



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 3-7, 2008

Highlights:

- On Tuesday, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider under suspension of the rules the following 11 bills:
 - [H.R. 1143](#) (Christensen): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 1311](#) (Berkley): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility.
 - [H.R. 1922](#) (Mahoney): To designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding Federal land in the State of Florida as an Outstanding Natural Area and as a unit of the National Landscape System, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 3111](#) (Miller): To provide for the administration of Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.
 - [H.R. 5137](#) (Rahall): To ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.
 - [H.Res. 845](#) (Hastings): Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park.
 - [H.Res. 807](#) (Ros-Lehtinen): Honoring the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, champion of the Florida Everglades and founder of Florida's environmental movement.
 - [H.R. 816](#) (Porter): To provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project.

- [H.R. 3473](#) (Bishop): To provide for a land exchange with the City of Bountiful, Utah, involving National Forest System land in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and to further land ownership consolidation in that national forest, and for other purposes.
- [H.R. 4191](#) (Turner): To redesignate Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in the State of Ohio as "Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historic Park", and for other purposes.
- [H.Res. 698](#) (Walsh): Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Congressional Cemetery.

This Week's Hearings:

- On Wednesday, for the first time in many years, **House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV)** will lead the Committee in a hearing to investigate the impact of illegal trade in wildlife on international security and stability. As concerns about terrorism have intensified in recent years, the U.S. State Department documents that the illegal wildlife trade has grown to be among the most lucrative illicit economies in the world, including drugs and arms trafficking. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: The Honorable Claudia A. McMurray, Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment and Science, US Department of State; Mr. John Sellar, Senior Officer, Office of the Secretary General, CITES Secretariat; Mr. Benito Perez, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mr. Steven R. Galster, Director of Field Operations, Wildlife Alliance; Mr. John Hart, Scientific Director, Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba Project; Mr. William Clark, CITES Coordinator, Department of Law Enforcement, Israel Nature and Parks Authority; Dr. William E. Moritz, Director of Conservation and Acting Director of Governmental Affairs, Safari Club International Foundation; and Mr. Peter Pueschel, Illegal Wildlife Trade Program Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare. Visit our Web site to view the [media advisory](#) on the hearing or to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. *(March 5, 2008, at 9:30 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 six bills:
 - [H.R. 877](#) (Delahunt), To amend the Adams National Historical Park Act of 1998 to include the Quincy Homestead within the boundary of the Adams National Historical Park, and for other purposes. *(Adams National Historical Park Boundary Addition Act of 2007)*
 - [H.R. 1423](#) (Visclosky): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease a portion of a visitor center to be constructed outside the boundary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter County, Indiana, and for other purposes. *(Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center Lease Act)*

- [H.R. 1693](#) (Payne): To authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia at Constitution Gardens previously approved to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution. (*National Liberty Memorial Act*)
- [H.R. 2675](#) (Boren): To provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes. (*HALE Scouts Act*)
- [H.R. 3651](#) (Bishop): To require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard. (*Utah National Guard Readiness Act*)
- [H.R. 3734](#) (Simpson): To rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the state of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area, and for other purposes. (*Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Act*)

[Visit our Web site to access witness testimony following the conclusion of the hearing.](#) (March 6, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

Quotable Quotes:

“In the end, wilderness is not defined by the absence of certain activities but rather by the presence of certain unique and invaluable characteristics. The answer to the often-asked question, “why do you want this area to be wilderness?” is, these areas already are wilderness, we simply want to preserve them as they are and as they have been for generations.”

– Subcommittee Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), during his opening remarks at a February 26, 2008 Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest and Public Lands hearing on H.R. 5151, legislation introduced by Chairman Rahall that would add an additional 47,000 acres of wilderness within the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.

Calendar:

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

Monday 3/3	Tuesday 3/4	Wednesday 3/5	Thursday 3/6	Friday 3/7
		Full Committee Oversight Hearing on "Poaching American Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade" (9:30 AM)	Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing on six Bills (10:00 AM)	

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