

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 02/23/13

SPONSOR Salazar, N. **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HM** 64

SHORT TITLE Treat Gallinas Watershed **SB** _____

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicate to SM 52

Relates to HM 65

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 64 (HM 64) requests that the US Forest Service (USFS) perform a review of the Gallinas Watershed and commit to funding management, planning and implementation to assist local partners to aggressively treat the Gallinas to reduce the impact of a catastrophic fire and to prepare and plan for post-fire situations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The agencies that responded to requests for analysis support this memorial. Several agencies, including the OSE/ISC note that the need to clear dead and combustible fuel in the watershed above the City of Las Vegas' surface diversion is very important as a fire in that narrow canyon is an imminent threat. The OSE/ISC adds that if the watershed is not properly maintained and allowed to burn, it would destroy the city's capability to divert from the Gallinas River, and

House Memorial 64 – Page 2

could have future financial implications on the state to help the City provide clean drinking water during an extended recovery period. The NMED remarks that, given the experience seen with the 2012 Little Bear fire which affected watersheds Ruidoso and Alamogordo and the 2011 Track fire in Raton, small communities can lose drinking water supplies after a fire.

The EMNRD also states that if HM 64 results in more active management on federal land in the Gallinas Watershed, it could enhance mitigation projects and other management efforts on adjacent non-federal public and private lands.

RELATIONSHIP, DUPLICATION

HM 65 also requests that the USFS engage with watershed management. However, it addresses watersheds throughout New Mexico.

SM 52 is a duplicate of this memorial.

KC/svb