

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos **LAST UPDATED** _____
ORIGINAL DATE 3/1/23
SHORT TITLE Amalia Fish Hatchery **BILL** _____
NUMBER Senate Bill 478
ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$10,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
			\$1,000.0	\$1,000.0	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bills 197 and 486 and Senate Bills 9 and 254
 Relates to appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 478

Senate Bill 478 (SB478) appropriates \$10 million from the general fund to the Department of Game and Fish to design and build a fish hatchery near Amalia. This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$10 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall not revert to the general fund.

The Department of Game and Fish, which did not request funding for a hatchery, reports annual operating costs for the hatchery would be \$1 million. Operations for DGF are paid for from the game protection fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DGF notes it would have to identify a suitable source of water and acquire water rights and land to build the hatchery near the community west of Costillo in Taos County near the border with Colorado.

The department operates six fish hatcheries:

- Glenwood near Reserve, which raises only sterile female rainbow trout for stocking rivers where interbreeding with native fish is not desired;
- Lisboa Springs near Pecos, which releases about 136 thousand catchable rainbow trout a year;
- Los Ojos south of Chama, capable of raising 3 million trout fingerlings per year;
- Red River north of Taos, the state’s largest hatchery capable of raising 1.7 million rainbow trout a year and sterile female trout;
- Rock Lake south of Santa Rosa, which raises bass, walleye, catfish, bluegills, and tiger muskies along with trout; and
- Seven Springs north of Fenton Lake in the Jemez Mountains, which produces and distributes native Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Fish hatchery output is among the agency’s performance measures in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 (General Appropriation Act). The agency has met the target for the last two years. Adding to hatchery capacity should allow for the target to be raised.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

DGF would receive \$48.2 million in total revenue for operations in FY24 under the House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2.

SB478 relates to House Bill 197, which increases the number of free fishing days; House Bill 486 and Senate Bill 254, which both increase some fishing fees; and Senate Bill 9, which creates the “legacy” fund to support operations at DGF and other natural resources agencies.

HG/mg/ne