



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

February 8, 2007

S. 260

Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on January 31, 2007*

S. 260 would establish the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area on federal land in Lincoln County, New Mexico. Subject to valid existing rights, the bill would withdraw land within the proposed conservation area from programs to develop natural resources. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan to manage that area and would authorize the Secretary to establish research centers and visitor facilities pursuant to that plan.

Based on information from the Bureau of Land Management, CBO estimates that S. 260 would not significantly affect the federal budget. According to the agency, the affected 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 would not significantly affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). We further estimate that any costs incurred to develop a management plan for the area or to construct new facilities would not exceed \$500,000 in any year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting S. 260 would not affect revenues.

S. 260 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.