



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

December 15, 2009

**H.R. 2188
Joint Ventures for Bird Habitat Conservation Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on December 10, 2009*

H.R. 2188 would authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into joint ventures with public and private stakeholders to promote the conservation of migratory birds. The bill also would codify the mechanisms used to establish and support joint ventures, such as allowing federal agencies to provide personnel to assist them. Finally, the legislation would authorize the Fish and Wildlife Service to award grants, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide financial assistance to joint ventures.

Based on information from the Fish and Wildlife Service, CBO estimates that H.R. 2188 would have a negligible effect on the federal budget because a similar program currently exists. Roughly \$14 million was appropriated for that program in 2010.

H.R. 2188 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments. Those governments would benefit from technical and financial assistance for conservation activities related to migratory birds. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

On June 26, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2188, the Joint Ventures for Bird Habitat Conservation Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 10, 2009. The two versions of the legislation are similar, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.