



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

October 27, 1998

S. 1333

**An act 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 cleared by the Congress on October 10, 1998

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 at parks that are prohibited by deed restrictions from charging entrance fees. Such parks could spend these receipts without further appropriation.

Only one of the two parks that are prohibited by deed restrictions from charging entrance fees collects other types of recreation fees: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which will collect recreation use fees of about \$800,000 annually through 2004. 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, the NPS may already use any recreation receipts earned there without appropriation for park and national purposes. No amounts from Great Smoky, therefore, will be deposited to the special account established under the LWCFA until after fiscal year 2001, when the temporary demonstration program authority expires. As a result, the authority to withhold the park's receipts from that account would not affect direct spending until 2002. Beginning in that year, when Great Smoky will again charge fees under the permanent fee authority of the LWCFA, 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 current law. CBO estimates that the resulting increase in outlays from direct spending would be less than \$500,000 in 2002 and between \$500,000 and \$800,000 annually thereafter.

The effects of the legislation on direct spending are summarized in the following table. For the purposes of pay-as-you-go procedures, only the effects in the budget year and the succeeding four years are counted.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars									
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Changes in outlays	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Changes in receipts					Not applicable					

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