



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 6, 2009

H.R. 715 **Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on July 9, 2009*

H.R. 715 would expand the boundaries of the Saguaro National Park in Arizona by about 975 acres. The bill also would require the National Park Service (NPS), which manages the park, to conduct a study to identify other property that should be included in future boundary adjustments.

Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 715 would cost the federal government about \$30 million over the next five years. Most of that amount would be used to acquire the proposed acreage, assuming all 11 properties in the acquisition area were purchased rather than acquired by exchange or donation. (The NPS may be able to acquire some parcels by donation; if so, total costs would be lower.) We estimate that the cost of developing and administering the added acreage would not be significant. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 715 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

If the Secretary of the Interior acquires any of the property within the expansion area by means of condemnation, H.R. 715 would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. The cost of the mandate would be equal to the value of the property. Since that aggregate value is about \$30 million, the cost of the mandate, if imposed, would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$139 million in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation). However, testimony from affected parties indicates the landowners want to be included in the park; therefore, CBO estimates that the bill would likely impose no mandate.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis (for federal costs) and Amy Petz (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.