



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 3, 2013

H.R. 908 **Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on July 31, 2013*

H.R. 908 would prevent the Forest Service from removing a building from the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area in Washington state unless the agency determines that the structure is unsafe for visitors. Based on information provided by the Forest Service, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant net impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 908 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

In 2012, a federal court ordered the Forest Service to remove a lookout structure from Green Mountain, located in the wilderness area. Under the bill, the agency would be authorized to remove the structure only if it poses a risk to public safety. Because the lookout was recently reconstructed, CBO expects that, under the bill, the agency would allow the structure to remain on the mountain for several years. As a result, CBO estimates, the Forest Service would not need to spend about \$200,000 in appropriated funds to remove the structure; the amounts required to maintain the structure over the next five years would be minimal.

H.R. 908 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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