

H.R. 972, Wildlife Refuge Conservation and Recreation for the Community Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 14, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	3	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 2032?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and \$500,000.

H.R. 972 would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish the Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge in California. Under the bill, federal agencies that manage land within the proposed boundary, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers, would be required to assess the suitability of transferring their land to USFWS to include in the refuge.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill would be enacted around the end of calendar year 2021. Using information from the affected agencies, CBO estimates that the federal government would incur costs totaling \$3 million over the 2022-2026 period to establish the refuge; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. That amount includes the costs to assess federal land for inclusion, complete the necessary environmental studies, and conduct related planning. CBO estimates that the net change in costs to manage the land would be negligible over the 2022-2026 period.

H.R. 972 would authorize USFWS to acquire nonfederal land by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. CBO expects that any donations, which are classified in the budget as offsetting receipts or reductions in direct spending, would be spent soon thereafter, resulting in a negligible effect on net direct spending.



Any income from communication site leases, timber production, and special use permits on federal land is also classified in the budget as offsetting receipts. Under H.R. 972, the federal government could forgo such receipts if federal land was transferred to the refuge because it would be unavailable for some of those purposes. However, CBO expects that federal agencies would probably not transfer land that generates such income; thus, CBO estimates that any reduction in those receipts would be insignificant over the 2022-2031 period.

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