



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 25, 2014

H.R. 916
Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2014
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 16, 2014

SUMMARY

H.R. 916 would require the Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop and maintain a multipurpose inventory of all federal lands in the United States. Based on information provided by DOI and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost about \$1.4 billion over the 2015-2019 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 916 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs to state governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 916 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					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	300	300	300	300	300	1,500
Estimated Outlays	75	300	350	350	350	1,425

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in 2014 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 916 would require DOI to develop a comprehensive and current inventory of all federal lands in the United States. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that the federal government owns about 640 million acres of land, more than one-quarter of the nation's total land area. Based on information provided by the agency and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost about \$1.4 billion over the 2015-2019 period primarily for contract employees to consolidate existing information and obtain additional information where existing data are insufficient on federal land holdings. Those costs would include:

- \$90 million to create a computer system to combine spatial and quantitative data that can be used to generate customized maps and datasets for about 16 million parcels of federal land;
- \$605 million to catalogue the resources on each parcel and how those lands and resources are being used;
- \$605 million to evaluate the potential for developing mineral resources on each parcel; and
- \$125 million to create an inventory of the cultural and archaeological resources existing on each parcel to help determine which, if any, parcels would be better managed by non-federal entities.

CBO also expects that additional funds would be required after 2019 to continue evaluating whether certain parcels of federal land would be better managed by nonfederal entities. Such evaluations would require the agency to appraise and assess the cultural and archaeological resources existing on parcels targeted for disposal. The amount of those additional costs would depend on the number of parcels the agency determines would be candidates for disposal pending the outcome of the cultural and archaeological resource inventory for each parcel.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 916 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA, and any costs to state governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

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