

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States
Legislative Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
February 5, 2020
2:00 p.m.

Legislative Hearing on *H.R. 4059, H.R. 4495, H.R. 4888, H.R. 5153*

Questions from Rep. Bishop for Jeff Grubbe, Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

1. Has the tribe applied, or does the tribe plan to apply, to have the BLM Exchange Lands taken in trust through the Secretary's administrative process (codified in 25 CFR Part 151) notwithstanding the mandatory trust acquisition under H.R. 4059?
2. What purpose does the acquisition of the BLM Exchange Land in trust serve that could not be served by the tribe owning the land in fee?
3. Though the land is in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, will the tribe, except for gaming, be able to do what it wishes on the land when placed in trust?
4. Discretionary fee-to-trust acquisitions require NEPA review, whereas mandatory acquisitions done by Congress waive NEPA. Is the tribe seeking passage of H.R. 4059 to waive a NEPA process that would otherwise be required if the acquisition were pursued through the normal Department's discretionary (administrative) process?