



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 13, 2004

H.R. 3706

John Muir National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 2004

H.R. 3706 would adjust the boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site and authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the added 0.2-acre parcel of land by purchase, donation, or exchange. Based on information provided by the NPS, we expect the agency to condemn the small tract to establish its current ownership, which is unknown. Depending on the outcome of the condemnation proceeding, CBO expects that the NPS would: (1) annex the property without further cost to the government (if no owner is located), (2) accept donation of the tract (if the owner is another government agency), or (3) purchase the property (if a private owner is located). In any event, CBO estimates that the cost of acquiring the property would be less than \$50,000, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 3706 would not affect revenues or direct spending.

CBO generally has found that when legislation is expected to result in condemnation of property, it contains a mandate, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). However, because in this case the NPS cannot identify the current owner of the parcel, CBO cannot determine whether this mandate would fall on a government, on the private sector, or on both. In any event, based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that the value of the property is less than \$50,000, and so the cost would be well below the thresholds established in UMRA. (The thresholds in 2004 are \$60 million and \$120 million per year, respectively, for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates, adjusted annually for inflation.)

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact), and Selena Caldera (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.