

H.R. 2546, Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 20, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	1	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.			

H.R. 2546 would designate roughly 600,000 acres of federal land in Colorado as wilderness and would withdraw that land from entry under hardrock mining laws and mineral and geothermal leasing, subject to valid existing rights. That is, the bill would not allow new hardrock mining claims or mineral and geothermal leases on that land.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2546 will be enacted in 2020. Using information from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, CBO estimates that the agencies would incur costs of about \$1 million over the 2020-2025 period to implement the wilderness designations; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. That amount includes costs for new maps and signage, wilderness surveys, and a few additional rangers.

Income from mineral leasing is classified in the budget as offsetting receipts, or reductions in direct spending. Under H.R. 2546, the federal government would forgo receipts because land would be withdrawn from mineral leasing. However, CBO estimates that any increases in direct spending would be insignificant over the 2020-2030 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.