

**Opening Statement
Chairman Raul Grijalva
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
Legislative Hearing
September 16, 2010**

The Subcommittee will now come to order. Thank you.

Today we will receive testimony on four bills and, in the interest of time, I leave it to the sponsors and witnesses to describe most of them in detail. Very briefly, one of the bills we will be hearing is deals with a wilderness proposal in West Virginia.

Also on the agenda is a proposal to establish a memorial to the thousands of African-American slaves and free men and women who aided our nation in its fight for independence.

As always, we very much appreciate the time and effort put forth by our witnesses and thank them very much for joining us today.

With that said, I'd now like to turn to Ranking Member Bishop for any opening statement he may have.