



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 15, 2010

H.R. 3954 **Florida National Forest Land Adjustment Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on March 3, 2010

H.R. 3954 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain activities related to the management of federal land in Florida. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3954 would have no significant impact on discretionary spending. Enacting the legislation could increase offsetting receipts and direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that the net effects would be insignificant for each year.

Section 2 of the bill would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to eliminate restrictions on the use of roughly 290,000 acres of land previously conveyed to the state of Florida as part of the Blackwater River and Withlacoochee State Forests. Under current law, the state must use those lands for public purposes. Under the bill, that restriction would be lifted. Based on information from the Forest Service, lifting that restriction would reduce federal oversight responsibilities related to managing those lands. CBO expects that the costs of carrying out those activities would be minimal, and we estimate that implementing this provision would not significantly affect the federal budget.

Section 3 would authorize the Forest Service to exchange up to 1,535 acres of federal land in Florida for 1,156 acres owned by the state of Florida. According to the Forest Service, any lands that would be exchanged under the bill do not currently generate receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years. As a result, CBO estimates that implementing this provision also would not affect the federal budget.

Section 4 would authorize the Secretary to sell approximately 114 acres of Forest Service land in Florida. Any proceeds from the sale of those lands would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). Under the bill, those proceeds would be available to the Forest Service without further appropriation to purchase various inholdings (privately held land surrounded by Forest Service land) in the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida. CBO expects that the Forest Service would spend those

proceeds over the next 10 years. Therefore, the sale of those lands would have no net impact on direct spending.

Section 4 also would allow the Secretary to use proceeds from the sale of certain land authorized to be sold under the Florida National Forest Land Management Act to acquire, construct, and maintain Forest Service buildings in Florida. Under current law, the Forest Service can use those proceeds to purchase land inholdings or to cover administrative expenses. CBO estimates that implementing this provision would have no significant impact on the federal budget because any receipts generated by the sale of those lands may already be spent by the Forest Service.

H.R. 3954 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 Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.