

House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs

Legislative Hearing to Review H.R. 1451, Quapaw Tribal Settlement Act of 2025; H.R. 2302, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Land Transfer Act of 2025; H.R. 2389, Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act; and H.R. 2400, Pit River Land Transfer Act of 2025

April 30, 2025

Questions for the Record

Mr. John Crockett

Chairman Jeff Hurd

1) Is the U.S. Forest Service aware of any opposition to placing land into trust for the Quinault Indian Nation in respect to H.R. 2839?

Response: The USDA Forest Service is not aware of any opposition to placing land into trust for the Quinault Indian Nation and supports H.R. 2839.

2) The U.S. Forest Service currently manages Allotment 1157. What does the U.S. Forest Service currently do with this land?

Response: The Olympic National Forest manages Allotment 1157 to preserve old-growth forest in alignment with our Tribal Trust relationship and Treaty responsibilities and as habitat for the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and other native species. The Allotment is located within the boundaries of the Quinault Indian Reservation, outside of the administrative boundary of the Olympic National Forest. The Allotment has no land designation under the Northwest Forest Plan or the 1990 Land Resource Management Plan.

3) Is the U.S. Forest Service aware of any opposition to placing land into trust for the Pit River Tribe in respect to H.R. 2400?

Response: The USDA Forest Service is not aware of any opposition to placing land into trust for the Pit River Tribe and supports H.R. 2400. We would appreciate the opportunity to continue working with the Committee to ensure that any existing special use permits, along with the rights of way and road permits, are also excluded from the land transferred.

Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez

1) How many probationary employees were terminated at the U.S. Forest Service and what roles did they serve?

Response: H.R. 2839 and H.R. 2400 does not impact the subject matter of this question. This question is more appropriately posed to policy personnel within USDA.

2) How many employees have resigned at the U.S. Forest Service since the start of this calendar year, and what roles did they serve?

Response: H.R. 2839 and H.R. 2400 does not impact the subject matter of this question. This question is more appropriately posed to policy personnel within USDA.

3) How many positions are currently vacant at the U.S. Forest Service compared to the start of this calendar year, and how many of these positions does the Department anticipate refilling?

Response: H.R. 2839 and H.R. 2400 does not impact the subject matter of this question. This question is more appropriately posed to policy personnel within USDA.

4) How will recent terminations, resignations, and retirements affect U.S. Forest Service operations, including any impacts on working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribes in taking land into trust for the benefit of tribal nations?

Response: H.R. 2839 and H.R. 2400 does not impact the subject matter of this question. This question is more appropriately posed to policy personnel within USDA.

5) As of May 5, 2025, several U.S. Forest Service offices remain listed for lease termination on DOGE's website. Could you please provide the rationale for each of these lease terminations, and whether any impacted tribes were consulted prior to the listing of each office?

Response: H.R. 2839 and H.R. 2400 does not impact the subject matter of this question. This question is more appropriately posed to policy personnel within USDA.