



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 30, 2004

H.R. 3514

Pennsylvania National Forest Improvement Act of 2004

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on September 23, 2004

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3514 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill would increase offsetting receipts and the spending of such receipts, but we estimate that the net impact on direct spending would not exceed \$500,000 a year.

H.R. 3514 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain federal land in Pennsylvania. (The bill also would authorize the Secretary to convey, for no consideration, one federal property in that state to a volunteer fire department.) The bill would authorize the Secretary to spend, without further appropriation, any proceeds from land sales to acquire nonfederal property in the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania or to acquire, construct, or improve administrative facilities in that forest.

According to the Forest Service, the federal properties to be sold or conveyed currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years. By providing authority for the Secretary to sell those properties, CBO expects that enacting H.R. 3514 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) from land sales. Based on information from the Forest Service regarding the value of the affected land, CBO estimates that the proceeds from such sales would total about \$450,000 over the 2005-2007 period. We expect that those proceeds would largely be spent in the same year they are received; hence, we estimate that the annual net change in direct spending would be negligible.

H.R. 3514 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 authorized by this bill would be voluntary on the part of the local governments in Pennsylvania designated to receive federal property, and any associated costs would be incurred voluntarily.

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