



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

February 25, 2016

H.R. 2273

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskaadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir

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

H.R. 2273 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to plan and construct a project to expand water storage at Fontenelle Dam and Reservoir in southwestern Wyoming. Because implementing H.R. 2273 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting H.R. 2273 would not affect revenues. Based on information from the BOR, however, CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have an insignificant effect on the budget.

CBO also estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

Under current law, the amount of water storage available to the State of Wyoming at the reservoir is the difference between full capacity and the lowest water level that allows all of the authorized purposes of the Fontenelle project to be performed. Under the bill, the BOR would coordinate with the State of Wyoming to design and construct modifications to the Fontenelle Dam and Reservoir to allow the project to operate at a lower water level, thus expanding the amount of storage available to the state. H.R. 2273 also would require the state to contribute 100 percent of the cost to design and construct the project. (Those donations from the state to the federal government would be recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts and would subsequently be spent without further appropriation.)

H.R. 2273 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would benefit the State of Wyoming. Any costs incurred by the state to fund the project or participate in cooperative agreements would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

September 2, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1305, a bill to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 30, 2015. The two pieces of legislation are similar and CBO's estimates of the budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Aurora Swanson (for federal costs) and Jon Sperl (for intergovernmental mandates). The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.