

**STATEMENT OF
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DEPUTY CHIEF FOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

October 30, 2007

CONCERNING

H.R. 3473—Bountiful City Land Consolidation Act

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee:

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service. I am here today to provide the Department's comments on H.R. 3473—the Bountiful City Land Consolidation Act.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 3473 with modest amendments to address a number of mostly minor technical issues. We would like to work with the bill's sponsor and the committee on these amendments.

H.R. 3473 provides for the conveyance of up to 220 acres of National Forest System lands to the city of Bountiful, Utah in exchange for 1,680 acres of environmentally significant lands to be included within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The bill would benefit both the City of Bountiful and the National Forest System by consolidating land ownership.

The National Forest System parcel contains a shooting range which has been authorized under a special use permit to the Bountiful Lion's Club for approximately 20 years. The legislation

stipulates that the portion of the parcel containing the shooting range is to be conveyed first. The Department requests that the bill be amended to include language to address any potential environmental clean up of the site in the future resulting from its use as a shooting range. Additionally the bill language should provide for continuation of other valid existing uses and exclude limitations on the availability of funds for emergency needs.

The legislation provides for an equal value exchange of land between the Forest Service and the City of Bountiful and authorizes the Secretary to accept, if necessary, a cash equalization payment in excess of amounts authorized under current law.

If the land exchange is not completed within two years of the date of enactment, the legislation would provide the Secretary with the authority to dispose of any remaining portion of the National Forest System parcel by competitive means.

These provisions benefit the Forest Service by providing the agency with the authority to convey whatever portion of the isolated parcel of National Forest System land may remain and to collect the funds to be used for National Forest purposes, including acquisition of lands as well as construction, operation, and maintenance of administrative sites on the Wasatch-Cache and Uinta National Forests

Additionally, the bill provides for a 60 foot wide easement for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, which intersects the National Forest System parcel, and for the reservation of other rights-of-way for utilities, roads, and trails in the public interest.

We appreciate the sponsor's work with the community to develop a bill that will benefit both the City of Bountiful, Utah and the National Forest System.

This concludes my statement, I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.