



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 2, 2000

S. 1288

Community Forest Restoration Act

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

SUMMARY

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1288 would cost \$19 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; thus, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1288 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

S. 1288 would direct the Forest Service to establish a cooperative program for forest restoration in New Mexico to provide grants for experimental forest restoration projects. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million a year for that program. S. 1288 would specify the eligibility requirements for projects to receive funding under the program and would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convene an advisory committee to recommend projects that meet those criteria.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For this estimate, we assume that S. 1288 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2000 and that the authorized amounts will be provided as specified by the legislation. Outlay estimates are based on information from the Forest Service and historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1288 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	1	3	5	5	5

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 1288 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. The state of New Mexico, local governments in that state, or tribal governments could receive grant funds if they choose to participate in the program established by this legislation. In order to receive such funds, these governments would be required to provide matching funds equal to at least 20 percent of the total cost of each project and to meet certain eligibility requirements. The costs of complying with these conditions would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This legislation contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On October 4, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1288 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 22, 1999. The Senate version did not specify an amount authorized to be appropriated to implement the program established under the legislation, and, at that time, we estimated that the program would cost about \$1 million a year. In contrast, this estimate reflects the House version's specific authorization of \$5 million a year.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Megan Carroll

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller and
Susan Van Deventer

Impact on the Private Sector: Lauren Marks

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis