

DOC HASTINGS, WA  
CHAIRMAN  
DON YOUNG, AK  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN  
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX  
ROB BISHOP, UT  
DOUG LAMBORN, CO  
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA  
PAUL C. BROUN, GA  
JOHN FLEMING, LA  
MIKE COFFMAN, CO  
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA  
GLENN THOMPSON, PA  
JEFF DENHAM, CA  
DAN BENISHEK, MI  
DAVID RIVERA, FL  
JEFF DUNCAN, SC  
SCOTT R. TIPTON, CO  
PAUL A. GOSAR, AZ  
RAÚL R. LABRADOR, ID  
KRISTI L. NOEM, SD  
STEVE SOUTHERLAND II, FL  
BILL FLORES, TX  
ANDY HARRIS, MD  
JEFFREY M. LANDRY, LA  
JON RUNYAN, NJ  
BILL JOHNSON, OH  
MARK AMODEI, NV

TODD YOUNG  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA  
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER  
DALE E. KILDEE, MI  
PETER A. DeFAZIO, OR  
ENI F.H. FALCOMAVEGA, AS  
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA  
RUSH D. HOLT, NJ  
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, AZ  
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU  
JIM COSTA, CA  
DAN BOREN, OK  
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, CNMI  
MARTIN HEINRICH, NM  
BEN RAY LUJÁN, NM  
JOHN P. SARBANES, MD  
BETTY SUTTON, OH  
NIKI TSONGAS, MA  
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR  
JOHN GARAMENDI, CA  
COLLEEN W. HANABUSA, HI  
PAUL TONKO, NY

JEFFREY DUNCAN  
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

**Opening Statement by**  
**The Honorable Rob Bishop**  
**Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands**  
**At the Legislative Hearing on**  
**H.R. 752, H.R. 1415, H.R. 3377 and H.R. 3436**  
**Thursday, March 8, 2012**

*As prepared for delivery:*

Monuments, wilderness and other land-use designations have been a topic of much debate in this subcommittee. While there are certain areas of special significance that should be managed as wilderness or otherwise preserved for future generations, we need to ensure that those designations are fully vetted and protect the interests and livelihoods of the communities and stakeholders that could be impacted.

This hearing is an important part of that process. Locking-up lands throughout the West has the potential to restrict access for timber, grazing, mining, recreation, and other job-creating activities and devastate the rural communities that unfairly bear the brunt of poor land management decisions. In that regard, I'm submitting into the record a letter from the American Forest Resource Council noting that these proposed designations for Western Oregon should NOT be enacted without a solution to break through the multiple-use stalemate on the O&C timber lands. Failing to do so while locking up additional lands under these designations will further devastate the area's resource-dependent economy.

I do not point this out to say that wilderness should be used as a bargaining chip for increased forest management, but to reiterate the point that we have for too long been down a one-way street of removing lands from multiple-use through designations that cause economic harm to surrounding communities.

It is important to maintain a practice of looking at wilderness proposals thoroughly and individually as opposed to comprehensive omnibus bills and Administrative actions that seek to designate millions of acres in one fell swoop with little, if any, consideration of the consequences.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today and I now recognize the Ranking Member for his opening statement.