



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 14, 2008

S. 1940 **Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program Reauthorization Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on January 30, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 1940 would reauthorize the Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC) for 10 years. The RPMC is a collaborative watershed organization. Through it, the Bureau of Land Management collaborates with state, local, and tribal governments to protect the long-term sustainability of the Rio Puerco watershed in New Mexico. The bill also would make the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a member of the RPMC.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1940 would cost \$3 million over the 2008-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1940 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 S. 1940 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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
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CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	1	1	1

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

The Rio Puerco watershed is environmentally impaired and contributes large amounts of sediment to a portion of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico. The RPMC, comprising various federal, state, local, and tribal stakeholders, works to protect the sustainability of that watershed. The authority of the RPMC expired in November 2006, although collaborative work within the watershed area continues.

Traditionally, the majority of the funding for the work of the RPMC has come from grants provided by EPA (that would not be affected by this legislation) and the New Mexico Environment Department. BLM estimates that it has spent about \$1 million for RPMC activities over the 1997-2006 period. Based on information from BLM, CBO estimates that reauthorizing the RPMC would cost \$3 million over the 2008-2013 period to help control erosion in the watershed and reduce sediment in the river, assuming appropriation of those amounts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1940 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Tyler Kruzich

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Burke Doherty

Impact on the Private-Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Theresa Gullo

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis