



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 3, 2005

S. 136

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist certain local school districts in the state of California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and for other purposes

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

SUMMARY

S. 136 would modify the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in California. The bill also would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to two California school districts that serve families of Yosemite National Park employees.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 136 would cost \$24 million over the 2006-2010 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The legislation could increase direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be insignificant. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. S. 136 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. Enacting this legislation would benefit two California school districts.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 136 will be enacted by the start of fiscal year 2006 and that amounts necessary to implement the legislation will be appropriated for each fiscal year as needed. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 136 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					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	16	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	0	16	2	2	2	2

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

GGNRA Additions

Title II of S. 136 would expand the boundary of the GGNRA to include the 4,076-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra and over 300 acres of property in the Devil’s Slide area. Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that the agency would spend \$15 million in 2006 to purchase the Rancho Corral de Tierra from the Peninsula Open Space Trust, a local nonprofit organization, which acquired the property in 2001 for \$29.7 million. (We expect that the organization would recover the balance of the land’s purchase price from private and state sources.)

The cost of acquiring land within the Devil’s Slide area is less certain because formal property appraisals have not yet been completed and because it is unclear how much of this acreage might be acquired by the state of California for a proposed highway diversion. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that the agency would purchase about 300 acres of land within the Devil’s Slide area for a total cost of \$5 million over the 2006-2010 period.

Finally, CBO estimates that the cost to develop property added to the GGNRA would total about \$500,000 in 2007. We also estimate that annual costs to administer the new lands would be roughly \$300,000 starting in 2006.

Yosemite School Payments

For each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010, title I of S. 136 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to pay a total of up to \$400,000 to two California school districts that serve the families of Yosemite National Park employees. To make those payments, the bill would authorize the Secretary to use appropriated funds, donations, or offsetting receipts from

certain fees collected by the NPS. Because CBO expects that there will be little or no receipts or donations available to the NPS for new uses, we estimate that implementing the bill would result in new discretionary spending of \$400,000 a year through 2009, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. If any receipts or donations are deemed to be available for the payments, discretionary spending for this purpose would be less. Mandatory expenses would increase, but we estimate that any new mandatory spending would be insignificant.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 136 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit two California school districts.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Megan Carroll and Deborah Reis
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller
Impact on the Private Sector: Selena Caldera

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis