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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stefanics ORIGINAL DATE 02/12/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Coordinate Pecos Canyon Services SB SJM 8

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	See Fiscal Implications	See Fiscal Implications	See Fiscal Implications			

(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)

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 8 (SJM 8) instructs the State Parks Division of the EMNRD to work with all applicable federal, state, and local governments, tribes and other interested stakeholders to develop a Pecos Canyon strategic plan for infrastructure and recreational activities in Pecos Canyon in San Miguel County. Furthermore, SJM 9 instructs the EMNRD to report recommendations to the appropriate legislative interim committees by November 1, 2019.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Any planning efforts in the bill would be conducted with existing agency staff and resources.

There is \$250 thousand in capital outlay funding for infrastructure for a Pecos Canyon state park that was appropriated to DGF in 2016 but has not been spent. In addition, the LFC recommendation for State Parks in FY20 included funding for additional FTE to staff a new state park in Pecos.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

EMNRD reports State Parks has undertaken planning and collaboration regarding the development of the potential Pecos Canyon State Park for the past ten years and will continue to collaborate with federal, state, tribal and local governments regarding planning efforts. State Parks has drafted a preliminary management plan which incorporates strategic planning for administration, operations, and partnerships. Infrastructure, programming and recreational activities are also included in the draft plan. In addition, as part of the planning, funding needs have been identified with regard to both administration, operations and capital for Pecos Canyon. Support from the administration and the legislature will be essential to the creation of a State Park in the canyon.

Additionally, EMNRD reports, the State Parks Division has consistently met with the village of Pecos and the Upper Pecos Watershed association and will continue to attend meetings to provide quarterly reporting as related to the initiative. As such, the reporting as requested under SJM 8 to the legislature is within the communication process currently undertaken by State Parks.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Since the joint memorial is instructing State Parks to develop a strategic plan for infrastructure and recreational activities in the Pecos Canyon, and according to State Parks much of that work has already been done, the legislature may want to consider transferring land in the Pecos Canyon from the DGF to State Parks to own and operate, which would require the passage of a joint resolution.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

State Parks would report to the appropriate interim legislative committees by November 1, 2019.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

IAD noted New Mexico Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos have direct connection to their surrounding environment, natural resources, and homeland. The Pecos National Historical Park is evidence to pueblos historical present to the Pecos area. Therefore, tribal communication and consultation for development of the Pecos canyon strategic and comprehensive plan for infrastructure, programming, and recreational activities would be in best interest of tribal cultural protection and preservation.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

GDF noted it would continue to coordinate with all relevant entities, including EMNRD, the US Forest Service, Village of Pecos, and others, to manage approximately 2,000 acres of NM Game Commission owned property in Pecos Canyon for public access, wildlife habitat conservation, fish hatchery operations, and recreational activities including fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

AHO/gb

