

the inclusion of the Frank and Jeanne Moore Salmon Sanctuary.

As anybody who works on public lands legislation knows, sometimes it is hard to find a balance in order to get public lands legislation passed. Nobody gets everything they want. Nobody gets everything they believe they ought to have. The question is, can you bring people together.

I am going to close by way of saying I have highlighted a number of provisions that I am glad we got in here. It was 10 years earlier when then-President Obama signed seven pieces of public lands legislation that I was the lead author of. So these opportunities don't come along all the time.

There are additional protections that I wish were in this bill we will vote on in a few hours. I particularly wanted further protections for the Rogue and the Molalla Rivers. I want to say to the people I am so honored to represent at home that as soon as we get this done, we are going to go back and start building support to get those protections through Congress in the future, and I am optimistic that if we can have the same kind of cooperation I have been talking about this morning, we can get them across the finish line.

This public lands bill may not be perfect, but it is a major accomplishment. If you had told me, in a polarized political climate like the one we have today, that we could get a permanent authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, I would have said, "No way. Can't happen," but now we have real protection for, as it is called, LWCF.

I am just going to close by mentioning, finally, my friend, our late Republican Governor, Tom McCall. He embodied—and you see it in this book, "Fire at Eden's Gate: The Oregon Story." Tom McCall, a Republican, embodied Oregon's long and proud history of conservation.

I want to close by saying the reason I focused on Tom McCall this morning is that he is part of a historical legacy. Sometimes, over the last few years, I have gotten the sense that that historical principle that protecting public lands was not a partisan issue—sometimes I felt it was just slipping away. Today, it seems to me, we are pushing back. We are headed in the right direction, and protecting the special places my home State is known for is something that gives me great pride. It is also something you bring some humility to because Tom McCall was in a league of his own with respect to protecting our treasures, and I am very glad today, with the Oregon provisions in this bill, we can build on Tom McCall's legacy. I am proud to have been able to play a role in making sure those provisions that help Oregon and our country have been included in this bill.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12 noon, recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

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Mr. DAINES. Madam President, there is a lot that I love about my State, Montana. It is where I grew up. In fact, it is where—my great-great-grandmother came from Minnesota and homesteaded just north of Great Falls. It is where my dad and my grandpa taught me how to fly fish and to hunt. It is where I got to attend college, in fact, at Montana State University. It is where I went to kindergarten through high school—in Bozeman. In fact, it is where I proposed to my sweet wife Cindy on Hyalite Peak. It was about 7½ miles up and 7½ miles back. It was about a 15-mile day that day we got engaged, July 31, 1986. It is where Cindy and I raised our four children. In fact, speaking of children, it is more recently where I walked my daughter Annie down the aisle in Churchill, MT, last October. Montana is a part of me. It is home.

But what I am here to talk about today is something that Montanans like me love most about our State, and that is our public lands, because in a place like Montana, our public lands are a way of life. Our public lands are where Montanans make memories with their families, their loved ones, and their friends. Montana's public lands are where we take our kids on the weekends. In fact, they are where we spend at least a week every August off the beaten path in the Beartooth Wilderness. They are where Cindy and I will take a couple of dogs and take along our kids now, as they have gotten older, if they have time. If not, Cindy and I go off with our two dogs and spend time in the high country. We do that every summer.

Our public lands are where we grow up learning to love the outdoors, and they are where we still continue to pass on that outdoor heritage to our children and our grandchildren. Montana's public lands play a major role in what makes our State so great.

For anyone who has time and has been fortunate enough to enjoy the Big Sky Country's public lands, I am sure you would agree that we must continue to cherish and protect those very lands we love in every way possible. That is why I am thrilled that this afternoon the Senate is going to vote on a very important, bipartisan public lands package that includes some important provisions for Montana, such as the permanent reauthorization of the Land

and Water Conservation Fund and the protection of Paradise Valley. In fact, Paradise Valley is the doorstep to Yellowstone National Park, our Nation's first national park. That would be found in the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act.

Growing up, I spent a lot of time in that part of our State. I still do. I love fly fishing on the Yellowstone River. In fact, when I was in high school, I loaded up the station wagon—in fact, I think probably the Griswolds' station wagon by today's standards—and, with a couple of my classmates from Bozeman High—we had our homecoming dinner before we went to the homecoming dance there in Chico, MT.

This package also increases sportsmen's access to public lands, which is something that is so important to the sports men and women of Montana.

This is a historic win for Montana. In fact, it is one of the biggest conservation wins we have seen in arguably a decade. It is what is going to help preserve our access to our public lands. These are the treasures of our great State.

I very much look forward to casting my vote this afternoon when we pass it here in the Senate. This public lands package is a product of years of effort. Over 100 different pieces of legislation have been put together from the local level, grassroots moving its way up, to our now having a chance to vote on that right here for final passage in the U.S. Senate. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

We are blessed to be home to so many public lands in Montana, and we must do all we can to protect them and ensure Montanans have access to these public lands.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

RECOGNIZING IOWA

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, during this Valentines Day week, folks around the country are taking a moment to express their love to one another. I have the great fortune to be the junior Senator from the great State of Iowa, so I wanted to take a moment to share just how much I love my home State of Iowa.

Iowa truly is where my heart is, from its beautiful farmland to its streams and rolling hills, Boyden to Brandon, Fairview, Farragut, and Fort Madison, and Keokuk to Rock Rapids and all the places in between. Iowa has been so very good to me, and it has so much to offer. Nothing is better to me than grabbing a slice of our hometown Casey's pizza and catching a sunset on a beautiful Iowa day or on a snowy cold one if you happen to be there right now. I could spend hours mentioning the things I love about Iowa, but I wanted to take the time to mention just a few.

I love how Iowans are politically engaged. There is a reason why the Iowa caucuses are the heartbeat of America's political scene and why politicians line up to eat corn dogs, fried