



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 26, 2013

S. 157

Denali National Park Improvement Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 24, 2013

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that implementing S. 157 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The act would:

- Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits for microhydroelectric projects in the Kantishna Hills area of the Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska;
- Authorize an exchange of land between the Department of the Interior and Doyon Tourism, Inc.;
- Authorize the NPS to issue permits to construct a natural gas pipeline in the Denali National Park; and
- Redesignate the Talkeetna Ranger Station as the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station.

Enacting S. 157 could increase offsetting receipts (from permit fees) and associated direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. If potential owners or operators of a pipeline seek permits from the NPS, the agency could collect a fee to recover any costs associated with issuing such permits. NPS would retain and spend those amounts to process the permit without further appropriation, and any excess receipts would be deposited in the Treasury. CBO estimates that the total collections under the legislation would be insignificant over the 2014-2023 period, and the net effect on direct spending would be negligible. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues.

S. 157 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On April 1, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 157, the Denali National Park Improvement Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 14, 2013. The two versions of the legislation are identical, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.