



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

December 2, 2010

H.R. 4973
National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010
*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on November 30, 2010*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4973 would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million annually over the 2011-2014 period to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for volunteer and partnership programs. Under those programs, the USFWS coordinates the activities of local volunteers, nonprofit organizations, state or local agencies, and other entities that support wildlife refuges.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4973 would cost \$8 million over the 2011-2015 period. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 4973 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4973 is shown 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					2011-2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	0	8
Estimated Outlays	2	2	2	2	0	8

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4973 will be enacted near the end of calendar year 2010 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the program.

Authorization for USFWS's volunteer and partnership programs expired at the end of fiscal year 2009. In recent years, the agency has received annual funding of about \$2 million, the authorized amount.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4973 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 June 29, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4973 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 16, 2010. The two pieces of legislation are identical, and the estimated costs are the same.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

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