



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

June 1 – 5, 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 Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will receive testimony on the following bills:
 - [H.R. 1061](#) (Dicks): To transfer certain land to the United States to be held in trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, to place land into trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, and for other purposes. *"Hoh Indian Tribe Safe Homelands Act"*
 - [H.R. 2040](#) (Larsen): To authorize a process by which the Secretary of the Interior shall process acquisitions of certain real property of the Samish Indian Nation into trust, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 1035](#) (Grijalva): To amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to honor the legacy of Stewart L. Udall, and for other purposes. *"Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendments Act of 2009"*

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

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** and the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife** will hold a joint oversight hearing on "White-Nose Syndrome: What's Killing Bats in the Northeast?" The hearing will explore the profound public health, environmental, and economic implications of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats, which, to date, has spread to at least nine states, from New Hampshire to West Virginia. Bats, which can eat their body weight in insects each night, provide important ecosystem and economic services in suppressing insect populations, which can spread diseases and damage crops.

This oversight hearing will highlight the work of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service, in conjunction with state and local partners, to research, manage, coordinate, and educate the public on WNS.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*June 4, 2009, at 10 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- Also on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources** will hold an oversight hearing on "Unconventional Fuels, Part I: Shale Gas Potential." This will be the first in a series of hearings examining the potential for various unconventional fuels to contribute to a sustainable U.S. energy supply in the short- and long-term. Subsequent hearings will look at oil shale, tar sands, and methane hydrates. Testimony will focus on the resource potential, the economics and technology of shale gas production, and recommendations to encourage sustainable production while protecting natural resources. The hearing will place an emphasis on new regions of the country that are attracting interest in shale gas production, such as parts of New York and Pennsylvania that lie atop the Marcellus shale.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*June 4, 2009, at 10 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

Quotable Quote:

"This announcement is a major victory for our National Forests, and is proof positive that the new Administration is serious about turning the page on the legacy of the Bush Administration, which was bent on chopping away at the health and future of America's forests. I see this one year time-out as a major step forward in protecting inventoried roadless areas across the country, but these wild forests need permanent protection to continue providing clean water, wildlife habitat, and boundless recreational opportunities."

– *Chairman Rahall, following a Forest Service directive announced by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on May 28, 2009, stating that no road construction or removal of timber from more than 45 million acres of National Forests protected by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule can take place without approval from the Secretary for one year. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.*

Calendar:

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

Monday 6/01	Tuesday 6/02	Wednesday 6/03	Thursday 6/04	Friday 6/05
		Full Committee Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM)	Joint Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)	

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