



# 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 March 2 – 6, 2009

### On the House Floor:

- On Monday, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider under suspension of the rules the following 5 bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
  - [H.R. 326](#) (Grijalva): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes. *“Cocopah Lands Act”*
  - [H.R. 81](#) (Bordallo): To amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks. *“Shark Conservation Act of 2009”*
  - [H.R. 146](#) (Holt): To amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes. *“Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act”*
  - [H.R. 548](#) (Gary Miller): To assist citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at all levels in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, and for other purposes. *“Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2009”*
  - [H.R. 844](#) (Don Young): To amend the provisions of law relating to the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes. *“Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Amendments of 2009”*

### This Week’s Hearings:

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

- On Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife** will hold an oversight hearing on “Managing Our Ocean and Wildlife Resources in a Dynamic Environment: Priorities for the New Administration and the 111th Congress.” The purpose of this hearing is to highlight specific, practical and constructive recommendations that the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Administration should consider in developing a new framework for ocean and wildlife conservation in the context of increased uncertainty and stress. This hearing will highlight cutting edge uses of information, products and services, and tools that could be used to adapt and even thrive in this dynamic era.

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 3, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- Also on Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will receive testimony on the following bills:
  - [H.R. 1018](#) (Rahall): To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to improve the management and long-term health of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes.
  - [H.R. 715](#) (Grijalva): To expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to study additional land for future adjustments to the boundary of the Park, and for other purposes. *"Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2009"*
  - [H.R. 409](#) (Heller): To provide for the conveyance of certain Bureau of Land Management land in the state of Nevada to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and for other purposes.

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Ed Roberson, Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning, Bureau of Land Management (Accompanied by: Stephen P. Whitesell, Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, National Park Service); Madeleine Pickens, Dallas, TX; Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO, The Humane Society, Washington, DC; D.J. Schubert, Wildlife Biologist, Animal Welfare Institute, Egg Harbor Township, NJ; Kevin Dahl, National Parks Conservation Association, Tucson, AZ; and Larry D. Voyles, Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ.

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 3, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

- Later on Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will hold the first in a series of oversight hearings exploring the role of federal lands in combating and adapting to climate change. The first hearing will focus primarily on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and a future hearing will focus on National Park Service lands.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (March 3, 2009, 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 "Energy Outlooks, and the Role of Federal Onshore and Offshore Resources in Meeting Future Energy Demand." The hearing will examine the recent International Energy Agency's (IEA) 2008 World Energy Outlook, which projects worldwide energy supply and demand until 2030, discusses the prospects for future oil and gas production to meet world energy needs, and analyzes the effects of potential future climate policies. Witnesses will also discuss the Energy Information Administration's 2009 Annual Energy Outlook, which projects and analyzes future U.S. energy supply and demand. Testimony will focus on the role of U.S. public lands, particularly the Outer Continental Shelf, in meeting future energy needs.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (March 5, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

### **In Case You Missed It:**

- Last week, the **House of Representatives** approved the following bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
  - [H.R. 44](#) (Bordallo): To implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission. "*Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act*"
  - [H.R. 80](#) (Blumenauer): To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes. "*Captive Primate Safety Act*"
  - [H.R. 714](#) (Christensen): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.
  - [H.Res. 132](#) (Grijalva): Honoring the life and memory of the Chiricahua Apache leader Goyathlay, also known as Geronimo, and recognizing the 100th anniversary of his death on February 17, 2009, as a time of reflection and the commencement of a "Healing" for all Apache people.
  - [H.R. 601](#) (Rob Bishop): To provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah. "*Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act*"
  - [H.R. 603](#) (Rob Bishop): To require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard. "*Utah National Guard Readiness Act*"

- [H.R. 637](#) (Calvert): To authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system, and for other purposes. *“South Orange County Recycled Water Enhancement Act”*
- On February 26, **President Barack Obama** released the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal, as the White House embarks on a "New Era of Responsibility" for all Americans. The President's submitted budget for the Department of the Interior incorporates principles that have long been advocated by Chairman Rahall. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with Chairman Rahall's response and additional information on the Interior Department budget.

**Quotable Quote:**

“There are clear benefits to offshore drilling – including jobs, tax and royalty income, and money that we keep here at home instead of sending it overseas. But the amount of additional oil that we could drill offshore is a drop in the bucket of what we need to sustain our economy and meet our energy needs. Even the American Petroleum Institute's most optimistic projections – a best-case scenario extrapolation, requiring that the entire OCS be made available – would, in 2030, provide no more than 5 percent of our total daily energy needs, and displace only 8 percent of our oil imports. These are large volumes of oil, to be sure, but they comprise less than half the impact of the increase in fuel efficiency standards that Congress passed just over a year ago.”

– *Chairman Rahall, at a February 25, 2009 Full Committee oversight hearing on offshore drilling. Visit the Committee's Web site to view Chairman Rahall's [opening remarks](#).*

**Calendar:**

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

<b>Monday 3/2</b>	<b>Tuesday 3/3</b>	<b>Wednesday 3/4</b>	<b>Thursday 3/5</b>	<b>Friday 3/6</b>
	<p>Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife: Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1018, H.R. 715, and H.R. 409 (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands: Oversight Hearing (2:00 PM)</p>		<p>Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources: Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)</p>	

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