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Testimony before
The United States House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health

Hearing on
House Resolution 3462

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Chairman Walden, Members of the Subcommittee, it is my honor and privilege today to appear before you to offer a few very brief comments and observations regarding the impact of House Resolution 3462.

Gambel Oak Park is a habitat for moose, elk and wildlife and a popular destination for passive recreation such as hikers, bikers and cross-county skiers.

Gambel Oak Park is 88 acres and the White Acre parcel is 22 acres (map attached). Both are located within City limits and are almost entirely zoned as Recreational Open Space (ROS). The property overlooks Park City's National Historic District.

Park City has had a recreational lease with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for use of Gambel Oak Park for over 20 years. The lease is due to expire in 2010. Rather than extending the lease, Park City would like to own the property and ensure through local control the perpetual recreational use of Gambel Oak Park and the White Acre parcel. Park City has sought to receive support of a broad coalition of stakeholders which include the mining claims and federal interests.

Park City believes that due to zoning issues, open space is the highest and best use of the property and therefore it should be valued at open space prices.

According to the 1975 Park City Land Use Decisions (prepared by the BLM), the Gambel Oak Park tract will be considered for disposal under the Recreation and Public purpose Act to Park City for City Parks.

The BLM Summary specifically states on page 9, "The following tracts will be considered for disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act: Tracts 8 and 16 to Park City Municipal Corporation for City Parks."

Page 22 goes on to state, "However, the data and plan recognizes public recreation demand as high and growing, thus several tracts are being considered for disposal to Summit County, Wasatch County, and Park City Municipal Corporation for development into public parks." and "Thus many of the decisions will satisfy, in part, the demand for regional recreation."

That's all a long way of saying it has always intended being a park.

Park City requests that Congress enable the BLM to follow their own policy and dispose of Gambel Oak Park and the White Acre parcel to Park City as parks.

Rather than petition under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act for a recreation patent at no cost, Park City intends to use remaining open space funds and is willing to purchase the Gambel Oak Park and the White Acre parcel at a value comparable to what it has recently paid for other open space in the area.

Thank you.

Attachment 1: MAP OF GAMBEL OAK PARK

