



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 21, 2000

H.R. 940

**An act to designate the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area,
and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on June 7, 2000*

H.R. 940 would establish the Lackawanna Valley and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania. The act would direct the National Park Service (NPS) to execute agreements with two local associations that would serve as management entities for the new areas. The two entities would develop management plans for the heritage areas, which would include an inventory of resources and recommendations for financing, managing, and protecting each area and its resources. The NPS would provide technical and financial assistance to the management entities and approve or disapprove the management plans. Finally, the act would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million annually for each heritage area, but would cap the total authorization for each area at \$10 million.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the NPS would provide each of the two heritage areas with \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2010, for a total cost of \$20 million. Such amounts would be used to cover a portion of the costs of establishing, operating, and interpreting the two heritage areas. Implementing H.R. 940 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 940 would impose new intergovernmental mandates on the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, a public entity, and new private-sector mandates on the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, a private entity. The act would require those organizations to develop management plans for the heritage areas and to undertake certain activities to assist local governments and other organizations. Those requirements would be mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

CBO estimates that the costs imposed by the new mandates would be far below the thresholds established by UMRA (\$55 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$109 million for private-sector mandates in 2000, adjusted annually for inflation). Further,

the legislation would authorize appropriations to cover up to 50 percent of total spending for these activities. H.R. 940 would impose no costs on other state, local, or tribal governments.

On August 2, 1999, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 940, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 21, 1999. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, and the costs are identical.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact), and Jean Wooster (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.