



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

August 7, 2000

**H.R. 4226**  
**Black Hills National Forest and Rocky Mountain Research Station  
Improvement Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4226 would increase offsetting receipts by about \$1 million a year in 2001 and 2002, and result in additional discretionary spending of about \$4 million over the 2002-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because the bill would affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending), pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. H.R. 4226 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4226 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange about 362 acres of land in the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, and to accept cash equalization payments up to the full value of the land. (Under current law, cash equalization payments in a land exchange of unequal value may not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land.) Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would result in receipts of about \$2 million over the 2001-2002 period from the sale of the land.

Any funds received by the Forest Service under H.R. 4226 would be deposited into the Sisk Act Fund. H.R. 4226 would authorize the use of such deposits, subject to appropriation, to acquire land in South Dakota or to construct improvements in the Black Hills National Forest. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that, under that provision, the agency would spend \$2 million over the 2002-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 4226 also would authorize the appropriation of \$2.1 million for a new laboratory facility at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Rapid City, South Dakota. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that the agency would spend \$1 million a year in 2002 and 2003 to construct the new facility, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount.

On October 29, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1599, similar legislation as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on October 20, 1999. Differences between our estimates in the timing of receipts and outlays reflect different assumptions about when the legislation would be enacted. Further, the Senate version does not authorize appropriations for a new laboratory.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.