



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
U.S. Congress
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2009

Honorable John M. Spratt Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested, CBO has reviewed S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, as passed by the Senate on January 15, 2009. The legislation would authorize a variety of projects to be carried out by land and water management agencies within the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, and Commerce.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 22 would have no effect on revenues and no net effect on direct spending over the 2009-2013 period or the 2009-2018 period, which are the time periods relevant for enforcing the pay-as-you-go rules under the current budget resolution. The legislation contains two provisions to implement water settlements between the United States and other entities that would significantly increase direct spending, but CBO estimates that such spending either would be offset by increased offsetting receipts over the relevant time periods or would occur after 2019. We estimate that net direct spending to implement the settlements after 2019 would total more than \$900 million.

S. 22 also would authorize appropriations for dozens of projects that would, for example: expand the national wilderness system, create national heritage areas and conservation areas, exchange or convey federal properties, and address problems faced by federal land management agencies, such as aging infrastructure and inadequate security. CBO has not prepared a complete cost estimate for the provisions of S. 22 that would be subject to appropriation, but we have transmitted (primarily during the 110th Congress) cost estimates for bills that authorize projects similar or identical to nearly all of those authorized by S. 22. The estimated discretionary costs of carrying out those projects totaled more than \$5.5 billion over five years.

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If you wish further details about S. 22 or our previous cost estimates, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Leigh Angres.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Elmendorf
Director

cc: Honorable Paul Ryan
Ranking Member

Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources

Honorable Doc Hastings
Ranking Member