F I S C A L I M P A C T R E P O R T

SPONSOR HHGAC **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/23/12 **LAST UPDATED** 01/30/12 **HB** 24/HHGACS

SHORT TITLE Amend Hunting and Fishing License Fees **SB**

ANALYST van Moorsel

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	**FY13**	**FY14**		
	($150.0)	($150.0)	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Game and Fish

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Health and Government Affairs Committee Substitute for House Bill 24 amends current law to restructure portions of the Department of Game and Fish's (DGF) hunting and fishing licensing program and amends provisions for the expenditure of money in the habitat management fund. Specifically, the bill:

- Eliminates the fee associated with the established "second rod stamp" for anglers;
- Establishes new fees for junior nonresident hunters who purchase deer and elk hunting licenses; $143.00 and $273.00 respectively;
- Eliminates the habitat management stamp and requires the DGF to add a habitat management fee that is not less than $9.00 to resident and nonresident hunting and fishing license fees and wildlife-associated recreation permits;
- Provides that not less than $1.00 of the habitat management fee be used to lease or purchase properties or acquire easements for hunting, fishing, or trapping;
- Limits the authorized use for habitat management funds to the improvement, maintenance, development, and operation of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management

(BLM) property and property managed pursuant to an agreement with the DGF.

- Requires that at not less than $5.00 of each habitat management fee received and appropriated for habitat improvement be expended for projects on USFS and BLM property and on administrative expenses associated with employing one full-time program manager.

- Prohibits the State Game Commission from adopting a rule that holds a hunter in violation for failure to possess a free permit issued by the Department except for those issued through a special drawing.

- Provides an effective date of April 1, 2013.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The DGF projects that enactment of HB24 would result in an up to $150,000 decrease in Game Protection Fund revenue due to the reduction of the nonresident junior deer and elk license fees and the elimination of the second rod stamp.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The DGF notes that 17-3-13 NMSA 1978 currently provides for different fees nonresident licenses for cow, either sex, and mature bull elk and for standard versus quality or high-demand hunts for both deer and elk. The department notes that the bill does not specify whether nonresident youth would pay the lower youth fee or the higher quality or high demand fee.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The DGF notes the following administrative implications of HB24:

- The DGF would need to modify its current licensing programs as early as possible to implement the changes for the 2013-2014 license year; and

- The State Game Commission would need to amend rules to reflect the proposed statutory changes.

HB24 requires that a portion of habitat management funds be expended on administrative expenses associated with employing one full-time program manager; however, the DGF notes that there would not be any additional impact on its operating budget because that position already exists and is currently filled.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The DGF would continue to operate under the current statutes and rules as developed by the State Game Commission.

PvM/lj