

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

FY 25 Forest Service Budget Request

16 May 2024

Witnesses:

- [Mark Lichtenstein](#), Director of strategic planning, budget & accountability at the US Forest Service
- [Randy Moore](#), Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

Highlights:

Chief of the US Forest Service, Randy Moore, testified on the progress of the Forest Service and mentioned the co-management with Tribes and his hopes for the expansion of Good Neighbor Authority in the upcoming Farm Bill.

General Notes:

In Chief Moore's opening statements, he discussed the Forest Service's investments in stewarding 193 million acres of National Forest System lands and assisting states, Tribes, and communities keep millions of acres healthy and productive.

[Senator Mike Lee \(R-UT\)](#) asked why the Forest Service could enter co-management arrangements with Tribes but not with county governments and the state government.

- Chief Moore responded that Tribes are sovereign nations, and the Forest Service has different avenues of co-management with them.

[Senator John Hoeven \(R-ND\)](#) asked Chief Moore to discuss the partnership with the states on issues of funding as well as the [Joint Chief's Program](#).

- Chief Moore answered that the Good Neighbor Authority program has grown its partnership with states and Tribes. He also said that he was hoping to see some language in the Farm Bill that would treat the counties and Tribes the same as the states, which would allow them to keep the revenues in the counties and in the areas where it was generated.
- Moore said that they see a lot of value in the Joint Chief's program because it gives opportunities to diversify USDA agencies' work across departments.