



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 1, 2010

**S. 1272
Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2010**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on June 21, 2010*

S. 1272 would designate about 30,520 acres of federal land in Oregon as the Devil's Staircase Wilderness. The bill would also designate about 15 miles of creeks in the area as wild rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Based on information provided by the agencies that administer those areas, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1272 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Enacting S. 1272 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The acreage and waterways to be added by S. 1272 to the National Wilderness Preservation system or the Wild and Scenic Rivers System are already owned by the federal government and are currently administered—by either the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—for conservation purposes. CBO expects that designating those areas as wilderness would not raise the costs of managing or protecting them. We estimate that any costs to revise brochures, maps, and signs to reflect the new designations would be minimal because most such revisions would take place in conjunction with scheduled reprinting and routine maintenance.

Finally, CBO estimates that enacting S. 1272 would have no effect on Forest Service or BLM offsetting receipts. The lands that would be designated as wilderness under the bill are already managed for conservation purposes and produce no income from commercial activities.

S. 1272 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.

On November 5, 2009, CBO transmitted an estimate for H.R. 2888, the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 28, 2009. H.R. 2888 and S. 1272 are very similar, and the estimated budgetary effects of the two bills are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Alan Eder and Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.