



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 27, 2003

S. 924

A bill to authorize the exchange of lands between an Alaska Native Village Corporation and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 25, 2003

CBO estimates that enacting S. 924 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be negligible. S. 924 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.

S. 924 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the surface and subsurface estate to 10,943 acres of federal lands in Alaska to the Newtok Native Corporation. In exchange, the corporation would convey the surface estate to 12,101 acres of lands and relinquish its claim to 4,956 acres of other lands that it has selected under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Under S. 924, the Calista Regional Corporation, another Alaska Native corporation, could select additional subsurface rights to certain lands if the proposed land exchange affects that corporation's existing entitlement to certain subsurface rights.

Based on information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CBO estimates that completing the proposed exchange would increase the agency's costs by less than \$500,000, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Conveying lands and interests to the tribal corporations could result in forgone offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) if, under current law, those lands and interests would generate income from programs to develop natural resources. According to the agency, however, the lands and interests that would be conveyed under the bill currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years. Hence, we estimate that any forgone offsetting receipts under S. 924 would be negligible.

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