



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 12, 2009

### **H.R. 118** **A bill to authorize the addition of 100 acres** **to Morristown National Historical Park**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources  
on October 28, 2009*

H.R. 118 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire an additional 100 acres of land for the Morristown National Historical Park (MNHP). CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost about \$10 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The 1,700-acre Morristown National Historical Park consists of four non-contiguous units in heavily populated northern New Jersey. Under H.R. 118, the NPS would acquire up to 100 acres for the MNHP as properties located near one of the park units become available for donation or sale from willing landowners. Acquired properties would remain in their natural state and would be used to buffer the park from local development.

Based on recent sale prices of land near the MNHP, CBO estimates that acquiring land under H.R. 118 would cost the NPS about \$10 million over the next five years. For this estimate, we assume that 9 acres of land would be donated to the NPS and that the remaining 91 acres would be purchased. Total acquisition costs could be lower if more acreage can be acquired by donation or, alternatively, protected by purchasing conservation easements.

Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that additional costs to revise signs, maps, and other materials would be less than \$100,000. We estimate that annual costs to administer newly acquired properties would be minimal.

The bill 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 Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.