

Statement for the Record
Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02)
June 14, 2011
National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee
House Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva, I would like to thank you for including H.R. 1740 as part of today's hearing. This legislation, and its companion bill, S. 888, introduced by Senator Patty Murray, would designate portions of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Illabot Creek travels from the Glacier Park Wildness Area to the upper Skagit River, falling 7,000 feet during its journey. The water of Illabot Creek provides the optimal conditions for wild Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout, species listed as threatened.

My legislation will designate 14.3 miles of Illabot Creek as Wild and Scenic, protecting the strong character of the water for species promulgation while ensuring that hunting and fishing and other recreational activities continue.

I was very pleased when this same legislation was unanimously agreed to in the full Natural Resources Committee last year, and when it was passed by voice vote in the full House. H.R. 1740 reflects the changes adopted by the committee to more specifically designate the area included within the bill.

I would like to thank Lisa Bellefond of the Nature Conservancy for testifying on behalf of the legislation. The Nature Conservancy, along with local elected officials, environmentalists, fisherman, agriculturists and others came together in this effort and we are hopeful to see it move through the process and reach completion.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on H.R. 1740, and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.