



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 30, 2000

S. 1629

Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 24, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1629 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because S. 1629 would create new direct spending authority, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that any such spending would be negligible. S. 1629 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.

S. 1629 provides that upon the request of Clearwater Land Exchange–Oregon (an Oregon partnership), the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall exchange certain federal lands in the state of Oregon for certain private lands in the state. Specifically, the Secretary of the Interior would convey about 50,320 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in exchange for about 44,150 acres of private land. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture would convey 3,901 acres of federal land within the Malheur National Forest in exchange for about 5,700 acres of private land within the Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman, and Umatilla National Forests. Information from the two agencies indicates that the exchanges could affect grazing allotments, but CBO estimates that any impact on grazing receipts would be insignificant.

S. 1629 would give the Secretaries the authority to retain any cash equalization payments received in these exchanges and to spend them, without further appropriation action, to purchase other land in Oregon. The Secretaries do not have such authority under current law. Therefore, enacting S. 1629 could result in new direct spending if the private parties in these exchanges were to make cash equalization payments to the federal government to complete the transactions. According to BLM and the Forest Service, the land exchanges are intended to be of equal value and no cash equalization payments are planned. Based on that information, CBO estimates that this legislation would have no significant effect on direct spending.

On March 8, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1629 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on February 10, 2000. The two versions of the legislation, and their estimated costs, are identical.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state, local, and tribal impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.