



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 7, 2017

**H.R. 618
Cragg, Colorado Land Exchange Act of 2017**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on March 30, 2017*

H.R. 618 would require the Forest Service to exchange, at the request of a private entity, 82 acres of federal lands in the Pike National Forest for 320 acres of private lands in that forest. Because CBO expects that the parcels would have a similar value per acre, we estimate that the total value of the private lands would exceed the value of the affected federal lands. Under the act, the federal government would not be required to compensate the private entity to make up for that difference. However, CBO expects that the Forest Service will receive annual payments of a little more than \$30,000 for a special use permit on the affected federal parcel.

On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 618 would reduce offsetting receipts, which are treated as reductions in direct spending, by about \$350,000 over the 2017-2027 period; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting H.R. 618 would not affect revenues.

Because H.R. 618 would require the private entity to pay any administrative costs associated with the land exchange and CBO expects that any updates to maps or signage would be completed in conjunction with scheduled reprinting and routine maintenance, we estimate that implementing the act would not affect discretionary spending.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 618 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The act would authorize a land exchange between the federal government and a private business, which would have a small incidental effect on property taxes collected by local governments in Colorado. That effect, however, would not result from an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA.

On April 7, 2017, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 280, the Craggs, Colorado Land Exchange Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 30, 2017. H.R. 618 and S. 280 are similar and CBO's cost estimate for each piece of legislation is the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jeff LaFave (for federal costs) and Jon Sperl (for intergovernmental mandates). This estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.