



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 9, 2009

H.R. 1471

A bill to expand the boundary of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in the state of Georgia, to redesignate the unit as a National Historic Park, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on September 30, 2009

H.R. 1471 would expand the boundaries of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, Georgia, by about 30 acres. The National Park Service (NPS) could acquire that acreage (or lesser property interests such as easements) by purchase or donation. In addition, the legislation would change the name of the site to the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park.

Based on information from the NPS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1471 would cost about \$17 million over the next five years, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. We estimate that the NPS would spend about \$1 million of this amount over the next three years to purchase less than 10 acres of land around the current site. (We expect that about 20 acres would be donated, including the Billy Carter Service Station Museum, the Georgia Welcome Center, and a former home of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.) We also estimate that the NPS would spend \$10 million over the next few years for planning and for constructing and rehabilitating buildings, facilities, and trails. Finally, we estimate that the NPS would spend about \$2 million annually to manage the new areas. Enacting H.R. 1471 would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

CBO expects that H.R. 1471 would impose no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Under UMRA, if the Secretary of the Interior acquires private property by means of condemnation, such an action would constitute a private-sector mandate. However, the NPS indicates that it expects to acquire properties for the expansion area through other means (such as donation or purchase).

If the Secretary uses condemnation to acquire a property, the cost of the mandate would be equal to its value. Since the value of property in the expansion area that could be obtained by condemnation is about \$1 million, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandate, if imposed, would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$139 million in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.