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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-29-09

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED HJM 4

SHORT TITLE Wildlife Corridor Info Sharing SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
 State Land Office (SLO)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
 Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 4 describes the conservation importance of wildlife habitat corridors and the need for multiple public, tribal, and private partners to work together to protect such resources, prevent damage to property, damage to vehicles and injury and death to people. The legislation proposes that the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) lead a multi-agency effort, using existing resources, to plan and conduct a workshop to develop and share information gathered by the Western Governors' Association. Completion of such a workshop by September 1, 2009 will necessarily require participation, actions and costs by the agencies during late FY09 and early FY10.

HJM 4 will be transmitted to the Governor's Office, the State Land Commissioner, the Environment Department, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Economic Development Department, EMNRD, the Game and Fish Department, the Department of Public Safety, the Transportation Department, the Office of the State Engineer, the New Mexico Association of Counties and the New Mexico Municipal League.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HJM 4 calls for all work to be done with existing resources. Agency responses are summarized as follows:

EMNRD: costs to implement HJM 4 are expected to be \$3,500 to \$5,000.

DGF: There are no direct fiscal implications to the Department of Game and Fish from this Memorial. Some impacts to operating budget are anticipated based on staff time for participation in the workshop, and for compilation and provision of information to cooperators for mapping wildlife corridors and crucial habitats. Total operating budget impacts are estimated at \$2,000, based on an assumption of 8 person-days spent at an average cost of \$250/day. This staff time would be split between FY09 and FY10, and would be spent by existing FTEs.

SLO: HJM004 does not specify what level of time-commitment would be necessary for participation in the workshop. For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that up to two weeks worth of time or 80 man-hours would be allocated. The fiscal implications of participation in such a workshop are as follows: “Up to \$2,400.00 in labor costs would be incurred from paying a staff member to attend the workshop, and to engage in mapping efforts deemed necessary to meet the objectives of the workshop.” The fiscal implications of considering existing and future data about wildlife corridors into State Land Office planning decisions are as follows:

1. competing demands from potential customers for leasing certain tracts of land could arise;
2. the fair market value of certain rural tracts could go up as a result, and;
3. the SLO could be approached by interested parties on the prospect of selling or trading specific tracts that were identified within wildlife corridors.

DPS: No Fiscal Impact

OSE: No Fiscal Impact

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

EMNRD indicates that this topic is related to and is complementary to New Mexico’s involvement in the Western Governors’ Association (WGA) Wildlife Corridors Initiative. That initiative is focused on developing and sharing information about crucial habitat and important wildlife corridors to emphasize more consideration of wildlife habitat needs earlier in the process of making land use decisions.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATION

EMNRD adds that performance implications relate to the work associated with planning, convening and leading the workshop. HJM 4 will stimulate interagency information sharing and could enhance outcomes of species conservation efforts by the Department of Game and Fish, which is administratively attached to EMNRD.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

EMNRD notes that, “The legislation is based on a topic advanced by Wild Friends. Wild Friends, according to their web-site, is a network of students, teachers and mentors who support wildlife and seek common-ground solutions to wildlife issues.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

EMNRD suggests that public agencies and partners will not conduct the workshop indicated in HJM 4, but will likely engage in some level of information development and sharing as part of WGA Wildlife Corridors Initiative. The WGA Initiative includes a specific provision for an inter-partner workshop.

AMENDMENTS

None suggested.

BW/mt