



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 1, 2004

H.R. 4593

Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 22, 2004

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4593 would cost \$1 million annually starting in 2005, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. The bill would increase both offsetting receipts and direct spending, but we estimate that the net impact on direct spending would be negligible in each year. Enacting H.R. 4593 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 4593 would make several changes to programs to manage federal land in Nevada. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sell about 100,000 acres of land in Lincoln County and spend the proceeds, without further appropriation, for resource management and administrative expenses. H.R. 4593 would designate roughly 720,000 acres of land as wilderness and release about 245,000 acres of other land from wilderness study status. The bill would direct the Secretary to grant certain rights-of-way for utilities, designate a 260-mile trail for off-highway vehicles, and authorize the Secretary to convey certain federal properties to Nevada and Lincoln County for use as parks. Finally, under H.R. 4593, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would exchange jurisdiction over two parcels of federal land.

Based on information from BLM, CBO estimates that the proposed program to sell federal land in Lincoln County would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) by a total of \$9 million over the 2005-2014 period. Because we expect those receipts would be largely spent in the year they are collected, we estimate that the new program would have no significant net impact on direct spending in any year. We also estimate that the various changes in land use proposed under H.R. 4593 would not significantly affect federal receipts from programs to develop natural resources. Finally, by increasing the amount of land designated as wilderness, CBO estimates that H.R. 4593 would increase federal spending for land management by \$1 million annually starting in 2005, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 4593 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this bill would benefit the state of Nevada and Lincoln County because they would receive a portion of the proceeds from the sale of federal land. They also would receive federal land at very little cost.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll (for federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.