



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 26, 2013

S. 753
**A bill to provide for national security benefits for White Sands
Missile Range and Fort Bliss**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources on November 14, 2013*

S. 753 would require the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw roughly 43,000 acres of federal land in New Mexico from the operation of certain public land laws, including laws that authorize mineral development and grazing on such lands. Those lands would be used by the Army for military purposes. The bill also would require the Secretary of the Army to transfer administrative jurisdiction over about 2,000 acres of land in the same area to the Department of the Interior.

Based on information provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting S. 753 would reduce offsetting receipts, which are treated as reductions in direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any net reduction in offsetting receipts would be negligible.

Some of the affected lands are currently used for cattle grazing, and CBO expects that enacting S. 753 would cause BLM to terminate existing grazing contracts. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that terminating those contracts would reduce offsetting receipts by less than \$1,000 a year over the 2014-2023 period.

In addition, because the affected lands are already managed by the federal government, we estimate that implementing the legislation would not affect the costs of managing the lands. Finally, CBO estimates that any additional costs to prepare the legal description of the affected lands, as required under the bill, would total less than \$10,000, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 753 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On June 12, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1299, the White Sands Missile Range Security Enhancement Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 15, 2013. Both bills would withdraw federal lands in southern New Mexico from the operation of certain public land laws. S. 753 also would require the Secretary of the Army to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain lands to the Secretary of the Interior. The estimated costs of implementing the two bills are similar.

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