



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 21, 2017

S. 140

A bill to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 8, 2017

S. 140 would amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify that the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) is authorized to use amounts from the WMAT settlement fund, as established by that act, to plan, design, and construct a rural water system. Under current law, almost \$79 million is authorized to be appropriated to that settlement fund. S. 140 would expand the uses of the fund but would not authorize the appropriation of any additional funding. As of November 2017, no funds have been appropriated to the settlement fund.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 140 would not affect the federal budget. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 140 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 140 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The White Mountain Apache Tribe would benefit from authorizations in the bill to use existing settlement funds for planning, design, and construction of a rural water system. Any costs to the tribe would result from complying with conditions of assistance.

On February 24, 2017, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 140, a bill to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on February 8, 2017. The two versions of the act are similar and CBO's estimates of their costs are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Robert Reese (for federal costs) and Rachel Austin (for mandates). The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.