

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/25/13

SPONSOR Ezzell LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 28 _____

SHORT TITLE Feral Hog Eradication Team SB _____

ANALYST McCoy _____

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to HB344

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

New Mexico State Land Office (SLO)

New Mexico Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 28 (HJM28) recognizes the importance of eliminating feral hog populations throughout New Mexico through the efforts of the established multi-agency feral hog eradication team. HJM28 notes, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) established the cooperative feral hog eradication team, which is based on a cooperative multijurisdictional model that includes the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), the State Land Office (SLO), the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service (NMSU CES), the Federal Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, the Department of Health (DOH), the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB), the Department of Game and Fish (DGF), and many industry and county partners. HJM28 requests that the state continues to take action to support the efforts of the feral hog eradication team in eradicating feral hog populations in New Mexico and educating citizens of the state regarding the severe negative impacts that feral hogs have on the economy, the environment, and public health. HJM28 also requests that the feral hog eradication team report on its progress to the second session of the fifty-first legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact. HJM28 requests the state take action to support the efforts of the feral hog eradication team in eradicating feral hog populations in New Mexico, but does not specify funding amounts. As a new initiative feral hog control and eradication necessitates multiagency cooperation, with each agency requiring financial resources. House Bill 344 (HB344) appropriates \$250,000 for the NMDA for feral hog eradication. According to the NMDA, the USDA APHIS allocated one million dollars to New Mexico for initial eradication efforts. According to the SLO, over the next five years the SLO will require \$250,000 each year for surveillance and control measures to be applied with other state and federal funds in a collaborative control effort. The SLO notes requested \$250,000 as a special appropriation in House Bill 2 (HB2).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the NMDA, feral hogs cause over one billion dollars in damage annually in the United States. DOH reports, feral hogs are expanding their populations on private, public and tribal land throughout the state of NM. In New Mexico, feral hogs exist on land managed for native species by the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (DGF), the New Mexico State Land Office (SLO), and the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The NMDA reports, at least three quarters of New Mexico is considered suitable habitat for feral hogs. They have rapidly expanded their range from 2 to 17 counties in the last 7 years. Feral hogs have two litters per year with up to 10 in each litter. The DOH notes, there are 2 major river corridors, the Pecos and the Canadian, in New Mexico which facilitate natural migration from TX. Feral hogs have been trucked in from other states, and moved from county to county in New Mexico. It is illegal to import, transport, breed, release, sell, and commercially hunt feral pigs in New Mexico.

According to the DOH, feral hogs are a significant public health concern and can also transmit diseases to pets and livestock. Feral hogs are capable of carrying over 30 viral and bacteriological diseases, 20 of which are zoonotic (transmissible to humans). Hunters that shoot and process feral hogs have the greatest chance of being exposed to one of these diseases. Additionally, surface water contaminated by feral hogs can also put people, pets, and livestock at risk for exposure to these diseases. The DOH notes, diseases that New Mexico residents may be exposed to if handling feral hogs or in close association with feral hogs, their urine, feces, or other body fluids include bacterial diseases such as brucellosis, leptospirosis, and salmonellosis; viral diseases such as influenza and hepatitis E; and parasitic diseases such as cryptosporidium, giardia, and trichinella. Many of these diseases can be severe, debilitating, and life threatening, especially for very young children, the elderly, or those who have other underlying medical conditions and compromised immune systems.

According to the NMDA, there is a wide variety of diseases that feral hogs may carry that are transmissible to humans. Hunters that shoot and process feral hogs have the greatest chance of being exposed to one of these diseases, though environmental exposure to contaminated surface water is also possible. New Mexico residents may be exposed to diseases when handling feral hogs or in close association with feral hogs, their urine, feces, or other bodily fluids. Feral hogs transmit a number of diseases such as:

- Classical swine fever (CSF) is a highly contagious foreign animal disease, which was eradicated in the United States in 1978 after a 16-year effort. Livestock symptoms include fever, skin lesions, convulsions, and death within 15 days. Its recurrence in the United States would be especially devastating for the livestock industry. CSF does not affect humans.
- Pseudorabies (PRV), also known as mad itch, is a viral disease that is usually fatal in livestock and causes sudden death in cats and dogs. Cattle and sheep first show signs of the disease by scratching and biting themselves. PRV does not cause illness in humans.
- Swine brucellosis (SB) is a highly contagious disease caused by bacteria. There is no treatment and no effective vaccine. It is spread via semen during breeding, ingesting, or inhaling or through eye contact with bacteria in milk, reproductive fluids, placenta, aborted fetuses, and urine. SB causes abortions in livestock and can lead to herds being quarantined and great economic loss. In humans it mimics severe flu.
- Swine influenza (SI) is a highly contagious acute respiratory illness in pigs. It is spread by aerosols and direct and indirect contact. It is rare for people to become infected.
- Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is ubiquitous in domestic swine and typically causes no symptoms. The transmission route is fecal/oral. Domestic swine are thought to be the main reservoir for HEV, but it is also found in deer and a few other wildlife species. HEV is zoonotic but does not cause many health issues for humans.
- Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that infects both humans and animals and is transmitted by urine of infected animals. It causes kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, fever, headache, and vomiting in humans. It can cause infertility and stillbirth in livestock.

The DOH reports, feral hogs in 4 Harding, Chaves, Quay, and Eddy counties have been found infected with pseudorabies, a significant livestock disease that can cause mortality in cattle. Swine brucellosis has been confirmed in Eddy County and Hepatitis E in Curry County.

The NMDA adds, feral hogs alter and damage habitat by causing erosion, uprooting native plants, spreading noxious weeds, damaging river and stream banks, and directly competing for resources important to wildlife. Feral hogs are aggressive predators that prey on nongame and game animals such as reptiles and ground-nesting birds, as well as larger prey such as deer and antelope fawns; they may also be a threat to local populations of threatened and endangered species. Feral hogs prey on native wildlife and young livestock; compete with native wildlife for limited food and water resources; spread invasive weeds; damage crops, property, and rangeland; contaminate water supplies; and transmit disease to livestock, native wildlife, and people.

According to the NMDA, the cooperative feral hog eradication team will approach eradication of the feral hogs using a systematic removal of feral hogs from priority areas. Monitoring will reduce the likelihood of reinvasion and will increase success.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HJM28 relates to HB344, Feral Hog Eradication, which requests an appropriation of \$250,000 to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to be used to support feral hog eradication efforts.

HJM28 also relates to HB2. The SLO requested \$250,000 as a special appropriation in HB2.