



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 12, 2010

S. 1689

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Wilderness Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 21, 2010*

S. 1689 would change the legal status of about 250,000 acres of federal land in New Mexico. The bill would establish two National Conservation Areas (NCAs) and eight new wilderness areas totaling about 240,000 acres. The legislation also would withdraw about 8,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land from most disposal, mining or mineral leasing activities; transfer 2,000 acres of land from the Department of Defense to BLM for inclusion in one of the NCAs established under the bill; and expand the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument to include an additional 470 acres of BLM land. Finally, the bill would release about 16,000 acres of land from its current status as a wilderness study area. Because the lands affected by the legislation are already managed by the federal government, CBO estimates that any increase in federal costs to manage those lands would not exceed \$500,000 in any year.

S. 1689 could reduce offsetting receipts because it would no longer allow certain lands to be disposed of or leased. Therefore pay-as-you-go procedures apply to the legislation. However, based on information from BLM, CBO estimates that any reduction in offsetting receipts would be negligible over the 2010-2020 period.

S. 1689 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.