



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 9 – 13, 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 Water and Power** will hold an oversight hearing on "Federal Power Marketing Administration Borrowing Authority: Defining Success." The hearing will explore how Bonneville Power Administration and Western Area Power Administration will utilize funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Timothy Meeks, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration, Lakewood, CO; Steve Wright, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR; Steve Ellenbecker, Energy Policy Advisor, Wyoming, Office of the Governor, Cheyenne, WY; Leslie James, Executive Director, Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, Tempe, AZ (*Accompanied by Joel Bladow, Senior Vice President, Transmission of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc, Westminster, CO*); Scott Corwin, Executive Director, Public Power Council, Portland, OR; Chris Crowley, President, Columbia Energy Partners, LLC, Vancouver, WA; and Edward M. Rahill, Vice President of Finance, CFO of ITC Holdings, Transmission Company, Novi, MI.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 10, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will meet in open markup session to consider the following bills:
 - [HR 493](#) (Rahall): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations concerning the storage and disposal of matter referred to as "other wastes" in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, and for other purposes. "*Coal Ash Reclamation, Environment, and Safety Act of 2009*"
 - [HR 860](#) (Bordallo): To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes. "*Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009*"

- [HR 934](#) (Sablan): To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.
- [HR 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"*
- [HR 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.

Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [markup report](#) following the markup. (March 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.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. 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"*

- On March 3, **President Barack Obama** announced, during a visit to the Interior Department, that his Administration will change course on a Bush Administration regulation that would have allowed federal agencies to decide on their own whether or not to comply with the consultation requirement of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), one of the Nation's landmark conservation laws. Visit the Committee's Web site to view Chairman Rahall's [statement](#).
- On March 6, the **Obama Administration**, in advance of next week's International Whaling Commission (IWC) intersessional meeting and the 61st annual IWC meeting in June, reiterated the United States' opposition to commercial whaling, and condemned so-called scientific whaling and the trade of whale meat. Visit the Committee's Web site to view Chairman Rahall's [statement](#).

Quotable Quote:

“Since 1971, more than 200,000 wild horses and burros have been rounded up from public lands and either adopted or placed in long-term holding facilities. And of critical concern, the BLM recently announced that, due to a combination of a lack of funding, facilities and options, they may be required to kill as many as 30,000 healthy wild horses and burros. Let me state that the BLM is not going to slaughter 30,000 wild horses — not under this Chairman.”

– *Chairman Rahall, at a March 3, 2009 Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands legislative hearing on the “**Restore Our American Mustangs (ROAM) Act**” ([H.R. 1018](#)), legislation introduced by Chairman Rahall to ensure the continued protection of the thousands of wild horses and burros that roam the Nation's public lands, which have recently become endangered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to slaughter otherwise healthy animals. Visit the Committee's Web site to view Chairman Rahall's full [opening remarks](#) from the hearing and the [press release](#) with additional information about the ROAM Act.*

Calendar:

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

Monday 3/9	Tuesday 3/10	Wednesday 3/11	Thursday 3/12	Friday 3/13
	Subcommittee on Water and Power Oversight Hearing (2:00 PM)	Full Committee Markup (10:00 AM)		

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