



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 23, 2000

S. 729

National Monument Public Participation Act of 1999

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on June 7, 2000*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 729 would increase discretionary costs related to the designation of national monuments. Costs that would be incurred to meet the requirements of the bill could exceed \$1 million a year, depending on the characteristics of new national monument recommendations made in the future. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 729 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.

Under the Antiquities Act of 1906, the President may declare landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are on federal land to be national monuments. The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior typically advise the President and make recommendations for such declarations. S. 729 would amend the Antiquities Act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior establish procedures to ensure that federal, state, and local governments and the public participate in planning of national monuments. Specifically, the bill would require the Secretaries to complete an environmental impact statement and conduct certain surveys prior to recommending the declaration of a monument. S. 729 would require the President to advise the Congress on the status of any recommendations for new monuments made by the two Secretaries. Finally, under the bill, future Presidential declarations of national monuments would be subject to Congressional approval.

Based on information from the Department of the Interior and the Council for Environmental Quality, CBO estimates that requiring environmental impact statements prior to recommendations for new monuments would increase the cost of national monument declarations by between \$100,000 and \$1 million per recommendation, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. The current Administration has established or expanded 10 national monuments within the past five years.

On July 16, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1487, similar legislation that was ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 30, 1999. Differences between the two cost estimates reflect differences in the procedures required under the bills.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.