

**Opening Statement  
Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands  
Legislative Hearing  
H.R. 129, H.R. 762, H.R. 1442, H.R. 1471, H.R. 1641  
May 14, 2009**

**The Subcommittee will now come to order.**

**Thank you. Today we will receive testimony on five bills. In the interest of time, I will not discuss the bills in detail, but I do want to touch on each briefly.**

**H.R. 1471, sponsored by our colleague from Georgia, Representative Sanford Bishop, expands the authorized boundary of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site by 3 acres to better preserve sites associated with the former president and his life there. The expanded site, to be redesignated as Jimmy Carter National Historical Park, will allow for improved access and visitor services as well as preservation of a Carter family home which is among the oldest in the county.**

**H.R. 1641, sponsored by Mr. Inslee, would amend the National Trails System Act to authorize a study of the Cascadia**

**Marine Trail for potential designation as a national scenic or historic trail. The 150 mile trail follows the Puget (pew-jet) Sound from Olympia, Washington to the Canadian border, a beautiful area with tremendous cultural history as well.**

**The remaining three bills each seek to resolve boundary issues between the federal government and adjacent landowners. H.R. 1629, sponsored by Mr. Gallegly, addresses a long standing encroachment on the Los Padres National Forest. H.R. 762, sponsored by Mr. Heller, helps finalize a complex boundary adjustment involving the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada. Finally, H.R. 1442, sponsored by Mr. Matheson, authorizes the sale of the federal government's reversionary interest in 60 acres of land near Salt Lake City which has its roots in a 1909 act authorizing the sale of the land for a local cemetery.**

**Finally, we had expected to hear testimony today on H.R. 865, a bill from our colleague from Virginia, Mr. Boucher, conveying a National Forest campground to the Commonwealth**

**of Virginia. However, the Forest Service has worked with the Commonwealth to develop an administrative solution to the issue, so we will not address the bill today.**

**With that said, let me welcome all of our witnesses today and thank them for joining us. I'd now like to turn to Ranking Member Bishop for any opening statement he may have.**