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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01-30-08

SPONSOR Ingle LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Blackwater Draw Archaeological Site SJM 42

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	NA	15.0 ¹	NA	15.0	Non- Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 42 requests a study by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, State Parks Division, as to the feasibility of a long-term partnership with Eastern New Mexico University at the Blackwater Draw site, which would include analyzing its potential as a State Park. EMNRD is requested to present the study and its recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee by December 1, 2008.

There is no appropriation attached to this legislation.

¹ Cost projections are included in the agency response. See *Fiscal Implications* section for methodology.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

EMNED notes to undertake a study that would cost the State Parks Division (SPD) around \$15,000 in personnel and other costs (salary, travel, per diem, printing, etc.). SPD does not have available budget in FY08 to begin the study, SPD has not requested any funding in the FY09 budget to perform the requested study, and SJM 42 does not include any appropriations to SPD in order to conduct the study. If no funds are appropriated for either fiscal year, study costs would have to come out of the FY08 and FY09 operating budgets for SPD. Normally SPD estimates the cost of such a study at \$15,000, but because of the proximity to Oasis State Park and a prior working relationship, SPD believes the cost can be less than usually estimated.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As background, EMNRD indicates that the Blackwater Draw site near Portales is one of the best known Paleo-Indian sites in North America and is recognized internationally for its significance. Excavations at Blackwater Draw have uncovered some of the earliest evidence of human occupation in North America in association with now-extinct, late Pleistocene fauna, including the Columbian mammoth, bison antiquus, and dire wolf. This site was and continues to draw international scientific attention and visitation. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961.

EMNRD adds that the Blackwater Draw site is one mile from Oasis State Park, and Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) owns and manages the property. A partnership between SPD and ENMU at Blackwater Draw was begun in 2005, when the legislature authorized the expenditure of funds by SPD to improve facilities and educational opportunities at Blackwater Draw. In 2007, SPD expended \$74,000 at Blackwater Draw, constructing a group shelter and installing interpretive signs throughout the site.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

EMNRD states: “Without supplemental appropriations to complete the study, SPD will have to prioritize this study at the expense of other ongoing projects.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

No feasibility study will be prepared.

BFW/jp