



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 4, 1999

**S. 1288**

**Community Forest Restoration Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 22, 1999*

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 bill provides that the federal share of each project could not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the project, subject to an annual limit of \$120,000 per project. The bill identifies the eligibility requirements for projects to receive funding under the program, but places no cap on the number of projects to be funded.

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would result in discretionary spending of about \$1 million a year, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The cost of this program is uncertain because the level of activity would depend on whether eligible grantees submit proposals and provide matching funds. For purposes of this estimate, we assume that five to ten projects would be funded each year. Based on information from the Forest Service, we estimate that the agency would spend about \$200,000 per year to monitor, evaluate and report on the program. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, 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. 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 bill. 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 cost of complying with these conditions would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contacts are Victoria Heid Hall (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.