

At a Glance

H.R. 2795, Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on January 29, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	245	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and \$500,000.

The bill would

- Authorize appropriations totaling \$355 million over the 2020-2025 period for federal agencies to designate wildlife corridors on federal and tribal land and waters, and to provide grants to states and other entities to manage wildlife movement on nonfederal land

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Spending of the authorized appropriations

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

H.R. 2795 would establish a framework for federal agencies to designate wildlife corridors on federal and tribal land and waters, and would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to award grants to states and other entities to manage wildlife movement on nonfederal land. The bill would authorize appropriations totaling \$355 million over the 2020-2025 period for those purposes.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 2795 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall primarily within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 2795

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
National Wildlife Corridors							
Authorization	18	18	18	18	18	18	108
Estimated Outlays	*	25	18	18	18	18	97
Tribal Wildlife Corridors							
Authorization	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
Estimated Outlays	*	9	5	5	5	5	29
Wildlife Movement Grants							
Authorization	0	0	50	50	50	50	200
Estimated Outlays	0	0	5	18	35	45	103
Other Provisions							
Authorization	4	2	2	3	3	3	17
Estimated Outlays	*	4	3	3	3	3	16
Total Changes							
Authorization	27	25	75	76	76	76	355
Estimated Outlays	*	38	31	44	61	71	245

* = between zero and \$500,000.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2795 would increase direct spending by an insignificant amount.

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted late in fiscal year 2020 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated in each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 2795 would authorize appropriations totaling \$355 million over the 2020-2025 period. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$245 million over the same period.



National Wildlife Corridors

Title I would establish the National Wildlife Corridor System on federal land and waters to protect the movement of native species. The bill would authorize the annual appropriation of \$18 million starting in 2020 for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Commerce, Transportation, and the Interior to issue regulations on designating wildlife corridors and to manage those corridors. CBO estimates that implementing title I would cost \$97 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Tribal Wildlife Corridors

Title II would direct USFWS to establish a program to designate wildlife corridors on tribal land and to provide related technical assistance to tribes. The bill would authorize the annual appropriation of \$5 million starting in 2020 for that purpose. CBO estimates that implementing title II would cost \$29 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Wildlife Movement Grants

Title III would direct USFWS to award grants to states, tribes, and other entities to support wildlife movement on nonfederal land. The bill would establish a national coordination committee with representatives from federal agencies, state agencies, and tribal governments to establish criteria for grant applications and to recommend projects to USFWS. Title III also would direct USFWS to establish regional councils to develop regional wildlife movement plans and solicit applications for grants. H.R. 2795 would authorize the annual appropriation of \$50 million for those grants, starting in 2022. CBO estimates that implementing title III would cost \$103 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Other Provisions

H.R. 2795 would authorize appropriations totaling \$10.5 million over the 2020-2025 period for the U.S. Geological Survey to establish and maintain a database on national wildlife corridors. The bill also would authorize the annual appropriation of \$1 million starting in 2020 for USFWS to provide administrative support to the regional councils established under title III. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$16 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. H.R. 2795 would authorize USFWS to accept cash donations; such collections are classified in the budget as offsetting receipts, which are shown as reductions in direct spending, and those amounts would be available to spend without further appropriation. CBO expects that any donations would be offset soon thereafter by expenditures and thus the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.



Income from mineral leasing, timber production, grazing, and special use permits is classified in the budget as offsetting receipts. Under H.R. 2795, the federal government could forgo receipts because land designated as wildlife corridors could be withdrawn from availability for those uses; however, CBO estimates that any reduction in those receipts would be insignificant over the 2020-2030 period.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2795 would not increase on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031.

Mandates: None.

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