



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 8, 1999

H.R. 1444

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, and construct fish screens, fish passage devices, and other facilities to mitigate adverse impacts associated with irrigation system water diversions by local governmental entities in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and California

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on August 4, 1999

SUMMARY

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1444 would cost \$8 million in fiscal year 2001 and a total of \$70 million through fiscal year 2004. An additional \$55 million would be spent in years after 2004. H.R. 1444 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). State and local governments might incur some costs as a result of the bill's enactment, but these costs would be voluntary.

H.R. 1444 would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to finance projects to mitigate adverse impacts on fisheries from the construction and operation of facilities that divert water by local governments in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and California. The program would finance the construction and operation of fish ladders, fish screens, and other facilities that decrease fish mortality related to the operation of irrigation and other water diversion systems. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million annually over the 2001-2005 period. Such amounts would finance 100 percent of the costs of developing and implementing projects on federal land and 35 percent of such costs on nonfederal land. Nonfederal participants in each project would be responsible for all costs of operating and maintaining the constructed facilities.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1444 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlays are based on historic spending patterns for similar programs of the USFWS.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	0	25	25	25	25
Estimated Outlays	0	8	15	22	25

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1444 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would require nonfederal participants in the funded projects to pay 35 percent of development and implementation costs and all operating and maintenance costs. Participation by state and local governments would be voluntary.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY: Deborah Reis

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Paul N. Van de Water
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis