

## 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

### R E P O R T

[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.”<sup>1</sup> Per another source, “By 1915, the colony had 40 farms and a 140-acre townsite.”<sup>2</sup> *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.”<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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-

<sup>1</sup> Bente Birkeland, *Dearfield Was a Booming Black Community a Century Ago. Now There’s a Renewed Push to Preserve the Ghost Town That Remains*, *CPR NEWS* (July 27, 2021, 4:00 am), <https://www.cpr.org/2021/07/27/dearfield-colorado-black-history-preservation/>.

<sup>2</sup> Charlotte West, *Inside Dearfield, a Colorado Ghost Town that Was Once a Bustling All-Black Settlement*, *NBC NEWS: NBCBLK* (Feb. 28, 2019, 3:16 PM EST), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/inside-dearfield-colorado-ghost-town-was-once-bustling-all-black-n975716>.

<sup>3</sup> Birkeland, *supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> West, *supra* note 2.

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.

LEGISLATION ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND MANDATES INFORMATION

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending 2023–2032	Revenues 2023–2032	Spending subject to appropriation, 2023–2027	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Increases in deficit beginning in 2033?	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 3600	Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act.	Ordered reported	11/17/21	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Madeleine Fox
H.R. 3600	H.R. 3600 would designate the 2,400 miles of U.S. Highway 66 from Illinois to California as the Route 66 National Historic Trail. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3600 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.										
H.R. 4648	Cane River Creole National Historical Park Boundary Modification Act.	Ordered reported	11/17/21	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Madeleine Fox
H.R. 4648	H.R. 4648 would add about 46 acres to the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in Louisiana. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4648 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.										
H.R. 4690	Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021.	Ordered reported	09/29/22	300	Between \$500,000 and zero	0	Not estimated	Yes	No	No	Aurora Swanson
H.R. 4690	H.R. 4690 would authorize the appropriation of specific amounts totaling \$4.1 billion over the 2023–2027 period and \$0.8 billion after 2027 to mitigate damage to fish populations from climate change, overfishing, oil spills, and natural disasters. The bill also would authorize grant programs and funding assistance to fishing communities that experience economic loss from damaged fisheries. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4690 would have an insignificant effect on direct spending and no effect on revenues over the 2023–2032 period. The legislation would authorize activities that would not necessarily be covered by the authorized appropriations; thus, CBO has not estimated the full discretionary costs of implementing the bill. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										
H.R. 5444	Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.	Ordered reported	06/15/22	500	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Garrett Quenneville
H.R. 5444	H.R. 5444 would establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies to study and report on the lasting effects of policies that placed American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children in boarding schools. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5444 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.										
H.R. 6438	Dearfield Study Act	Ordered reported	07/20/22	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Madeleine Fox
H.R. 6438	H.R. 6438 would require the Department of the Interior to study and report on the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Dearfield area in Colorado as a unit of the National Park System. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6438 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.										
H.R. 6442	PACTS Act	Ordered reported	07/13/22	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Madeleine Fox
H.R. 6442	H.R. 6442 would authorize the National Park Service to enter into agreements with tribal governments, public universities, public utilities, and quasi-governmental entities to cooperatively manage adjacent parks. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6442 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.										
H.R. 6799	John P. Parker Fox House Study Act	Ordered reported	07/20/22	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Madeleine
H.R. 6799	H.R. 6799 would require the Department of the Interior to study and report on the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ohio as a unit of the National Park System. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6799 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.										

H.R. 7496 .....	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.	Ordered reported .....	07/13/22	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Madeline Fox
<p>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.</p>											

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.