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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Padilla **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/05/14
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge Funding **SM** 36

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY14 | FY15 | | |
| | NFI | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 36 requests that New Mexico’s congressional delegation and the federal Department of the Interior and the department’s Fish and Wildlife Service work toward restoring funding and acquiring the remaining property for the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal implication.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Valle de Oro offers a unique environmental education and recreation opportunity in a highly populated area while promoting a wildlife conservation message. Located in Albuquerque’s South Valley, Valle de Oro is within a half-hour drive of one-half of New Mexico’s population. To date, 431 acres of land along the Rio Grande have been protected for the new wildlife refuge, including significant water rights to address restoration of the Middle Rio Grande. The refuge will eventually encompass 570 acres.

JA/svb