



# 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 23 – 27, 2009

### Expected on the House Floor:

- Next week, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider the following two bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
  - [H.R. 146](#) (Holt): Senate amendments to the “*Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009*”
  - [H.R. 1404](#) (Rahall): “*Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act*”

### 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 Energy and Mineral Resources** and the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife** will hold a joint oversight hearing on “Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf and the Future of our Oceans.” The purpose of the hearing is to examine how offshore energy development can co-exist with healthy, productive oceans. Witnesses will discuss efforts to appropriately plan and site future offshore oil and gas and renewable energy installations within the larger context of ocean planning (often referred to as Marine Spatial Planning). The hearing coincides with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill of March 24, 1989. Witnesses will discuss the lingering effects of that disaster, as well as other environmental concerns associated with offshore oil and gas production.

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 24, 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. 689](#) (Herger): To interchange the administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

- [H.R. 1078](#) (Arcuri): To establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes. *"Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Act"*
- [H.R. 1275](#) (Matheson): To direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes. *"Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009"*

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 24, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Thursday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will hold an oversight hearing on "The California Drought: Actions by Federal and State agencies to address impacts on lands, fisheries, and water users." On February 26, 2009, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the creation of a Federal Drought Action Team that will work cooperatively to respond to communities facing significant drought. Following the announcement, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency and ordered immediate drought action on February 27, 2009. The state is expected to face its third consecutive year of drought, possibly "the worst California drought in modern history," according to Lester Snow, Director of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). As a result, the Committee will review what actions federal and state agencies have taken or will take to address the effects of drought on lands, water users, and fisheries.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 26, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

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

- On March 19, Chairman Rahall and National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Raúl Grijalva introduced the "**Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2009**" ([H.R. 1612](#)), legislation that would help repair and restore our nation's public lands, while employing and training thousands of young Americans and promoting a culture of public service. The legislation would expand and reinvigorate an existing program, the Public Lands Corps, by modernizing the scope of corps projects to reflect new challenges – such as climate change – adding incentives to attract new participants, and paving the way for increased funding. Visit Congressman Grijalva's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.

**Quotable Quote:**

“Time and time again, the hopes and dreams of the Lumbee people have been raised, only to be dashed as each Congress fails to get the job done. Yet throughout these long decades you have continued to hold your heads high, with the dignity and respect you deserve...The members of these six Virginia tribes have faced decades of deliberate discrimination from policies aimed at stripping them of their identities. They were targeted, and subjected to having their race designation changed on their birth certificates and all other legal documents. But they have endured, kept their traditions alive, and continue to function as governments.”

– *Chairman Rahall, at a March 18, 2009 Full Committee legislative hearing on the “**Lumbee Recognition Act**” ([H.R. 31](#)) and the “**Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2009**” ([H.R. 1385](#)).* Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) from the hearing, view [archived video](#) from the hearing, or view Chairman Rahall’s [opening remarks](#).

**Calendar:**

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

<b>Monday 3/23</b>	<b>Tuesday 3/24</b>	<b>Wednesday 3/25</b>	<b>Thursday 3/26</b>	<b>Friday 3/27</b>
	Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Joint Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)  Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM)		Full Committee Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)	

*To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email to [naturalresources.news@mail.house.gov](mailto:naturalresources.news@mail.house.gov) and place “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.*