



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 10-14, 2008*

### **This Week's Hearings:**

- On Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources** will hold an oversight hearing on "Getting Royalties Right: Recent Recommendations for Improving the Federal Oil & Gas Royalty System." The Subcommittee will review recommendations from policy experts, the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General's office for improving the Federal oil and gas royalty system in light of the recent report to the Minerals Management Service's Royalty Policy Committee entitled "Mineral Revenue Collection from Federal and Indian Lands and the Outer Continental Shelf." The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Earl Devaney, Inspector General of the Department of the Interior; David Deal, Vice Chair of the Royalty Policy Committee of the Department of the Interior; Frank Rusco, Acting Director of Natural Resources and Environment of the General Accounting Office; The Hon. C. Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management of the Department of the Interior; Randall Luthi, Director of the Minerals Management Service; Mr. Larry Finfer, Deputy Director of the Office of Policy Analysis of the Department of the Interior; Linda Stiff, Acting Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service; and Dennis Roller, Royalty Audit Section Manager of the Office of the State Auditor of North Dakota.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 11, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

- Also on Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will hold a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following 2 bills:
  - [H.R. 2964](#) (Johnson): To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes. (*Captive Primate Safety Act*)

- [H.R. 5534](#) (Grijalva): To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to extend its protections to bears illegally harvested for their viscera in the same manner as with respect to prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes. (*Bear Protection Act of 2008*)

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Dr. Gail Golab, Director, Animal Welfare Division, American Veterinary Medical Association; Dr. Sian Evans, Managing Director, DuMond Conservancy; Lewis 'Skip' Wissinger, Criminal Investigator (Retired), Shenandoah National Park; Ray Schoenke, President, American Hunters and Shooters Association; Matt Hogan, Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Dr. Jane Goodall, Founder, The Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace; Benito A. Perez, Chief, Law Enforcement, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO, Humane Society of the United States; and Steve Ross, Supervisor of Behavioral and Cognitive Research and Chair, AZA Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan, Lincoln Park Zoo.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 11, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will meet in open markup session to consider the following 9 bills:
  - [H.R. 2016](#) (Grijalva): To establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes. "*National Landscape Conservation System Act*"
  - [H.R. 4933](#) (Bordallo): To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to protect captive wildlife and to make technical corrections, and for other purposes. "*Captive Wildlife Safety Technical Amendments Act of 2008*"
  - [H.R. 2342](#) (Allen): To direct the President to establish a National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System, and for other purposes. "*National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2007*"
  - [H.R. 1187](#) (Woolsey): To expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. "*Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act*"
  - [H.R. 3352](#) (Young): To reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes. "*Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007*"

- [H.R. 3891](#) (Brown): To amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- [H.R. 2515](#) (Heller): To authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes. "*Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program 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*"

Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [markup report](#) following the markup. (March 12, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Water and Power** will receive testimony on the following 3 bills:
  - [H.R. 317](#) (Salazar): To authorize the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes (*Arkansas Valley Conduit Act*)
  - [H.R. 4841](#) (Bono Mack): To approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians relating to alleged interferences with the water resources of the Tribe, to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform the Settlement Agreement and related waivers, and for other purposes (*Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act*)
  - H.R. [5293](#) (Heller): To approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in Nevada, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the settlement, and for other purposes (*Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement Act*)

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Majel Russell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Kyle R. Prior, Chairman, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Owyhee, NV; Allen Biaggi, Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Carson City, NV; Jay Chamberlin, Project Manager, Owyhee Irrigation District, Nyssa, OR; Robert Salgado, Sr., Chairman; Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, San Jacinto, CA; Randy A. Record, Director, Eastern Municipal Water District, Perris, CA; Bill Long, President, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo, CO; Jim Broderick, Executive Director, Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo, CO; and Norman Noe, Manager, South Swink Water Company, La Junta, CO.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 13, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- Also on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands** will hold an oversight hearing on "The Impacts of Unmanaged Off-Road Vehicles on Federal Land." While many Americans enjoy using off-road vehicles responsibly, the irresponsible use of such vehicles is increasing and damaging or destroying public lands and private property. The unmanaged use of off-road vehicles is a problem that federal land management agencies are failing to address. The Subcommittee will examine potential issues that have caused federal land agencies to struggle to adequately enforce existing regulations, protect cultural and natural resources, and provide for public safety. Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*March 13, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

### **In Case You Missed It:**

- On March 6, 2008, House Natural Resources Committee **Chairman Nick J. Rahall** (D-WV), Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands **Chairman Raul Grijalva** (D-AZ), and Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations **Chairman Norm Dicks** (D-WA) introduced the ***Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act*** (FLAME Act) (H.R. 5541), a bill to create a new federal fund dedicated solely to fight future catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities. Federal fire suppression spending has increased substantially over the past 10 years, with 48 percent of the Forest Service budget accounting for these activities today. Much to the detriment of other programs under the auspices of federal land management agencies, the Forest Service and the Interior Department have been forced to borrow funds from other agency accounts to cover these escalating costs. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information on the FLAME Act.

- On March 5, 2008, **House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV)** led the Full Committee in an oversight hearing to examine the national security impacts of the illegal wildlife trade. 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 Committee received testimony from the following witnesses: The Honorable Claudia A. McMurray, Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment and Science, US Department of State; Mr. John Seller, 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 the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) from the hearing.
- On March 4, the **House of Representatives** approved 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.

**Quotable Quotes:**

“For many years, illegal weapons and illegal drugs have been the commodities of choice to some of the globe’s most brazen underworld figures, even spawning the term “narco-terrorism. Yet the illegal wildlife trade, which has received considerably less public attention, is an increasing concern and may be on the rise. As a result, illegal wildlife trafficking poses a risk, not just to the survival of God’s creatures but also to the safety and stability of our world and the American people.”

– *Chairman Rahall, during his opening remarks at a March 5, 2008 Full Committee oversight hearing to examine the national security impacts of the illegal wildlife trade.*

**Calendar:**

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

<b>Monday 3/10</b>	<b>Tuesday 3/11</b>	<b>Wednesday 3/12</b>	<b>Thursday 3/13</b>	<b>Friday 3/14</b>
	<p>Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing on "Getting Royalties Right: Recent Recommendations for Improving the Federal Oil &amp; Gas Royalty System" (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Legislative Hearing on two Bills (10:00 AM)</p>	<p>Full Committee Markup of nine Bills (11:00 AM)</p>	<p>Subcommittee on Water and Power Legislative Hearing on three Bills (10:00 AM)</p> <p>Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Oversight Hearing on "The Impacts of Unmanaged Off-Road Vehicles on Federal Land" (2:00 PM)</p>	

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