



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 5, 2002

H.R. 3048 **Russian River Land Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 31, 2002*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3048 would cost \$13.8 million in 2003, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3048 would ratify an agreement between the federal government and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., an Alaska Native regional corporation. Under that agreement, the federal government would convey to the corporation certain federal lands and interests located near the confluence of the Kenai and Russian rivers in Alaska. Specifically, the Forest Service would convey to the corporation about 62 acres of national forest land, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would convey the interest in archeological and cultural resources on 502 acres of national wildlife refuge lands. In exchange, the corporation would relinquish its claim to certain other federal lands in the region, which it has selected under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

According to the Forest Service and the USFWS, the lands and interests that would be conveyed to the corporation currently generate no receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years; hence, CBO estimates that the proposed conveyances would not affect offsetting receipts. Under the agreement that would be ratified by H.R. 3048, the Forest Service and the USFWS would help the corporation to plan and design an interpretive center to be used by all three parties. The interpretive center would be built on one of the parcels of land conveyed to the corporation. H.R. 3048 would authorize the appropriation of \$13.8 million for the Forest Service to make a payment to the corporation for the costs of constructing the proposed facility. CBO expects that the payment would be made during fiscal year 2003, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount.

H.R. 3048 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs that the corporation would incur as a result of the agreement ratified by this bill would be voluntary.

On June 28, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3048 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 26, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, and our cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll (for federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.