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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez **ORIGINAL DATE** 3/17/15
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Glorieta Pass Civil War Battle Site **SM** 131

ANALYST Clark

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Minimal	Minimal			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HM 50

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

Cultural Affairs Department (DCA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 131 requests a task force be convened to plan the development of an American Civil War memorial to be placed at the Glorieta Pass battle site. The task force would be composed of representatives from the Cultural Affairs Department (DCA), Santa Fe County, the Hispano Round Table of New Mexico, the New Mexico League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Historical Society of New Mexico. The task force is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim committee in November 2015.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial would have a minimal impact on the DCA operating budget to participate in the task force and help plan the development of an American Civil War memorial.

A significant fiscal impact could occur if the plan to create this memorial were put into effect at a later date that required an appropriation for the war memorial and impacted the DCA recurring operating budget, if the Legislature deemed it the appropriate agency to maintain the war memorial. DCA currently struggles to adequately maintain and repair its existing facilities, and many museums and historic sites suffer from significant deferred maintenance issues.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Glorieta Pass battlefield was ranked as a “Class A” battlefield by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, ranking it among the 0.4 percent most important armed conflicts during the Civil War. The commission determined Glorieta Pass had a “decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war.” The commission further ranked the Glorieta Pass battlefield as one of the 11 battlefields most in need of preservation action. However, the report was submitted in 1993 and last updated in 1997, so the condition of the battlefields and the relative need for preservation action might have changed over the two intervening decades.

DCA notes the National Park Service currently manages part of the Glorieta Pass Battlefield. Any state of New Mexico initiative should be coordinated with the National Park Service and the Pecos National Park because the responsibility for interpretation of and maintenance of a war memorial will most likely fall on the agency that owns the land upon which the memorial sits. The National Park Service has an internal process when it considers new memorials or monuments. If the proposed memorial is planned for installation on National Park Service land, the work of the proposed task force may be redundant with or conflict with plans of the Pecos National Historical Park.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There would be a minimal administrative impact to DCA to participate in the task force and help plan the development of the war memorial.

CONFLICT, RELATIONSHIP

This memorial relates to and may conflict with HM 50, which asks the New Mexico congressional delegation to request a waiver from the National Park Service to allow the Friends of Pecos National Park to erect a memorial at Pecos National Historical Park Glorieta Pass Civil War Battlefield.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Below is the description of the Glorieta Pass battle in the report by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

Glorieta Pass was a strategic location, situated at the southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, southeast of Santa Fe, and on the Santa Fe Trail. In March 1862, a Confederate force of 200-300 Texans under the command of Maj. Charles L. Pyron encamped at Johnson’s Ranch, at one end of the pass. Union Maj. John M. Chivington led more than 400 soldiers to the Pass and on the morning of March 26 moved out to attack.

After noon, Chivington’s men captured some Rebel advance troops and then found the main force behind them. Chivington advanced on them, but their artillery fire threw him back. He regrouped, split his force to the two sides of the pass, caught the Rebels in a crossfire, and soon forced them to retire. Pyron and his men retired about a mile and a half to a narrow section of the pass and formed a defensive line before Chivington’s men

appeared. The Yankees flanked Pyron's men again and punished them with enfilade fire. The Confederates fled again and the Union cavalry charged, capturing the rearguard. Chivington then retired and went into camp at Kozlowski's Ranch. No fighting occurred the next day as reinforcements arrived for both sides.

Lt. Col. William R. Scurry's troops swelled the Rebel ranks to about 1,100 while Union Col. John P. Slough arrived with about 900 men. Both Slough and Scurry decided to attack and set out early on the 28th to do so. As Scurry advanced down the canyon, he saw the Union forces approaching, so he established a battle line, including his dismounted cavalry. Slough hit them before 11:00 am. The Confederates held their ground and then attacked and counterattacked throughout the afternoon. The fighting then ended as Slough retired first to Pigeon's Ranch and then to Kozlowski's Ranch. Scurry soon left the field also, thinking he had won the battle. Chivington's men, how-ever, had destroyed all Scurry's supplies and animals at Johnson's Ranch, forcing him to retreat to Santa Fe, the first step on the long road back to San Antonio, Texas.

The Federals had won and, thereby, stopped Confederate incursions into the Southwest. Glorieta Pass was the turning point of the war in the New Mexico Territory.

ALTERNATIVES

The Veterans' Services Department suggested it could be included in the task force to plan the war memorial, stating it could bring valuable insights to the task force.

JC/bb/je