



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 19, 2004

H.R. 4492

A bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 14, 2004

SUMMARY

H.R. 4492 would authorize appropriations for national heritage areas (NHAs) and similar affiliated areas of the National Park System. NHAs and affiliated areas are nonfederal lands and communities managed privately in consultation with the National Park Service (NPS). Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4492 would cost the federal government \$3 million in 2005 and \$22 million over the 2005-2009 period. (We estimate that an additional \$58 million would be authorized to be appropriated and spent after 2009.) Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 4492 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

MAJOR PROVISIONS

Title I would increase authorizations and extend the authorization period for five NHAs:

- National Coal Heritage Area in West Virginia,
- Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area in Tennessee,
- Rivers of Steel NHA in Pennsylvania,
- Essex NHA in Massachusetts, and
- Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor in Ohio.

The bill also would:

- Establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area in Pennsylvania and the National Aviation Heritage Area in Ohio and Indiana,
- Eliminate the \$4 million ceiling on appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey and authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for assistance to that trail's managers beginning in fiscal year 2005, and
- Authorize the appropriation of \$10 million over the next 15 years to assist the Canal Corridor Association, the new managers of the Illinois and Michigan National Canal Heritage Corridor.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated federal cost of implementing H.R. 4492 is summarized in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	4	6	6
Estimated Outlays	3	3	4	6	6

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 4492 would authorize appropriations of \$10 million each, up to \$1 million annually, for the Illinois and Michigan National Canal Heritage Corridor, the proposed Oil Region National Heritage Area, and the National Aviation Heritage Area. CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$15 million over the 2005-2009 period, and an additional \$15 million after 2009. These funds would be used to prepare and implement management plans to conserve and develop each area's natural, cultural, and historical resources.

Title I would authorize the appropriation of an additional \$50 million for five existing NHAs, and would extend the authorized period of availability for those funds from 2012 to 2027. Based on historical spending by these five NHAs, CBO estimates the amounts authorized by the bill would be needed starting in 2007. We estimate that \$7 million of the amounts that would be authorized by H.R. 4492 would be spent over the 2007-2009 period for the Rivers of Steel and Essex NHAs and the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor. The remaining amounts authorized by title I would be spent after 2009.

Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route. Based on historical spending for this site, CBO estimates that about \$250,000 a year would be spent for trail administration over the 2005-2009 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4492 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On November 10, 2003, CBO transmitted cost estimates for H.R. 1862, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act, and for H.R. 280, the National Aviation Heritage Area Act, both as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003. On June 22, 2004, we also transmitted a cost estimate for S. 180, the National Aviation Heritage Area Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 16, 2004. The estimated costs of these bills are the same as the costs of similar provisions in H.R. 4492.

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