

**S. 3997, Land Between the Lakes Recreation and Heritage Act**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 21, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	-1	-1
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	-1	-1
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	39	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 3997 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually for the Forest Service to manage the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The bill also would limit the purposes for which user fees collected at the area can be spent.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 3997 will be enacted before the end of calendar year 2022 and that the authorized amounts will be provided beginning in fiscal year 2023. Current law authorizes the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for the Forest Service to manage that area and over the past five years the Forest Service has allocated \$6 million, on average, for that purpose. Thus, CBO estimates that the bill would effectively authorize the appropriation of an additional \$9 million each year, reflecting the difference between the amount authorized in the bill and the amount the Forest Service has allocated in recent years. On that basis and using historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3997 would cost \$39 million over the 2022-2027 period, assuming appropriation of those amounts, consistent with historical allocations by the Forest Service.

Under current law, the Forest Service collects user fees at the recreation area that are classified in the budget as offsetting receipts (or reductions in direct spending). The collections average about \$5 million annually and are deposited into the area's management fund and can be spent without further appropriation for on-site management and administration, including salaries and expenses. CBO does not expect the amount of fees collected at the recreation area to change under the bill.



S. 3997 would limit the spending of those fees to construction, improvement, and maintenance in the recreation area. Based on historical patterns for similar activities, CBO expects that the Forest Service would spend the amounts collected under the bill more slowly than would be the case under current law. As a result, CBO estimates that direct spending would decline by about \$1 million over the 2022-2032 period.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

**Table 1.  
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 3997**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Estimated Authorization <sup>a</sup>	0	9	9	9	9	9	45
Estimated Outlays	0	5	7	9	9	9	39

CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted by the end of calendar year 2022 and that the authorized amounts will be provided beginning in 2023.

- a. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million a year to manage the recreation area. However, current law already authorizes the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for that purpose. The Forest Service has allocated an average of \$6 million a year over the last few years to manage the recreation area; thus, CBO's estimate reflects the difference between the authorized amount and the average allocated amount.

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