



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 25, 2004

H.R. 3247
Trail Responsibility and Accountability for the
Improvement of Lands Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 23, 2004

H.R. 3247 would amend existing laws that govern the protection of federal lands to provide land-management agencies with consistent enforcement authorities. The bill would standardize penalty amounts, sentences, and other terms for certain misdemeanor violations established under regulation by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3247 would have no significant net impact on the federal budget. Implementing the penalties established by the bill could change the size of fines and penalties, but CBO expects that any net change would be less than \$500,000 annually. Moreover, any additional amounts collected from the violations of these regulations would be offset by new direct spending from the Crime Victims Fund, which receives all such revenues.

H.R. 3247 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.

On May 20, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3247 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 2004. Under that version of the legislation, the affected land management agencies would be authorized to retain and spend any fines or penalties collected under the affected federal regulations. Under the version approved by the House Judiciary Committee, those collections would continue to be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund. Neither version of the legislation would result in any additional federal spending because these fines and penalties are already available to be spent without further appropriation. Therefore, the estimated budgetary effects of the two versions of the legislation are the same.

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