



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 19, 2000

H.R. 4828
Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000

As cleared by the Congress on October 12, 2000

H.R. 4828 would withdraw 896,907 acres of federal land in the vicinity of Steens Mountain, Oregon, from mining and from mineral and geothermal leasing and development. Within that area, the legislation would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area on about 425,550 acres of federal land, and would designate 152,632 acres of other federal lands as wilderness.

H.R. 4828 contains several provisions that could affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) and payments to states for their share of those receipts. First, subject to valid existing rights, H.R. 4828 would withdraw certain lands from mining, mineral leasing, and geothermal leasing. Second, the legislation would prohibit commercial timber harvesting within the proposed protection area. Third, H.R. 4828 would authorize the Secretary to exchange certain federal lands that currently produce some offsetting receipts. Based on information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CBO estimates that the net impact on direct spending of those provisions would be less than \$500,000 in any given year. According to the agency, the affected lands currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so in the near future.

In addition, H.R. 4828 would authorize the Secretary to convey to Oregon federal lands in exchange for certain state lands, but does not specify the federal lands to be exchanged. Because it is uncertain which federal lands would be exchanged, we cannot estimate the amount of any forgone receipts that might result under this provision. Based on information from BLM regarding the likely terms of any such exchange, however, we expect that the agency would not exchange lands that produce a significant amount of receipts. Hence, we expect that any forgone receipts resulting from a land exchange with the state would be small.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.