



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 21, 1998

**H.R. 1856  
National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and  
Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998**

*As enacted on October 5, 1998*

HR. 1856 amends the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to execute cooperative agreements with organizations such as nonprofit groups, academic institutions, and state or local agencies. Under such agreements, the partner organizations can help finance programs and projects that benefit wildlife refuges. Amounts received by the agency under these agreements (that is, profits from sales or other activities conducted by the partner organization) will be deposited in a separate account in the U.S. Treasury and will be available without appropriation to carry out cooperative agreements and to pay volunteers' expenses. The agency will be authorized (subject to appropriation) to match nonfederal funds donated pursuant to this legislation.

Enacting H.R. 1856 will increase offsetting receipts and outlays from direct spending authority by allowing the USFWS to collect and use amounts earned by partner organizations. CBO estimates that this authority will generate offsetting receipts of less than \$500,000 annually. Because these collections will lead to additional spending of the same amounts, the net impact on the federal budget will be negligible in each year.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.