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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/07/13

SPONSOR Steinborn LAST UPDATED _____ HM 90

SHORT TITLE LFC Evaluation of Game & Fish Department SB _____

ANALYST Wojahn

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI					

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 90 (HM 90) requests that the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) conduct an expeditious performance evaluation of the Department of Game & Fish (DGF). The LFC would evaluate the DGF's resources, policies and compliance with the Wildlife Conservation Act and other applicable state laws related to wildlife and ecosystem management and protection.

HM 90 requests the LFC findings of the performance evaluation be presented in a report to the appropriate interim committees and published on the GFD website.

Further, HM 90 requests the LFC to adopt additional performance measures to use when evaluating the DGF. Specifically;

- the number of hours department staff members devoted to working specifically on threatened and endangered species during the current and previous five calendar years;
- a list of species recovery plans currently in development by the department;
- the progress of the department's implementation of programs initiated by the department that relate to wildlife and ecosystem management and protection;
- the habitat restoration efforts undertaken by the department to specifically benefit threatened and endangered species;
- identification of current funding used by the department to support recovery and management of threatened and endangered species

- the activities currently being undertaken by the department to identify species that might warrant protection;
- the efforts currently being undertaken by the department to help achieve sufficient populations and habitats so species will not be listed as endangered pursuant to state or federal laws;
- the funding and grants that the department has sought and is currently seeking to work on restoration and recovery programs related to the Wildlife Conservation Act and other applicable New Mexico statutes related to wildlife and ecosystem management;
- the department’s participation in multi-agency conservation efforts; and
- the status of the department’s biennial review, required by the Wildlife Conservation Act, of the state’s list of endangered species.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to HM 90, the DGF has altered its implementation of the directives of the Wildlife Conservation Act, including the directive to develop and implement recovery plans for listed species and the directive to actively seek funding to support conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HM 90 requests that the LFC “adopt” additional performance measures to use to evaluate the DGF but the memorial does not specify whether the aforementioned measures should be used in the requested evaluation or “adopted” to be used as part of the DGF performance-based budgeting in compliance with the Accountability in Government Act (AGA).

Although the mission of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) is to provide the Legislature with objective fiscal and public policy analyses, recommendations, and oversight of state agencies to improve performance and to ensure accountability through the effective allocation of resources for the benefit of all New Mexicans, performance-based budgeting uses measures are driven by the executive.

This mission derives in part from Section 6-3A NMSA 1978, the Accountability in Government Act (AGA), which states agencies should be evaluated for their performance in achieving desired outputs and outcomes and in efficiently operating programs. The purpose is to improve program coordination, eliminate duplicate programs or activities, and provide better information to the governor, the Legislature, and the public. Section 2-5-3 NMSA grants LFC broad statutory authority to examine laws governing the finances and operations of departments, agencies, and institutions of New Mexico and all of its political subdivisions.

The AGA establishes the framework for performance-based budgeting (PBB), which provides agencies with budget flexibility to meet desired outcomes of state programs. The AGA states agencies should

- Be held accountable for the services and products they deliver in accordance with clearly defined mission, goals, and objectives;
- Develop performance measures for evaluating performance and assessing progress in achieving goals and objectives that are integrated into the planning and budgeting process and maintained on an ongoing basis; and

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- Strive to keep the citizens of this state informed of the public benefits derived from the delivery of agency services and products and of the progress agencies are making toward improving performance.

MEW/blm