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United States Department of Agriculture

Before the United States House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation

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Concerning

H.R. 2337, “To provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service  
Lake Hill Administrative Site Designation and Conveyance  
in Summit County, Colorado.”

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Grijalva, and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today to testify regarding H.R. 2337, a bill “To provide for the administrative designation and conveyance of a portion of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.”

The Department supports H.R. 2337.

H.R. 2337 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 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. However, we have some technical concerns with the way in which the bill directs the use of the proceeds. Typically, the Secretary is directed to deposit the proceeds in the Sisk Act account and is authorized to use the proceeds for construction, maintenance and improvements in the State or Region.

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 H.R. 2337 and would be glad to answer any questions.