

Environment & Energy Congressional Round-Up | March 9 - March 13, 2026

Highlights:

The House Committee on Natural Resources advanced the *Save Our Sequoias Act* ([H.R.2709](#)) with unanimous consent. Reps. Vince Fong (R-Calif.) and Scott Peters (D-Calif.) reintroduced the bill to [bolster](#) the tree species's resilience to [worsening wildfires](#) in California. Specifically, the bill would create a Sequoia wildfire risk assessment and a reforestation strategy, open new revenue streams for Sequoia conservation, and establish a coalition of federal, state, tribal, and local forest managers, among other measures. Sens. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and John Curtis (R-Utah) are expected to introduce a companion bill in the Senate.

The House Committee on Natural Resources also advanced the *Chiricahua National Park Act* ([H.R.6380](#)), led by Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-Ariz.). The bipartisan bill would [redesignate](#) Arizona's Chiricahua National Monument as a national park, which would enhance conservation measures for the area. Sens. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz) and Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) lead the Senate version of the bill ([S.3715](#)).

Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Shelley Moore Capito ([R-W.Va.](#)) and Reps. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) and Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) reintroduced the *Rural Decentralized Water Systems Reauthorization Act* ([S.4096/H.R.7921](#)). The bill would expand and strengthen the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Rural Decentralized Water Systems Program](#), which helps low- and middle-income households install or upgrade wellwater and wastewater systems. Learn about other federal resources for rural water systems [here](#).

Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) reintroduced the *Habitat Connectivity on Working Lands Act* ([S.4091](#)) to help wildlife migrate through agricultural and grazing lands. Specifically, the bill would leverage the Farm Bill's [conservation programs](#) to support farmers in increasing habitat connectivity on their lands. Reps. Gabe Vasquez (D-N.M.), Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), and Teresa Leger-Fernandez (D-N.M.) lead the House version of the bill ([H.R.2235](#)).

March 13, 2025

The House and Senate did not meet today.

March 12, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7896](#)

To establish within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a research program comprising global ocean monitoring and observing, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Amo, Gabe \[Rep.-D-RI-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

[H.R.7913](#)

To amend the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 to reauthorize grants and fellowships for food and agricultural sciences education, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [McClain Delaney, April \[Rep.-D-MD-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.7914](#)

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 with respect to the experienced services program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [McClain Delaney, April \[Rep.-D-MD-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.7921](#)

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify provisions relating to rural decentralized water systems grants.

Sponsor: [Sewell, Terri A. \[Rep.-D-AL-7\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Agriculture

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

[H.R.7926](#)

To establish requirements for when the Secretary of Energy may provide financial assistance to regulated investor owned electric utilities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Stevens, Haley M. \[Rep.-D-MI-11\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Bills Reported:

[H.R.2709](#)

Save Our Sequoias Act

Sponsor: [Fong, Vince \[Rep.-R-CA-20\]](#) Cosponsors: (29)

Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-542](#)

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 466.

[H.R.6380](#)

Chiricahua National Park Act

Sponsor: [Ciscomani, Juan \[Rep.-R-AZ-6\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Committee Report: [H. Rept. 119-543](#)

Latest Action: House - 03/12/2026 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 467.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4072](#)

A bill to reauthorize Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers.

Sponsor: [Schmitt, Eric \[Sen.-R-MO\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 03/12/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4075](#)

A bill to make continuing appropriations for Federal Emergency Management Agency pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Padilla, Alex \[Sen.-D-CA\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Appropriations

Latest Action: Senate - 03/12/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

[S.4088](#)

A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve education and risk management assistance, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Murphy, Christopher \[Sen.-D-CT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 03/12/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4091](#)

Habitat Connectivity on Working Lands Act

Sponsor: [Heinrich, Martin \[Sen.-D-NM\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 03/12/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[S.4096](#)

A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify provisions relating to rural decentralized water systems grants.

Sponsor: [Booker, Cory A. \[Sen.-D-NJ\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 03/12/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

March 11, 2025

House:

The House did not meet today.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

S.4048

A bill to amend the Public Health Service to require the Secretary to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to establish, maintain, or improve activities related to the detection and monitoring of infectious diseases through wastewater for public health emergency preparedness and response purposes, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Scott, Tim \[Sen.-R-SC\]](#) Cosponsors: (5)

Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Latest Action: Senate - 03/11/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.4067

A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to establish research and extension grant priorities, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Ossoff, Jon \[Sen.-D-GA\]](#) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: Senate - 03/11/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Bills Reported:

S.2357

Young Fishermen's Development Extension Act

Sponsor: [Sullivan, Dan \[Sen.-R-AK\]](#) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Senate - 03/11/2026 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 351

Committee Hearings:

COLD WEATHER DIESEL RELIABILITY ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine S. 3135, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize manufacturers of certain vehicles to suspend engine derate or shutdown functions in prolonged cold weather conditions, after receiving testimony from Ryan Anderson, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Commissioner, Fairbanks; Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Pine Bluffs; and John Walke, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C.

INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENTS

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight [hearing](#) to examine Federal policies governing Indian water rights settlements, including S. 953, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, after receiving testimony from Senator Kelly; Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and Exercising the Delegated Authority of Bureau of Reclamation, Commissioner, Department of the Interior; Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; Lamar Keevama, Hopi Tribe, Kykotsmovi Village, Arizona; Johnny Lehi Jr., San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Tuba City, Arizona.

March 10, 2025

House:

The House did not meet today.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.4033](#)

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the percentage depletion rate for certain rare earths, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Husted, Jon \[Sen.-R-OH\]](#) Cosponsors: ([0](#))

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 03/10/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

[S.4040](#)

A bill to amend Public Law 89-108 to modify the authorization of appropriations for State and Tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Hoeven, John \[Sen.-R-ND\]](#) Cosponsors: ([2](#))

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 03/10/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

[S.4041](#)

A bill to reauthorize the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Daines, Steve \[Sen.-R-MT\]](#) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: Senate - 03/10/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Committee Hearings:

U.S.-GROWN

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a [hearing](#) to examine increasing domestic consumption of United States-grown agricultural products, after receiving testimony from Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation, Greene County, Georgia; Scott Metzger, American Soybean Association, Williamsport, Ohio; Cathy Burns, International Fresh Produce Association, Washington, D.C.; Jed Bower, National Corn Growers Association, Washington Court House, Ohio; Nathan Reed, National Cotton Council, Marianna, Arkansas; and Matt Perdue, North Dakota Farmers Union, Ray.

March 9, 2025

House:

Bills Introduced:

[H.R.7862](#)

To amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to limit the application of the Endangered Species Act with respect to certain actions under the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Bentz, Cliff \[Rep.-R-OR-2\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 03/09/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services

[H.R.7872](#)

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to provide for the payment of bonus payments of certain coal leases issued under that Act.

Sponsor: [Hageman, Harriet M. \[Rep.-R-WY-At Large\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 03/09/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

[H.R.7882](#)

To provide for the leasing of certain deposits of minerals located within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Sponsor: [Stauber, Pete \[Rep.-R-MN-8\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 03/09/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

[H.R.7889](#)

To amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize the water resources research and technology institutes program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Wittman, Robert J. \[Rep.-R-VA-1\]](#) Cosponsors: (6)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: House - 03/09/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Senate:

Bills Introduced:

[S.J.Res.119](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Air Plan Approval; Montana; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period".

Sponsor: [Whitehouse, Sheldon \[Sen.-D-RI\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 03/09/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

[S.J.Res.120](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam

Electric Power Generating Point Source Category-Deadline Extensions; Correction".

Sponsor: [Whitehouse, Sheldon \[Sen.-D-RI\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 03/09/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

[S.J.Res.121](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review: Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources".

Sponsor: [Whitehouse, Sheldon \[Sen.-D-RI\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 03/09/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

[S.J.Res.122](#)

A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period".

Sponsor: [Whitehouse, Sheldon \[Sen.-D-RI\]](#) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

Latest Action: Senate - 03/09/2026 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works