



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 3, 2004

H.R. 1630

Petrified Forest National Park Expansion Act of 2004

As reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 14, 2004

H.R. 1630 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise the boundary of the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona to include an additional 127,400 acres. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost approximately \$20 million over the 2005-2009 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting H.R. 1630 would not affect direct spending or receipts.

The bill would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the added acreage—including both private and state-owned lands—by purchase, donation, or exchange. Under the bill, the state property (about 34,000 acres) could be managed by the NPS under an agreement with the state if an acquisition plan cannot be negotiated within three years. The legislation also would direct the Secretary to transfer to the NPS about 15,500 acres of land currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Finally, the bill would direct the NPS to amend the park's general management plan within three years to reflect those changes.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1630 would cost about \$18 million over the next three years. Of this amount, we estimate that about \$650,000 a year would be used for up-front management, planning, and development of the expansion area. The remaining \$16 million would be used to purchase about 77,900 acres of private property within that area. Finally, we estimate that recurring costs to maintain the additional lands would be around \$700,000 a year beginning in fiscal year 2008.

This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS and by local tax authorities. For the estimate, CBO assumes that the NPS would enter into an agreement with Arizona that would enable the federal government to manage the state-owned lands within the new boundary as part of the national park. If the NPS purchased this land, however, the cost to implement the bill would increase by an estimated \$7 million.

H.R. 1630 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The transfer of private land into federal ownership authorized by this bill would result in both direct costs and benefits for affected state and local governments.

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