



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 6, 2000

H.R. 4286

Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 28, 2000

H.R. 4286 would establish the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama, effective on the date that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determines that it has acquired enough land within the proposed refuge boundary to be managed efficiently. The bill would authorize the agency to acquire land, water, and related interests within the proposed 3,500-acre refuge. In addition to managing this acreage, the agency would restore native species and habitat and provide opportunities for recreational uses such as hunting and fishing. For the purposes of acquiring, developing, and operating the refuge, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever sums are necessary.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, and based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that it would cost about \$7 million over the next three or four years to acquire and restore all of the acreage for the new refuge. After the refuge has been established, we estimate that the agency would spend about \$600,000 annually to operate it and to make payments to local governments under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, assuming availability of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 4286 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.