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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/05/13  
 SPONSOR Dodge LAST UPDATED 02/21/13 HB 344  
 SHORT TITLE Feral Hog Eradication SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST Roberts

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$250.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Companion to House Joint Memorial 28

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Game & Fish  
 New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 State Land Office (SLO)  
 Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 344 appropriates \$250 thousand dollars from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to fund expenses related to the eradication of feral hogs.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMDA reports it established the cooperative feral hog eradication team based on a cooperative multijurisdictional model that includes the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), the SLO, the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, the Federal Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, the DOH, the NMLB, the Department of Game and Fish, and many industry and county partners.

According to the NMDA the function of the cooperative feral hog eradication team is to use available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate those resources to eradicate feral hogs in New Mexico. The cooperative feral hog eradication team will approach eradication of the feral hogs using a systematic removal of feral hogs from priority areas. Monitoring will reduce the likelihood of reinvasion and will increase success.

Feral hogs alter and damage habitat by causing erosion, uprooting native plants, spreading noxious weeds, damaging river and stream banks, and directly competing for resources important to wildlife. Feral hogs are aggressive predators that prey on nongame and game animals such as reptiles and ground-nesting birds, as well as larger prey such as deer and antelope fawns; they may also be a threat to local populations of threatened and endangered species.

The USDA-APHIS has allocated one million dollars to New Mexico for initial eradication efforts.

The SLO adds:

The appropriation in HB344 will complement the special appropriation request. The USDA APHIS-Wildlife Services has limited funding that is being collaboratively leveraged via the cooperative feral hog eradication team where the SLO is represented by the Commissioner of Public Lands. Since the land maintenance fund can only be used on state trust lands additional funding is needed to address the problem in a comprehensive manner. The SLO is engaged in multi-agency efforts to remove feral pigs in a humane manner and assess the location and impact of feral pigs on state trust land.

The DOH adds:

Feral hogs are a significant public health concern and can also transmit diseases to pets and livestock.

- Feral hogs are capable of carrying over 30 viral and bacteriological diseases, 20 of which are zoonotic (transmissible to humans). Hunters that shoot and process feral hogs have the greatest chance of being exposed to one of these diseases, though surface water contaminated by feral hogs can also put people, pets, and livestock at risk for exposure to these diseases.
- Diseases that New Mexico residents may be exposed to if handling feral hogs or in close association with feral hogs, their urine, feces, or other body fluids include bacterial diseases such as brucellosis, leptospirosis, and salmonellosis; viral diseases such as influenza and hepatitis E; and parasitic diseases such as cryptosporidium, giardia, and trichinella.

- Many of these diseases can be severe, debilitating, and life threatening, especially for very young children, the elderly, or those who have other underlying medical conditions and compromised immune systems.
- Feral hogs in 4 NM counties (Harding, Chaves, Quay, and Eddy) have been found infected with pseudorabies, a significant livestock disease that can cause mortality in cattle. Swine brucellosis has been confirmed in Eddy County, and Hepatitis E in Curry County.

The DOH further adds:

At least three quarters of New Mexico is considered suitable habitat for feral hogs. Feral hogs in NM have expanded from 2 counties in 1988 to 17 counties in 2012. Feral hogs may have 2 litters per year with sows becoming reproductive at approximately 6 months of age. There are 2 major river corridors (Pecos and Canadian) which facilitate natural migration from TX. Feral hogs have been trucked in from other states, and moved from county to county in N.M. It is illegal to import, transport, breed, release, sell, and commercially hunt feral pigs in NM.

Feral hog populations are incredibly adaptive and learn to avoid removal efforts very quickly after encountering them. They are best removed using a step-wise process that takes into account their ability to learn and avoid various control methods. The hogs can be removed through a variety of methods including trapping, shooting, aerial hunting, snaring, and hunting with hounds. However, feral hogs will only be eradicated through an integrated approach using all of the available legal methods.

Feral hogs are expanding their populations on private, public and tribal land throughout the state of NM. The hogs are an invasive species capable of destroying natural areas and ecology through competition, predation and mechanical disturbance. They exist on land managed for native species by the United State Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the New Mexico State Land Office, and the United State Fish and Wildlife Service. Feral hogs can only be eradicated through interagency cooperation.

Annually, feral hogs cause over one billion dollars in damage in the United States.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The DOH reports that this bill is related to the department's FY14 strategic plan Goal 1) Improve Health Outcomes for the People of New Mexico.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Board of Regents of New Mexico State University would be responsible for administering the funds to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to fund expenses related to the eradication of feral hogs. Additionally, the SLO will work collaboratively with multiple agencies including the NMDA to target hog populations for removal based on priority areas.

## **COMPANIONSHIP**

This bill relates to House Joint Memorial 28 which requests that the state continue to take action to support the efforts of the feral hog eradication team in eradicating feral hog populations in

New Mexico and educating citizens of the state regarding the severe negative impacts that feral hogs have on the economy, the environment, and public health.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The SLO cites that the department is requesting a special appropriation of \$250,000 in House Bill 2 however it is not yet adopted but is recommended only in the executive recommendation.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The NMLB cites that failure to address the feral hog species will result in increasing and continued growth of the population and decline in habitat grazing, and water and livestock health issues.

MIR/svb:blm