



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 17, 2012

**H.R. 1545
Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on November 17, 2011*

H.R. 1545 would establish the Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas. The legislation would prohibit the use of federal funds to implement the bill, and the site's designation as a unit of the National Park System would terminate if the Secretary of the Interior determines that federal funds are required to operate and maintain the monument. The legislation would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire land for the monument by donation. H.R. 1545 also would require the NPS to prepare a management plan for the monument within three years of enactment of the legislation. Enacting H.R. 1545 could affect direct spending if funds for the monument's operation are donated and spent by the NPS; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO estimates, however, that any net impact in direct spending would be insignificant. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that about 5 acres of land owned by the city of Waco would be donated to the NPS within the next three years; the remainder of the approximately 110-acre site would remain in nonfederal ownership. We further assume that other costs to develop visitor facilities within the monument—an estimated \$8 million—would be borne by the city or other nonfederal entities.

Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1545 would cost \$1 million over the next three years and about \$400,000 a year thereafter. The \$1 million would be used to develop a management plan and to establish the site as a national monument. Beginning in 2015, \$400,000 would be needed for the federal share of annual operating costs. The bill's prohibition on the use of federal funds for operations would require that those costs be financed through nonfederal sources. If nonfederal funds do not become available to implement the legislation, ownership of the site would revert back to the city of Waco, and the site would terminate as a unit of the National Park System. In any event, CBO estimates that the legislation would have an insignificant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 1545 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.

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