



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 31, 2003

### **H.R. 506**

### **Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 506 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 506 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.

H.R. 506 would designate 24 sites in New Mexico as the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Protection Sites. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with state and local entities, to develop a management plan for those sites, but it specifies that the Secretary would only have authority to administer federal lands within them. H.R. 506 would authorize the Secretary, at the request of nonfederal landowners, to enter into cooperative agreements with those landowners to protect and manage archaeological resources on their lands. The bill also would authorize the Secretary to acquire such lands from willing sellers. Finally, H.R. 506 would withdraw federal lands within the proposed sites from programs to develop geothermal and mineral resources.

Based on information obtained from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CBO estimates that the agency would spend less than \$500,000 annually to develop a management plan, implement cooperative agreements, and acquire nonfederal lands, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Withdrawing federal lands from programs to develop certain resources could result in forgone receipts (a credit against direct spending) if, under current law, the lands would generate income from such activities. According to BLM, however, the federal lands within the proposed sites currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years; hence, we estimate that any forgone offsetting receipts would be negligible.

On February 7, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 210, the Gallisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on February 5, 2003. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, and our cost estimates are identical.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.