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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/14

SPONSOR Soules LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Public Lands Legacy SB SM 76

ANALYST Weber

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Conflicts with HB 102, SB 256

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
State Land Office (SLO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Both the Enabling Act for New Mexico and the constitution of New Mexico state that the "people inhabiting this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof". Approximately twenty-six million acres of land in New Mexico are owned by the people of the United States and managed for the benefit of all citizens by federal public land management agencies. Although New Mexicans have the good fortune to live near these federal public lands and benefit from them economically. New Mexicans own them no more or less than any other citizen of the United States.

At least sixty-five percent of New Mexicans participate in some form of outdoor recreation every year. The outdoor recreation economy in New Mexico generates four hundred fifty-eight million dollars (\$458,000,000) in tax revenue and six billion one hundred million dollars (\$6,100,000,000) in consumer spending each year, while employing more than sixty-eight thousand people. Preserving access to outdoor recreation on public lands protects the economy, businesses, communities and people of New Mexico. Access to and use of large tracts of healthy, viable, contiguous public lands are essential to the perpetuation of traditional land uses, such as hunting, fishing, grazing, firewood gathering and herb gathering. Eighty-nine percent of New Mexico sports enthusiasts use public lands to hunt and fish.

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New Mexico sports enthusiasts spend more than five hundred seventy-nine million dollars (\$579,000,000) annually in pursuit of recreational activities in New Mexico, supporting more than two hundred fifty-eight million dollars (\$258,000,000) in salaries and wages, contributing fifty-eight million dollars (\$58,000,000) to state and local taxes and supporting seven thousand six hundred ninety-five jobs;

Let the country's founders' foresight and wisdom be honored by protecting a public lands legacy vital to the state and national economy and to the health and well-being of the residents of New Mexico; and that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact identified.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Commissioner of Public Lands recognizes the importance of federal public lands to all Americans and the significant role they play in providing recreational, conservation, and economic opportunities in New Mexico.

MW/jl