



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 23, 2005

### **S. 56**

#### **Rio Grande Natural Area Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on February 16, 2005*

CBO estimates that S. 56 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. Enacting S. 56 would not affect revenues. S. 56 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 56 would establish the Rio Grande Natural Area on roughly 10,000 acres of federal and nonfederal land surrounding a 33.3-mile segment of the Rio Grande River in Colorado. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would manage federal land within the proposed natural area. S. 56 would establish a commission to develop and implement a plan to manage nonfederal land within the proposed area. Based on information from BLM, CBO estimates that increased costs to operate that commission and manage federal land within the area would total less than \$500,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

The bill would withdraw federal land within the proposed area from programs to develop natural resources. According to BLM, that land currently generates no significant receipts and is not expected to do so over the next 10 years. Therefore, we estimate that the proposed withdrawal could have a negligible effect on offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll and Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.