



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 11, 1998

S. 1677

Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1998

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on May 21, 1998*

SUMMARY

S. 1677 would reauthorize, through fiscal year 2003, appropriations for two programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Specifically, the bill would authorize annual appropriations of \$30 million and \$6.25 million, respectively, for programs carried out under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act (PWA). The FWS uses appropriations authorized by these acts to fund a wide variety of activities including matching grants, cooperative projects, and land acquisition.

Assuming appropriation of the entire amounts authorized, CBO estimates that enacting S. 1677 would result in additional discretionary spending of about \$160 million over the 1999-2003 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1677 does not contain any 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 amounts authorized by S. 1677 are the same as the current authorization levels for both programs, but are significantly higher than the amounts appropriated for these activities in recent years. The 1998 appropriations for NAWCA and PWA are \$11.7 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for each program. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1677 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	13	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	12	4	1	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	36	36	36	36	36
Estimated Outlays	0	20	32	36	36	36
Spending Under S. 1677						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	13	36	36	36	36	36
Estimated Outlays	12	24	33	36	36	36

a. The 1998 level is the sum of amounts appropriated for that year for the programs carried out under NAWCA and PWA.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 1677 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State fish and wildlife agencies receive grants under the Partnerships for Wildlife Act. These federal funds must be matched by equal amounts of both state and private funds.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

S. 1677 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 7, 1998, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2556, the Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1997, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 29, 1998. The two bills are identical, as are the cost estimates.

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