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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2007

SPONSOR Komadina LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Wild Horse Management and Tourism SB SJM 8

ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial Bill 8 requests improved management of wild horse herds and requests the development of tourism programs at national wild horse territories and other wild horse ranges. New Mexico started out with twelve national wild horse territories but now has only three territories. Wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are part of New Mexico's living heritage and history, but they are endangered and may become extinct in New Mexico. SJM 8 requests: (1) the development of three existing wild horse territories in New Mexico and the opening of other national wild horse territories in New Mexico where herds currently exist, (2) the maintenance of a minimum herd size of two hundred in each national wild horse territory for genetic viability and for tourism, (3) wild horse population control by the use of contraception rather than sale of excess animals, (4) the transfer of excess animals to other wild horse territories when overpopulation does exist; preferably in New Mexico, or placement with private or state wild horse preserves after DNA testing to determine if the horses are Spanish-line descendants, (5) that helicopters not be used in the state's rugged terrain to round up wild horses, especially during foaling season, and (6) that the federal government honor the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico by maintaining Spanish-line and other wild horse populations for the enjoyment and education of New Mexico residents and other visitors to the state.

SJM 8 requests that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the heads of the bureau of land management of the United States department of the interior and the forest service of the United States department of agriculture; the secretaries of the interior and agriculture; and the New Mexico congressional delegation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The wild horse population of New Mexico on federal lands in 1973 was over six thousand, but currently the total wild horse population of New Mexico on federal lands is under four hundred and is targeted at two hundred eighteen. Although tourism is the second-largest industry in the state, the national wild horse territories in New Mexico are not advertised by either the federal or state government. The state, in particular, is missing an opportunity to draw thousands of tourists from all over the world who are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the American west

AG/nt