



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026
Subject: Markup of 8 Bills

The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup on **Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building**. The bills to be considered include: H.R. 309 (Rep. Nehls); H.R. 1693 (Rep. Hageman); H.R. 4219 (Rep. Case); H.R. 4931 (Rep. Murphy of NC); H.R. 5063 (Rep. Kiggans); H.R. 6021 (Rep. Begich); H.R. 8121 (Del. Plaskett); and H.R. 8454 (Rep. McClintock).

Member offices are requested to notify Madeline Kelley (Madeline.Kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, to confirm their Member's attendance at the markup.

I. KEY MESSAGES & TOPLINE ACTIONS

- Bills expected to move by unanimous consent: H.R. 309 (Rep. Nehls), "*National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support and Community Outreach Act*"; H.R. 1693 (Rep. Hageman), To redesignate the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the "Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center"; H.R. 4219 (Rep. Case), "*National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025*"; H.R. 4931 (Rep. Murphy of NC), "*National Park System Long-Term Lease Investment Act*"; H.R. 5063 (Rep. Kiggans), "*Safe Beaches, Safe Swimmers Act*"; H.R. 6021 (Rep. Begich), "*Archie Cavanaugh Migratory Bird Treaty Amendment Act*"; H.R. 8121 (Del. Plaskett), To designate the Christiansted Bandstand at the Christiansted National Historic Site, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as the "Peter G. Thurland, Sr., Bandstand"; and H.R. 8454 (Rep. McClintock), To provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes.

II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

H.R. 309 (Rep. Nehls), "*National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support and Community Outreach Act*"

To honor the brave men and women in law enforcement, Congress established the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and the National Law Enforcement Museum

(Museum) in Washington, D.C., in 1984.¹ H.R. 309 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to the NLEOMF to support and expand its community outreach initiatives. The bill authorizes up to \$6 million per year for seven years to fund activities, such as free museum access for officers, the expansion of digitized collections, and the broader distribution of officer safety and wellness resources to law enforcement agencies nationwide. An amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) will be offered at markup bringing the legislation into compliance with House floor protocols.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Devereaux (Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 1693 (Rep. Hageman), To redesignate the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the “Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center”.

Former Representative Barbara Cubin is the first woman to have been elected to federal office in Wyoming, serving the state in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2009.² As a founding member of the Congressional Western Caucus and Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, Cubin championed policies that promoted responsible development of America’s natural resources and improved management of federal lands.³ In 1998, Cubin’s legislation establishing the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center (Center) in Casper, Wyoming, was signed into law.⁴ Owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and operated through a public-private partnership, the Center offers free interactive exhibits and educational programming that tells the story of America’s westward expansion.⁵ In recognition of Cubin’s lasting contributions to Wyoming, the American West, and the Center itself, H.R. 1693 renames the Center the “Barbara L. Cubin Historic Trails Interpretive Center.”

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Devereaux (Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov).

¹ “Why We’re Here,” National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, <https://nleomf.org/about/>.

² “Cubin, Barbara L.,” History, Art & Archives, U.S. House of Representatives, <https://history.house.gov/People/Detail/11656>.

³ *Id.*; “Senate Passes Legislation Renaming Casper’s National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Honor of Barbara L. Cubin,” The Office of Senator Cynthia Lummis, May 20, 2026, <https://www.lummis.senate.gov/press-releases/senate-passes-legislation-renaming-caspers-national-historic-trails-interpretive-center-in-honor-of-barbara-l-cubin/>.

⁴ Pub. L. No. 105-290.

⁵ “National Historic Trails Interpretive Center,” Bureau of Land Management, <https://www.blm.gov/learn/interpretive-centers/national-historic-trails-interpretive-center>.

H.R. 4931 (Rep. Murphy of NC), “*National Park System Long-Term Lease Investment Act*”

H.R. 4931, the “National Park System Long-Term Lease Investment Act,” authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to extend certain existing leases without requiring competitive rebidding. To qualify, the lease must have been in place for at least five years, the lessee must be in full compliance with all lease terms, and the National Park Service (NPS) Director must determine that the extension is in the best interests of park administration. The bill also directs the Secretary of the Interior to incorporate this authority into the formal regulations within 90 days of enactment. By allowing a single entity to hold a lease for a longer duration, the legislation encourages continued private investment, supports visitor services, and reduces unnecessary administrative burdens. An ANS will be offered at markup reflecting technical assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Devereaux (Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 5063 (Rep. Kiggans), “*Safe Beaches, Safe Swimmers Act*”

Federal beaches and swimming areas managed by NPS, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Bureau of Reclamation welcome millions of visitors each year.⁶ These sites are typically staffed by federal lifeguards, who play a critical role in preventing drownings, performing rescues, and ensuring safe recreation. In recent years, however, staffing shortages have weakened lifeguard coverage at some designated federal swimming locations. Gaps in coverage heighten risks for swimmers and can strain local public safety resources.⁷ H.R. 5063, the “Safe Beaches, Safe Swimmers Act,” gives DOI a flexible tool to address lifeguard shortages by partnering with local governments to provide qualified lifeguards at federal swimming locations. The bill ensures that local agencies are fully reimbursed for their costs so lifesaving services can be maintained without creating new financial burdens for local partners. Reliable lifeguard staffing reduces the risk of preventable accidents, sustains public confidence in federal recreation sites, and underscores the federal commitment to keeping these destinations safe and accessible. An ANS will be offered at markup reflecting technical assistance from DOI.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Hannah Devereaux (Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ “National parks face critical staffing shortage as summer visitors flock to beaches,” WTVR CBS 6, July 4, 2025, <https://www.wtvr.com/news/national-news/national-parks-critical-staffing-shortage-july-4-2025#:~:text=>

H.R. 6021 (Rep. Begich), “*Archie Cavanaugh Migratory Bird Treaty Amendment Act*”

Enacted in 1918 and amended subsequently, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)⁸ implements four conservation treaties—those that the U.S. entered into with Canada in 1916, Mexico in 1936, Japan in 1972, and Russia in 1976—whose shared purpose is to ensure the sustainability of migratory bird species.⁹ The MBTA prohibits the take of protected migratory bird species without FWS’s prior authorization. Take is defined to include killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transporting a protected migratory bird species.¹⁰ FWS has promulgated regulations under the MBTA restricting the take of migratory birds, including which species can be hunted, the length of hunting seasons, bag limits, and the use of live decoys or other techniques to hunt migratory birds.

While the bilateral treaties with Japan and Russia recognized the legitimate subsistence needs of indigenous peoples, the treaties with Canada¹¹ and Mexico¹² did not. As a result, federal courts have prevented the implementation of any subsistence rights, holding that the MBTA requires the federal government to follow the most restrictive provisions of any of the four international agreements.

In 2012, Archie Cavanaugh, an Alaska Native artist, attempted to sell a headdress that contained flicker feathers, a member of the woodpecker family, and a hat containing raven feathers, consistent with cultural practices. Both flickers and ravens are protected under the MBTA, and FWS pursued charges against Mr. Cavanaugh. He faced up to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, but a settlement was reached in which he agreed to pay a \$2,000 fine.¹³

In 2012, the Alaska Federation of Natives adopted a resolution urging the State of Alaska and FWS to revise existing regulations to allow Alaskan natives to sell traditional handicrafts containing feathers or parts of migratory birds.¹⁴ On August 23, 2017, a FWS final rule went into effect that amended the permanent migratory bird subsistence-harvest regulations in Alaska.¹⁵ This rule enabled Alaska Natives to sell authentic Native articles of handicraft or clothing that contain inedible byproducts from 27 migratory bird species that were taken for food during the Alaska migratory bird subsistence-harvest season. The rule could provide relief only for those 27 species, not others covered by the treaty with Japan, which allows subsistence hunting only for “food and clothing.”¹⁶

⁸ 16 U.S.C. 703-712.

⁹ “Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ “Convention between the United State and Great Britain for the Protection of Migratory Birds,” December 7, 1916, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [treaty-canada-migratory-birhttps://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/treaty-canada-migratory-birds-1916.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/treaty-canada-migratory-birds-1916.pdf)ds-1916.pdf.

¹² “Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals,” April 3, 1936, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/treaty-mexico-migratory-birds-1936.pdf>.

¹³ “U.S. Senator from Alaska Introduces Bill to Allow Indigenous Artists to Use Bird Feathers, Parts,” Sealaska Heritage Institute, <https://sealaskaheritage.org/u-s-senator-from-alaska-introduces-bill-to-allow-indigenous-artists-to-use-bird-feathers-parts/>.

¹⁴ “2012 AFN Convention Resolutions, Follow-up Summary Report,” Alaska Federation of Natives, <https://www.nativefederation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2012-AFN-CONVENTION-RESOLUTIONS-Follow-upcd-2.pdf>

¹⁵ 82 Fed. Reg. 34263.

¹⁶ “Convention between the government of the United States of America and the government of Japan for the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, and their environment,” December 19, 1974, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/treaty-japan-migratory-birds.pdf>.

Introduced by Representative Nicholas Begich (R-AK-At Large), H.R. 6021 expands upon the FWS's 2017 rule by amending the MBTA to allow for the sale and shipment of any "authentic Alaska Native article of handicraft," as long the article contains only non-edible bird parts that were not taken in a wasteful or illegal manner. The bill also directs the U.S. Secretary of State to work with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to enter into appropriate, bilateral procedures with countries that are parties to the MBTA treaties to clarify the treatment of "authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft."

The bill, as currently drafted, requires domestic law to be updated before the treaty terms. An ANS will be offered at markup to instead require the treaty to be updated before any subsequent domestic regulations are issued. The ANS also refines the bill's scope to focus on the treaty with Japan that does not currently permit the use of migratory bird parts for the purpose of creating handicrafts.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Richie O'Connell (Richie.O'Connell@mail.house.gov).

[H.R. 8454](#) (Rep. McClintock), To provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes.

Ackerson Meadow is one of the largest intact meadow systems in California's Sierra Nevada mountains, serving as an important wildlife habitat.¹⁷ The meadow also supports livestock grazing by the Erickson Cattle Company, a family-owned ranch that has operated since the late 1800s.¹⁸ Although Ackerson Meadow was officially incorporated into Yosemite National Park in 2016, the Erickson family continues to hold a grazing permit on portions of the meadow that overlap with their adjacent allotment on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land in the Stanislaus National Forest.¹⁹ For over a decade, NPS, USFS, the Erikson family, and other stakeholders have partnered to restore Ackerson Meadow.²⁰ However, the current checkerboard pattern of federal ownership across the meadow hinders habitat restoration, grazing management, and public access. H.R. 8454 authorizes a nearly acre-for-acre exchange of administrative jurisdiction between NPS and USFS involving roughly 330 acres of Ackerson Meadow. This administrative boundary adjustment would transfer jurisdiction of 160 acres of USFS land to Yosemite National Park and 170 acres of NPS land to the Stanislaus National Forest. Placing each parcel under the agency best suited to manage the land will improve coordination, support ongoing restoration work, enhance the efficiency of grazing operations, reduce habitat fragmentation, and simplify recreational management within Ackerson Meadow.

¹⁷ "Ackerson Meadow Land Exchange," American Rivers Action Fund, 2026, *available at* https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/rad_2026_ackerson_meadow_land_interchange_2.pdf; "Ackerson Meadow Gifted to Yosemite National Park," National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/news/ackersonaddition.htm>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Letter to Congressman Tom McClintock, Tim Erickson, December 8, 2025, https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/erickson_letter_of_support_ackerson_land_swap_mcclintock_signed.pdf.

²⁰ "Ackerson Meadow Land Exchange," American Rivers Action Fund, 2026, *available at* https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/rad_2026_ackerson_meadow_land_interchange_2.pdf.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Brandon Miller (Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 4219 (Rep. Case), “*National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025*”

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of FWS-administered lands and waters that provide habitat for fish and wildlife across the U.S. and its territories.²¹ FWS defines invasive species as non-native plants, animals, and other organisms that cause, or are likely to cause economic, environmental, or health-related harm.²² To address these threats, FWS employs Invasive Species Strike Teams (ISST), whose flexible and mobile design enables rapid response to newly identified invasive species.²³ The ISST program emphasizes early detection and rapid response (EDRR), a cost-effective approach to preventing invasive species from becoming established.²⁴

H.R. 4219 codifies the existing ISST program, requires at least one strike team in each FWS region, directs FWS to collaborate with non-federal entities, and requires the development of a consistent set of taxonomy standards. The bill also authorizes FWS to provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements to address invasive species on lands adjacent to the National Wildlife Refuge System. Finally, the bill, as modified by an ANS that will be offered at markup, authorizes \$10 million annually through Fiscal Year (FY) 2031, consistent with enacted fiscal year 2026 funding levels, to carry out the ISST program.

An ANS will be considered at markup that makes technical and clarifying changes to the bill and brings the authorization in line with current funding levels.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Richie O’Connell (Richie.O’Connell@mail.house.gov).

²¹ Eric P. Nardi, “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: An Overview,” Congressional Research Service, July 20, 2018, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45265>.

²² “Invasive Species,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/program/invasive-species>.

²³ “FY 2024 Invasive Species Strike Team Annual Summary,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, [fy24_nwrs_isst_program_summary_report_508.pdf](#).

²⁴ *Id.*

H.R. 8121 (Del. Plaskett), To designate the Christiansted Bandstand at the Christiansted National Historic Site, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as the “Peter G. Thurland, Sr., Bandstand”.

Peter Gregory Thurland, Sr. was born on February 19, 1892, in the town of Christiansted on the island of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.²⁵ Following the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the U.S., Thurland enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became a member of the Navy Band.²⁶ During this period, he helped construct the Christiansted Bandstand, which remains an important cultural and historic landmark for the people of St. Croix. He performed there monthly with the Christiansted Naval Band until his honorable discharge in September 1921.²⁷ H.R. 8121 honors Thurland’s legacy by redesignating the historic bandstand located in Christiansted National Historic Site on St. Croix as the “Peter G. Thurland, Sr., Bandstand.”

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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III. CBO SCORES

None available.

IV. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

H.R. 1693

H.R. 6021

²⁵ “Black History Spotlight: Peter Gregory Thurland Sr.,” VI Source Network, February 6, 2007, <https://visourcearchives.com/content/2007/02/06/black-history-spotlight-peter-gregory-thurland-sr/>.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*