



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 18, 2011

S. 667

Río Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on November 10, 2011*

S. 667 would establish the Río Grande del Norte National Conservation Area (NCA) on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in New Mexico. Based on information provided by BLM, CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting S. 667 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Under S. 667, nearly 236,000 acres of public land would be designated as the Río Grande del Norte NCA, and about 21,000 acres of that area would be designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. BLM, which manages the affected acreage, would be required to update existing management plans for the area. Finally, under the bill, the acreage would not be available for developing natural resources but would still be available for grazing under existing agreements.

Because the affected acreage is already protected for conservation or wilderness values, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no significant effect on the cost of administering the area. We expect that any costs to update the management plan for the property or to modify existing maps and other materials would be minimal. Finally, because the affected land currently produces no income (and is not expected to do so in the future), we estimate that enacting the bill would not affect offsetting receipts.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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