



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 2, 2008

S. 1522

Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2007

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on January 31, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 1522 would reauthorize funding for projects carried out under the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 (FRIMA). Such projects, which are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), help restore fisheries affected by water projects in the northwest United States. The bill also would allow the USFWS to accept and spend amounts provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to mitigate damage to fisheries caused by water diversions.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1522 would cost \$115 million over the 2008-2013 period and \$60 million after 2013 (including \$25 million authorized to be appropriated for 2014). Enacting S. 1522 also could increase offsetting receipts (collected from BPA customers) and spending of those receipts (for fisheries restoration), but CBO estimates that any such increases would be minimal and offset each other over time.

S. 1522 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. 1522 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					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	25	25	25	25	25	25
Estimated Outlays	5	15	20	25	25	25

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1522 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the entire amounts authorized for fiscal years 2008 through 2013 will be appropriated. Estimated outlays are based on historic spending patterns for USFWS programs.

S. 1522 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2014. The previous authorization, also of \$25 million annually, expired at the end of fiscal year 2005. Although no amounts were appropriated for FRIMA activities for 2008, in past years appropriations have ranged from \$1 million to \$4 million.

The bill also would allow the USFWS to use any amounts provided by BPA without further appropriation for FRIMA projects and to treat those amounts as the nonfederal contribution toward the cost of such projects. Because any amount provided by BPA toward a FRIMA project would have to be recouped through higher electricity rates charged to its customers, any additional direct spending resulting from this provision would be offset by new offsetting receipts and would therefore have no net impact on the federal budget. Moreover, based on information provided by the USFWS and BPA, CBO estimates that additional offsetting receipts and direct spending would be minimal.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1522 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would extend an existing program that benefits participating state and local governments. Any costs to those governments would result from complying with conditions of aid.

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