



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

October 28, 1998

**S. 1718**

**An act to amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to authorize the acquisition of additional acreage for the historic site to permit the development of visitor and administrative facilities and to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts for the acquisition of real and personal property, and for other purposes**

*As cleared by the Congress on October 14, 1998*

Section 2 of S. 1718 would require the Secretary of the Interior to purchase 3,800 acres of land in eastern Utah as soon as practicable after the legislation's enactment. For this purpose, this section would authorize the Secretary to use up to \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). It also would require the Secretary to convey the newly acquired ranch to the state of Utah upon receiving one-half of the purchase price or state lands of the same value.

By including a direction to pay and specifying a source of funds for the payment (without requiring that such funds be subject to any future appropriation action), section 2 would directly appropriate \$5 million from the LWCF. As a result, CBO estimates that this provision would increase direct spending by \$5 million in fiscal year 1999. Up to \$2.5 million of this spending could be offset by a cash payment from Utah, but CBO believes that the state is much more likely to convey to the United States property of sufficient value to meet the exchange requirements.

Section 4 would provide for a land exchange between the Secretary of the Interior and a nonfederal landowner. Each party would exchange about eight acres of property at or near the El Portal administrative site at Yosemite. The act specifies that any difference in the value of the two parcels would be made up by a cash equalization payment or a provision of goods or services. If this provision results in any cash payments to the federal government, offsetting receipts (a form of direct spending) would increase. CBO estimates, however, that such payment is unlikely to occur and would in any case be less than \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.