DEARFIELD STUDY ACT

DECEMBER 7, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 6438]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6438) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as “Dearfield” in the State of Colorado, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 6438 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as “Dearfield” in the State of Colorado.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 6438 would require the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to conduct a special resource study of the site known as Dearfield in Weld County, Colorado, which was a historically Black agricultural settlement founded by Oliver Toussaint Jackson in 1910. While the Homestead Act of 1862 offered the chance for Black Americans to own land in the West, the predominant history of homesteading in this country has been a conspicuously white history.

According to Colorado Public Radio, “Jackson’s goal in establishing the community was to foster middle-class self-sufficiency for the Black community on the Eastern Plains, as inspired by Booker T. Washington. His original plan was to expand the farming community and build a sanatorium, because many such facilities at the time did not accept Black patients, or potentially an educational institution,” but over time “the land remained a thriving farming
community.” 1 Per another source, “By 1915, the colony had 40 farms and a 140-acre townsite.” 2 CPR adds that “At its peak during World War I, Dearfield had two churches, a restaurant, a dance hall, and 300 residents. [University of Northern Colorado Professor of Africana Studies George] Junne said even though Dearfield was a Black settlement, in many ways life was more integrated on the Eastern Plains than in many other parts of the country.” 3 The settlement was hit hard by the Great Depression, and today it is a ghost town of a few deteriorated buildings commemorated by a brief historical marker. 4

H.R. 6438 would take the first step toward elevating the story of this Black homestead community. In conducting its study, DOI will evaluate the national significance of the study area and determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 6438 was introduced on January 20, 2022, by Representative Ken Buck (R–CO). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On July 14, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On July 20, 2022, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House Rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on July 14, 2022.

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 Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act. With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as well as clause 3(d) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Com-
mittee has received the following materials for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed table summarizing estimated budgetary effects and mandates information for some of the legislation that has been ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources during the 117th Congress.

If you wish further details, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact for each estimate is listed on the enclosed table.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

SUMMARY ESTIMATES OF LEGISLATION ORDERED REPORTED

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congressional Budget Office, to the extent practicable, to prepare estimates of the budgetary effects of legislation ordered reported by Congressional authorizing committees. In order to provide the Congress with as much information as possible, the attached table summarizes information about the estimated direct spending and revenue effects of some of the legislation that has been ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources during the 117th Congress. The legislation listed in this table generally would have small effects, if any, on direct spending or revenues, CBO estimates. Where possible, the table also provides information about the legislation’s estimated effects on spending subject to appropriation and on intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Last action</th>
<th>Budget function</th>
<th>Direct spending, 2023–2032</th>
<th>Revenues, 2023–2032</th>
<th>Spending subject to appropriation, 2023–2027</th>
<th>Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?</th>
<th>Increases on-budget deficits beginning in 2023?</th>
<th>Mandates</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 3600</td>
<td>Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act.</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>11/17/21</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Madeleine Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 3600</td>
<td>Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act.</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>11/17/21</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Madeleine Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.R. 3648</td>
<td>Cane River Creole National Historical Park Boundary Modification Act.</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>11/17/21</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Madeleine Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.R. 4690</td>
<td>Sustaining America’s Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021.</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>09/29/22</td>
<td>Between $500,000 and zero</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Aurora Swanson</td>
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<td>H.R. 5444</td>
<td>Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>06/15/22</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Garrett Queenville</td>
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<td>H.R. 6438</td>
<td>Dearfield Study Act.</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>07/26/22</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>H.R. 6442</td>
<td>PACTS Act</td>
<td>Ordered reported</td>
<td>07/13/22</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
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<td>H.R. 6799</td>
<td>John P. Parker Fox House Study Act</td>
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<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Madeleine Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Pages</td>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Floor Action</td>
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<td>H.R. 7496</td>
<td>A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733.</td>
<td>07/13/22</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Not estimated</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Madeleine Fox</td>
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H.R. 7496 would direct the Department of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the United States Virgin Islands commemorating the 1733 slave rebellion. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7496 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the discretionary costs of implementing the bill. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.
The Committee adopts as its own any finalized additional materials of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office regarding the bill, should such materials be made available before House passage of the bill.

2. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as “Dearfield” in the State of Colorado.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

According to CBO, this bill contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill’s purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

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

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.