

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman
Hearing Memorandum

May 11, 2018

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff— Chris Marklund
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x67736)

Hearing: Legislative hearing on **H.R. 3777 (Rep. Mia B. Love)**, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land containing the Nephi Work Center in Juab County, Utah, to Juab County.
May 17, 2018, 2:00 PM; 1324 Longworth House Office Building

H.R. 3777, “Juab County Conveyance Act of 2017”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 3777, introduced by Representative Mia B. Love (R-UT-04), would authorize the conveyance of approximately 2.61 acres of U.S. Forest Service land and improvements in the city of Nephi to Juab County, Utah. The bill would require the County to pay all conveyance costs, including the costs of environmental analysis and surveying.

Cosponsors

None.

Witnesses

The Honorable Mia Love
Member of Congress, Utah’s 4th District

The Honorable Byron Woodland
County Commissioner
Juab County
Nephi, Utah

Background

Juab County is located in western Utah, stretching from the Nevada border east toward its border with Sanpete County. Its county seat, Nephi, is located approximately 40 miles south of Provo on Interstate 15. Approximately 1.5 million acres (70.2%) of land in Juab County is Payment in Lieu of Taxes entitlement land owned by the federal government.¹

¹ “2017 Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Juab County, UT.” NACo County Explorer, National Association of Counties, explorer.naco.org/.

The United States currently owns approximately 2.61 acres of land within the community of Nephi, Utah, sometimes known as the Nephi Work Center (Tax Lot Numbers #XA00-0545-111 and #XA00-0545-2), historically used by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as a work center supporting management of the Spanish Fork Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.² Improvements on the property include office and storage buildings. The property is currently not in use and has been designated by USFS for administrative disposal under the Forest Service Facilities Realignment and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-54, 16 U.S.C. 580d note) since 2013.³



Figure 1: Map of properties to be conveyed under H.R. 3777.

Source: U.S. Forest Service

The Juab County Special Service Fire District (SSFD) provides fire suppression and wildland fire mitigation services to private and public lands in the unincorporated communities of Juab County, including parts of the Ashley, Manti-La Sal and Fish Lake National Forests.⁴ Under a current agreement with USFS, the SSFD houses its fire mitigation program on the unused USFS Nephi site.

On August 15, 2017, Juab County sent a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture requesting the property be conveyed to the County. The County intends to utilize the land to house its Wildlands Fire Team and equipment, with plans to construct a new fire station to serve the residents of Nephi and Juab County.

On April 27, 2018, the Juab County Commission passed Resolution No. 04272018, seeking conveyance of USFS’s Nephi Work Center. The resolution declared the Commission’s intent to request the land conveyance authorized by H.R. 3777 within 90 days of the enactment of the legislation.

Cost

² Information provided by the U.S. Forest Service to the House Natural Resources Committee.

³ “USDA Forest Service FY 2013 Budget Justification.” pp. 12–13., www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/legacy_files/fy2013-justification.pdf.

⁴ Information provided by Juab County through the office of Rep. Love (UT-4).

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

Major Provisions/Section-by-Section Analysis of H.R. 3777

Section 2. Land Conveyance, Nephi Work Center, Juab County, Utah. This section authorizes conveyance without consideration of the Nephi Work Center after a written request from Juab County to the Secretary of Agriculture. The section requires conveyance costs incurred by the Secretary to be paid by the County and directs the Secretary to complete the conveyance within one year of the request.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

None