

H.R. 255, Big Bear Land Exchange Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 1, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	n.e.
Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
n.e. = not estimated; * = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 255 would direct the Forest Service to exchange, at the request of San Bernardino County, California, 73 acres of federal land in the San Bernardino National Forest for 71 acres of land owned by the county. The bill would require the county to pay any administrative costs associated with the land exchange.

H.R. 255 also would direct the Forest Service to relocate a portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail that is currently located on the federal lands to be exchanged. Using information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that relocating the trail would cost less than \$500,000; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Most of those costs would be for environmental reviews and trail construction.

Enacting H.R. 255 could affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. CBO expects that the value of the federal lands to be conveyed would exceed the value of the county lands. Under the bill, the county would be required to adjust the acreage of the land exchange or to make a cash equalization payment. Any payments would be recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts, which are treated as reductions in direct spending, and would be available to the Forest Service to spend without further appropriation for acquiring land within the San Bernardino National Forest. CBO estimates that any such payment would be offset by subsequent direct spending; thus, the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.