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## Forest Service Accountability Act

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The Forest Service is the second-largest land management agency in the United States, controlling 193 million acres of land, over eight percent of the country's total land mass. Since the Forest Service became part of the Department of Agriculture in 1905, the Secretary of Agriculture has appointed the Chief. However, the Forest Service's role has evolved from commodity production to land management, and the selection process and oversight of the Chief must also evolve.

The Chief of the Forest Service is responsible for an area equivalent to the state of Texas. Forest Service management impacts Utahns and countless Americans every day. From grazing to recreation and timber harvesting, the Forest Service has much control over our livelihoods and lifestyles. People affected by the Chief's decisions and management should have recourse through their elected members of Congress.

Senator Lee introduced the Forest Service Accountability Act to ensure that the Forest Service chief answers to the people impacted by the agency's management. This bill would make the Chief of the Forest Service a presidential appointment confirmed by the Senate rather than a career position. Given the vast areas of jurisdiction under the Forest Service's control across the United States, the nominee would be jointly referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### Bill Specifics

- Directs the President to appoint a Chief of the Forest Service with the advice and consent of the Senate
- Requires the nominee to have substantial experience and demonstrated competence in forest and natural resource management
- Jointly refers the nominee to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- Within 30 days of enactment of this legislation, the President must submit a nomination for the Chief of the Forest Service