



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 14, 2009

H.R. 3433

An act to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the nonfederal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that act, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on December 10, 2009*

H.R. 3433 would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to accept contributions from Canada for the nonfederal share of funding for projects carried out under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3433 would not affect the federal budget.

Under NAWCA, the USFWS makes grants to nonfederal entities such as nonprofit organizations for projects to protect migratory bird habitat in North America, conduct research and monitoring, and provide education. The act requires that up to half of the cost of each project, which may be carried out in Canada or Mexico, must be contributed by nonfederal sources, and projects in Canada must be funded in U.S. dollars. H.R. 3433 would allow a portion of the nonfederal funding of NAWCA projects in Canada to be paid in Canadian dollars. The bill would not change the amounts authorized to be appropriated under NAWCA (currently, \$75 million a year through 2012) or provide any other funding. For fiscal year 2010, \$48 million has been appropriated for the program.

The legislation 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.

On October 5, 2009, CBO provided a cost estimate for H.R. 3433, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 30, 2009. The two pieces of legislation are identical as are the estimated costs.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.