



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 15, 2003

**H.R. 1038  
Public Lands Fire Regulations Enforcement Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources  
on July 9, 2003*

CBO estimates that H.R. 1038 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill would increase both revenues and direct spending by less than \$500,000 a year. H.R. 1038 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.

H.R. 1038 would increase fines and imprisonment terms for violating fire regulations on certain federal lands. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to spend, without further appropriation, amounts received from such fines to reimburse the appropriate department for certain costs incurred to respond to fires, rehabilitate damaged lands, and increase public awareness of legal requirements regarding the use of fire on public lands.

Under current law, collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues) and are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. Based on information from the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service, CBO estimates that increasing those fines and authorizing the agencies to spend them would increase revenues and direct spending by less than \$500,000 annually. We also estimate that any increased costs for prison operations, which would be subject to appropriation, would not be significant.

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