



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 13, 2002

**H.R. 3858
New River Gorge Boundary Act of 2002**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 22, 2002

H.R. 3858 would modify the boundary of the New River Gorge National River to include an additional 1,962 acres. The bill also would allow the National Park Service (NPS) to exchange a small tract of land within this park unit's existing boundary for an adjacent tract of similar size.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost the federal government between \$2 million and \$3 million over the next few years, mostly to purchase land within the expanded boundary. (CBO expects that most of the new acreage would remain in its natural condition and would not require any development.) Finally, we estimate that the cost of carrying out the proposed land exchange and the annual expense of administering all of the new acreage would not be significant. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS and local officials.

H.R. 3858 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. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.