



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 6, 2008

**H.R. 1462
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act**

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

SUMMARY

H.R. 1462 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to implement a program to aid in the recovery of certain species in the Platte River basin that are listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The act also would authorize the Secretary to modify the Pathfinder Dam and Reservoir in Wyoming.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1462 would cost \$66 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1462 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. 1462 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				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	12	15	16	16	16
Estimated Outlays	7	12	15	16	16

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted before the end of 2008 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated near the start of each subsequent fiscal year. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

In 1997, the Department of the Interior (DOI) signed a cooperative agreement with Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska to develop a program for wildlife protection along the Platte River. In late 2006, the Secretary and the governor of each state signed the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. The program aims to restore and conserve the habitat of four threatened and endangered species in the Platte River basin. The program will be carried out in incremental stages.

Title I would authorize the Secretary to participate in the first increment of the program in cooperation with Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado. Based on information provided by the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that implementing the recovery program in title I would cost \$66 million over the 2009-2013 period and an additional \$108 million thereafter. DOI would use the appropriations to acquire land and water interests and undertake habitat restoration and other activities deemed necessary by the Secretary.

Title II of the act would authorize the Secretary to modify the Pathfinder Dam and Reservoir in Wyoming. The Secretary would be authorized to enter into agreements with the state of Wyoming to implement those modifications. The state would be responsible for all costs of the modifications. Hence, CBO estimates that the federal government would incur no significant costs to implement title II.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1462 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs to states to match federal assistance authorized by the act would be incurred voluntarily.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On October 19, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1462 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 10, 2007. The total costs of the two versions of the legislation are identical.

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