

At a Glance

S. 268, WILD Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on February 5, 2019

Millions of Dollars	Direct Spending	Revenues	Deficit Effect	Spending Subject to Appropriation
2019	0	0	0	0
2019-2024	0	0	0	414
2019-2029	0	0	0	429

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The bill would

- Authorize appropriations for several programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- The authorizations of appropriations for several USFWS programs
- Requirements for various agencies to carry out certain activities to manage invasive species
- Provisions that establish prize competitions to promote the development of strategies to enhance wildlife conservation

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

S. 268 would reauthorize several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) programs related to the conservation of wildlife. The bill also would require various agencies to carry out certain activities to manage invasive species. Finally, the bill would establish prize competitions to promote the development of strategies to enhance wildlife conservation.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effects of S. 268 are detailed in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 268

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2019-2024
	2019 ^a	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Partners for Fish and Wildlife							
Authorization	75	75	75	75	75	0	375
Estimated Outlays	0	58	69	72	74	17	290
Species Conservation Programs							
Authorization	25	30	30	30	30	5	150
Estimated Outlays	0	18	27	30	30	15	120
Prize Competitions							
Estimated Authorization	0	1	1	1	1	*	4
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	*	4
Total							
Estimated Authorization	100	106	106	106	106	5	529
Estimated Outlays	0	77	97	103	105	33	414

* = between zero and \$500,000.

a. S. 268 would authorize appropriations totaling \$100 million for 2019. CBO does not estimate any outlays for those authorizations because appropriations for 2019 have already been provided

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 268 will be enacted in late 2019 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the affected activities.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 268 would cost \$414 million over the 2019-2024 period and \$15 million after 2024. Although S. 268 would authorize appropriations totaling \$100 million in 2019, CBO does not estimate any outlays for those authorizations because appropriations for 2019 have already been provided.



Partners for Fish and Wildlife

S. 268 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million a year over the 2019-2023 period to fund the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Under the program, USFWS provides technical assistance and cost-share incentives to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats. In recent years, USFWS has allocated roughly \$52 million annually to carry out that program. CBO estimates that implementing the provision would cost \$290 million over the 2019-2024 period and \$10 million after 2024.

Species Conservation Programs

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million in 2019, \$30 million a year over the 2020-2023 period, and \$5 million in 2024 for USFWS to carry out programs aimed at conserving various species including elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. In 2019, USFWS received appropriations totaling \$12 million to carry out those programs. CBO estimates that implementing the provision would cost \$120 million over the 2019-2024 period and \$5 million after 2024.

Prize Competitions

S. 268 would direct USFWS to establish five annual prize competitions to reward individuals who advance efforts related to wildlife conservation with winners receiving a prize of at least \$100,000. Using information from USFWS and based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that administering the prize competitions would cost about \$4 million over the 2019-2024 period.

Managing Invasive Species

The bill also would require the Army Corps of Engineers and agencies within the Department of the Interior to carry out activities to control and manage invasive species. Because the affected agencies are already meeting most of the bill's requirements, CBO estimates that implementing the provision would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2019-2024 period for planning and reporting activities required under the bill; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations: None.

Increase in Long-Term Direct Spending and Deficits: None

Mandates: None.

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