



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 8, 2002

H.R. 5099

An act to extend the periods of authorization for the Secretary of the Interior to implement capital construction projects associated with the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on October 8, 2002*

SUMMARY

H.R. 5099 would amend the current authorization of appropriations for implementing endangered fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. That authority will expire in fiscal year 2005 for the Upper Colorado program and in fiscal year 2007 for the San Juan program. H.R. 5099 would extend the authorization for both programs until 2008.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5099 would have no significant net impact on the federal budget. We estimate that the act would reduce direct spending by about \$5 million over the 2003-2005 period and increase it by the same amount over the 2006-2008 period. H.R. 5099 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. 5099 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				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING

Estimated Budget Authority	-2	a	-3	a	2
Estimated Outlays	-2	a	-3	a	2

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Spending Under Current Law					
Estimated Authorization Level ^b	6	6	6	0	0
Estimated Outlays	4	5	5	2	2
Proposed Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	-1	-2	-2	1	1
Spending Under H.R. 5099					
Estimated Authorization Level ^b	6	6	6	0	0
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	3

a. Less than \$500,000.

b. The estimated authorization levels reflect the current balance of authorized funding for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the remaining \$18 million to be appropriated for these programs will be provided in equal increments over the next three years.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 5099 would extend current authority to implement fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins until 2008. For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 5099 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2003 and that funds already authorized for the two fish recovery programs will be appropriated over the next three years.

Direct Spending

The net effect of H.R. 5099 on direct spending would be insignificant. Under current law, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is authorized to pay for its share of the fish recovery programs by borrowing up to \$17 million from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund (a fund of the state government). To date, WAPA has borrowed

\$5.5 million from that fund. WAPA expects to pay for its remaining costs of \$11.5 million either through borrowing from the state or by spending receipts generated from the sale of electricity. This act would modify the expected timing of that future spending.

Under this act, CBO estimates that WAPA's would delay spending about \$5 million over fiscal years 2003 through 2005, but this near-term cash savings would be offset by an increase in spending of an equal amount over fiscal years 2006 through 2008.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

The net effect of H.R. 5099 on spending also would be insignificant. Under current law, \$46 million is authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Reclamation for its share of the fish recovery programs. To date, the bureau has spent \$28 million on these programs. Assuming appropriation of the remaining \$18 million, CBO estimates that there would be a delay in spending of about \$5 million over fiscal years 2003 through 2005, but this near-term cash savings would be offset by an increase in spending of an equal amount over fiscal years 2006 through 2008.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5099 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On September 24, 2002, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 5099 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 12, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are our cost estimates.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Julie Middleton

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Cecil McPherson

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis