



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

April 8, 2016

**H.R. 1815  
Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources  
on February 3, 2016*

**SUMMARY**

Three current laws—the Lincoln County Land Act of 2000, the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, and the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998—provide for the disposal of public lands within Lincoln and Clark Counties in Nevada. Under those laws, proceeds from land sales are deposited into special accounts that are available to be spent by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to facilitate land sales, develop land management plans, and perform other specified activities in Lincoln and Clark Counties.

H.R. 1815 would authorize BLM and the USFWS to spend funds available in those accounts to carry out additional activities in Lincoln and Clark Counties.

Spending from the special accounts occurs without further appropriation, and are thus considered direct spending. Based on information from BLM and the USFWS, CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would increase spending from those accounts by \$2 million over the 2017-2026 period. The legislation also would make other changes to the management of federal lands that CBO estimates would have no significant cost.

Because enacting H.R. 1815 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1815 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 1815 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

H.R. 1815 would authorize BLM to use funds available in special accounts to cover the costs of fuel reduction and wildfire prevention activities on federal lands in Lincoln County, Nevada. The bill also would authorize the use of those funds to carry out wildlife conservation plans in Lincoln and Clark Counties.

The affected accounts currently have unobligated balances totaling \$270 million. Because those amounts would be available to be spent without further appropriation on new activities, this legislation would increase direct spending. In recent years BLM and the USFWS have spent about \$14 million a year on authorized activities. Based on information from affected agencies about future plans for fuel reduction and wildlife conservation projects, CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would increase direct spending from those special accounts by \$2 million over the 2017-2026 period.

CBO expects that most of that spending would be for fuel reduction and conservation projects in Lincoln County. Based on information from local planners, CBO expects that implementing the wildlife conservation plan for Lincoln County will cost around \$20 million over the next 30 years; most of those funds would come from state, local, and private contributions. Therefore, CBO does not expect that the legislation would significantly increase federal spending for that activity.

In addition, the bill would authorize land sale proceeds provided to Lincoln County to be used to support the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority; require BLM to enter into cooperative agreements with local agencies for any law enforcement or planning activities provided by those agencies; and make technical adjustments to the boundaries of several federal wilderness areas and a utility corridor on public land in Nevada. Finally, the bill would validate a corrective patent issued by BLM for lands in Clark County and authorize BLM to issue a corrective patent for lands in Lincoln County. CBO estimates that those provisions in the legislation would not have a significant effect on the budget.

## **PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in direct spending that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

---

**CBO Estimate of Pay-As-You-Go Effects for H.R. 1815, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 3, 2016**

---

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars												2016-	2016-
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2021	2026	
<b>NET INCREASE IN THE DEFICIT</b>														
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

---

**INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DEFICIT AND DIRECT SPENDING**

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1815 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1815 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would benefit local and regional governments in Nevada by authorizing federal funds to be used to support wildfire prevention and wildlife conservation projects. Any costs to those entities would be incurred voluntarily.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Jon Sperl  
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Jon Sperl  
 Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Theresa A. Gullo  
 Assistant Director for Budget Analysis