

### At a Glance

## H.R. 2773, Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022

As Posted on the Website of the House Committee on Rules on June 6, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	5,632	12,727
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	5,632	12,727
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	46	68

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 2033?	> \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

#### The bill would

- Make funds available to the Department of the Interior for grants and other support for wildlife conservation by states, territories, and Indian tribes
- Allow the department to spend interest accrued on certain unspent balances for wildlife conservation
- Authorize appropriations for the inspector general of the Department of the Interior to oversee spending of amounts made available to the agency

#### Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from

- Spending without further appropriation on authorized activities
- Spending of interest credited from amounts invested in Treasury securities
- Costs incurred by the inspector general of the Department of the Interior

**Detailed estimate begins on the next page.**

## **Bill Summary**

H.R. 2773 would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and appropriate funds for the Department of the Interior to support efforts by state, local, and tribal governments to conserve endangered and threatened species. The bill also would allow interest accrued on unspent balances in one account to be available without further appropriation for those activities.

The bill would require the President to provide the Congress each year with a list of threatened or endangered species and to estimate the amount of funding allocated for their conservation. H.R. 2773 also would direct the Government Accountability Office to study the progress of states, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribes in protecting endangered and threatened species and to report its findings seven years after enactment. Finally, the bill would direct the inspector general for the Department of the Interior to oversee spending of funds made available in this legislation.

## **Estimated Federal Cost**

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 2773 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

## **Basis of Estimate**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2773 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2022. Using information from the affected agencies and historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2773 would increase direct spending by \$12.7 billion over the 2022-2032 period.



**Table 1.  
Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 2773**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2022- 2027	2022- 2032	
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032			
<b>Increases in Direct Spending</b>														
<b>Title I, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>														
Budget Authority	0	850	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	5,750	12,250
Estimated Outlays	0	170	780	1,110	1,269	1,271	1,293	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	4,600	11,093
<b>Title II, Bureau of Indian Affairs</b>														
Budget Authority	0	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	488	975
Estimated Outlays	0	47	62	78	94	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	378	866
<b>Title III, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>														
Estimated Budget Authority	0	190	190	192	192	3	1	*	*	0	0	0	766	768
Estimated Outlays	0	92	123	154	184	100	69	38	8	0	0	0	654	768
<b>Total Changes in Direct Spending</b>														
Estimated Budget Authority	0	1,137	1,388	1,489	1,589	1,400	1,399	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	7,004	13,993
Estimated Outlays	0	309	965	1,343	1,546	1,469	1,459	1,435	1,405	1,398	1,398	1,398	5,632	12,727
<b>Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation</b>														
Estimated Authorization	0	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	*	*	*	*	47	68
Estimated Outlays	0	8	9	9	10	10	10	10	2	*	*	*	46	68

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; \* = between zero and \$500,000.

## Direct Spending

H.R. 2773 would establish new accounts in the Treasury, specify the amounts to be deposited into those accounts each year, and make the funds in those accounts available to the Secretary of the Interior to spend without further appropriation. In 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) spent \$713 million for similar activities.

- Title I would make \$850 million available in 2023 for USFWS to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments for wildlife conservation. The amounts made available would increase in 2024 and 2025. In 2026 and every year thereafter, title I



would make \$1.3 billion available for those purposes. CBO estimates that enacting this title would increase direct spending by \$11.1 billion over the 2022-2032 period.

- Title II would make \$97.5 million available in 2023 and every year thereafter for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help Indian tribes conserve species on tribal land that have the greatest need for conservation. CBO estimates that enacting this title would increase direct spending by \$866 million over the 2022-2032 period.
- Title III would make \$187.5 million available each year from 2023 through 2026 for USFWS to make grants to states and Indian tribes for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and to carry out other authorities under the Endangered Species Act. A portion of those amounts—\$75 million each year—would be made available to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to recover threatened or endangered species. CBO estimates that enacting this provision in title III would increase direct spending by \$750 million over the 2022-2032 period.

In addition, title III would direct the Department of the Treasury to credit interest on unspent balances made available under that title to USFWS. That interest would be available to spend without further appropriation for recovery efforts under the Endangered Species Act. (Crediting interest to an account in the Treasury is an intragovernmental transfer and thus would have no budgetary effect, but allowing the agency to spend the accrued amounts would increase direct spending.) Using the interest rates underlying the May 2022 baseline projections, CBO estimates that under this provision, \$18 million would be accrued and spent over the 2022-2032 period.

- The bill would permit USFWS to accept and spend donations. CBO estimates that the effect on net direct spending from donations would be negligible over the 2022-2032 period.

The bill would authorize the transfer of some penalties collected under current law to the accounts established under title II, but H.R. 2773 would not authorize any new penalty collections.

### **Spending Subject to Appropriation**

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2773 would cost, in total, \$46 million over the 2022-2027 period and \$22 million after 2027. Those costs are shown in Table 1; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Titles I and II of H.R. 2773 would authorize the appropriation of funds for the Office of the Inspector General within the Department of the Interior to oversee spending of amounts made available under those titles. Specifically, the bill would authorize the appropriation of one-half of one percent of the amounts made available in those titles for oversight activities, a total of \$66 million based on amounts made available over the 2022-2032 period. Those

amounts would be available through 2029. Using information about similar efforts, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$46 million over the 2022-2027 period and \$20 million after 2027.

H.R. 2773 would require the President to submit to the Congress lists of threatened or endangered species for which recovery efforts would be funded under the bill and to report annually on the amounts allocated for endangered-species recovery, interagency consultation, and conservation activities. Using information about similar activities, CBO estimates that producing the reports would cost \$1 million over the 2022-2027 period and \$1 million after 2027.

Under the bill, the Government Accountability Office would report in 2029 or 2030 on conservation efforts authorized by the bill. Based on the cost of similar reports, CBO estimates that the cost of that report would be insignificant.

### 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. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.**  
**CBO’s Estimate of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Effects of H.R. 2773, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2022, as posted on the House Rules Committee Website on June 6, 2022**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2022-2027	2022-2032
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032		
	<b>Net Increase in the Deficit</b>												
Pay-As-You-Go Effect	0	309	965	1,343	1,546	1,469	1,459	1,435	1,405	1,398	1,398	5,632	12,727

### Increase in Long-Term Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2773 would increase on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in all of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033.

**Mandates:** None.

### Previous CBO Estimate

On May 26, 2022, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 2372](#), the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2022, as reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 27, 2022. The Senate bill would appropriate funds for fiscal 2022; the House bill would not. The House bill also would authorize appropriations for the inspector general



of the Department of the Interior. The cost estimates for the two bills reflect those differences.

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