



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 4, 2002

### **S. 2222**

### **Cape Fox Land Entitlement Adjustment Act of 2002**

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

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2222 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts); therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such impacts would not exceed \$10,000 a year.

S. 2222 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Cape Fox Corporation, an Alaska Native village corporation, the surface estate to 99 acres of federal lands located within the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The bill also would direct the Secretary to convey to Sealaska Corporation, an Alaska Native regional corporation, the subsurface estate to those lands. According to the Forest Service, those lands are not expected to generate significant receipts over the next 10 years; hence, CBO estimates that conveying them would have a negligible impact on the federal budget.

In addition, S. 2222 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Cape Fox Corporation the surface and subsurface estates to about 2,664 acres of national forest lands in exchange for other lands currently owned by that corporation. Following that exchange, the bill also would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Sealaska Corporation the surface and subsurface estates to federal lands to be identified by that corporation in exchange for its interests in the subsurface estate of roughly 5,204 acres of other lands. Under the bill, any lands or interests exchanged must be equal in value.

According to the Forest Service, completing the land exchanges authorized by the bill could affect offsetting receipts from timber harvests on the affected lands. S. 2222 does not specify all of the lands to be exchanged under the bill, but does identify areas from which such lands would be selected. The bill also specifies that, if the Secretary of Agriculture conveys interests in national forest lands that are currently designated as old growth preserve, she must set aside other lands that, under current law, might be harvested in the future in order to keep constant the number of acres in such preserves. However, based on information from the Forest Service about the level of timber harvesting expected to occur on lands that could

be affected by S. 2222, CBO estimates that any forgone offsetting receipts from timber harvests probably would not exceed \$10,000 a year.

S. 2222 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. The conveyances and exchanges authorized by this bill would be voluntary on the part of Cape Fox Corporation and Sealaska Corporation.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.