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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/09/2007

SPONSOR Garcia, T. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB HM 53

SHORT TITLE Establishment of Sabinoso Wilderness SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Schuss

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |      | Recurring<br>or Non-Rec | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY07          | FY08 |                         |                  |
|               | NFI  |                         |                  |
|               |      |                         |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 53 requests that the New Mexico Delegation support the establishment of the Sabinoso Wilderness.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Memorial 53 states that the Sabinoso area is located approximately forty miles east of Las Vegas and twenty-five miles northwest of Conchas Lake State Park in San Miguel County. Approximately fifteen thousand acres of existing federal lands have been proposed as the Sabinoso Wilderness area and the proposed Sabinoso Wilderness encompasses the existing Sabinoso Wilderness study area and the Sabinoso area of critical environmental concern, both established by the Bureau of Land Management.

The area is characterized by long, deep canyons carved into sandstone mesas with the dominant feature of the area being the thousand-foot-deep Canon Largo, which connects to the Canadian River just outside the proposed area. The area contains exceptional scenery, including the area's many canyons and incredibly broad vistas across the eastern plains of the area and the area is home to a range of wildlife and game species, including mule deer, wild turkey, mourning dove, rabbit, bobcat, coyote and gray fox, and also supports a wide variety of birds, including red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, mountain chickadee and broad-tailed hummingbird, among many others. The establishment of the Sabinoso Wilderness area will provide continued opportunities

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for future generations of New Mexicans to enjoy recreation such as hunting, hiking, observing wildlife, horseback riding and experiencing solitude. No private lands will be included or adversely affected by the creation of the wilderness and the proposed Sabinoso Wilderness area protects existing traditional uses, including grazing and hunting. The proposed Sabinoso Wilderness area will provide sustainable economic opportunities for local individuals and communities, including hunting, guiding, bed and breakfasts and other economic benefits.

The House of Representatives of the State of New Mexico requests that the New Mexico Congressional Delegation be requested to support the creation of the Sabinoso Wilderness area and that the Bureau of Land Management be requested to work with the State Land Office and Department of Game and Fish to consolidate this unique habitat and to provide public access to the area for hunting and other pursuits.

BS/nt