

In conclusion, let me say that I appreciate the opportunity to present this statement, and I have faith that our representatives in Congress will do their best to protect the interests of all our people in the present situation.

GLEN W. BURTRAM.

STATEMENT OF LLOYD BOLANDER, VADITO, N. MEX.

Mr. Chairman, I am Lloyd Bolander of Vadito, New Mexico. I am a lifelong resident of Taos County and at present am in business here.

I appreciate the opportunity to present a statement at this hearing on H.R. 3306 and to point out some of the many reasons this bill should not pass.

The area in question is the watershed for the town of Taos and other smaller villages as well as the Taos Indian pueblo. The water is used for irrigation and many of the Indians use the stream water for domestic purposes.

It has been my experience that the Indians have not properly managed the lands they now have. A tract of private land adjacent to my boyhood home in Taos was acquired by the Indians. This area had good grass cover, a stream through it and good cover for birds and other small game animals. It was a good place to hunt quail, ducks, rabbits, and doves. The Indians acquired the property and within a short time, due to overgrazing, most of the grass was gone as well as the cover for the quail and other birds. Such misuse should be stopped, not encouraged by giving more land to the Indians.

To give any National Forest lands to the Indians is against the Multiple Use and Conservation practices of the Department of Agriculture. Federal Lands are to be used for the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run. Please do not discriminate against all the nonindians by giving this land to the Indians.

Although not a large amount of fees are accruing to the Forest Service from timber, grazing and other uses of the land in question there are some. 25 percent of these fees and all forest revenues are paid to the State and County in lieu of taxes. No taxes of any kind are paid on Indian land. Taos County is going thru a sorely needed property tax reappraisal. It appears that taxes for most all citizens are going to be raised, except for the Indians who are seeking more tax free land at the expense of all of us.

To give this land to Taos Pueblo will set a bad precedent. All the pueblos have sacred lands they will claim. The religious practices of the Taos Indians are in no way infringed. The Forest gives them exclusive use of the Blue Lake area for a period before during and after their ceremonies in August each year.

I am convinced the best interest of all, including the Indians, will be served by keeping the land in question under the protection of the Forest Service. These lands are a highly productive watershed. They are part of the Rio Grande watershed and as such must be protected.

Thank you for the opportunity of presenting this statement.

Senator METCALF. If there are no further witnesses, this subcommittee will stand in recess, subject to the call of its chairman, Senator McGovern.

(Whereupon, at 5:10 p.m., the subcommittee recessed, subject to the call of the Chair.)