



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 14, 1999

H.R. 468

Saint Helena Island National Scenic Area Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 30, 1999

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 468 would cost about \$2 million over the 2000-2004 period, subject to appropriation of the estimated amounts. Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 468 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 468 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire almost 240 acres of privately owned land comprising most of Saint Helena Island in Lake Michigan to establish the Saint Helena Island National Scenic Area. The bill also would authorize the Secretary to acquire up to 10 acres of land, including improvements, on the mainland to provide access and facilities for the proposed scenic area. The acquired land would be managed as part of the Hiawatha National Forest. The bill would direct the Secretary to develop a management plan for the area within three years.

Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that the agency would spend about \$1.5 million to acquire the land, plus another \$600,000 to establish and manage the scenic area, including developing a management plan for the island, constructing basic facilities, and surveying the area. Once the national scenic area is established, ongoing administrative costs would total about \$50,000 each year. Spending to implement the bill would be subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The CBO staff contact is Victoria Heid Hall. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.