to oppose efforts to overturn the cessation of fish stocking.

Contact: George Nickas, PO Box 9175, Missoula, MT 59807. (406) 542-2048.  
gnickas@wildernesswatch.org North Cascades Conservation Council to the "submitted by" list,  
David Fluharty, fluberg@msn.com, NCCC.