



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 21, 1998

S. 1333

A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to allow national park units that cannot charge an entrance or admission fee to retain other fees and charges

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 29, 1998*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1333 would increase direct spending by \$500,000 a year or less through fiscal year 2001 and by about \$700,000 a year in 2002 and 2003, for a total of about \$2 million over the 1999-2003 period. Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. S. 1333 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1333 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to withhold from the special account established under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) all recreation receipts collected by parks that are prohibited by deed restrictions from charging entrance fees. (Such parks may still be able to collect recreation use fees or other non-admission fees.) These receipts would be spent without further appropriation by the park that collected them for purposes such as resource protection, repair and maintenance, and collection of fees.

At present, only two parks are prohibited by deed restrictions from collecting entrance fees. One of these, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, collects virtually no recreation receipts of any type. CBO estimates that the other, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, will collect recreation use fees of about \$700,000 in fiscal year 1998 and about \$800,000 annually through 2003. Because this park is a demonstration fee area under the temporary recreation fee program authorized by the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996, no recreation receipts earned there will be deposited to the special account established under the LWCFA until after fiscal year 1999. As a result, the authority to withhold the park's receipts from that account would not affect direct spending until 2000. (The fee demonstration program allows the NPS to spend without further appropriation all fees collected at demonstration areas anyway, but only 80 percent of such

amounts are retained by the collecting park.) Beginning in 2000, when the Great Smoky park will again charge fees under the permanent fee authority provided in the LWCFA, the provisions of S. 1333 would allow the park to retain and spend without appropriation 100 percent of any amounts it collects, rather than 15 percent as authorized under that act. CBO estimates that the resulting increase in outlays from direct spending would be less than \$500,000 in 2000, about \$500,000 in 2001, and between \$600,000 and \$700,000 for both 2002 and 2003.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.