



washington dc update

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Committee Organization in the 114th Congress

To the general public, the organization of Committees in a new Congress is about as exciting as watching grass grow. But for stakeholders with a specific agenda, this process is of the very greatest interest. This is especially the case with the House Natural Resources Committee because it is among the most important of the House Committee of jurisdiction with regard to addressing water resources issues in the Arid West. This Committee has been undergoing a major reorganization under its new Chairman, Congressman Rob Bishop of Utah.

We have been following this process very closely and will continue to report to you as the reorganization is completed.

On Tuesday, Chairman Bishop officially released the roster of Republic Members of the Committee and also additional information with regard to the Subcommittee structure for the new Congress. The Chairman also announced Republican Members of the Committee broken down into current and new Members. Please check the attached press release to determine if your Representative will be serving on the Natural Resources Committee.

There are major changes in the Subcommittee structure of the Committee. Here is a comparison of Subcommittees in the 113th versus the 114th Congress:

113 th Congress		114 th Congress
Energy and Mineral Resources	→	Energy and Mineral Resources
Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs	→	Federal Lands
Indian and Alaska Native Affairs	→	Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs
Public lands and Environmental Regulation	→	Oversight and Investigations
Water and Power	→	Water, Power, and Oceans

In a press release on Tuesday [attached] Chairman Bishop noted:

“Given the increased need for Congressional oversight of the Executive Branch’s actions and regulations, I am also pleased to announce the formation of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. This restructure will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of committee operations.”

“Due to the new Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the jurisdictions of existing subcommittees.....have been reconfigured. Additionally, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be under exclusive jurisdiction of the Full Committee. Member subcommittee assignments, including leadership appointments, will be announced at a later date.”

WESTCAS will have to navigate this new Committee and Subcommittee structure in pursuing our agenda for the new Congress. We anticipate that these changes will be fully operational before the upcoming WESTCAS Federal Issues Workshop on February 19-20 in Phoenix. Participants will be fully briefed on these developments and have an opportunity to both share their views and also help to identify how WESTCAS



can work most effectively with the new structure of the House Natural Resources Committee