



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 22, 2003

H.R. 2766

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land Exchange Act of 2003

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 1, 2003

H.R. 2766 would direct the Department of Agriculture to convey to the city of Golden, Colorado, about 10 acres of federal lands within the Arapaho National Forest in exchange for up to 80 acres of city-owned property (known as the Cub Creek parcel). CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2766 could affect direct spending, including offsetting receipts, but we estimate that any net impact on the federal budget would be insignificant.

Under the bill, any property acquired through the exchange, plus an additional 40 acres of nearby private lands, would become part of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. The bill also would authorize the department to sell the 10 acres of federal property to the city—and spend the proceeds without further appropriation to purchase other property—if an exchange cannot be completed.

Based on information provided by the Forest Service, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2766 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. CBO expects that the 10 acres of federal land (which we estimate to be worth less than \$500,000) would be conveyed to the city within fiscal year 2004 in exchange for some or all of the Cub Creek land. We expect that the conveyance of that land would not result in any loss of federal receipts because the land does not generate any income from timber sales, mining, or other commercial activities. Finally, CBO expects that the 40 acres of private property to be added to the national forests would be acquired by a future exchange within the next five years at no significant cost to the federal government.

H.R. 2766 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 land exchange authorized by this bill would benefit the city of Golden, Colorado, and any expenditures made by the city to satisfy the conditions of the exchange would be voluntary.

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