



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 16, 2001

H.R. 2488

A bill to designate certain lands in the Pilot Range in the state of Utah as wilderness, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 3, 2001

CBO estimates that H.R. 2488 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts); therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such impacts would be negligible. H.R. 2488 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2488 would designate as wilderness approximately 23,021 acres of federal lands located within Box Elder County, Utah, and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Subject to valid existing rights, the bill would withdraw those lands from mining and from mineral and geothermal leasing and development, but specifies that grazing of livestock could continue where it is currently permitted. H.R. 2488 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of the Air Force to ensure that management of the proposed wilderness area would not affect activities on nearby military lands.

Based on information from BLM, CBO estimates that designating the proposed wilderness area would not significantly affect federal spending. Withdrawing lands within the area from mining and from mineral and geothermal leasing and development could result in forgone offsetting receipts from those lands if, under current law, the lands would generate receipts from those activities. According to BLM, however, those lands currently generate no significant receipts from such activities, and the agency does not expect them to generate significant receipts over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that any changes in federal receipts under H.R. 2488 would be negligible.

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