



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 1, 2010

**H.R. 4474**  
**Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act**

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

H.R. 4474 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue special permits for continued use of historic water diversions for those with valid water rights in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of Idaho. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4474 would increase direct spending to process the permits and associated offsetting receipts from permit applications; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any net direct spending would be negligible in each year.

Currently, there are around 25 water diversion facilities located in those wilderness areas. Although owners of the water facilities have the authority to maintain the facilities, they cannot replace facilities or make major repairs without obtaining a special-use permit. The bill would authorize the Forest Service to issue such special use permits.

H.R. 4474 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.

On January 13, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3538, the Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on December 16, 2009. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimated costs are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.