



News from the Committee on Natural Resources

Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II - Chairman

1324 Longworth House Office Building - Washington DC, 20515 - <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>

The Weekly Preview

February 25-29, 2008

This Week's Hearings:

- On Tuesday morning, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will hear testimony on legislation introduced by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) that would designate seven new areas as wilderness within the Monongahela National Forest. Established in 1920, the forest – a major recreational resource and host to an estimated 3 million visitors annually – is today comprised of over 919,000 acres of federal land in 10 counties of the eastern portion of West Virginia. H.R. 5151 would designate an additional 47,128 acres as wilderness within the forest. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System USDA Forest Service; The Honorable John Manchester, Mayor, City of Lewisburg; Reverend Dennis Sparks, Executive Director, West Virginia Council of Churches; Mike Price, West Virginia AFL-CIO; Bob Bittner, Jr., Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited; and Gil Willis, Elk River Inn & Restaurant, Slatyfork, WV. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 26, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)
- Tuesday afternoon, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will hold an oversight hearing on the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Requests for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).” The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Mary Glackin, Deputy Undersecretary, Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and Kenneth Stansell, Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building)

- Also on Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on Water and Power** will hold an oversight hearing on the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Requests for the Bureau of Reclamation, the Federal Power Marketing Administrations, and the Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey.” The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Robert Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; Robert Hirsch, Associate Director for Water, Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey; Stephen J. Wright, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR; Timothy J. Meeks, Chief Operating Officer, Western Area Power Administration; Leon Jourolmon, Acting Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration, Elberton, GA; and Jon Worthington, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration, Tulsa, OK. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)
- On Wednesday, the **Natural Resources Committee** will hold an oversight hearing on the “Department of Interior’s Recently Released Guidance on Taking Land into Trust for Indian Tribes and its Ramifications.” The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: The Honorable Carl Artman, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior; The Honorable Lorraine White, Chief, St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, Akwesasne, NY; The Honorable Vincent Armenta, Tribal Chairman, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Santa Ynez, CA; The Honorable Hazel Hindsley, Tribal Chairwoman, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Webster, WI; The Honorable Joe Garcia, President, National Congress of the American Indians, Washington, DC; Mr. Alex Tallchief Skibine, Professor, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Salt Lake City, UT; and Mr. Kevin K. Washburn, Visiting Associate Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 27, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)
- Also on Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will hold an oversight hearing on the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Requests for the National Park Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.” The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Mary Bomar, Director of the National Park Service; Gail Kimbell, Chief of the Forest Service; and Jim Caswell, Director of the Bureau of Land Management. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)
- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources** will hold an oversight hearing on the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget for the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Energy and Minerals programs, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), the Minerals and Geology Program of the Forest Service, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), except for the activities and programs of the Water Resources Division.”

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Mr. Randall Luthi, Director, Minerals Management Service; Mr. Robert Doyle, Deputy Director, United States Geological Survey; Mr. James Caswell, Director Bureau of Land Management; Mr. Brent Wahlquist, Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; and Mr. Joel Holthrop, Deputy Chief National Forest Systems, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 28, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- Also on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will receive testimony on the following four bills:
 - [H.R. 3223](#), the Keep Our Waterfronts Working Act of 2007, would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a grant program to ensure coastal access for commercial and recreational fishermen and other water-dependent coastal-related businesses, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 5451](#), the Coastal Zone Reauthorization Act of 2008, would reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 5452](#), the Coastal State Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2008, would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to coastal States to support State efforts to initiate and complete surveys of coastal State waters and Federal waters adjacent to a State's coastal zone to identify potential areas suitable or unsuitable for the exploration, development, and production of renewable energy, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 5453](#), the Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act of 2008, would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize assistance to coastal states to develop coastal climate change adaptation plans pursuant to approved management programs approved under section 306, to minimize contributions to climate change, and for other purposes.

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: The Honorable Thomas H. Allen (D-ME); Mr. Jack Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Mr. Robert Bradley, Chairman, Reauthorization Committee, Coastal States Organization; Mr. Michael DeLuca, Chairman, Reauthorization Committee, National Estuarine Research Reserves Association; Ms. Evangeline Lujan, Director, Guam Coastal Management Program Administrator, All Islands Group; Mr. Robert Stokes, Chairman of the Board, Restore America's Estuaries; Mr. Jim Connors, Senior Planner, Maine State Planning Office, Maine Working Waterfront Coalition; and Ms. Caroline Elefant, General Counsel, Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition.

[Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 28, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building)

- Also on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs** will hold an oversight hearing on the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs.” Mr. Nikalao Pula, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, is scheduled to testify. [Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (February 28, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

In Case You Missed It:

- On February 14, 2008, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne testified before the full Committee on the Bush Administration’s Fiscal Year 2009 budget request for the Department of the Interior. Visit the Committee’s Web site to access the [press release](#) on the Administration’s budget request for Department of the Interior programs, the [press release](#) on the Administration’s budget request for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, [Secretary Kempthorne’s testimony](#) or [photos](#) from the hearing.

Calendar:

Click on the text within the calendar to be linked directly to our Web site.

Monday 2/25	Tuesday 2/26	Wednesday 2/27	Thursday 2/28	Friday 2/29
	<p>Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing on H.R. 5151 (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Oversight Hearing on the "FY 2009 Budget Requests for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)" (2:00 PM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on Water and Power Oversight Hearing on the "FY 2009 Budget Requests for the Bureau of Reclamation, the Federal Power Marketing Administrations, and the Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey" (2:00 PM)</p>	<p>Full Committee Oversight Hearing on the "Department of the Interior's Recently Released Guidance on Taking Land into Trust for Indian Tribes and its Ramifications" (11:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Oversight Hearing on the "FY 2009 Budget Requests for the National Park Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management" (2:00 PM)</p>	<p>Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing on the "FY 2009 Budget Requests for the Minerals Management Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Energy and Minerals Programs, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Minerals and Geology Program of the Forest Service, and the United States Geological Service, Except for the Activities and Programs of the Water Resources Division" (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Legislative Hearing on four Bills (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on Insular Affairs Oversight Hearing on the "FY 2009 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs" (1:00 PM)</p>	

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