



# 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 22 – 26, 2008

### On the House Floor:

- On Monday, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider under suspension of the rules the following 13 bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
  - [H.R. 160](#) (Holt): To amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes. *“Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act”*
  - [H.R. 2933](#) (Gary Miller): To amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes. *“Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008”*
  - [H.R. 4828](#) (Ortiz): To amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, and for other purposes. *“Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008”*
  - [H.R. 5853](#) (Tsongas): To expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to include Barrett's Farm, and for other purposes. *“Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act”*
  - [H.R. 6176](#) (Rodriguez): To authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas, and for other purposes.
  - [H.R. 6159](#) (George Miller): To provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes. *“Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act”*
  - [H.R. 5335](#) (Wamp): To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and for other purposes. *“Trail of Tears Documentation Act”*

- [H.R. 3336](#) (Lamborn): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a historic district to the Camp Hale on parcels of land in the State of Colorado. *“Camp Hale Study Act”*
- [H.R. 3849](#) (Rob Bishop): To provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah. *“Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act”*
- [H.R. 3299](#) (Musgrave): To provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land.
- [H.Res. 1374](#) (McMorris Rodgers): Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam and recognizing its critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- [H.R. 6685](#) (Lynch): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans.
- [H.R. 1907](#) (Saxton): To authorize the acquisition of land and interests in land from willing sellers to improve the conservation of, and to enhance the ecological values and functions of, coastal and estuarine areas to benefit both the environment and the economies of coastal communities, and for other purposes. *“Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program 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 Tuesday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs** will hold an oversight hearing on “Identifying Labor Solutions for the Guam Military Buildup.” On October 29, 2005, the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan entered into a renewed Security Consultative Agreement that calls for a major realignment of the U.S-Japan strategic alliance, including the relocation of at least 8,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam. A total of approximately 18,000 personnel are expected to relocate to Guam, including Marines, dependents, and support personnel. In May 2008, President Bush signed into law an act that would exempt Guam and the Northern Marianas from immigration law caps on temporary workers through 2014. The new law is expected to help ensure that sufficient skilled and unskilled labor is available for Guam’s planned military buildup. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information on efforts being undertaken by the federal government and the Government of Guam to address labor demands associated with the Guam military buildup.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*September 23, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans** will hold an oversight hearing on recent trends concerning annual budgets for the National Wildlife Refuge System and implications for management activities. On October 9, 2007, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing examining the state of the National Wildlife Refuge System ten years after passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. Since then, two reviews of the National Wildlife Refuge System have been completed. One was conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the findings of which will be released on Wednesday, and the second by Management Systems International at the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This hearing will focus on the findings of both reviews and explore options for Congressional action.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*September 24, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Water and Power** will receive testimony on the following four bills:
  - [H.R. 883](#) (Herseth Sandlin): To enhance and provide to the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Angostura Irrigation Project certain benefits of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River basin program. "*Oglala Sioux Tribe Angostura Irrigation Project Modernization and Development Act*"
  - [H.R. 6754](#) (Pastor): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for use in planning, engineering, and designing a certain water system project. "*White Mountain Apache Tribe Rural Water System Loan Authorization Act*"
  - [H.R. 6768](#) (Tom Udall): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to develop water infrastructure in the Rio Grande Basin, and to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, and Taos. "*Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act*"
  - H.R. \_\_\_\_ (McMorris Rodgers): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, and for other purposes.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*September 25, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

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

- On September 15, the **House of Representatives** approved the following bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
  - [H.R. 5350](#) (Bobby 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.
  - [H.R. 3437](#) (Salazar): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado. *“Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Act of 2008”*
  - [H.R. 2535](#) (Nunes): To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility and suitability of constructing a storage reservoir, outlet works, and a delivery system for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California to provide a water supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes, and for other purposes. *“Tule River Tribe Water Development 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”*
- On September 16, the **House of Representatives** passed the **Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act** ([H.R. 6899](#)). The House Democrats’ landmark energy legislation, sponsored by Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and Reps. Gene Green (D-TX) and George Miller (D-CA), will provide for increased oil and gas development, while protecting the financial interests of American citizens in the leasing of federal resources and safeguarding the environment. Visit the Committee’s Web site to view the [press release](#), access a [fact sheet](#) with additional information about the legislation, or [watch Chairman Rahall speak](#) in favor of the bill on the House floor.
- On September 18, the **Committee on Natural Resources** held an oversight hearing on “Recent Interior Department Inspector General Investigations on Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Collections.” The hearing was in response to three reports released by the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) on September 10, 2008 concerning multiple allegations of unethical and illicit behavior against more than a dozen current and former employees of the Minerals Management Service’s Royalty in Kind (RIK) program. Visit the Committee’s Web site to read Chairman Rahall’s [opening statement](#), [watch the archived video](#) of the hearing, or to access [witness testimony](#). The reports are available on the Interior IG’s Web site at: <http://www.doioig.gov/>

**Quotable Quote:**

“The difference is clear between those of us supporting this measure, and some of those on the other side of the aisle who have been trumpeting their bumper sticker ‘drill here, drill now’ approach to our serious energy situation. We, instead, will protect America's interest in American resources, demand that the American taxpayer gets a fair return, and ensure America's transition to a stronger, more reliable domestic energy future.”

– *Chairman Rahall, during floor debate in the U.S. House of Representatives on the **Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899)** on September 16, 2008.*

**Calendar:**

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

<b>Monday 9/22</b>	<b>Tuesday 9/23</b>	<b>Wednesday 9/24</b>	<b>Thursday 9/25</b>	<b>Friday 9/26</b>
	Subcommittee on Insular Affairs Oversight Hearing (2:00 PM)	Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)	Subcommittee on Water and Power Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM)	

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