

**Subcommittee Chair Joe Neguse
NPFPL Legislative Hearing
Opening Statement
March 1, 2022**

- **Thank you all for being here today for this Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands' legislative hearing on five bills.**
- **The roster of bills that we will be discussing speak to the evolving relationship we have with our public lands and our continued value for accessing its treasures while restoring and preserving it for the future.**
- **These efforts will provide resource benefits to the people across our nation while also providing for more opportunities for local community engagement and involvement.**
- **From acknowledging the Historical Traditional Uses of our federal public lands to considering land conveyances that allow for the restoration from previous uses, we look to our past relationship with the land to find a path for the future.**
- **There are two land conveyances proposed by my Republican colleagues that will be discussed today: one will allow for the much-needed clean-up of the abandoned Gilt Edge Mine in South Dakota through the Gilt Edge Mine Conveyance Act.**

- **The second land conveyance bill we will consider today is the Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act. This legislation will allow for the conveyance of a historic site that the USDA Forest Service is currently responsible for. The land conveyance would support the local community's vision for new recreation and business opportunities in a region made up of primarily federal land.**
- **Today we will also be hearing a proposal to extend the fee authority for the Shasta-Trinity Marinas in the Shasta Trinity National Recreation Area. Such fees are critical to supporting the recreational infrastructure related to boating opportunities.**
- **I am honored that we are working to expand protections for places like the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, designated in 2015 by President Obama through Presidential Proclamation.**
- **H.R. 6366, the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act demonstrates the value and support of such designations by local communities.**
- **We will hear from both Tribal Chairman Anthony Roberts of the Yocha Dehe (YO-cha DEE-hee) Wintun Nation and Lake County Supervisor Eddie**

Crandell about the incredible community support that exists for this legislation.

- **We will also hear from Subcommittee member Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez on H.R. 5493, an important bill that would provide for more consultation and inclusiveness in our land-management decision-making. Through the Land Grant-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act, this legislation would call for the consideration of Historical Traditional Uses in federal land management planning.**
- **We will hear important testimony on H.R. 5493 from Arturo Archuleta, Program Manager of the New Mexico Land Grant Council. Arturo leads efforts to provide advice and assistance to land grants and serves as a liaison between land grants and the federal, state and local governments.**
- **Through legislation such as H.R. 5493, we acknowledge the rights of our predecessors to have a closer relationship once again with the land. The recognition of Historical Traditional Uses imparts our commitment to restore those rights.**
- **America's public lands have significance and meaning to all Americans.**

- **From growing local economies to telling enlightening stories of past peoples, America's public lands help us to understand our current place and role in actively changing ecosystems.**
- **Preserving and protecting public lands that include important designations such as National Recreation Areas, National Monuments and National Wilderness designations allow us to understand the wide range of benefits that will continue to grow for all of us and for future generations of Americans.**
- **With that, I'd like to recognize Ranking Member Fulcher for his opening remarks.**