



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

October 5, 1999

S. 1030

A bill to provide that the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management of the surface estate to certain land in the state of Wyoming in exchange for certain private land will not result in the removal of the land from operation of the mining laws

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 22, 1999*

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1030 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1030 concerns the administration of certain federal land which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to exchange in Wyoming. In the proposed exchange, the federal government would convey the surface rights to about 20,830 acres of federal land in exchange for the surface rights to about 9,500 acres of privately owned land. No subsurface mineral rights would be exchanged. However, under current federal regulations, public land administered by BLM that is conveyed in an exchange is automatically removed from operation of the mining laws. S. 1030 provides that the subsurface rights retained by the federal government in the land exchange would not be subject to those regulations and would therefore remain open to the mining laws. As a result, enacting this bill would allow a uranium mining company to pursue its existing subsurface claims to the federal land after the exchange is completed.

The CBO staff contact is Victoria Heid Hall. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.