



The Weekly Preview

March 8 – 12, 2010

This Week's Hearings and Markups

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- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will hold an oversight hearing on the "Proposed Settlement of the *Cobell v. Salazar* Litigation." In December 2009, plaintiffs and the United States announced a long-awaited settlement to the *Cobell* class-action lawsuit regarding the mismanagement of over three hundred thousand individual American Indian trust accounts. The settlement agreement, which would provide \$1.4 billion to settle accounting claims and create a \$2.0 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund, must be approved by the Congress before going into effect. The Committee will receive testimony on the settlement agreement from representatives of the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior, lead plaintiff Eloise Cobell, and Indian allottees.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 10, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will receive testimony on the following bill:
 - [H.R. 4289](#) (DeGette): To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes. "*Colorado Wilderness Act of 2009*"

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 11, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- Later on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Water and Power** will hold an oversight hearing on “The President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request for the Bureau of Reclamation and Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), United States Department of the Interior.” The hearing will focus on the proposed budgets for water monitoring, management and project administration. The Subcommittee will also receive testimony on efforts by the agencies to address challenges posed by aging infrastructure and to carry out Secretarial initiatives related to water and climate change.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 11, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

In Case You Missed It

- On March 3, during a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) called for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement Director Dale Jones to be temporarily relieved of his duties, amid allegations of unauthorized document destruction during an ongoing investigation by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Inspector General (IG). The IG had recently released the findings of another investigation of NOAA Fisheries, which revealed “systemic, nationwide issues” affecting fishing industry law enforcement. Visit the Committee's Web site to read the [press release](#) with additional information.

Quotable Quote

“As the top cop at NOAA and a long-time investigator himself, Dale Jones must be acutely aware that shredding documents during a federal investigation raises serious questions about his commitment to a full and fair look at all the facts. At a time when transparency and accountability in the way our government operates is of utmost importance, this type of behavior cannot be condoned, and Mr. Jones should step aside until the IG's investigation is completed.”

– *Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), on March 3, 2010, in response to information revealed by Commerce Department Inspector General Todd J. Zinser that NOAA Law Enforcement Director Dale Jones initiated and authorized the destruction of documents and records, while his office was simultaneously under investigation by the IG. Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#), read Subcommittee Chairwoman Bordallo's [opening statement](#), watch [archived video](#) from the hearing, or view the [press release](#) with additional information.*

Calendar

Monday 3/8	Tuesday 3/9	Wednesday 3/10	Thursday 3/11	Friday 3/12
		Full Committee Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)	Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on Water and Power Oversight Hearing (2:00 PM)	

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