



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

August 12, 2002

**H.R. 4917  
Los Padres National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2002**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 24, 2002*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4917 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts); therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that the effects would be negligible.

H.R. 4917 would authorize a land exchange between the United Water Conservation District of California and the Secretary of Agriculture. Specifically, if the district conveys 340 acres of land to the Secretary, the Secretary would convey to the district, subject to valid existing rights, about 420 acres of federal lands within the Los Padres National Forest in California. If the values of those lands are not equal, the bill would authorize the Secretary to make or accept cash equalization payments in excess of the statutory limit on such payments. Under H.R. 4917, the Secretary could use receipts from such payments to acquire, construct, or improve administrative or recreational facilities within the Los Padres National Forest. The bill would direct the Secretary to reserve easements through the land transferred to the district for administrative purposes or to ensure public access to federal lands and specifies that acquired lands would be managed as part of the Los Padres National Forest.

According to the Forest Service, the federal lands to be conveyed under H.R. 4917 currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to over the next 10 years. Based on information from the agency about the estimated value of the lands to be exchanged, CBO estimates that the Forest Service would receive a cash equalization payment of up to \$100,000 during fiscal year 2003. We also estimate that the agency would spend most of that amount in that year for purposes authorized by the bill. Hence, we estimate that the net change in direct spending under H.R. 4917 would be negligible.

H.R. 4917 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. This exchange would be voluntary on the part of the water district. Any costs the district might incur to complete the exchange also would be voluntary.

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 Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.