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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cisneros DATE TYPED 2/22/2005 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Acquire Land Near State Parks SB 468/aSCONC

ANALYST Aguilar

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	State Parks Operat- ing fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SCONC Amendment

The Senate Conservation Committee amendment adds a provision requiring the State Parks Division to consult with local governmental entities on land acquisition activities.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 468 provides the State Parks Division authority to acquire lands adjacent or contiguous to existing state parks if the lands will become part of the park without requiring legislative approval for each purchase. These lands could be acquired through donation or purchase from willing sellers with State Board of Finance (SBF) approval, if adequate state park funds are available.

SB 468 makes technical changes to language.

Significant Issues

State Parks Division (SPD) reports SB 468 will enhance the division's ability to improve state parks by giving the agency tools to be more responsive, flexible, and proactive. In many instances, opportunities for land acquisition, either through donation or purchase from willing sellers, occur when the Legislature is not in session. This bill will enhance SPD's ability to protect such lands from development or capitalize on expanded park recreational, educational and resource protection opportunities. In addition, delays in the acquisition process can significantly increase the State's costs. SB 468 would remedy these problems and produce timelier, less costly outcomes for the State of New Mexico.

This bill only affects land acquisition on parcels adjacent or contiguous to existing state parks or recreational areas. For SPD to acquire lands, the process requires State Board of Finance review and approval and SPD can only acquire lands if adequate funds are available. SB 468 does not modify language relating to new parks. The division will still be required to seek legislative approval for any new park initiatives. SPD will still be required to perform all feasibility requirements for acquisition of lands as currently stated in existing law, demonstrating the viability of new parks to the legislature prior to any new park approval.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

One of State Parks key performance measures involve park visitation and revenue. Appropriate acquisitions may allow SPD to offer diverse recreational and educational opportunities that are not currently available at some parks.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The acquisition of new land parcel expanding state parks may result in additional use of the park, thereby generating additional revenue. The amount generated is indeterminate at this time and will require analysis when parcels are purchased.

PA/lg:yr