

**STATEMENT OF
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CHIEF
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

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

**February 3, 2022
Regarding**

H.R. 6337 – Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act

Chairman Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service on H.R. 6337, the Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act.

H.R. 6337 would require Federal land management agencies to identify at least 10 long-distance bike trails on the Federal lands they manage and to identify at least 10 areas where there is an opportunity to develop or complete long-distance bike trails. Long-distance bike trails are defined as trails being at least 80 miles in length that are available to mountain biking, road biking, touring, or cyclo-cross. The bill would provide for maps and other bike trail identification materials and would require a report to Congress on the identified bike trails within two years of enactment.

USDA supports the goal of H.R. 6337 to identify and promote long-distance biking opportunities on National Forest System lands. However, we do not believe legislation is necessary. Consistent with its multiple-use mission, the Forest Service considers mountain biking in the context of all possible types of trail use on National Forest System trails, including hiking and horseback riding. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss biking opportunities and trail designation authorities on National Forest System lands with the Committee and bill sponsors, and, if desired, to work on technical improvements that would minimize litigation risk.