

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 21, 2006

S. 1131

Idaho Land Enhancement Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 6, 2006

S. 1131 would direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to convey to the state of Idaho a total of 7,825 acres of federal land in exchange for 11,815 acres of land owned by that state. Under the bill, if the values of the properties to be exchanged are not equal, the parties could either adjust the number of acres or make cash payments to equalize those values. Any federal spending for such payments would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Based on information from the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1131 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. According to the agencies, the federal land to be conveyed currently generates no significant collections from natural resource sales or leases and is not expected to do so over the next 10 years; therefore, we estimate that conveying it would not affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). Based on information from the agencies, we expect any cash equalization payments exchanged under S. 1131 would be negligible. Finally, we also estimate that the proposed exchange would not significantly affect the agencies' administrative costs.

S. 1131 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit the city of Boise and the state of Idaho. Any costs that they might incur to complete this exchange would be incurred voluntarily.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.