



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 23, 2004

H.R. 708

An act to require the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in Mendocino National Forest, California, to provide for the use of the proceeds from such conveyance for National Forest purposes, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on February 11, 2004*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 708 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The legislation would affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts), but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 708 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. 708 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to a private landowner about 120 acres of federal lands within the Mendocino National Forest in California. The private landowner would pay fair market value for those lands. The legislation would authorize the Secretary to use proceeds from the conveyance to cover certain administrative costs and to acquire other lands and interests in California.

According to the Forest Service, the lands to be sold currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years. Based on information from the agency, CBO estimates that proceeds from the proposed sale would total up to \$200,000 in 2004 and that the agency would spend those proceeds over the 2004-2005 period. Hence, we estimate that, under H.R. 708, the net change in direct spending in those years would be negligible.

On September 25, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 708 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 24, 2003. The two versions of this legislation are identical, and our cost estimates are the same.

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