

# Committee on Resources

## Subcommittee on Forests & Forest Health

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### Testimony of Rep. Scott McInnis (R-CO) on H.R.1021

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STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE  
SCOTT McINNIS  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREST AND FOREST HEALTH  
March 24, 1998

Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health Hearing. I appreciate that you are holding a hearing on H.R. 1021 which is an exchange of land between the Forest Service and a private individual, Ms. Marjorie Miles, on the Routt National Forest within the State of Colorado.

H.R. 1021 authorizes an exchange of approximately 84 acres within the Routt National Forest for approximately 84 acres of private land known as the "Miles Parcel" which is located adjacent to the Routt National Forest. H.R. 1021 establishes that the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged are approximately equal in value. Therefore, under the Act, no additional valuation will be required.

Ms. Marjorie Miles and the Forest Service proposed a land exchange to remedy a situation where a private inholding, adjacent to the forest boundary, has created a private/public property line that is complex and expensive for the Forest Service to maintain. H.R. 1021 provides the authority needed to allow the Forest Service to undertake an exchange which will simplify the property line and reduce the Forest Service's maintenance costs. Ms. Miles owns the inholding and occupies the National Forest System parcels proposed for exchange under a special use permit. Pursuant to H.R. 1021, pasture lands would be conveyed to Ms. Miles in exchange for a contiguous property that contains valuable riparian resources and is outside the forest boundary.

Additionally, H.R. 1021 will improve land line management and add riparian acreage to the public estate. The amount of fenceline that the Forest Service and Ms. miles must maintain will be reduced. Finally, the need for a special use permit and the need to authorize a ditch across public lands will be eliminated. Madame Chairwoman, this legislation is not controversial, and I believe it will be supported by the Administration.

Once again I would like to thank you for holding the hearing today, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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