



The Weekly Preview

November 2 – 6, 2009

This Week's Hearings and Markups

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- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will receive testimony on the following bills:
 - [H.R. 3742](#) (Kildee): To amend the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.
 - [H.R. 3697](#) (Cole): To amend the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (November 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- Later on Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife** will receive testimony on the following bill:
 - [H.R. 3583](#) (Faleomavaega): To provide for a subsidy to sellers and buyers of fish directly delivered to American Samoa from vessels with United States fisheries endorsements that manufacture for the United States. "*American Samoa Protection of Industry, Resources and Employment Act*"

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (November 4, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources** and the **Subcommittee on Water and Power** will hold a joint oversight hearing on

“Getting Past Gridlock: Models for Renewable Energy Siting and Transmission.” The Department of the Interior and Department of Energy are embarking on major endeavors to produce and develop renewable energy resources on public lands, and to build a transmission grid that can connect areas with high renewable energy potential to urban load centers. The hearing will examine state and regional initiatives to advance renewable energy siting and new transmission, specifically focusing on the Western Renewable Energy Zones Project, the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, and the SunZia Transmission Project.

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (November 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- Also on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will receive testimony on the following bills:
 - [H.R. 765](#) (Heller): To establish the Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, and for other purposes. *“Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Act of 2009”*
 - [H.R. 1769](#) (Reichert): To expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the State of Washington, to designate the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and Pratt River as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes. *“Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act”*
 - [H.R. 2476](#) (DeGette): To amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that are subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes. *“Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2009”*
 - [H.R. 3388](#) (Forbes): To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes. *“Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act”*
 - [H.R. 3603](#) (Marshall): To rename the Ocmulgee National Monument.
 - [H.R. 3759](#) (DeFazio): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant economy-related contract extensions of certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers, and for other purposes. *“BLM Contract Extension Act”*
 - [H.R. 3804](#) (Tonko): To make technical corrections to various Acts affecting the National Park Service, to extend, amend, or establish certain National Park Service authorities, and for other purposes. *“National Park Service Authorities and Corrections Act of 2009”*

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- Later on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife** will receive testimony on the following bill:
 - [H.R. 3940](#) (Bordallo): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate a political status public education program for the people of Guam.

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

In Case You Missed It

- On October 23, Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) announced that they successfully secured provisions in the House version of the health insurance reform package that would provide for reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) - a long-sought priority for the two Chairmen. First enacted in 1976, IHCIA is the primary source of medical care for 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The program was allowed to expire in 2001 and has not been reauthorized in 17 years, keeping the programs far out of pace with the dire needs of health service recipients throughout the native communities that rely on these services. In June 2009, Rahall and Miller co-sponsored bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2708, to reauthorize the Act. Later that month, Rahall led a Full Committee hearing on the critical and needed legislation. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.
- This week, the **House of Representatives** approved the following bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
 - [H.R. 1471](#) (Sanford Bishop): To expand the boundary of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, to redesignate the unit as a National Historical Park, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 2806](#) (Doc Hastings): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 1641](#) (Inslee): To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the Cascadia Marine Trail. "*Cascadia Marine Trail Study*

Act”

- [H.R. 2489](#) (Herseth Sandlin): To authorize a national cooperative geospatial imagery program through the United States Geological Survey to promote use of remote sensing data. “*National Land Remote Sensing Outreach Act*”
- On October 28, the **Committee on Natural Resources** approved the following bills:
 - [H.R. 2213](#) (Kind): To reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.
 - [H.R. 2888](#) (DeFazio): To provide for the designation of the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area in the State of Oregon, to designate segments of Wasson and Franklin Creeks in the State of Oregon as wild or recreation rivers, and for other purposes. “*Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2009*”
 - [H.R. 2781](#) (Schrader): To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Molalla River in Oregon, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 86](#) (Campbell): To eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by bringing the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 118](#) (Frelinghuysen): To authorize the addition of 100 acres to Morristown National Historical Park.
- On October 29, the **House of Representatives** approved the “***Fiscal Year 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act***” ([H.R. 2996](#)) Conference Report by a vote of 247-178. Included in the Conference Report was the “***Federal Land Assistance and Management Enhancement (FLAME) Act,***” legislation introduced by Chairman Rahall to authorize a separate funding stream for emergency wildfire suppression.

Chairman Rahall commented: “For some time, I have been pressing for a better system to fund the fighting of catastrophic emergency wildland fires – a system that prevents the costs of that firefighting from also burning up the limited budgets of our federal agencies. It is gratifying that the FLAME Act, which I authored, served as the foundation for a new funding mechanism for wildland firefighting. These funds will help knock down future catastrophic fires, while preserving the scarce funds needed to stop those fires from starting in the first place.”

Visit the Committee's Web site to view [archived video](#) or read Chairman Rahall's [floor statement](#) on the Conference Report.

Quotable Quote

"The job of reforming the Nation's health care system and providing access to quality care for all Americans will not be complete until such care is extended to those living in Indian Country. In the 17 years that have lapsed since the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) was last reauthorized, the dire needs of health recipients throughout native communities that rely on these services have suffered. That is why it is more important now, than ever, that we work to fulfill our federal responsibility and see that the needs of our First Americans are attended to through national health insurance reform legislation."

– Chairman Rahall, upon announcing on October 23, 2009, that he had secured provisions in the House version of the health insurance reform package that would reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. 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 11/02	Tuesday 11/03	Wednesday 11/04	Thursday 11/05	Friday 11/06
		Full Committee Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Legislative Hearing (2:00 PM)	Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Legislative Hearing (2:00 PM)	

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