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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Keller **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/24/14  
**LAST UPDATED** 01/28/14 **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Beaver Population & Management Plan **SM** 4

**ANALYST** Weber

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Undetermined	Undetermined			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

State Land Office (SLO)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 4 requests the DFG, the Forestry Division of ENMRD and SLO to work together to develop recommendations on how New Mexico may proceed to develop a statewide beaver management plan.

Recommendations should include which agency should take the lead role for development, which stakeholder groups should be included in the development and a timeline and budget. It also requests that the three entities present their recommendations jointly to the appropriate interim committee or committees by September 1, 2014.

The memorial notes that the beaver is an important participant in the river ecosystem and general watershed health and development of a statewide management plan is vital to maintaining the beavers contribution.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

It is unknown how much, if any, operating budget impact will occur until after the agencies identified meet to develop a timeline and budget. However, it is reasonable to anticipate some costs would accrue if a management plan is put in place.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The SLO reports it administers approximately nine-million surface acres. Although beavers are an important part of ecosystems, SLO holdings containing habitat suitable for beavers is very limited. This fact limits the impact the agency has on statewide beaver conservation.

OSE adds that the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) has received requests for help from citizens with resolving beaver issues on private property. In a recent instance, a dam constructed by beavers was causing the landowner problems. The landowner felt that ISC had some responsibility for helping to remove the beaver dam because the dam was impounding water on a tributary to the Rio Grande. ISC staff indicated we don't take such actions, primarily because of anti-donation issues, but suggested possible options to help resolve the situation. The landowner indicated she had already tried most of the suggested options but received no help.

A comprehensive beaver management plan may alleviate problems such as this.

MW/ds