



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 16, 2004

H.R. 3706

John Muir National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 15, 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 then: (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). CBO estimates that the cost of acquiring the property would be less than \$50,000, assuming availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 3706 would not affect revenues or direct spending.

CBO has generally 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). In this case, however, because 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. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that the value of the property is less than \$50,000, 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.)

On May 13, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3706 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 2004. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the estimated costs.

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.