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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

<b>SPONSOR</b>	<u>King</u>	<b>ORIGINAL DATE</b>	<u>2-5-06</u>	<b>HB</b>	<u>748</u>
	<u>FISH &amp; WILDLIFE SERVICE AFTER-SCHOOL</u>	<b>LAST UPDATED</b>			
<b>SHORT TITLE</b>	<u>PROGRAM</u>			<b>SB</b>	
				<b>ANALYST</b>	<u>Lucero</u>

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act  
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Game and Fish Department (GFD)  
 Public Education Department (PED)

#### No response Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 748 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for the purpose of contracting with an in- and after-school program in Bernalillo, Santa Fe and Torrance counties that coordinates programs with the United States fish and wildlife service.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any

unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Recent Public Education Department (PED) “Town Hall” meetings with the New Mexico Partnership for Mathematics & Science Education called for increased opportunities for both teachers and students of mathematics to translate knowledge from classroom experience to practical, timely and relevant applications.

Examples of these opportunities include internships, expanded laboratory experience and field-work.

Wilderness activities for underserved youth help children learn about the environment. Doing outdoor activities helps them appreciate the environment they're in and helps them to develop character.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

HB 748 appropriates funding for in- and after-school programs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The activities will improve student understanding of the biological sciences and provide valuable experiences both in the classroom and in field experiences.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Field trips may require additional staff and supervisory personnel. There will be additional costs involved for transportation.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has Project Wild and Aquatic Wild programs that provide environmental education and training to teachers and students from K-12. Some of the funding for Aquatic Wild comes from a federal grant administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is unclear if the programs referenced in the bill are the same or similar to the programs provided by Game and Fish. In discussions with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they currently have no existing programs that meet the expectation of this bill.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Southwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encompasses the four states of Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with a variety of partners -- other agencies, communities, tribal governments, conservation groups, business interests, landowners and concerned citizens in these four states -- to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The Southwest Region of the Fish and Wildlife Service includes a Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico; more than 40 National Wildlife Refuges; 8 National Fish Hatcheries, a Fish Health Center, and four Fishery Resources Offices; seven Ecological Services Field Offices; 19 Law Enforcement Offices; and five Border Inspection Stations. The Region employs nearly 900 individuals.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides programming conserving migratory birds, endangered species, fishery resources, and their habitats; providing biological advice to other agencies and industry concerning the conservation of fish and wildlife habitats; enforcing Federal laws that protect endangered species and other wildlife, including interstate/international trade; working with landowners and agriculture agencies to conserve wetlands and other wildlife habitat on private lands; operating more than 2.5 million acres in the region as part of the only network of federal lands managed primarily for wildlife by the National Wildlife Refuge System

The Torrance, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe area of the state provides important breeding habitat for enormous flocks of migrating Snow Geese, a large portion of the world's Sand hill Crane population, as well as many other Neotropical migrant and resident species including the familiar Roadrunner. New Mexico will celebrate IMBD at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque with bird walks, bird banding demonstrations, workshops on birding by ear, slide shows, presentations on beginning bird watching and identification, and backyard landscaping for hummingbirds and other birds. Participants can also take part in habitat restoration projects or the North American Migration Count, an all day bird count being held at various locations throughout Bernalillo County.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Appropriate to the Department of Game and Fish for enhancement of the Project Wild and Aquatic Wild programs.

DL/yr