



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

May 15, 2008

**H.R. 2515**

**Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on May 7, 2008*

H.R. 2515 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. That program is a collaborative effort between the federal government and entities in the states of Nevada, Arizona, and California to address the needs of threatened and endangered fish and wildlife along the lower Colorado River while ensuring consistent water and electric power deliveries to the states involved in the program.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost approximately \$70 million over the next five years and several hundred million dollars over the 50-year life of the program. The bureau, however, has been implementing the program since 2005 under existing authorities, and this legislation would not authorize any activities beyond those in which the bureau already is engaged. Hence, CBO estimates that implementing this act would not significantly affect the federal budget. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2515 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On March 24, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2515, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 12, 2008. The two versions of the legislation are similar, and the estimated costs are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Tyler Kruzich. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.