



# 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

July 27 – 31, 2009

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

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, Oceans and Wildlife** will receive testimony on the following bill:
  - [H.R. 3086](#) (Bordallo): To coordinate authorities within the Department of the Interior and within the Federal Government to enhance the United States' ability to conserve global wildlife and biological diversity and for other purposes. *"Global Wildlife Conservation, Coordination, and Enhancement Act of 2009"*

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (July 28, 2009, 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 6 bills:
  - [H.R. 1916](#) (Dingell): To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to provide for a revised schedule of price increases for the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, popularly known as the "Duck Stamp", and for other purposes. *"Migratory Bird Habitat Investment and Enhancement Act"*
  - [H.R. 481](#) (Oberstar): To revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along Lake Superior's north shore and in Superior National Forest and Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes. *"North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act of 2009"*
  - [H.R. 1641](#) (Inslee): To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the Cascadia Marine Trail. *"Cascadia Marine Trail Study Act"*

- [H.R. 905](#) (Stupak): To expand the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and for other purposes. *“Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Boundary Modification Act”*
- [H.R. 1771](#) (Sarbanes): To reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes. *“Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2009”*
- [H.R. 1053](#) (Wittman): To require the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to require the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement an adaptive management plan, and for other purposes. *“Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2009”*

Visit the Committee’s Web site to view the [markup report](#) following the markup. (July 29, 2009, at 10:00 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 3 bills:
  - [H.R. 2802](#) (Delahunt): To provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy.
  - [H.R. 2806](#) (Doc Hastings): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness.
  - [H.R. 3113](#) (Rahall): To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Elk River in the State of West Virginia for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. *“Upper Elk River Wild and Scenic Study Act”*

Visit the Committee’s Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (July 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building)

- Also on Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources** will hold an oversight hearing on "Unconventional Fuels, Part II: The Promise of Methane Hydrates." This is the second in a series of hearings examining the potential for various unconventional fuels to contribute to the United States' sustainable energy supply in the short- and long-term. Virtually unknown in nature just a few decades ago, methane hydrates – which are essentially natural gas trapped in ice – are now recognized as a potentially huge resource that could vastly increase natural gas production in the United States. The federal government and industry are currently researching whether this massive resource can be tapped economically. The Committee will receive testimony to examine the current status of these research efforts, and gain a better understanding of the promise of methane hydrates.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*July 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

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

- One year after House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) initiated efforts to force the Bush-era Interior Department to withdraw lands surrounding the Grand Canyon National Park from new uranium mining - Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on July 20 moved to protect nearly one million acres from new uranium mining. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.
- On July 22, the **Committee on Natural Resources** approved the following bill:
  - [H.R. 2499](#) (Pierluisi): To provide for a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico. "*Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2009*"

### **Quotable Quote:**

"The spectacular Grand Canyon is far too precious to risk to contamination from new uranium mining, which is why I joined Subcommittee Chairman Grijalva in urging Secretary Salazar to issue this temporary withdrawal. We are grateful that he has heeded our Committee's emergency request, which will afford the Congress more time to pass legislation to permanently protect the families and resources of the Grand Canyon area from the threat of uranium contamination."

– *Chairman Rahall, reacting to an announcement by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on July 20, 2009, to protect nearly one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon National Park from new uranium mining. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.*

**Calendar:**

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

<b>Monday 7/27</b>	<b>Tuesday 7/28</b>	<b>Wednesday 7/29</b>	<b>Thursday 7/30</b>	<b>Friday 7/31</b>
	Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM)	Full Committee Markup (10:00 AM)	Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Legislative Hearing (10:00 AM)  Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing (10:00 AM)	

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