



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

April 21 – 25, 2008

Highlights:

- April 19-27, 2008 marks National Park Week, an annual presidentially proclaimed week for celebration and recognition of America's National Parks. This year's theme is "Kids in the Park." On April 26, 2008, nearly 200 parks nationwide will commemorate the 2nd annual Junior Ranger Day. A complete list of National Park Week and Junior Ranger Day activities is available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/npweek>.

On the House Floor:

- On Tuesday, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider under suspension of the rules the following 4 bills:
 - [H.R. 3513](#) (DeFazio): Copper Salmon Wilderness Act
 - [H.R. 5151](#) (Rahall): Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places
 - [H.R. 831](#) (Don Young): Coffman Cove Administrative Site Conveyance Act
 - [H.R. 3734](#) (Simpson): Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Act

This Week's Hearings:

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

- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will meet in open markup session to consider the following bill:
 - [H.R. 2801](#) (Don Young): To provide for the exchange of certain lands in the Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Wildlife Refuges and Wilderness in the State of Alaska and for the granting of a fee title to enable construction of a road connecting the Native Village of King Cove, Alaska and Cold Bay, Alaska. *"Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement and King Cove Safe Access Act"*

Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [markup report](#) following the markup. (April 23, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- Later on Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will meet in open markup session to consider the following 4 bills:
 - [H.R. 21](#) (Farr): To establish a national policy for our oceans, to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a national and regional ocean governance structure, and for other purposes. (*Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act*)
 - [H.R. 2964](#) (E. 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*)
 - [H.R. 5618](#) (Bordallo): To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes. (*National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008*)

Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [markup report](#) following the markup. (April 23, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- Also on Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on Water and Power** will meet in open markup session to consider the following 3 bills:
 - [H.R. 2649](#) (Bilbray): To make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992.

- [H.R. 3323](#) (Capps): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District, and for other purposes, the "*Goleta Water Distribution System Conveyance Act of 2007.*"
- [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, the "*Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act.*"

Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [markup report](#) following the markup. (*April 23, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will hold a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following 2 bills:
 - [H.R. 3639](#) (Farr): To establish a program of research and other activities to provide for the recovery of the southern sea otter. (*Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act*)
 - [H.R. 5350](#) (R. Scott): To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property located in Norfolk, Virginia, and for other purposes.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*April 24, 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 a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following 6 bills:
 - [H.R. 859](#) (Salazar): To establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes. (*Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Act*)
 - [H.R. 3227](#) (Hastings of Washington): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

- [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 River System. (*Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2007*)
- [H.R. 3930](#) (Pearce): To provide for a land exchange involving State land and Bureau of Land Management land in Chavez and Dona Ana Counties, New Mexico, and to establish the Lesser Prairie Chicken National Habitat Preservation Area, and for other purposes. (*Lesser Prairie Chicken National Habitat Preservation Area Act of 2007*)
- [H.R. 3981](#) (Miller of North Carolina): To authorize the Preserve America Program and Save America's Treasures Program, and for other purposes. (*Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act*)
- [H.R. 5540](#) (Sarbanes): To amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the continuing authorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. (*Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act*)

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*April 24, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

In Case You Missed It:

- On April 17, 2008, **Chairman Rahall** received the prestigious William Penn Mott, Jr., award from the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). The NPCA, which works to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations, presents the Mott Award each year to a public official who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to protecting our nation's outdoor resources, particularly National Parks. Past honorees include President Jimmy Carter (1999), former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt (1997), former Member of Congress and then House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee Chairman Morris "Mo" Udall (1980), Sen. John McCain (2000), and leading conservationist and philanthropist Laurance S. Rockefeller (2002). Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.

- On April 17, 2008, the **Committee on Natural Resources** approved legislation that would create a federal fund dedicated solely to fighting catastrophic, emergency wildland fires. The ***Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act) (H.R. 5541)*** was introduced by Chairman Rahall, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), and Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations Chairman Norm Dicks (D-WA). Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [markup report](#) or the [press release](#) with additional information about the legislation.

The Committee also approved the following 4 bills:

- [H.R. 3522](#) (T. Udall): To ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes.
- [S. 2457](#) (Lieberman): A bill to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe.
- [H.R. 1575](#) (Stupak): To reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationship of the Burt Lake Band as a distinct federally recognized Indian Tribe, and for other purposes. "*Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Reaffirmation Act*"
- [H.R. 3490](#) (Radanovich): To transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes. "*Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2007*"

Quotable Quotes:

"Agencies of the Interior Department and the Forest Service have been forced to 'Rob Peter to Pay Paul' by borrowing funds from other agency accounts to cover the escalating costs of fire suppression. This unnecessary and unfair diversion of funds has severely undermined the overall missions of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other agencies – including everything from trail maintenance to necessary construction actions."

– *Chairman Rahall, during his opening remarks at an April 17, 2008 Full Committee markup of [H.R. 5541](#).*

Calendar:

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

Monday 4/21	Tuesday 4/22	Wednesday 4/23	Thursday 4/24	Friday 4/25
		Full Committee Markup (11:00 AM) Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Markup of 4 Bills (2:00 PM) Subcommittee on Water and Power Markup of 3 Bills (2:00 PM)	Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Legislative Hearing on 2 Bills (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing on 6 Bills (10:00 AM)	

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