



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 13, 2017

H.R. 2374
**Eastern Nevada Economic Development and Land Management
Improvement Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on July 26, 2017*

SUMMARY

Three current laws—the Lincoln County Land Act of 2000, the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, and the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006—provide for the disposal of public lands within Lincoln and White Pine Counties in Nevada. Under those laws, proceeds from land sales are deposited into special accounts that are available to be spent by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to facilitate land sales, develop land management plans, and perform other specified activities in those counties.

H.R. 2374 would authorize BLM to spend funds available in those accounts to carry out additional activities in Lincoln and White Pine Counties. Spending from the special accounts occurs without further appropriation and is thus considered direct spending. Based on information from BLM, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase spending from those accounts by a total of \$2 million over the 2018-2027 period. The bill also would make other changes to the management of federal lands that CBO estimates would have no significant cost.

Because enacting H.R. 2374 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2374 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 2374 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 2374 would authorize BLM to use funds available in several special accounts to conduct fuel reduction and other wildfire prevention activities and to carry out a wildlife conservation plan in Lincoln County. In addition, the bill would authorize the use of funds to cover the cost of processing land use authorizations and rights-of-way in White Pine County.

The affected accounts currently have unobligated balances totaling about \$35 million. Because those amounts would be available to be spent without further appropriation on new activities, enacting the bill would increase direct spending over the next 10 years. In recent years BLM has spent about \$2 million a year on authorized activities. Based on information from BLM about plans to spend additional funds from the special accounts to carry out activities authorized under H.R. 2374, CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would increase direct spending by \$2 million over the 2018-2027 period.

CBO expects that most of that spending would be for fuel reduction and land conservation projects in Lincoln County. Based on information from local planners, CBO expects that implementing the wildlife conservation plan for Lincoln County will cost around \$20 million over the next 30 years; however most of those funds would come from state, local, and private contributions. Therefore, CBO does not expect that the legislation would significantly increase federal spending for that activity. In addition, based on information provided by BLM regarding the amount of funds in the White Pine County special account, CBO estimates that any additional spending from that account would be negligible.

Finally, the bill would authorize land sale proceeds provided to Lincoln County to be used to support the Lincoln County Regional Development Authority; require BLM to enter into cooperative agreements with local agencies for any law enforcement or planning activities provided by those agencies; make technical adjustments to the boundaries of several federal wilderness areas and a utility corridor on public land in Nevada; and expedite an authorized conveyance of federal land to White Pine County. In addition, the bill would validate a corrective patent issued by BLM for lands in Clark County and authorize BLM to issue a corrective patent for lands in Lincoln County. CBO estimates that those provisions in the legislation would not have a significant effect on the budget.

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 direct spending that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

CBO Estimate of Pay-As-You-Go Effects for H.R. 2374, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 26, 2017

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars													
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2017-2022	2017-2026	
NET INCREASE IN THE DEFICIT														
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DEFICIT AND DIRECT SPENDING

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2374 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2374 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit local governments in Lincoln County and White Pine County in Nevada by authorizing the use of federal funds to support wildfire prevention, local law enforcement activities, and infrastructure projects. White Pine County also would benefit from a conveyance of federal land. Any costs incurred by public entities would result from voluntary commitments.

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