

Core Services Category: Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources

Study Area: Consolidation and Elimination

High Level Recommendation: Repeal the Intertribal Ceremonial Act, Sections 9-15C-1 through 9-15C-5 NMSA.

Problem Statement: The Intertribal Ceremonial Office (ICO) duplicates the function of the Tourism Department and to a lesser extent the Indian Affairs Department. Further, the Intertribal Ceremonial has shown minimal success in fulfilling its mission, hasn't demonstrated results – as indicated by performance measure data – and is a lower priority appropriation item in this revenue constrained environment.

Background and Findings: The annual Intertribal Ceremonial event is administered, promoted, and produced with the assistance of four separate entities. The entities include the state Intertribal Ceremonial Office (ICO); the non-profit Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial Association (GICA); an Intertribal Ceremonial Board, part of the non-profit; and administrative oversight by the New Mexico Tourism Department. As noted in the June 30, 2007 annual audit, the four entities do not have a clear understanding of the functions of the different entities.

The agency suffers from an unclear mandate and conflicts with local government functions. The Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial is a community event, governed by the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial Association (GICA). Prior to FY10, the department received a direct appropriation to support FTE and promotion of the event. Without an explicit explanation, the governor vetoed 93.8 percent of the FY10 operating budget and all of its FTE. The community did, however, receive funds through a competitive bid process from the Tourism Department. The veto demonstrated the ability of the local government and nonprofit to continue the event with little state oversight.

Options under Consideration:

The Government Restructuring Task Force considered two bills related to the ICO. The first, bill draft # .182720.1, proposes to repeal Sections 9-15C-1 through 9-15C-5 NMSA, the Intertribal Ceremonial Act. The bill draft would transfer all functions, contractual obligations, appropriations, money, records, furniture, equipment and other property of the Intertribal Ceremonial Office and the Intertribal Ceremonial Board to the Tourism Department. The second, bill draft # .182953.3, the Commerce Department bill, also proposes to repeal the Intertribal Ceremonial Act and transfer the all functions to the Commerce Department's Tourism Development Program.

Estimated Savings (in thousands of dollars)

FY11	FY12	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$84.8	Recurring	General Fund