



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

April 7 – 11, 2008

On the House Floor:

- This week, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider the National Landscape Conservation System Act (H.R. 2016). Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Chairman of the **House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands**, introduced the bill, which would codify the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NLCS was established administratively in 2000 by then-Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to recognize and protect the best of the lands and waters managed by the BLM, but the system has never been officially sanctioned by Congress. The **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** held a legislative hearing on H.R. 2016 on June 7, 2007 and the **Committee on Natural Resources** approved the legislation on April 1, 2008. Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) from the hearing.

This Week's Hearings:

Can't make it to our hearings or markups in person? Stay connected with our live video and audio webcasts, available at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>.

- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will hold a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following 5 bills:
 - [H.R. 5608](#) (Rahall): To establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications, to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes, and to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes. "*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments Act*"

- [H.R. 3522](#) (T. Udall): To ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes.
- [H.R.3490](#) (Radanovich): To transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes. "*Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2007*"
- [S. 2457](#) (Lieberman): A bill to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe.
- H.R.____ (Grijalva): To amend certain laws relating to Native Americans to make certain adjustments, and for other purposes.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*April 9, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Thursday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will hold a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following 2 bills:
 - [H.R. 5541](#) (Rahall): To provide a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes. "*Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act*" or "*FLAME Act*"
 - [H.R. 5648](#) (Goodlatte): To amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to establish a Federal wildland fire emergency suppression fund to facilitate accountable fire suppression activities by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to unanticipated large fire events, to encourage enhanced management efficiencies and cost controls of wildland fire suppression, and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to communities, and for other purposes. "*Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008*"

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*April 10, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Saturday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs** will hold an oversight field hearing on “Charting a Clean Energy Future for the Insular Areas.” The Subcommittee will hear testimony from federal officials, local officials, and alternative energy providers regarding the current energy challenges facing the insular areas, and the potential for energy efficiency measures and alternative energy to address those challenges. Residents of the insular areas pay far higher electricity rates than the rest of the United States, and are almost entirely dependent on imported foreign fuel sources.

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*April 12, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room, Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Frederickstead, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands*)

In Case You Missed It:

- On April 2, 2008, a new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report was made public that found Federal and State agencies, plagued by deficiencies in the 2000 Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), have been severely limited in their ability to effectively implement the plan and manage the Yellowstone National Park bison population. The GAO report was requested by House Natural Resources Committee **Chairman Nick J. Rahall** (D-WV) and **Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)** in October 2006. Visit the Committee’s Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information on the GAO report.

Quotable Quotes:

"It has been clear for some time now that the current Interagency Bison Management Plan is not working. The GAO's findings confirm this, along with the fact that both Federal and State agencies could and should do much, much more to protect these magnificent animals while still safeguarding the cattle industry. The Committee will review the report with an eye toward what might be done at the Federal level to help curb the slaughter of the Yellowstone bison population."

– *Chairman Rahall, reacting to the release of the GAO Report on Yellowstone Bison on April 2, 2008.*

Calendar:

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

Monday 4/07	Tuesday 4/08	Wednesday 4/09	Thursday 4/10	Friday 4/11	Saturday 4/12
		Full Committee Legislative Hearing on 5 Bills (10:00 AM)	Full Committee Legislative Hearing on 2 Bills (10:00 AM)		Subcommittee on Insular Affairs Oversight Field Hearing (10:00 AM)

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