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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/07

SPONSOR Komadina LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE Promote Wild Horse Tourism SB 368

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$80.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Tourism Department (NMTD)
Department of Game and Fish (DOGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 368 appropriates \$80 thousand from the general fund to the Tourism Department to promote wild horse tourism.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$80 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 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMTD notes that this appropriation would allow the agency to expand upon its mission of marketing New Mexico as an enchanting destination to the world. NMTD supports any initiative that encourages visitation to the state.

According to the Department of Game and Fish, depending on where the wild horse herds are located, the type of activity, and the time of year an activity is to take place, care should be taken that the associated tourism activity is not contrary to management of native wildlife species found in the area. For example, an activity that occurs in late spring or early summer may cause undue stress to calving or fawning ungulate species. Game and Fish can provide input to Tourism as activities are planned.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If this initiative increases tourism to the state, it will positively affect three key performance measures for NMTD—domestic tourism market share, the percent increase in lodger’s tax, and the economic impact of tourism in the state of New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

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