

**STATEMENT OF ARTHUR W. GREELEY, ASSOCIATE CHIEF,
FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Mr. GREELEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present this statement for the Department of Agriculture on S. 1624, S. 1625, and H.R. 3306. The detailed provisions of these bills are described in our reports to your committee. I will comment on them generally in this statement.

The bills involve an area of wild land which is part of the Carson National Forest, N. Mex. The area described in H.R. 3306 is about 48,000 acres in size.

It is located within the drainages of the Rio Pueblo de Taos and the Rio Lucero, easterly and northerly of the town of Taos, N. Mex., and nearby Taos Pueblo. It lies adjacent to the east side and part of the north side of the 17,000-acre Taos Pueblo Grant.

The northerly boundary of the described area adjoins other lands also owned by the Taos Pueblo. Approximately 41,000 acres are in the watershed of the Rio Lucero. Of the approximately 48,000 acres of national forest land involved about 42,000 acres were reserved in 1906 from the public domain. The remainder has been acquired through exchange since that date.

Certain locations within the area described in H.R. 3306 have entered strongly into the religious life of the Taos Pueblo. In particular, Blue Lake at the headwaters of the Rio Pueblo de Taos, is the scene of annual religious observances of the Indians. The Pueblo spokesmen describe Blue Lake and surrounding lands as a shrine or temple. S. 1624 and S. 1625 contain special provisions concerning 3,150 acres in the vicinity of Blue Lake.

The Forest Service for 40 years has actively cooperated with the Pueblo in the conservation of most of these lands under arrangements that protect the points which are of religious significance to the Taos Indians.

In 1927 the Pueblo and the Secretary of Agriculture entered into a cooperative agreement for the purpose of conserving and protecting the water supply of the Pueblo and for protecting the dependency of the Pueblo on the area for wood, timber and forage, and the privacy of the Indians in their religious observances.

This agreement covered some 32,000 acres—an area that comprises the heart of the area described in H.R. 3306 and also includes almost all of the area described in S. 1624 and S. 1625. The area on the map shown in yellow is the area initially covered by this 1927 cooperative agreement.

The principal features of this cooperative agreement were further formalized in a special use permit issued to the Taos Pueblo by the Secretary of Agriculture in October 1940. This permit was issued pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of the act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108), which authorized and directed the Secretary to grant the Pueblo a permit to occupy the lands and use the resources for the personal use and benefit of the residents of the Pueblo for 50 years.

This section also directed that the lands involved be segregated from any entry under the land laws of the United States. This has been done.