



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

September 8 – 12, 2008

This Week on the House Floor:

- The **House of Representatives** is expected to consider the following bill, subject to a rule, under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
 - [H.R. 3667](#) (Welch): To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. *“Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Act”*

This Week’s Hearings:

Can’t make it to our hearings or markups in person? Stay connected with our live and archived video and audio webcasts, available at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>.

- On Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will hold a legislative hearing on the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act ([H.R. 5479](#)) and an oversight hearing on the status of oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. The Subcommittee will hear testimony from the first panel on the potential environmental benefits and costs of codifying into federal law the existing San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The second panel will present testimony on the status and effectiveness of collective federal and state efforts to restore oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay. These efforts have come under criticism in a recent *Washington Post* article as being costly and ineffective.

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*September 10, 2008, at 10 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 nine bills:

- [H.R. 3114](#) (Slaughter): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, and for other purposes. *"National Women's Rights History Project Act"*
- [H.R. 4162](#) (Jerry Lewis): To provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes. *"San Bernardino Biomass Use Facilitation Act"*
- [H.R. 6156](#) (McKeon): To designate certain lands as wilderness in the state of California, and for other purposes. *"Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act"*
- [H.R. 6233](#) (Walter Jones): To reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service.
- [H.R. 6290](#) (Blumenauer): To designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, and for other purposes. *"Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2008"*
- [H.R. 6291](#) (DeFazio): To adjust the boundary of Oregon Caves National Monument, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments in Oregon as wild or scenic rivers, and for other purposes. *"Oregon Treasures Act of 2008"*
- [H.R. 6470](#) (Dingell): To provide for the designation of certain sites in Monroe County and Wayne County, Michigan, relating to the Battles of the River Raisin during the War of 1812 as a unit of the National Park System. *"River Raisin National Battlefield Act"*
- [H.R. 6553](#) (Mark Udall): To clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System lands subject to ski area permits.
- [H.R. 6628](#) (Don Young): To provide for the application of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to the Connell Lake area, so the Ketchikan Gateway Borough in Alaska may obtain that land under the Act's basic terms and conditions. *"Connell Lake Watershed Protection and Recreation Act"*

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

In Case You Missed It:

On August 11, the Bush Administration announced a proposed rule to amend the regulations implementing section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). If finalized, this overhaul to the landmark Act would significantly alter the consultation process among federal agencies and weaken protections for endangered animals and plants. Chairman Rahall, along with Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), wrote to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorn and Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez requesting a 60- day extension of the public comment period on the proposed rule. The Congressmen also called for the agencies to hold public hearings prior to finalizing the regulation.

Quotable Quote:

"I am deeply troubled by this proposed rule, which gives federal agencies an unacceptable degree of discretion to decide whether or not to comply with the Endangered Species Act. The Administration is also attempting to adopt a new consultation process with very little time for the public to even be consulted. Eleventh hour rulemakings rarely, if ever, lead to good government – this is not the type of legacy this Interior Department should be leaving for future generations."

– Chairman Rahall, reacting to the Bush Administration's August 11 announcement of a proposed rule to amend the Endangered Species Act.

Calendar:

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

Monday 9/08	Tuesday 9/09	Wednesday 9/10	Thursday 9/11	Friday 9/12
		Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Legislative and Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)	Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM)	

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