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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/23/13

SPONSOR Griego LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Treat Gallinas Watershed SM 52

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)

Duplicates House Memorial 64
Relates to House Memorial 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

Senate Memorial 52 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 Office of the State Engineer/ Interstate Stream Commission (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 could have future financial

implications on the state to help the City provide clean drinking water during an extended recovery period. The New Mexico Environment Department (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 Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) also states that if SM 52 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.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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

House Memorial 64 is a duplicate of this memorial.

KC/blm