



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

February 14, 2005

**S. 232**

**A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist in the implementation of fish passage and screening facilities at nonfederal water projects, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on February 9, 2005*

**SUMMARY**

S. 232 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the planning and construction of fish passage and screening facilities and habitat improvement projects at nonfederal water storage projects located in the Columbia River Basin in the Pacific Northwest if the facilities would enable the bureau to meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act. The federal share of the construction costs of such projects would not exceed 75 percent. In addition, the federal government would not hold title to any fish passage or screening facilities constructed under this bill, nor would the federal government be responsible for the operation and maintenance of those facilities.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 232 would cost about \$22 million over the 2006-2010 period. This bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. S. 232 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 232 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	4	4	5	5	6
Estimated Outlays	3	3	5	5	6

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 232 will be enacted before the end of fiscal year 2005 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated in each fiscal year starting in 2006. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and historical spending patterns of similar construction projects, CBO estimates that implementing the projects outlined in this bill would cost \$22 million over the 2006-2010 period.

According to the bureau, hundreds of individual fish screening and fish passage projects could be constructed under this bill at an average cost of around \$40,000 per project. CBO estimates that the federal share of the cost of construction of these fish passage and screening facilities would be \$4 million to \$6 million annually over the 2006-2010 period. This estimate assumes that the bureau's efforts under the bill during the next several years would be limited to projects identified within the Federal Columbia River Power System, where the bureau currently has obligations under the Endangered Species Act. The bureau, however, would have the authority to participate in additional projects throughout the Columbia River Basin in order to meet any future obligations under the Endangered Species Act that have not yet been determined.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 232 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Julie Middleton

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Selena Caldera

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis