



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 23, 2005

### **H.R. 2720** **Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources  
on November 16, 2005*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2720 would authorize the appropriation of \$20 million for 2006 and \$15 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010 for a program to address the infestation of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees in the West. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, would provide grants to institutions of higher education to develop public policy expertise in long-term management strategies for these invasive species. In addition, the Secretary would fund at least five demonstration projects to assess methods for controlling Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees. Finally, the Secretary would work with the Secretary of Agriculture to analyze methods of disposing of the biomass created as a result of the removal of these invasive species.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2720 would cost \$39 million over the 2006-2010 period. Enacting H.R. 2720 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2720 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.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2720 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				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Authorization Level	20	15	15	15	15
Estimated Outlays	2	5	8	11	13

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2720 will be enacted in December 2005 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$39 million over the 2006-2010 period.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 2720 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The assessment and demonstration projects authorized in the bill would benefit governmental entities that manage programs to control invasive trees. Any cost they might incur would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

### **PREVIOUS ESTIMATE**

On February 11, 2005, CBO prepared a cost estimate of S. 177, an identically titled bill, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on February 9, 2005. The two bills are similar and their estimated costs are identical over the 2006-2010 period.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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