

**The Honorable Doc Hastings**  
**Statement on HR 2430, Fish Stocking in the North Cascades National Park Complex**  
**June 2, 2009**

Mister Speaker:

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2430, legislation to allow for the continued stocking of fish in certain alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex, including the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

Many of these lakes have been stocked since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, long before they became part of the National Park complex. For decades, volunteer groups, working with the State of Washington, have stocked trout in a number of lakes in this area under carefully constructed management plans written by State and Park Service biologists. In addition, congressional consideration of the creation of the North Cascades National Park clearly indicated that fish stocking should continue. More significantly, the legislation creating the Park even identifies fishing as an important recreational use.

When questions were raised about the environmental impacts of fish stocking, the Park Service prepared an Environmental Impact Statement on the fisheries in these mountain lakes. The preferred alternative selected in the final record of decision is to allow continued fish stocking in forty-two lakes where the agency has concluded there would be no adverse impact on native ecosystems. In this report the Park Service also requested explicit authority to allow fish stocking to continue within the Park.

In order to protect this longstanding practice in the North Cascades, I introduced H.R. 2430 to ensure that fish stocking can continue. After years of consultation with local leaders on this issue, it is clear to me that communities in and around the North Cascades National Park Complex want fish stocking to continue. Many tourists visit the Park for its scenic beauty as well as for its fishing opportunities, helping make fish stocking an important component of the Central Washington economy.

Finally, I would like to thank many of my Washington state colleagues who cosponsored H.R. 2430, including Rick Larsen, Norm Dicks, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Brian Baird and Adam Smith. I especially would like to note the assistance provided by Norm Dicks, whose involvement in this issue goes back to his time as a staff member in Congress. I urge all my colleagues to support this common sense legislation and ensure that local residents and all visitors to the North Cascades National Park can continue to enjoy recreational fishing as they have for more than a century.