



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 16, 2004

H.R. 265 **Mount Rainier National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 14, 2004*

H.R. 265 would modify the boundary of the Mount Rainier National Park in the state of Washington to include a noncontiguous area west of the existing park. The act would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire up to 800 acres within the new area (as well as an additional 1-acre parcel in a nearby town) by donation, purchase, or exchange. The new parkland would be developed for camping and other recreational purposes; the small off-site parcel would be used for a visitor facility.

Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend about \$12 million over the next two years to implement H.R. 265. We estimate that about one-half of that amount would be used to purchase nearly 750 acres of land; the remaining amount would finance the development of a new campground and other visitor facilities. We expect that annual spending at the park would not increase significantly because the costs to operate the new recreational facilities are likely to be roughly equal to the cost of operating similar facilities that would be made obsolete.

H.R. 265 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.

On January 30, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 265 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the estimated costs.

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