



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 19, 2008

H.R. 1771

Crane Conservation Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on September 17, 2008*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1771 would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a grant program to protect and conserve wild cranes. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 for financial assistance to eligible government agencies, international or foreign organizations, or private entities engaged in such activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1771 would increase discretionary spending by \$19 million over the 2009-2013 period and by \$6 million after 2013.

The act also would authorize the agency to accept and spend (without further appropriation) donations from nonfederal sources. Enacting this provision could increase both revenues (from donations) and direct spending (of those revenues), but we estimate that such increases would have no net effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 1771 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1771 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2009 and that authorized amounts will be provided as specified in the bill. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5	25
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	5	5	19

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1771 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 5, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1771 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 30, 2008. The two versions of H.R. 1771 are very similar but include different authorization periods. The CBO cost estimates reflect that difference.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrill

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz)

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis