

At a Glance

S. 2372, Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022

As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 27, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	7,049	14,082
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	7,049	14,082
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	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 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

Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from

- Spending without further appropriation on authorized activities
- Spending of interest credited from amounts invested in Treasury securities

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

S. 2372 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. S. 2372 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.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 2372 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 S. 2372 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2022. On that basis, CBO expects that outlays from funds provided in 2022 would occur in 2023. Using information from the affected agencies and historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that enacting S. 2372 would increase direct spending by \$14.1 billion over the 2022-2032 period.



**Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 2372**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2022-2027	2022-2032	
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032			
Increases in Direct Spending														
Title I, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service														
Budget Authority	850	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	7,050	13,550
Estimated Outlays	0	645	1,218	1,336	1,359	1,293	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	5,851	12,351
Title II, Bureau of Indian Affairs														
Budget Authority	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	585	1,073
Estimated Outlays	0	98	78	94	107	99	98	98	98	98	98	98	476	963
Title III, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service														
Estimated Budget Authority	188	191	192	193	3	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	767	768
Estimated Outlays	0	191	154	185	120	73	38	8	0	0	0	0	722	768
Total Changes in Direct Spending														
Estimated Budget Authority	1,135	1,388	1,489	1,590	1,401	1,399	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	8,402	15,390
Estimated Outlays	0	933	1,450	1,615	1,586	1,465	1,435	1,405	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398	7,049	14,082

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

S. 2372 would require annual reports whose cost would total \$1 million over the 2022-2027 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Direct Spending

S. 2372 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 2022 for USFWS to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments for wildlife conservation. The amounts made available would increase in 2023 and 2024. In 2025 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 \$12.4 billion over the 2022-2032 period.
- Title II would make \$97.5 million available in 2022 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 \$963 million over the 2022-2032 period.

- Title III would make \$187.5 million available each year from 2022 through 2025 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 I and title II, but S. 2372 would not authorize any new penalty collections.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

S. 2372 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 annual reports would cost \$1 million over the 2022-2027 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Under the bill, the Government Accountability Office would report in 2029 or 2030 on conservation efforts authorized in 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 S. 2372, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, as Reported by the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works on April 27, 2022

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2022- 2027	2022- 2032
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032		
	Net Increase in the Deficit												
Pay-As-You-Go Effect	0	933	1,450	1,615	1,586	1,465	1,435	1,405	1,398	1,398	1,398	7,049	14,082

Increase in Long-Term Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2372 would increase on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in all of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033.

Mandates: None.

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