

Statement of Leslie Weldon
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Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Before the United States Senate
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining
November 20, 2013
Concerning

S. 1305, “A Bill to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service
Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.”

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide the Department of Agriculture’s views on S. 1305, “A Bill to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.”

The Department supports S. 1305.

S. 1305 would provide that the approximately 40 acre Lake Hill site on the White River National Forest is considered to be an administrative site under the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act (FSFREA) of 2005 (Public

Law 17 109–54; 16 U.S.C. 580d) and conveyed to Summit County, Colorado under that Act. The Lake Hill parcel is undeveloped land that would be used by the County primarily for providing affordable local housing for municipal, school, hospital and emergency services employees. As a condition of the conveyance, the County would pay for all administrative costs associated with the conveyance and the proceeds of the conveyance will be made available for capital improvement and maintenance of Forest Service facilities.

The Department supports the conveyance of the Lake Hill administrative site to Summit County Colorado. The Lake Hill site has lost its National Forest character. It is severed from the remaining White River National Forest. Interstate Highway 70 runs parallel on the Northwest side of the parcel, Dillon Reservoir and the Dam Road border the Southeast side and the community of Frisco borders the Southwestern boundary. A community water storage reservoir and utility corridors also occupy NFS lands on, or adjacent to, the parcel.

The conveyance will benefit both Summit County and the Forest Service. Summit County has identified the need to provide workforce housing in the area. The conveyance of the Lake Hill Administrative Site will provide space for this important county project. The Forest Service benefits by the opportunity to use funds generated by the legislation to improve the condition of Forest Service facilities within the Region.

In summary, we support S. 1305 and would be glad to answer any questions.
