



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 6, 1998

H.R. 2186

An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 29, 1998*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2186 would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to construct, operate, and maintain a National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming. CBO estimates that implementing the act would cost BLM about \$2 million in fiscal year 2000 and about \$6 million over the 2000-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because enacting H.R. 2186 would increase offsetting receipts beginning in fiscal year 2002, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate the increase would total less than \$500,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2002.

H.R. 2186 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. 2186 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				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	5	0	a	a
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	a	a
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING					
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	a	a
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	a	a

a. Less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Under H.R. 2186, BLM would construct, operate, and maintain a National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming. BLM would build the center on land provided by the city of Casper, Wyoming. The agency would construct and operate the center in cooperation with the city and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center Foundation, and in accordance with certain agreements made between the city, the foundation, and BLM.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 2186 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million to construct, operate, and maintain the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. The act also would authorize the Secretary to collect an entrance fee from visitors, to allow private concessionaires to operate at the center, and to use income from visitor fees, concession collections, and donations to develop and operate the center, subject to appropriation action.

Based on information from BLM and the foundation, CBO estimates that total discretionary outlays to construct and operate the center would be about \$2 million in fiscal year 2000 and about \$6 million over the 1999-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount for construction and the estimated amounts for annual operations beginning in 2002. We estimate that BLM's outlays to construct the center would be about \$2 million in fiscal year 2000 and about \$3 million in fiscal year 2001. Once construction is complete, BLM's outlays to operate the center would total about \$300,000 per year. For purposes of this

estimate, we assume that H.R. 2186 would be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 1999 and that the Congress would appropriate funds to construct the center in fiscal year 2000.

Direct Spending (including offsetting receipts)

Based on information from BLM and the foundation, CBO estimates that offsetting receipts from visitor fees and concessions would total about \$200,000 per year once construction is complete and the center opens in fiscal year 2002. The spending of such receipts would be subject to appropriation action.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. H.R. 2186 would decrease direct spending because it would result in offsetting receipts from entrance fees and concessions at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. Hence, pay-as-you-go procedures apply to the act, but we estimate that the increase in offsetting receipts would not be significant.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 2186 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The state of Wyoming and local governments within the state have already agreed to provide considerable support for the center, but this support is, and would continue to be, voluntary. These governments have committed over \$3 million towards the project, including land to be donated by the city of Casper.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This act would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 19, 1998, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 2186 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 11, 1998. The two versions of H.R. 2186 are identical, as are the estimated costs.

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