

At a Glance

H.R. 2250, Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

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)	*	17	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

- Designate roughly 1 million acres of federal land in northwest California for restoration, wilderness, conservation, and other special management purposes, and generally withdraw some of that land from availability for timber production
- Add 480 miles of river segments to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
- Establish a partnership to coordinate efforts for the remediation of land affected by illegal marijuana cultivation

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Implementing the designations
- Managing the partnership

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

H.R. 2250 would designate roughly 1 million acres of federal land in northwest California for restoration, wilderness, conservation, and other special management purposes. Some of those areas would be withdrawn from availability for timber production. The bill also would add 480 miles of river segments in the state to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Finally, H.R. 2250 would establish a partnership to coordinate efforts among federal agencies and other partners for the remediation of land affected by illegal marijuana cultivation.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 2250 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 2250

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designations							
Estimated Authorization	*	5	2	*	*	*	8
Estimated Outlays	*	5	2	*	*	*	8
Remediation Partnership							
Estimated Authorization	*	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	*	1	1	1	1	1	5
Special Management Areas							
Estimated Authorization	*	1	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	*	1	*	*	*	*	2
Other Activities							
Estimated Authorization	*	1	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	*	1	*	*	*	*	2
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	*	8	4	2	2	1	17
Estimated Outlays	*	8	4	2	2	1	17

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

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2250 would increase direct spending by an insignificant amount over the 2020-2030 period.



Basis of Estimate

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

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2250 would cost \$17 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designations

Title III would designate roughly 310,000 acres of federal land in California as wilderness and would add 480 miles of river segments to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Using information from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, CBO estimates that the agencies would incur upfront costs of \$7 million to implement those designations. That amount includes costs to develop management plans, conduct boundary surveys, and update maps and signage. We estimate that the agencies would spend less than \$500,000 annually after 2021 for additional staff and rangers. In total, implementing title III would cost \$8 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Remediation Partnership

Section 103 would establish the California Public Lands Remediation Partnership—with representation from federal agencies, state and local governments, and tribes—to coordinate efforts to remediate land affected by illegal marijuana cultivation. Using information from Forest Service, and based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that the federal government would incur costs of \$1 million annually, and \$5 million over the 2020-2025 period, to manage the partnership and provide technical and financial assistance.

Special Management Areas

Section 201 would establish the Horse Mountain Special Management Area on roughly 7,400 acres of federal land, and section 305 would establish the Sanhedrin Special Conservation Management Area on 14,000 acres of federal land. Using information from the Forest Service, and based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that the agency would incur upfront costs of about \$2 million to conduct environmental reviews, develop management plans, and update maps and signage. We estimate that the Forest Service would spend \$100,000 annually after 2021 for additional staff. In total, implementing those sections would cost \$2 million over the 2020-2025 period.

Other Activities

CBO estimates that implementing other provisions of H.R. 2250 would cost \$2 million over the 2020-2025 period.



Section 107 would require the National Park Service (NPS) to study the feasibility of establishing overnight accommodations within the Redwood National and State Parks. H.R. 2250 also would direct the Forest Service to complete several trail feasibility studies. Based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that conducting the required studies would cost \$1 million.

Section 105 would authorize the Forest Service and the NPS to establish a visitor center in Del Norte County, California. Based on timeframes for similar projects, CBO expects that any property acquisition and construction costs would not be incurred until after 2025. We estimate that related planning efforts would cost about \$500,000 over the 2020-2025 period.

Using information from the agencies, CBO estimates that implementing the following provisions would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

- Establish the South Fork Trinity-Mad River Restoration Area on roughly 730,000 acres of federal land,
- Authorize the NPS to carry out restoration activities in the Redwood National and State Parks,
- Authorize the Forest Service to establish a visitor center in Weaverville, California, and
- Direct the Forest Service to publish plans for access to utility rights-of-way.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations

Income from timber production is classified in the budget as offsetting receipts, or reductions in direct spending. Under H.R. 2250, the federal government would forgo receipts because land would be withdrawn from the commercial timber base. However, CBO estimates that any increases in direct spending would be insignificant over the 2020-2030 period.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2250 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.

Estimate Prepared By

Federal Costs: Janani Shankaran

Mandates: Lilia Ledezma

Estimate Reviewed By

Kim P. Cawley

Chief, Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Director of Budget Analysis