



June 18, 2012

Honorable David Dreier  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2578, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes, as posted on the Web site of the House Committee on Rules (Committee Print 112-25). CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$77 million over the 2013-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts (see Table 1). In addition, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would reduce direct spending by \$4 million over the 2013-2022 period; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply (see Table 2). Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 2578 combines 14 bills approved by the House Committee on Natural Resources. CBO has prepared cost estimates for the following bills:

- [H.R. 258](#), the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2011, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 20, 2011;
- [H.R. 460](#), the Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 25, 2012;
- [H.R. 1408](#), the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization and Jobs Protection Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 13, 2011;

- [H.R. 1505](#), the National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011;
- [H.R. 1545](#), the Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2011, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 17, 2011;
- [H.R. 2352](#), a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011;
- [H.R. 2578](#), a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011;
- [H.R. 3065](#), the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 7, 2012;
- [H.R. 3069](#), the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011;
- [H.R. 3100](#), the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 7, 2012;
- [H.R. 3685](#), a bill to amend the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act to extend and expand the scope of the pilot forest management project required by that act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 7, 2012;
- [H.R. 4039](#), the Yerington Land Conveyance and Sustainable Development Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 7, 2012;

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- [H.R. 4094](#), the Preserving Access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 7, 2012; and
- [H.R. 4234](#), the Grazing Improvement Act of 2012, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 7, 2012.

These cost estimates provide further details on the budgetary effects of the components of H.R. 2578. The CBO staff contact is Jeff LaFave.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas W. Elmendorf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "E".

Douglas W. Elmendorf  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Louise Slaughter  
Ranking Minority Member

**TABLE 1. ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 2578, A BILL TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT RELATED TO A SEGMENT OF THE LOWER MERCED RIVER IN CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 12, 2012**

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2013-2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
<b>CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING <sup>a</sup></b>						
Estimated Budget Authority	-2	0	0	0	-1	-3
Estimated Outlays	-2	0	0	0	-1	-3
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	19	19	19	16	16	87
Estimated Outlays	12	16	19	16	16	77

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; \* = less than \$500,000.

a. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would, on net, reduce direct spending by \$1 million over the 2018-2022 period, for a total reduction of \$4 million over the 2013-2022 period.

**TABLE 2. CBO ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 2578, A BILL TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT RELATED TO A SEGMENT OF THE LOWER MERCED RIVER IN CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AS POSTED TO THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 12, 2012**

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars											2012-2017	2012-2022
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
<b>NET DECREASE IN THE DEFICIT</b>													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	-2	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	-3	-4