



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 13, 2010

Columbia River Basin Restoration Act of 2010

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on June 30, 2010*

SUMMARY

The bill would establish the Columbia Basin Restoration Program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Working Group, composed of relevant stakeholders. The legislation would authorize EPA to distribute grants to assess, restore, and protect water quality and natural resources in the Columbia River Basin.

This legislation would authorize the annual appropriation of \$33 million over the 2012-2017 period for program costs and grants to nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, Indian tribes, and other eligible entities for various activities, including developing and implementing projects in the Flathead River Basin. Assuming appropriation of the authorized funds, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$109 million over the 2011-2015 period and an additional \$89 million after 2015.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill 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 the legislation 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					2011- 2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	33	33	33	33	132
Estimated Outlays	0	15	28	33	33	109

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2011 and that authorized amounts will be appropriated in each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar grants and programs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal governments would benefit from grants and technical assistance authorized in the bill. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of federal assistance.

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