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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3-10-09
 SPONSOR Steinborn LAST UPDATED 3-11-09 HM 83
 SHORT TITLE Complete Rio Grande Trail SB _____
 ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	\$1.0	\$1.5	\$5.0	\$7.5	Non- recurring	State Parks Operating

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)¹

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 83 resolves that the proposed Rio Grande trail be completed as soon as possible for the benefit of present and future generations. The legislation further resolves:

1. that the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department be requested to study long-term funding options for the construction and management of the Rio Grande trail and to present its findings to the legislature by December 1, 2009;

¹ Agency comments requested on 3-7-09. Upon receipt, FIR will be updated.

2. that William Porter – former New Mexico state representative from Dona Ana county, and advocate for the concept of the Rio Grande trail – be honored and recognized for his outstanding contribution to the conceptualization and realization of this project;

3. that the state parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the county of Dona Ana collaborate in order to honor Representative Porter in an appropriate fashion at some point along the Rio Grande trail within Dona Ana county; and

4. that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, to the chair of the Dona Ana county commission and to former state Representative William Porter.

There is no appropriation attached to this legislation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

EMNRD indicates that there would be costs to prepare the requested study, though they would be relatively minor (estimated at \$2.5). SPD has done some informal research as mandated by HM 83. There would be costs to deciding how and where to honor former Rep. Porter in some fashion along the RGT. Options would probably include a plaque or similar marker (estimated cost of \$5.0), but the cost could be much higher, depending on the method selected to honor Mr. Porter.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As background, EMNRD notes that The Rio Grande Trail (RGT) is a proposed multi-use trail that would run along as much of the river corridor through New Mexico as is feasible and appropriate. The Legislature endorsed the RGT project in House Joint Memorial 49 and Senate Joint Memorial 44 in the 2007 session, and has provided funding for the first phases of this project. EMNRD further indicates that:

1. The most important finding of the 2004 New Mexico Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan was that more and better trails are the #1 outdoor recreation priorities for New Mexicans. New Mexicans want more trails where they live, work, and play. Trails are excellent recreation resources for all people of all ages. Trails can also stimulate economic development, help improve the quality of life in communities and promote healthy lifestyles. Completing the RGT will help achieve these goals; and

2. SPD has completed preliminary planning for the proposed RGT sections between Bernalillo and Sunland Park, New Mexico. Since 2004, when the RGT was first proposed, SPD has moved this project forward with funds from two main sources: state capital outlay and federal funding from the Recreational Trails Program. Completing a large project such as the RGT, which would traverse several hundred miles, will require a sustained commitment of resources over time. SPD expects that the funds necessary for this effort could come from local, state, federal, and private sources. A study such as requested in HM 83 would be useful in assembling and then evaluating the available funding options.

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EMNRD concludes that, “Former Rep. William Porter was, in fact, an early proponent of the concept of the RGT and helped acquire some land in Dona Ana County currently owned by SPD that is astride the likely route of the RGT through the county. It would be fitting to recognize him in some fashion along the RGT.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

EMNRD states, “SPD is not likely to complete the tasks requested in HM 83 during 2009.”

AMENDMENTS

None suggested by respondent.

BW/mt