



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

October 17, 2005

S. 891

**A bill to extend the water service contract for the Ainsworth Unit,
Sandhills Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Nebraska**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 28, 2005*

S. 891 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to extend the water contract for the Ainsworth Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program in Nebraska. This bill would extend the contract for four years beyond the current expiration date of December 31, 2006. CBO estimates that enacting S. 891 would not have a significant effect on the federal budget.

Under current law, the contract results in an annual average payment to the federal government of about \$20,000. If this contract expires, the bureau has the authority to enter into annual interim contracts with the water users under terms similar to the present contracts. Consequently, payments to the federal government under the bill are likely to be similar to the payments that would be received under current law. Such payments are recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending).

S. 891 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. Enacting this bill would benefit the Ainsworth Irrigation District by extending the existing water service contract for an additional four years.

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