



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 11, 2010

H.R. 3388 **Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Modification Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on August 5, 2010*

H.R. 3388 would expand the area of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia by more than 7,000 acres. The act would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the land by purchase, easement, exchange, or donation from private and non-profit landowners, and through a land transfer from the Department of the Army.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3388 would cost about \$5 million over the 2011-2015 period, mostly to acquire some of the 7,000 acres proposed to be included in the National Battlefield. Currently NPS estimates that the entire parcel has a value of about \$30 million and would take 15 to 20 years to acquire. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO expects that more than half of the property would be acquired through purchase (at a cost of about \$20 million over the next 15 to 20 years.), while the rest would be acquired through easements and donations. In addition, CBO estimates that NPS would spend less than \$500,000 annually for new trails, exhibits, surveys, and studies as the new acreage is acquired. Finally, we estimate that NPS would need about \$500,000 annually for operations and management costs. Enacting H.R. 3388 would have no effect on direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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 November 23, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3388 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 18, 2009. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, and CBO estimates their costs would be the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.