



With the recent proliferation of West Nile Virus cases nationwide and in New Mexico, mosquito abatement and control is especially important. The bill will provide funding for a traditionally unfunded program, thus encouraging additional abatement methods to be implemented where none currently exist.

Although not a part of the appropriation, DGF notes that it is crucial the department is involved to ensure that inappropriate fish species are not introduced into waters harboring protected or game fish. Current statute prohibits the stocking of fish in public waters without prior written permission of DGF.

DGF notes that no facilities currently exist to propagate mosquito eating fish if species currently bred in state are unable to meet the intent of the statute. Lacking this capability, NMED may have to purchase these fish from private breeders.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$180 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2005 shall revert to the general fund.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMED notes mosquito abatement is currently conducted on an as-time-allows basis by NMED field staff, as the program has not been funded for over 15 years. Any administrative impact due to 414/HENRCS would be absorbed by existing staff in the pertinent program.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The legislature may wish to consider the following changes:

Page 1, Line 20 – strike “in its field operations division 1, 2, 3 and 4”

**PA/dm:yr:lg**