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107TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 107–363

BURNT, MALHEUR, OWYHEE, AND POWDER RIVER BASIN WATER OPTIMIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT OF 2001

MARCH 4, 2002.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HANSEN, from the Committee on Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1883]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1883) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1883 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Watershed Councils in the Malheur, Owyhee, Powder, and Burnt River basins bring together local farmers, ranchers, and other landowners; organized agricultural, industrial, environmental interests; and resource management agencies to develop action plans to implement measures that will improve the health of streams and make improvements to the overall environment of the areas while maintaining a viable economy.

Multi-purpose irrigation facilities located in the Malheur, Owyhee, Powder, and Burnt River basins were developed by the Bureau of Reclamation but are now operated by the local water users. Reclamation is involved with the Councils in these basins to help develop, review, and update action plans; perform construction

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design and survey work; conduct Congressionally-authorized feasibility analysis for structural action plan items; and participate in public involvement activities.

The Councils are interested in involving Reclamation with small-scale construction projects to address resource management issues they tackle on a regular basis. Congressional authorization is necessary for Reclamation to participate and develop the feasibility reports necessary to submit to Congress for any work that would require construction authorization for federal assistance with these projects.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1883 was introduced on May 16, 2001, by Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. On February 27, 2002, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. By unanimous consent the Subcommittee was discharged from further consideration of the bill. The bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives, without amendment, by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin and Powder River basin, Oregon.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Com-

mittee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2002.

Hon. JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1883, the Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee, and Powder River Basin Water Optimization Feasibility Study Act of 2001.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Julie Middleton.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 1883—Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee, and Powder River Basin Water Optimization Feasibility Study Act of 2001

H.R. 1883 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies for optimizing water use in the Burnt River, Malheur River, Owyhee River, and Powder River basins in Oregon. The bill would authorize the appropriation of funds necessary to complete those feasibility studies.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1883 would cost about $650,000 over the 2002–2007 period. H.R. 1883 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill 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 Julie Middleton. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

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