



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 25, 2002

### **H.R. 3908**

#### **North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 24, 2002*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 3908 would reauthorize funding for projects carried out under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) through fiscal year 2007. Current law authorizes appropriations of \$50 million per year for NAWCA and expires after 2003. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$325 million over the 2003-2007 period (including \$50 million authorized to be appropriated under current law). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) uses funding authorized by NAWCA for a wide variety of activities to benefit wetlands in North America, including matching grants, cooperative projects, and land acquisition.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3908 would result in additional discretionary spending of \$155 million over the 2003-2007 period. An additional \$120 million would be spent after 2007. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3908 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3908 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
NAWCA Spending Under Current Law						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	44	50	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	29	34	28	21	14	3
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	5	60	65	70	75
Estimated Outlays	0	1	16	32	47	59
NAWCA Spending Under H.R. 3908						
Estimated Authorization Level	44	55	60	65	70	75
Estimated Outlays	29	35	44	53	61	62

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the North American wetlands conservation fund. The 2003 level is the amount authorized under current law.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the bill would be appropriated for each fiscal year. The authorization levels are as stated in section 5 of the bill, including an increase of \$5 million above the existing authorization level for fiscal year 2003. Other provisions of the bill, which amend the allocation and cost-sharing provisions of NAWCA, would not have any significant effect on spending for wetlands conservation. Outlay estimates are based on recent spending patterns for this program.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 3908 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State and local governments that receive funds authorized by this bill would benefit from provisions that would increase the authorized amounts and allocate a higher proportion of the funds to domestic projects.

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