



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 28, 2004

H.R. 4617

A bill to facilitate the exchange of small tracts of land, and for other purposes

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

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4617 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 4617 would not affect revenues. H.R. 4617 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4617 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey national forest system land in California to two private landowners in exchange for roughly eight acres of land owned by those individuals. The bill does not specify the federal land to be exchanged, but would require that it be of approximately equal value to the private land. If it is not, H.R. 4617 would authorize the Secretary to make or accept cash payments to equalize the value of property exchanged, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO expects that any such payments exchanged under H.R. 4617 would be negligible.

Conveying federal land under H.R. 4617 could reduce offsetting receipts if, under current law, that land would generate income under programs to develop natural resources. Based on information from the Forest Service, however, CBO expects that any federal land exchanged under H.R. 4617 would be highly unlikely to produce any significant income over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that completing the proposed exchanges would not significantly affect offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending).

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