

At a Glance			
S. 990, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Extension Act			
As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on October 24, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	23	67
Statutory 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?	Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 990 would reauthorize through 2033 a program to aid the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the Platte River basin. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) operates that program (which will expire at the end of fiscal year 2020) in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$78 million (plus whatever amounts are necessary to account for inflation) for that program. Over the past 13 years, as part of that program, the federal government and states have implemented several elements of a jointly developed plan; however, 2 of 10 milestones outlined in the plan remain outstanding.

The bill does not specify the year in which any appropriation should be provided so CBO has estimated the necessary amounts for each year using information from BOR. Using historical spending patterns for the program, CBO estimates that implementing S. 990 would cost \$23 million over the 2020-2024 period and about \$75 million after 2024. Total estimated costs are greater than the specified \$78 million because of the authorized adjustments for inflation. That spending would be subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 990

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars										2020- 2024	2020- 2029
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		
Estimated Authorization	0	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	26	70
Estimated Outlays	0	4	5	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	23	67

CBO expects that the governors of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming will sign an agreement with the Secretary of Interior extending the program before the end of 2019. However, because that agreement is not yet fully executed, S. 990 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by requiring the three states to match the \$78 million federal contribution to fund the extension of the program. The states would be required to contribute \$28 million in cash (adjusted annually for inflation), and may elect to provide the balance in water, land, or other goods and services necessary to implement the program. CBO estimates the annual cost of the mandate would fall below the intergovernmental threshold established in UMRA (\$82 million in 2019, adjusted annually for inflation).

S. 990 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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