



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 15, 2014

### **H.R. 2208**

### **North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 9, 2014*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2208 would authorize the appropriation of \$35 million a year through 2018 for programs carried out under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) uses amounts appropriated under NAWCA primarily for grants to state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and other entities that carry out wetlands conservation projects.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$110 million over the 2015-2019 period and \$30 million after 2019. Enacting H.R. 2208 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 2208 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2208 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the end of 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for this program.

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015-
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019

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**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	35	35	35	35	0	140
Estimated Outlays	12	20	27	35	16	110

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a. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received appropriations totaling \$34 million in fiscal year 2014 to carry out activities under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 2208 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Enacting this legislation would benefit state, local, and tribal governments because they would receive a portion of any authorized amounts.

**PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On February 28, 2014, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 741, the North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act of 2014. The two bills are similar; however, the Senate version of the legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$55 million a year through 2019. In addition, CBO assumed that S. 741 would be enacted earlier in 2014 and that supplemental appropriations would be provided in that year. The CBO cost estimates reflect those differences.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Jeff LaFave  
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell  
 Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Theresa Gullo  
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis