



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 27, 2003

H.R. 1409

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Land Exchange Act of 2002

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 15, 2003

H.R. 1409 would require the National Park Service (NPS) to exchange 143 acres of land (known as the Ravensford tract) within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway for a 218-acre parcel (Yellow Face tract) owned by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. The bill also would authorize the NPS to execute cooperative agreements with the band to facilitate management of the Ravensford tract by providing training on resource preservation and interpretation.

CBO estimates that the federal government would not incur any significant cost to carry out the required land exchange, implement cooperative agreements with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, or develop or administer the 218-acre addition to the park. We further estimate that enactment of the bill would not affect revenues or direct spending. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the properties to be exchanged would be determined by NPS to be roughly equal in value (less than \$700,000) although final appraisals of the two tracts have not been approved by the NPS. In any event, we do not expect that any equalization payments would be made to complete the land exchange. This estimate is based on information provided by the NPS and the Eastern Band of Cherokees.

H.R. 1409 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. This exchange would benefit the tribe, and any costs they would incur to comply with conditions included in the bill would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.