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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/08

SPONSOR Rodella LAST UPDATED _____ HB 495

SHORT TITLE Wildlife Education & Rehab Programs SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	200.0	Non-Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis

House Bill 495 seeks to appropriate \$200,000 from the general fund to the Department of Game and Fish for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 for wildlife education programs and wildlife rehabilitation. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DGF indicates that the appropriation would expand wildlife education efforts currently being offered by the Department of Game and Fish; however that it is unclear from the bill how much of the funding is to be devoted to education and how much to rehabilitation. DGF adds that, due to the non-recurring nature of the funding, it could be used for goods and services, but not for funding personnel.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DGF notes that several wildlife education programs are included in the department's strategic plan, and a portion of the funding could improve the effectiveness of these existing programs, or create new initiatives.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DGF advises that wildlife education could continue under existing programs at an expanded level. Further, that the Department does not directly engage in wildlife rehabilitation as it lacks the physical facilities and the technical and professional expertise necessary to conduct this specialized activity. The appropriation could be used to expand funding of existing rehabilitation facilities such as the Wildlife Center in Espanola, and Wildlife Rescue, Inc., in Albuquerque.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Wildlife education and rehabilitation efforts will continue at current levels.

AMENDMENTS

DGF states, “Given that the Department lacks the internal capacity to conduct wildlife rehabilitation, the bill could be amended to stipulate that the Department may contract for such services.”

BFW/bb