

Statement of Glenn Casamassa
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Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining
Legislative Hearing on
S. 3325 “Eligibility of National Grasslands for Grazing Leases and Permits”
August 22, 2018

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Wyden, members of the Committee, I am Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

S. 3325 would provide for the continuation of the terms and conditions of any grazing permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture that expires, is transferred, or is waived until the environmental analysis for a new permit is completed.

Currently, section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752) requires that terms and conditions in a grazing permit that expires, is transferred, or is waived be continued under a new permit until environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws is completed. However, this authority applies only to grazing permits on lands within National Forests in the sixteen contiguous Western States. S. 3325 would expand the authority to include grazing permits issued on all National Forest System lands, including National Grasslands and National Forests in the east.

USDA supports S. 3325.

USDA would like to work with the subcommittee to address minor technical concerns with the bill. We also would like to work with the subcommittee on additional technical changes that would help clarify the management of grazing permits.

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