

Statement of Glenn Casamassa
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U.S. Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture
Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining
Concerning
S. 2218 – West Fork Fire Station Act of 2017
February 7, 2018

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Wyden, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding S. 2218 – West Fork Fire Station Act of 2017. I am Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System (NFS), USDA Forest Service.

S. 2218 would convey, without consideration, all right, title, and interest in approximately 3.61 acres of National Forest System land on the San Juan National Forest to Dolores County, Colorado for construction and operation of a fire station, associated infrastructure, and access roads.

USDA supports Dolores County in their efforts to provide improved emergency services to county residents and visitors. We agree that the parcel of land in question is in a practical location to provide these services and that there are not similarly situated non-federal lands of limited acreage available that provide the same locational benefits. However, we do note that Section 3(a) is inconsistent with longstanding federal policy that market value consideration should be paid to the United States for conveyance of federal lands owned by all Americans.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this bill and I look forward to your questions at the appropriate time.