

**STATEMENT  
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BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
OCTOBER 29, 2009**

**CONCERNING**

**S. 1328, SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST ADMINISTRATIVE  
JURISDICTION TRANSFER ACT**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Barrasso, and Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to provide the Department of Agriculture's views on S. 1328, regarding the interchange of certain Federal lands between the Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Shasta-Trinity National Forest has worked closely with the Redding, California Field Office (BLM) to identify the appropriate lands for inclusion in the administrative jurisdiction transfer.

The Department supports this bill, which provides a seamless recreation experience and improved management of the Shasta-Chappie Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area as well as enabling the Forest Service to consolidate key landholdings, including the BLM's portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. We note that many of the same goals of this act could be achieved administratively through Service First Authority (PL 106-291), an authority available to both Departments to more efficiently and effectively manage the Federal estate. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Subcommittee and the BLM to address technical changes to the lands involved in the interchange.

Just 10 miles northwest of Redding, the Chappie-Shasta Off-Highway area offers 200 miles of roads and trails over 52,000 acres for off-road enthusiasts. The Chappie-Shasta area is conducive for mountain biking, camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding, and hunting, in addition to the off-highway vehicle use.

S. 1328 transfers to the BLM administrative jurisdiction for approximately 11,760 acres of National Forest System lands located within the Chappie-Shasta OHV Area. In return, the bill transfers to the FS administrative jurisdiction for approximately 5,000 acres in three parcels of public land currently managed by the BLM in Trinity, Shasta, Humboldt, and Siskiyou Counties. The BLM lands include approximately 4,830 acres of the Tunnel Ridge portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness of which the FS manages approximately 517,000 acres. The other two parcels are approximately 217 acres adjacent to Shasta Lake and approximately 44 acres along California Highway 89.

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest currently issues four to six Special Use Permits per year for OHV race events within the Chappie-Shasta OHV Area. The OHV staging area is currently on National Forest System lands within the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. However, large portions of the trails are on private and other federal lands administered by the FS, BLM, the Bureau of Recreation and the National Park Service.

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management have a long history of working together in the development and management of the Chappie-Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area. However, the different permitting and administrative processes of the two agencies have caused difficulties for recreational users. In addition, each agency has been separately applying for grant funding for the OHV area, which is both inefficient and redundant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S. 1328. I welcome any questions you may have.